CAIRNS CHINATOWN: A HERITAGE STUDY

SANDI ROBB
I. PUBLISHED OFFICIAL MATERIAL

a). Queensland Votes and Proceedings


Queensland Votes and Proceedings, Volume IV 1900 (1899) Register Generals Report-Census of Queensland

Queensland Votes and Proceedings, Volume IV 1902 (1900) Register Generals Report-Census of Queensland


b). Government Acts:

The Commonwealth Immigration Restriction Act, No. 17. 1901
The Sugar Works Act, 1911
The Sugar Cultivation Act 1913
The Queensland Heritage Act 1992
Integrated Planning Act 1997
Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2003.

II. UNPUBLISHED RECORDS

a). QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES:

QSA, LAN A53, Andrew Leon
QSA, LAN AG 201, Andrew Leon

QSA SRS 4641/1, Cairns Municipal Rate Receipts Book, 1885-1890
QSA SRS 4641/1-1, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1890
QSA SRS 4641/1-2, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1891
QSA SRS 4641/1-3, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1892
QSA SRS 4641/1-3, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1893
QSA SRS 4641/1-4, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1894
QSA SRS 4641/1-4, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1895
QSA SRS 4646/1-5, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1896
QSA SRS 4646/1-5, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1897
QSA SRS 4646/1-6, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1902
QSA SRS 4646/1-7, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1903
QSA SRS 4646/1-8, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1904
QSA SRS 4646/1-12, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1910
QSA SRS 4646/1-15, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1916
QSA SRS 4704/1-7, Cairns Town Council Rate Book, 1922
QSA SRS 4704/1-10, Cairns Town Council Rate Book, 1926

QSA, POL J1. Letter regarding Japanese prostitutes from Acting Sub Inspectors Office, 23 November 1897
QSA, POL J1. Letter regarding Japanese prostitutes from Sub Inspectors Office 24 November 1897
QSA, CRS 156., Police verses See Chin
QSA, A/67976, Licensing Matters Postage and Petty Cash 1901-1906 23 April. List of Chinese whose opium permits were cancelled.
QSA SRS 49491. Map of Census District Cairns.
QSA PRV14024 Item 13. Fire Insurance Map 1924

b). Queensland Public Records Historical Resource Kit
COL/72 #00086 Enquiry by Cairns solicitor to the Home Secretary’s Office COL/72 see after 01/18843. Application for Naturalization Foo Jah.

c). DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES

Deed of Grant Vol. S 422 Fol. 197
Certificate of Title, Vol. 756, Folio 219
Certificate of Title, Vol. 480, Folio 004
Certificate of Title, Vol. 756, Folio 218
Certificate of Title, Vol. 248, Folio 224
Certificate of Title Vol. 421, Folio 009.
Certificate of Title: Volume 91, Folio 188, Number N1573

d). CAIRNS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

I. Cairns Municipal Council Minutes:

Cairns Municipal Council Minutes (CMCM), 15 September 1885.
CMCM, 11 April 1889
Cairns Municipal Council Minutes 6 July 1886
CMCM, 2 February 1888
CMCM, 24 December 1889
CMCM, 23 October 1888
CMCM, 19 July 1887
CMCM, 13 June 1889
CMCM, 23 September 1888
CMCM, 18 January 1887
CMCM, 15 March 1887
CMCM, 24 April 1899
Cairns Town Council Minutes, (CTCM), 5 April 1918
CTCM, 25 July 1916
CTCM, 17 November 1917, p. 868. She died in late 1917.
CTCM, 17 May 1916, “Houses of Ill Fame” & 27 June 1916
CTCM, Special Meeting: 1 August 1916 & 22 August 1916
CTCM, Incoming correspondence, 18 October 1916
CTCM, 25 July 1916
CTCM, Incoming Correspondence 25 July 1916
CTCM, 25 July 1916
CTCM, 18 April 1916

II. Cairns Municipal Council
Queensland National Bank Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council, Sachs Street
Account 1888-1889

Queensland National Bank Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council: 1890

Cairns Municipal Rate Receipts Book 1886, Plan, Town of Cairns, 1886, The Office of
Surveyor General, Brisbane
Cairns Municipal Council Minutes, 13 June 1889

Money for soil carted to “Joss House A/C.” 16 September 1890

Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Inspector of Nuisances, 15 November
1888

Cairns Municipal Rate Receipts Book 1886, Plan, Town of Cairns, 1886, The Office of
Surveyor General, Brisbane

Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Mr. D. J. Hobson, Editor of the Cairns
Argus, 11 December 1889

Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council, 1898

Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council, 1889

Ledger Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council, Sachs Street Account 1890-1900

Outward Correspondence, Cairns Municipal Council Town Clerk, 17 March 1899 – 19 April
1901, p. 32

Outgoing Correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Mr. Henderson, 8 November 1889

Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk, 28 December 1888

239
Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Inspector of Nuisances, 15 November 1888

Outgoing Correspondence, Cairns Municipal Council Town Clerk, 8 February 1900

Cairns Municipal Rate Receipts Book, 1897

Outgoing correspondence, Town Clerk Municipal Council, Jan–Dec 1899 Kwong Lee 1 May 1899,


III. Cairns Town Council
Cairns Town Council Rates Receipts Book: 1911.

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence , Letter from Town Clerk to solicitors Macdonnell, Macdonnell and Hannam, 8 August 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 28 November 1914-28 October 1916, Town Clerk to Sun Him, 30 April 1915

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 28 November 1914-28 October 1916, Town Clerk to Willie Ming, 30 April 1915.

Outgoing correspondence, Cairns Town Council, 17 February 1906 to 4 December 1907, Town Clerk. Letter to Tam Sie, Geraldton

Cairns Town Council Minutes, 17 May 1916, “Houses of Ill Fame”& 27 June 1916

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 1918 letter by Town Clerk to Mr Lisha.

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Willie Ming Secretary of the Chinese Club. 12 May 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Willie Ming Secretary of the Chinese Club. 2 June 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Tiy Chong. 14 December 1917.

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Sun Him. 28 December 1917.

Cairns Town Council, Incoming Correspondence 2 August 1915 found in book of Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk, 1916

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Letter from Town Clerk to Maud See Chin re allotment 13 Section 27. 24 May 1916

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Letter from Town Clerk to Mrs M Muir re allotment 17 Section 27. 10 May 1916

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 1916 letters by Town Clerk to the Secretary, Department of Public Health

240
Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to fruiterers, 13 March 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Willie Ming, 6 Feb 1916
& Town Clerk to Chin Choon Wing, 22 January 1917

IV. Cairns City Council

Cairns City Council, Water Fund Meter Rate Book 1946-1947

Cairns City Council, Water Fund Meter Rate Book 1958-1961

Cairns City Council Register of Café Licenses 1950-1970

V. Historical Photographs
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP03743
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP11614
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP05033
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP05091
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP05478
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP0688
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP01367
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP02665
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP02675
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP03614
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP07392
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP07640
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP08443
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP08775
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP10287
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP10447
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP10501
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP10632
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP11535
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP11930
Historical Society of Cairns. CHSP12121
Historical Society of Cairns. View from Starr Bowkett Building

VI. Historical Maps
Historical Society of Cairns. A984 P/T/C
Historical Society of Cairns. A984-1 P/T/C
Historical Society of Cairns. A973 P/T/C
Historical Society of Cairns. A982 P/T/C
Historical Society of Cairns. A348 P/T/C
Historical Society of Cairns. Fire Insurance Map 1957

e) Family History Society

Births, Deaths and Marriages
Country Births, Deaths and Marriages, (CBDM), microfiche 1860-1900
Church Records:
Methodist Church: Marriage Records, 18 November, 1891-1960

III. ORAL HISTORY

a). Interviews

George Wah Day, April 2001
Arleen Lee Long, April 2001
Greta Yin Foo, Norma Lee and Thyra Lin Foy, March 2001
Major General Darryl Low Choy, Brisbane, July 2002
Amelia Wah Day, July 2002
Greta Yin Foo, Cairns, February 2002
Janie Edwards, May 2002
Vincent Lee, May 2002
Mrs Dawn Stiff, June 2002
Neil Lee Leong, Atherton, May 2002
Bishop Tung Yep, Cairns, May 2002
Marilyn McDonald, August 2002
Tiger See Hoe, Innisfail, July 2002
Vincent Lee, February 2004
Sir Robert Norman, March 2004
Bob Norman, March 2004
Jack Atkinson, February 2004
Stan Grieves, March 2004
Ron and Vera Bradley, March, 2004
Mrs Dawn Stiff, February 2004
Estelle Kingsley, March 2004
Vincent Lee, March 2004
Imelda Gillespie-Wagner, March 2004
Gina Gillespie, March 2004
Mrs Alma Fang Yuen, April 2004, Interviewer, Ms Mary Low

b). Personal Communication

Dr Peter Bell, Historical Research Consultant, Adelaide. 22& 23 June 2004
Mr. Les Sim, Manager, Cairns Museum, 22 June 2004
Mr. Vincent Lee, March 2004; June 2004
Mr. George Gong Senior, April 2001
Mrs. Estelle Kingsley (nee Yet Foy), March 2004
Mrs. Dawn Stiff, 21 June 2002
Mr. George Wah Day, March 2004; April 2004; May 2002
Mary Low, 28 May 2004
Peter Merrotsy, April 2004.
Kenny Wong, June 2004

IV. NEWSPAPERS:

Cooktown Courier 1876-1877
Cooktown Herald 1876-1877
SECONDARY SOURCES:

I. BOOKS AND JOURNALS

Bell, Peter, 1998, Early Bricks and Brickworks in South Australia, Department For Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, Heritage South Australia, Adelaide


Bradley, Vera, 1995, I Didn’t Know That, Boolarong Press, Moorooka


Collinson, J.W., 1941, Tropic Coasts and Tablelands, W.R Smith and Paterson Pty Ltd., Brisbane


Comber, Jillian, 1992, Palmer Goldfield Heritage Sites Study (Stage 2) Report to Qld Department of Environment & Heritage James Cook University

Cronin, Kathryn, 1973, “The Chinese Community in Queensland: 1874-1900”, Queensland Heritage, Volume 2, Number 8,

Cronin, Kathryn, 1982, Colonial Casualties: Chinese in Early Victoria, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne

Giese, Diana, 1999, Courage and Service: Chinese Australians and World War II, National Library of Australia, Canberra

Giese, Diana, 1995, Beyond Chinatown, National Library of Australia, Canberra


Jones, Dorothy, 1976, Trinity Phoenix: A history of Cairns, Cairns Post Pty Ltd, Cairns


243
May, Cathie, 1984 *Topsawyers: the Chinese in Cairns, 1870-1920*, James Cook University, Townsville


Potts, John, 1888, *One year of Anti-Chinese Work in Queensland with incidents of Travel*, Davidson and Metcalf, Brisbane


Sim, Mrs K., 1975, “Cairns Memories 1911 to 1925” (continued), *Cairns Historical Society Bulletin*, No. 188

Sim, Mrs K., 1975, “Cairns Memories 1911 to 1925,” *Cairns Historical Society Inc. Bulletin* 188

Wong Hoy, Kevin, Ed. 1976, *A souvenir brochure from the Chinese community of Cairns, North Queensland Australia 1876-1976*

II. REPORTS


DRAFT CairnsPlan, Cairns City Council, 2003

III. UNPUBLISHED

a). *Theses*


b). Manuscripts

Field, Emily, “Lum So San Family Saga”, private document, date unknown

Lee Wah Bow, Edmund, “The Lee's Family Tree of Larm Har Village, Lundo, Zhongshan”, private manuscript, China.

Lee Wah Bow, Edmund, “My Memories of Times in Places I call Home: Shekki, Cairns & Hong Kong”, Unpublished manuscript, China

Low, Mary, 2002, “Lit Sung Goong Temple Site: A conservation plan”, James Cook University, Cairns

Low Choy, Darryl, 2001, The Quintessentially Assimilated - Darryl Low Choy's Story. Personal manuscript

Robb, Sandi, 2001, “Discovering the Dragon; Revealing the Phoenix Within”, preliminary paper, 2001
APPENDICES

Appendix I.

2004 PROJECT BRIEF FOR A CULTURAL HERITAGE STUDY OF CAIRNS CHINATOWN

In 2004, The Cairns and District Chinese Association Incorporation (CADCAI), in their role as custodians of the Cairns Chinese cultural heritage, commissioned a cultural heritage study to research, identify and record the Chinese history of Cairns and remaining cultural heritage sites in a precinct known as the former Cairns "Chinatown". The study was funded through the Queensland Cultural Heritage Incentive Program 2001-2003 which was an initiative of the Cultural Heritage Branch of the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

The Yidinji and Yirrganydj Aboriginal traditional owners were the earliest occupiers and custodians of lands throughout the Cairns district. The earliest non-Aboriginal people to move into the area were the beche-de-mer fishermen who came from the islands to the north of Australia. The discovery of gold led to the permanent settlement of the region. A port was established in Cooktown in the early 1870s to support the Palmer River Goldfields. A port further south was sought after the discovery of gold at the Hodgkinson River. A site on Trinity Inlet was selected, surveyed and the new town of Cairns declared a port of entry by November 1876. The position and the topography of Trinity Inlet made settlement difficult. However, the settlements proximity close to a natural deep-water harbour and fresh water made it an ideal location.

When gold mining declined in the 1880s many Chinese, established and pioneered agricultural ventures on the coast. As Cairns was developing into a strong commercial centre Chinese entrepreneurs were leaders in experimenting with large scale agricultural forays including sugar cane, rice, tobacco, bananas, lychee and market gardening.

By the mid 1880s, the population of Cairns had reached 1,376 people of whom approximately a quarter were Chinese. The commercial centre of Cairns developed along Abbott Street with the Chinese business and retail centre developing in Sachs (later Grafton) Street.

Chinatown was substantially confined within the two blocks either side of Grafton Street (formally Sachs Street) between Shields Street (to the north) and Spence Street (to the South). It is believed that settlement commenced on the northern side of Sachs Street but the Chinese community eventually aligned themselves along respective sides of the street according to their Chinese provincial origins.
PURPOSE OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE STUDY

The purpose of the cultural heritage study was to locate, identify and record places of possible cultural heritage significance associated with the urban use of the area and to develop recommendations for the future management of the place.

SCOPE OF COMMISSION

- To undertake a Cultural Heritage Study of Cairns Chinatown.
- To develop recommendations for inclusion in the Cairns City Planning Scheme.
- To identify all places of cultural heritage value and analyse the physical and documentary evidence utilising the principles of the Burra Charter. This stage of the project should establish:
  - To analyse the past development and use of the place particularly in relation to its surviving fabric;
  - To record the context of the changes, including comparison with contemporary developments and similar types of places;
  - To investigate any other aspect, quality or association with the site to form a useful basis for the assessment of significance.
- To assess the potential of the area to contain archaeological evidence of the historic use of the site.
- To ensure that the cultural heritage significance of the Cairns Chinatown area is assessed in a manner appropriate for nomination of places to the Queensland Heritage Register according to Section 23. (1) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.
- To identify each place on a map of the study site. The survey map is anticipated to provide heritage input to the Cairns City Council Planning Scheme and to provide graphic information for use during planning for future development of the study area.
- To prepare an annotated bibliography of historic and other research materials relating to Cairns Chinatown.

***

This is Cairns Chinatown: a cultural heritage study.
Appendix II.

The Hap Wah Mill*

Chinese inspiration, business and agricultural enterprise provided a crucial impetus to the
development and economic viability of early Cairns. Chinese entrepreneurship and
commitment to the region led to the establishment of the first sugar plantation and mill in the
district which was widely celebrated as the beginning of the local sugar industry. The Hap
Wah plantation (1878–1886) was a solely Chinese venture managed by Chinese entrepreneur
and civic leader Andrew Leon. As a naturalized citizen, Leon was able to purchase land and
he selected 505 hectares south of Chinaman Creek. Leon was the spokesman for the Hap Wah
Company, a consortium of shareholders including both local Chinese settlers and international
Chinese partners from Hong Kong. Up to 200 Chinese employees worked the plantation.

Excited by the agricultural growth in the North, public support for the Hap Wah plantation
was positive with newspaper reports chronicling its development. The company’s mill began
crushing in 1882 and the *Morning Herald* wrote that the ‘procession of drays loaded with
sugar passing along the main street of Cairns is a proof that the sugar industry is fairly
started.’ Hap Wah’s significance and the optimism it injected in the region were reflected in
the name of its mill, ‘the Pioneer’.

Victorian investment financed the much larger Hambledon plantation of Swallow & Derham
which commenced cane sugar production in 1883 and the Loridan brothers’ Pyramid
plantation in 1885. Together these three plantations brought prosperity to Cairns at a critical
period in the district’s settlement. International pressures in the sugar industry caused world
sugar prices to fall dramatically in mid-1884 and the effects were felt throughout Queensland.
Many smaller plantations such as Hap Wah were unable to remain viable and in early 1886
the plantation was sold to Thomas Mills of Charters Towers while the standing crop and all
else were sold to a group of Cairns businessmen. By the end of the 1886 season mill
operations ceased entirely and the steam-powered open-pan mill machinery was sold to the
Noakes Brothers of Bundaburg in 1887.

Following the sale and closure of Hap Wah plantation, Leon redirected his interest to a 1200
acre citrus fruit venture near Kuranda. Following his inclination for civic duty, he purchased
an allotment in Chinatown which became the site of the Lit Sung Goong Temple built in
1887.

Hap Wah plantation has remained hidden in history, obscured by the absence of photographs
and company documents. However, the significance of the Hap Wah plantation site, as the
first sugar plantation north of the Johnstone River in Far North Queensland and the beginning
of the district’s sugar industry, remains current. The former Hap Wah lands are presently
covered by the contemporary suburbs of Earlville and Woree.

* Text contributed by Ms Julie Volkmar, Historical Researcher, Cairns, 2012

** *Morning Herald* (Rockhampton, Qld.), 7 December 1882, p 3.
Appendix III.

CHINATOWN BY DECADE
1910-1920

Sachs Street

Shields Street

Spence Street
ENDNOTES:

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

2 CHINESE AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT, http://www.cach.org.au

SETTLEMENT TO 1890

3 Kathryn Cronin, 1982, Colonial Casualties: Chinese in Early Victoria, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, pp.4-6
4 It separated to become Queensland in 1861. "Indentured" means under a binding agreement to serve for a specified term.
6 The Queenslander, 5.10.1878, In the middle of 1878, English potatoes were under cultivation in Cairns and exported to Cooktown.
7 Cairns Post, 13 March 1909
8 Cathie May, 1984 Topsawyers: the Chinese in Cairns, 1870-1920, James Cook University, Townsville, pp.7-8
10 The Queenslander, 30 January 1909, p. 29 James Ah Ching maintained in 1909 that he was the first Chinese man in Cairns and at the time the townspeople resented his arrival and he had to move to Townsville. In May 1879 he married Scottish immigrant Sarah Hadley and they moved to Cairns and lived at his selection, Portion 60 where they had a house consisting of sawn timber and a detached kitchen.
11 Cooktown Courier, 4 November 1876
12 May, Topsawyers, pp. 7-8
13 Queensland State Archives, (QSA) LAN A53
14 Certificate of Title: Volume 91, Folio 188, Number N1573, Andrew Leon and Jan Bung Chong
15 Dorothy Jones, 1976, Trinity Phoenix: A history of Cairns, Cairns Post Pty Ltd, Cairns p. 159
16 QSA: LAN AG 201
17 Ibid.
19 J.W. Collinson, 1941, Tropic Coasts and Tropelands, W.R Smith and Paterson Pty Ltd., Brisbane, pp. 15 & 16
20 Cairns Historical Society, Map Collection; A984
21 Collinson, Early Days of Cairns, pp. 84-85
22 Cairns Municipal Council Minutes (CMCM), 15 September 1885.
23 CMCM, 11 April 1889
24 Ibid. 6 July 1886

26 CMCM, 2 February 1888
27 CMCM, 24 December 1889
28 CMCM, 23 October 1888
29 Queensland National Bank Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council, Incoming Monies 2 May 1889 payment of footbridge Say Chow, £ 8
30 Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Mr. Henderson, 8 November 1889
31 CMCM, 19 July 1887
32 Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk, 28 December 1888
33 CMCM, 23 September 1888
34 May, Topsawyers, p.64.
35 Kirkman, 1984
36 May, Topsawyers, p. 65 & Interview; Major General Darryl Low Choy, Brisbane, 8 July 2002
37 May, Topsawyers, pp. 112-113
38 ibid., p.118-119
39 Cairns Post, 27 January 1887. This celebration was reported in the Cairns Post who noted cost of the building, including the internally fittings and the purchase of land, was collected from both the Geraldton [Innisfail] and Cairns community and came to a total of £800, which was at the time a substantial sum.
40 Cairns Post, 3 August 1887. They were given an official welcome as visiting dignitaries and were received by the Mayor who took them to Swallow and Derham's plantation which had over 150 Chinese workers. The Commissioners went on to visit Hap Wah Estate and then Chinatown. In particular they were shown around the Temple and several stores before having lunch with Sun Kwong Kee. Mayor Severin, had lunch with the dignitaries.
41 Cairns Post, 22 February 1888. In a show of community solidarity many Chinese went to the Temple to protect it, angry that their place of worship had been violated.
42 Certificate of Title: Volume 91, Folio 188, Number N1573
44 Cairns Post, 24 July 1884
45 CMCM, 18 January 1887
46 CMCM, 15 March 1887
47 Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Inspector of Nuisances, 15 November 1888
48 The Cairns Post, 4 June 1890, Municipal Council Minutes, p.2
49 He is referring to the old idea that rotting organic matter produced a miasma, a smelly vapor, which caused a disease in the body when inhaled.
50 The Cairns Post, 4 June 1890, Municipal Council Minutes, p.2
52 Cooktown Herald, 17 February 1877, Departures. Andrew Leon married Mary Piggott in 1869.

263
69 Cairns

68 Ibid.

ownership of schools.

67 The Cairns Post, 6 February 1888. Jane Ah Hon was verbally abused by Alfred Trelor in Chinatown.

66 The Cairns Post, 26 July 1885. Birth of a boy to Mrs Ah Chow at her residence in Sachs Street. There are also during this period European women married to Ah Hee, Gee Wah, Ah Foo, Pang Muen Young, and Sam Hee to identify a few. Unfortunately for Sam Hee, his wife was indeed perhaps a disreputable woman, as she was last noted in 1903 charged with indecent exposure and sentenced to three months gaol. She had been before the court many times including one case of assaulting her husband.

65 C.Y. Choi, 1975, Chinese Migration and Settlement in Australia, Sydney University Press, Sydney, p. 11. Education within China had always been important and was available only to the boys of the family. It was also available to the concubines, as concubinage was not only concerned with sex but about culture and intellect, in contrast to the usual western perception of prostitution, which is about paid sex. Within China it was not unusual to have corporate clan ownership of land to support schools. Clans held a large proportion of village land, which was then rented to individual families either inside or outside of the lineage, which provided an income for schools or scholarships. This then increased a system of ownership of schools.

64 The Cairns Post, "Cairns State School Building Fund", 26 March 1885.

63 Ibid.

62 May, Topsawyers, p. 83

60 The Cairns Post, 15 December 1888, p. 2

59 Ibid.

58 The Cairns Post, 20 November 1889

57 The Cairns Post, 23 November 1889

56 The Cairns Post, 4 December 1889

55 The Cairns Post, 25 November 1890

54 QSA SRS 4641/1, Cairns Municipal Council Rate Book, 1890, p. 63


52 James Ah Ching was married to Sarah Hadley in Townsville in 1878.

51 James Ah You married Agnes Somerville in 1883. They were married in Ah Chow’s residence in church of England rights and had James Ah Ching and Sarah Hadley as the witnesses.

50 The witnesses were Agnes Ah You and Ah You and the couple were married at Ah Chow’s residence in a private Methodist ceremony.

49 Country Births, Deaths and Marriages, (CBDM), microfiche 1860-1900

48 Ibid.

47 Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Inspector of Nuisances, 15 November 1888

46 Cairns Municipal Rate Receipts Book 1886, Plan, Town of Cairns, 1886, The Office of Surveyor General, Brisbane

45 CMCM, 13 June 1889, it was granted to Louis Severin for allotment 12 section 3.

44 Outgoing correspondence, Municipal Town Clerk to Mr D. J. Hobson, Editor of the Cairns Argus, 11 December 1889

43 Cairns Post, 17 March 1888. Despite push to restrict Chinese businesses to Chinatown one did open a business in Lake Street in 1891.

ENDNOTES 1890-1900


41 Ibid.

40 Ibid., p. 197

39 May, Topsawyers, p. 196

38 Outgoing correspondence, Town Clerk Municipal Council,

37 Cairns Post, 30 April 1890

36 Cairns Post, 3 May 1890


34 Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council, 1890, p. 37

33 Ibid. p. 36


31 QSA SRS 4949, Map of Census District Cairns.

30 May, Topsawyers, p. 121

29 Cairns Post, 26 June 1889. By 1895 the boat builder had made over 10 Sampans which pld the Barron river between Freshwater area and the wharves. They varied in size from 25ft to 30ft with a capacity of 6-12 tons. The boats cost £100-£150 with local Cedar and hardwoods used. The timber was sourced from Mr Till sawmill at Redlynch.

28 Cairns Post, 4 August 1895.

27 Accounts Book for Cairns Municipal Council 1889, First Dray license to Sun Sing and Ah Hon.

26 May, Topsawyers, p. 59

25 Ibid. p. 358

24 Ibid.

23 Ibid., p. 197
It is difficult to exactly pinpoint the exact location of the Chinese Club because the rates books over a period of time swap the location with the other building on the allotment of Sun Wo Tiy. However the author is confident that the Chinese Club is on Lot2, allotment 12, and section 27.

Kevin Wong Hoy, Ed. 1976, A souvenir brochure from the Chinese community of Cairns, North Queensland Australia 1876-1976, p. 8


Archaeological Report, pp. 31-42. Gordon Grimwade and Associates report found that up biased view, the permission had been given to Lee Yan and the police had used to occasion to express his own biased view, the Police magistrate sent an official apology to the Chinese community expressing his extreme regret at the position that they had been placed.

Gordon Grimwade and Associates, March 1986. Rusty's Markets Re-Development site Archaeological Report, pp. 31-42. Gordon Grimwade and Associates, March 2004, Rusty's Markets Re-Development site Archaeological excavation Report Modified extract of DRAFT EXTRACT, pp. 33, 45-48. The Grimwade and Associates report found that up to eight different varieties of European alcohol bottles were found in various test pits of the Gilligans' site as well as some brown rice wine bottles indicating that reports of Chinese consuming both sorts of beverages were correct. The Cairns Argus, 13 February 1897.

Both Bessie Kwong Kee and her mother Mrs. Dyke were well known to the community as midwives they lived in Sachs Street and delivered many children including all 18 of the Sou San family naming all of them after English royalty.

Both Bessie Kwong Kee and her mother Mrs. Dyke were well known to the community as midwives they lived in Sachs Street and delivered many children including all 18 of the Sou San family naming all of them after English royalty.

Both Bessie Kwong Kee and her mother Mrs. Dyke were well known to the community as midwives they lived in Sachs Street and delivered many children including all 18 of the Sou San family naming all of them after English royalty.

Both Bessie Kwong Kee and her mother Mrs. Dyke were well known to the community as midwives they lived in Sachs Street and delivered many children including all 18 of the Sou San family naming all of them after English royalty.

Both Bessie Kwong Kee and her mother Mrs. Dyke were well known to the community as midwives they lived in Sachs Street and delivered many children including all 18 of the Sou San family naming all of them after English royalty.

Both Bessie Kwong Kee and her mother Mrs. Dyke were well known to the community as midwives they lived in Sachs Street and delivered many children including all 18 of the Sou San family naming all of them after English royalty.
European races, see also had was at the time very active in the community and problems in response to the bank crash of 1893.

ENDNOTES 1900-1910


178 Outgoing correspondence, Town Clerk Municipal Council, Kwong Lec 1 May 1899, Cheong Sing and Hop Lee 2 May 1899 & Sam Sing 20 September 1899

179 Jill Greaves, 1994, “Early Brick Making Activities in North Queensland”; The Cairns Historical Society Inc, Bulletin Number 404; Cairns Post, 18 September 1884

180 Cairns Post, 5 September 1888; Cairns Post, 8 October 1888; Cairns Post, 15 December 1888

181 It employs all of the construction features such as the high pitched roof and venting in the ceiling space.


183 Cairns Post, 11 October 1896

184 Grinwade, Rusty’s Markets DRAFT EXTRACT, P8, summary pp.28-29

185 Cairns Post, 18 November 1891 & Cairns Post, 30 December 1891. A slump in housing combined forces James Ah Ching to advertise properties for sale. He also places an ad to “Let” his cottage in McLeod Street and shop in Spence Street and Sachs Street. He continued to experience financial problems in response to the bank crash of 1893.

186 Cairns Municipal Rate Receipts Book, 1897

187 Mayor, Tapsawyers, p.113. The 1891 Census lists in the district three Chinese as “irregular clergy”, which indicates that both Temples in Cairns and one in Geraldtown were operational by the time that the Census was taken. Found on allotment 13 Section 3.

188 North Queensland Register, Supplement, 28 February 1906

189 Cairns Post, Health Officers Report, 20 February 1897

266 Queensland Public Records Historical Resource Kit, (QPRHRK), COL/72 #00086 Enquiring Letter sent by Cairns solicitor to the Home Secretary’s Office. One letter sent to the Home Secretary’s Office by a Cairns solicitor clearly states: “I make this enquiry because when I applied for a naturalization certificate some twelve months ago for another Chinaman, you informed me that the government were not just then disposed to naturalize Asiatic aliens.” Delays often centered on failure to meet criteria, which included a Memorial, a fee of £10, a police report on character and most importantly proof of marriage. For many ordinary men, failure to provide proof of a written Chinese marriage meant that they were ineligible for naturalization.

190 May, Tapsawyers, p.191

191 Cairns Post, 28 October 1908. Figures for Chinese arrivals in 1907 were 111 whereas departures were 273.

192 Cairns Post, 19 May 1908. Another banana regulation was introduced this time bananas had to be packed in cases which were rat proof. Ten leading Chinese merchants met with Commissioner for Health along with Fruit Inspector, representatives from the shipping company and the Shire Clerk.

193 Cairns Post, 28 November 1908

194 Cairns Post, 15 May 1909

195 Cairns Post, 21 July 1909

196 Cairns Post, 6 May 1908

197 Edmund Wah Bow Lee, “My Memories of Times in Places I call Home: Shekki, Cairns & Hong Kong”, Unpublished manuscript, China, p.21 Among them were many Europeans.

198 May, Tapsawyers, p. 56

199 Morning Post, 12 October 1900 & Cairns Post, 1 August 1900. In August 1900, at a time when the local papers were full of articles highlighting the Boxer Rebellion in China instilling fears in the minds of local Europeans, it is not known what lay behind James Ah Young’s motive for disclosing information that there was at least seven members of the group known as Boxers Society in Cairns. To reinforce his point about their presence he went so far as to produce a calligraphy facsimile of the Boxer sign. The next week James Young modified his statement suggesting that he had been misunderstood and that the group were actually a local Chinese Labor Party rather than part of a secret society. What these two reports reveal is that either he realized the potential disaster this information had for Chinatown and withdrew the statement or that pressure from within the community to retract the information had been exerted. It also indicates that the Chinatown community was well aware of internal political tensions within China. His disclosure in the first place was very unusual because Chinese persons did not usually make personal comments about internal Chinatown politics, especially if it aroused suspicion.

200 Cairns Post, 17 September 1901. When news of his arrival reached Chinatown, residents rang the tocsin to summon the community to get ready for the procession. They presented a magnificent...
The processional display in traditional celebratory costumes with some carrying flags and banners. Others carried halberd shafts402 from the Temple. Following tradition a deputation presented an address to the Governor General proclaiming loyalty to His Majesty and wishing the Lord Hopetoun a long and well Life. The speech was signed and presented by 40 prominent Chinese merchants and shopkeepers.

218 *Cairns Post*, 12 July 1901. It was considered beneficial to Chinatown because most agricultural workers came in on the weekends and with a half-day holiday on the Saturday the merchants were unable to be open for trade.

219 *Cairns Post*, 9 August 1901.

220 *Cairns Post*, 13 September 1901. No incurancy was shown to Chinese shopkeepers James Young the herbalist. Defendant solicitor put forward that as a herbalist his profession required him to work odd hours and also that as a chemist and druggist the community would be at hardship if his practice hours were curtailed. However he was still fined 1/- and 4/6 costs.

221 Outgoing correspondence, Cairns Town Council, 17 February 1906 to 4 December 1907, Town Clerk. Letter to Tam Sie, Geraldton p.138 Requests were made to Tam Sie, to pay the rates on his property however Tam Sie must have had an arrangement with his tenants for them to pay. In 1906, 3 shopkeepers refused to pay, stating that it was Tam Sie's responsibility. However, the tenants must have relented as they eventually paid the rates and not Tam Sie.

222 *Cairns Post*, 20 February 1903. In March Ho Wah Tay brought a case against business partner Willie Ming for dissolution of business Tay Song Kee in the Supreme Court. Ming moved to Alloomba with family and Sam Wah took over premises allotment 16, Section 3.

223 *Cairns Post*, 26 January 1900

224 Outgoing Correspondence, Cairns Municipal Council Town Clerk, 8 February 1900, p.504

225 *Cairns Post*, 24 March 1900

226 *Morning Post*, 14 April 1900

227 Ibid. The Heath Officer said “I believe I am right in saying that at the present time in Chinatown, as regards to the cleanliness of its yards is quite equal to the other parts of Cairns.

228 *Cairns Post*, 28 August 1905

229 *Cairns Post*, 20 May 1904

230 *Cairns Post*, 29 September 1904

231 *Cairns Post*, 27 March 1907

232 *Cairns Post*, 20 August 1908

233 *Cairns Post*, 1 June 1905

234 QSA, A67976, Licensing Matters Postage and Petty Cash 1901-1906 23 April. List of Chinese whose opium permits were cancelled.

235 *Cairns Post*, 8 November 1907. The decision was reserved.

236 *Cairns Post*, 26 May 1907. In 1907 the leading storekeeper Lee On Kee charged with opium smoking. Solicitor MacDonnell entered plea of guilty said he could produce medical evidence that his life would, be endangered if he were suddenly forced to cease the habit.

237 *Cairns Post*, 27 November 1908. This was the case with Ah Kum, former vegetable supplier to the hospital and retired gardener. A habitual user he had smoked for 36-7 years and had a written prescription from Dr Knowles. He was kept in Cairns by the benevolence of a cousin and was waiting to go home one way or another.

238 May, *Topsayers*, p.91

239 *Cairns Post*, 18 May 1902. Newspapers in 1901 reported extensively on cases of Chinese gambling which usually consisted of Pak-a-pu, Gec far, Pie Gow, Fan Tan and Sin Kai Loo.

240 *Cairns Post*, 2 December 1910. Kwong Sue Duc was fined for selling Pak-a-pu tickets. Number three bank behind Sam Sings shop.

241 May, *Topsayers*, pp.283-4

242 *Cairns Post*, 16 May 1902. Case brought by Low Choy against Chong Fat for conducting a lottery along with Wai Tai Sing Wing and Ah Dip and Willie Ming as manager.

243 *Cairns Post*, 23 August 1901

244 *Cairns Post*, 22 July 1908. The subsequent collection taken up was substantial including a sovereign.

245 *Cairns Post*, 27 July 1908

246 Section 16, Section 3.

247 *Morning Post*, 16 October 1900. But misfortune came upon the Ming’s and the community as the boy died one week later. The whole Chinese community must have felt this loss.

248 May, *Topsayers*, p.371

249 *Cairns Post*, 11 February 1902

250 H.K.N MacDonnell, 1976, "Early Reminiscence of Cairns", Cairns Historical Society Inc. Bulletin Number 6 Sometimes at night the sound of tinkling bells or reedy pipes could be heard at Hides Hotel as a solo musician played.

251 *Cairns Post*, 19 February 1904.

252 *Morning Post*, 10 Feb 1903.

253 *Cairns Post*, 11 February 1902

254 *Cairns Post*, 19 February 1907.

255 *Cairns Post*, 10 February 1910

256 *Cairns Post*, 20 August 1901

257 May, *Topsayers*, p.77

258 *Cairns Post*, 23 November 1904.


260 *Cairns Post*, 1 February 1900.

261 *Cairns Post*, 17 February 1900

262 *Cairns Post*, 16 September 1905. Rather than reported as just having a bit of fun, it was noted the police should try to catch them to make an example of them.

263 *Cairns Post*, 17 August 1908. The Cairns Post remarked that both had good qualities as they taught Sunday school.
Interview: Mrs Dawn Stiff, June 2002; February 2004. For example: in 1906 Emily Ah You married Frederick McComb-Andersson. Her sister, Jessie Ah You was the bridesmaid. Miss Ah You had been a Sunday school teacher for some time and the ceremony took place at residence of the bride’s mother. Interestingly some of the sons of these unions “went Chinese” and remained connected to the Chinatown.

Application for Naturalization Foo Jah. As more Chinese men with their wives living in China applied for naturalization, often un-founded suspicion was aroused as to the reasons behind the need for citizenship. This was often based on racist reasons for the prohibition of Chinese immigrants.

The Commonwealth Immigration Restriction Act, No. 17. 1901, p. 3. With Federation came provisions in the Commonwealth The Immigration Restriction Act (No.17 of 1901) for Chinese women to be exempt through Clauses 3m (A wife accompanying her husband if he is not a prohibited immigrant, and all children.) and 3n. (Any person who satisfies an officer that he has formally been domiciled in the Commonwealth or in any colony, which has become a State.) At its inception this legislation promised reunification between separated families or the chance for men who had been unable or unwilling to return “home” to marry a Chinese woman.

The Commonwealth Immigration Restriction Act, No. 17. 1901, p. 23. However if her husband was naturalized the likelihood of a smooth immigration application for a Chinese wife was usually secured. This was particularly effective for the Cairns merchants and shopkeepers after 1901. For naturalized Cairns merchant Jang Lum manager of Sun Wo Tiy, his status as a merchant as well as having a very large interest in a sugar growing property meant that his wife could immigrate under the new exemptions provided in clause 3(m). Between 1902 and 1905 ten Chinese women arrived in Cairns Chinatown. However the suspension of Clause 3(m) and 3(n) in 1903 and a repeal in 1905 reduced the female immigration rate to the former one to two. Resulting in only two arrivals by 1910.

In the Census of 1901, 138 children were recorded in Chinatown, including 48 female and 90 males. At the same time, 61 Chinese females were recorded as present, indicating that 12 Chinese women lived in the community.

Such as the sustaining herbal mixture given to women after the birth of a child or the ginger and pig trotter soup given in the first week after birth.

Interview: Amelia Wah Day, Cairns 22 July 2002; Janie Edwards, Cairns 24 May 2002. However as more Chinese wives immigrated, these traditions were renewed and maintained for their own daughters and daughters-in-law until present day.

Cairns Post, 20 January 1903
May, Topsvowers, p.86
Cairns Post, 1 April 1905
Cairns Post, 5 February 1900
The Morning Post, 2 May 1902, p.2
Interview: Greta Yin Foo, Norma Lee and Thyra Lin Foy, 21 March 2001
Cairns Post, 7 June 1904
Cairns Post, 23 March 1906
May, Topsvowers, p.79
Cairns Post, 1 January 1907
Interview: Vincent Lee, 9 May 2002
Cairns Post, 24 October 1902. There was only one boy Willie Hong Chong aged 14 at the school and never more than three at one time.
Cairns Post, 5 January 1904
Cairns Post, 6 July 1900
Bottoms, “A History of Cairns” p. 266.
Footnote 95
Cairns Post, 5 October 1910.
Cairns Post, 26 June 1901
Cairns Post, 6 October 1903
Interview Cairns, 2004: Details of Interviewee are withheld to protect their privacy.
Cairns Post, 13 November 1903.
Outgoing correspondence, Cairns Municipal Council 25 Oct. 1905- 5 Jan 1906. Letter from Town Clerk to various Japanese residents in Chinatown. The Town Clerk sent a series of letters to the following people. Miss Oyome, Miss Onme, Miss Otome, Oyoshie, Miss Yone, Miss Oyama, Mr Ininosho, Miss Otume. The letter for Mr Ininosho was as follows: “Madam or Sir, As an occupier of a building upon allotment 18 Section 27, I have the honor by direction to request that you will comply with paragraph 6, 18 in the By-laws of this Council and provide me with a list of the names, ages, sexes, occupations of all inmates within your house.”
In 1911, Cairns briefly had some arriving Chinese storekeepers as a result of the cyclone, which flattened Port Douglas. Everything including the joss house was destroyed in Port Douglas and families and men left to more secure regions such as Cairns, Atherton and Innisfail. Cairns Post, 7 November 1911

Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee’s Family Tree of Larrm Har Village, Lundo, Zhongshan, China”, unpublished manuscript, date unknown, pp. 21 & 22

May, Topsawyers, p. 38

Bottoms, “A History of Cairns”, p. 347. In 1911 the white population had been 5,193 increasing to 7,455 by 1921.

Ibid., p. 394

The Sugar Works Act, 1911 set a minimum wage for sugar workers in order to exclude “alien” labour. It worked on the basis that given the choice between an “alien” or white worker a employer would choose a white worker. The Sugar Cultivation Act 1913 excluded anyone from the sugar industry, which failed a dictation test.

May, Topsawyers, p. 177

QSA, CRS 156, Police versus See Chin 15 12 1922. The Sugar Cultivation Act, 1913, Section 4 states that certain persons not having first passed the dictation test cannot be employed in the sugar industry. The file gives a list of names of workers on See Chin farm which was located at Smithfield.

The Cairns Post, 21 March 1911, p. 8

May, Topsawyers, p. 81

Cairns Post, 22 November 1911

Cairns Post, 28 November 1911

Cairns Post, 23 December 1911

Cairns Post, 15 February 1912

Cairns Post, 16 February 1912

May, Topsawyers, p. 81

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 1918 letter by Town Clerk to Mr Lisha. Lisha to pay ½ cost to asphalt footpath outside his shop in Sachs Street.

May, Topsawyers, pp. 106-107

Cairns Post, 12 October 1911

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Willie Ming Secretary of the Chinese Club. 12 May 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Willie Ming Secretary of the Chinese Club. 2 June 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Tiy Chong. 14 December 1917. A letter was sent to Tiy Chong reminding him that he could not proceed with alterations to his property and that the building currently undertaken was a breach of the Law. Faced with legal constraints he submitted plans by December 28.

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk to Sun Him. 28 December 1917. Sun Him submitted plans for alterations on his building, which were approved.

Cairns Town Council, Incoming Correspondence 2 August 1915 found in book of Outgoing Correspondence, Town Clerk, 1916, p. 625-628

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 1916 letters by Town Clerk to the Secretary, Department of Public Health, p. 962

Cairns Town Council Minutes, (CTCM), 5 April 1918

Bottoms, “A History of Cairns”, p. 390

Interview: Mrs Dawn Stiff, March 2004

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing correspondence, Town Clerk to fruiterers, 13 March 1917

Cairns Town Council, Outgoing correspondence, Town Clerk to Willie Ming, 6 Feb 1916 & Town Clerk to Chin Choon Wing, 22 January 1917

Cairns Post, 2 February 1911

Cairns Post, 10 February 1910

Cairns Post, 1 January 1912

Cairns Post, 20 January 1912

Cairns Post, 20 January 1912

Cairns Post, 2 January 1912

Cairns Post, 5 January 1912

Cairns Post, 14 November 1916

Emily Field, “Lum So San Family Saga”, private document, date unknown, p. 5. They lived right in the heart of Chinatown allotment 16 section 27

CTCM, 25 July 1916, p.117 They later moved to Lake Street after the First World War.

Cairns Post, October 2003. On allotment 3, section 27

CTCM, 17 November 1917, p. 868. She died in late 1917.

Interview, Dawn Stiff, 21 June 2002

Cairns Post, 14 June 1911 & 17 October 1911

Ibid.

Cairns Post, 14 June 1911


Interview: Bishop Tung Yep, Cairns, 9 May 2002.

Field, “Lum So San Family Saga”, p. 8

For example Kwong Sue Duc’s daughters could hardly sign their own names on their marriage certificates.

Interview: Arleen Lee Long, 25 April 2001

May, Topsawyers, p. 63 After 1905 persons residents in Queensland and wishing to go to China had to gain a certificate of Exemption. Chinese “Aliens” had to prove that they were of good character by the submission of character references and to have lived in Australia for more than five years. People wishing to return to China to visit family went to great lengths to secure adequate proof of citizenship to ensure their return to North Queensland. In 1913, Mary Sam Chung and her husband Jimmy Lee Leong sought letters of support from European friends as “insurance” to secure re-entry into North Queensland before they left to visit his family near Shekki in China. These letters
ensured that both were able to secure Certificates of Exemption from the dictation test under the Commonwealth Naturalisation Act 1903. A couple of years later, Lee Leong came back with one of the boys but it wasn't until 1923 that Mary and three other children could afford the passage back to Cairns. Both Mary and her husband were well known in the Redlynch valley where they married in 1897. All of their children were born in North Queensland and were well known locals, as her husband had been a boatman, at Redlynch near Cairns and later a market gardener at Carrington near Atherton. Interview: Nell Lee Leong, Atherton, 8 May 2002.

375 Correspondence, 28 November 1914-28 December 1914.

377 Cairns Post, 6 November 1915.

378 Cairns Post, 4 June 1912.


380 Cairns Town Council, Incoming Correspondence, Letter from Town Clerk to Maud See Chin re allotment 13 Section 27, 24 May 1916.

381 Cairns Town Council, Incoming Correspondence, Letter from Town Clerk to Mrs M Muir re allotment 17 Section 27, 10 May 1916.

382 Cairns Post, 18 October 1916.

383 Cairns Post, 15 November 1916.

384 Ibid.

385 Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, Letter from Town Clerk to solicitors Macdonnell, Macdonnell and Hannam, 8 August 1917.

386 Cairns Historical Society, Bulletin, p. 117. A house in Chinatown occupied by George Shang has been removed. This is the two story house where Ahm Fang Yuen grew up.

387 Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 28 November 1914-28 October 1916, Town Clerk to Sun Him, 30 April 1915, p. 144.

388 Cairns Town Council, Outgoing Correspondence, 28 November 1914-28 October 1916, Town Clerk to Willie Ming, 23 December 1914.

389 Cairns Post, 25 July 1916, p. 112.

390 Cairns Post, 18 April 1916, p. 11. On the same date a letter was received from Mrs Sarah Ah Ching, notifying the Council that a cottage belonging to her had been demolished.

391 Cairns Post 18 June 1912 & Bottoms p. 335. This included allotment 40 Section 41A as well as allotment 14-17 41A.

ENDNOTES: 1920-1930

392 Some of these buildings include "Sovereign House" in Shields Street built in 1923, by Percy Wilkinson and sold to Morrow to become Morrow's Limited the Commercial Hotel corner of Spence and Sheridan Street built in 1926, the Gaiety Theatre in Sachs street built in 1927, the Trocadero above Mazlin's building Lake Street built in 1928 and Deeb's on the corner of Shucks and Sachs Street in 1929.

393 Bottoms, "A History of Cairns", p. 437. In March 1923 the new Cairns Hydro-Electric Power Investigation board commenced and two years later, 14 January 1925 electric street lighting was switched on in Cairns.

394 Reynolds, North of Capricorn, p. 183. The Mayor of Cairns was applauded for his attempts to wipe Chinatown off the face of the map in an attempt by Town council to expand the business district of Cairns and utilize the valuable street that Sachs Street represented.

395 ibid. p. The North Queensland Register wrote that the successful eradication of Chinatown including "the total extinction of all its evil associations", would make way for the business district to expand and would be well received by ratepayer.

396 Both Chiu Chong's Eastern Emporium and Sam Sing's store advertised that they stocked a range of style luxuries to cater for women. In particular carved pearl shell were much sort after.

397 Mrs K Sim, 1975, "Cairns Memories 1911 to 1925 (continued)", Cairns Historical Society Inc., Bulletin, 188.

398 Bottoms, "A History of Cairns", p. 402. In April 1922, a shortage of kerosene tins and benzene tins which ratepayers used for household rubbish led to the Council Health Committee to recommend and install a new rubbish collection service.

399 Ibid. p. 396

400 Interviews: Mrs Dawn Stiff, June 2002 & Mr George Gong Senior, April 2001


402 Bottoms, "A History of Cairns", p. 426-7

403 Cairns Post, 4 January 1927

404 See photograph P11614 Cairns Historical Society photographic library. Search marks can be seen on the wall of the Savoia Café and the two small brick buildings on the right hand side are also remaining. Both timber buildings which were on either side of the Temple are raised to the ground.

405 Interview: Jack Atkinson, February 2004, Cairns.

406 May, Topsawyers, p. 55 & 75


408 Personal communication, Mary Low, 28 May 2004.


410 Interview: Greta Yin Foo, Cairns, February 2002.

411 Interview: Bishop Tung Yep, Cairns, 9 May 2002. Jane Noon and Wah Shang had 13 children, the first one born in Brisbane where Wah Shang was...
working as a market Gardener and had applied for naturalization. The next 8 children were born between Bundaburg and Rockhampton and in 1904 they moved the family to Cairns where they lived in Sachs Street. In Cairns Wah Shang supported the family by building houses and as working as a cabinetmaker. As a grandfather when he used to sit and smoke his opium he would wag his finger at his 8-year-old grandson and say “Not good for little boys”. Granny Shang, fluent in her husband's language visited China in her later years, taking advantage of a health resort in the highlands. She was particularly friendly with Mrs Tung Yef and taught her to play cards.

403 Interview: Bishop Tung Yep, Cairns, 9 May 2002.
404 Interview: George Wah Day, Cairns, April 2001
405 Interview: Mr George Gong Senior, April 2001
406 Interview: Greta Yin Foo, Norma Lee and Thiera Lin Foy, Cairns, March 2001
407ibid.
408 May, Topsawyers, p. 63
409 Interview: Neil Lee Loong, Atherton, May 2002
410 Emily Field Lum So Sam family history p. 32
411 ibid.
413 Interview: Ron and Vera Bradley, March, 2004
414 Interview: Mrs Dawn Stiff, February 2004
415 Interview: George Gong Senior, April 2001
416 Interview: Estelle Kingsley, March 2004
418 Interview: Jack Atkinson, March 2004
419 Interview: Phoebe Mow, Daphne and Ben Wong Hoy, March 2004
420 QSA, SRS 4704/1-10, Cairns Town Council Rates and Valuations Book, 1 Jan 1926-31 December 1926

ENDNOTES: 1930-1940
421 Bottoms, “A History of Cairns”, p.467-8
422 Bottoms, “A History of Cairns”, p.442
423 Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee Family Tree”, p.24
424 Interview: Vera and Ron Bradley, March 2004
425 ibid.
426 Cited in Bottoms, “A History of Cairns”, p.444
427 May, Topsawyers, p.123
428 Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee Family Tree”, p.24. This was the case for Edward Lee Sye. When Lee Sye went to Cairns after his time in Atherton, he was instrumental in the Chintatown community. His store, provided postal and remittance services for fellow countrymen and he helped the community in legal and customs affairs as well as leant money.
429 Interview: Ronald Bradley, March 2004
430 Taken from a compilation of Cairns City Council Rates books, Cairns City Council water rates, Cairns City Council general ledger books and oral history accounts.
431 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
432 Interview: Estelle Kingsley, March 2004
434 Loose photocopy notes from Cathie May file, 14 Feb 1935
435 One of the original trustees Thomas Sydney Hope transferred to Willie Ming and Lee Chin. In 1935 Willie Ming was dead and Lee Chin had left for China some years back and would be about 87 if alive.
437 Interview: George Gong, April 2001.
438 Interview: Bishop George Tung Yep, May 2002.
440 Alan Hudson, “The best of the North I Knew” supplement in the Cairns Post, February 2004, p.8
441 Bottoms, “A History of Cairns”, p. 505
442 May, Topsawyers, p.82
443 ibid.
444 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
445 Interview: George Gong, April 2001
446 ibid.
447 Interview: Estelle Kingsley March 2004. It was initially held at Machan’s Beach at the head of the Barron River it was later held at Holloway’s Beach which at the time was called San Remo.
448 Personal communication: Vincent Lee, June 2004
449 Interview Mrs Stiff, June 2002 & Interview: George Gong, April 2001.
449 Pers. Comm.: Vincent Lee, June 2004. Their property grow pineapples and bananas and was located near the present day Compass Motel.
450 Interview: Daphne and Ben Wong Hoy and Phoebe Mow, March 2004
451 Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee Family Tree”, p.38-40
452 Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee Family Tree”, p.38-40
453 Interview: Estelle Kingsley, March 2004
454 Interview: George Gong, April 2001.
455 Interview: Gina Gillespie, March 2004; Daphne Wong Hoy March 2004;
456 Interview: Marilyn MacDonald, August 2002.
457 Interview: Ron and Vera Bradley, March, 2004;
458 Bishop George Tung Yep, May 2002; George Gong, April 2001; George Wah Day, April 2001
459 Interview: Bishop George Tung Yep, May 2002.
460 Interview: George Gong, April 2001.
461 ibid.
462 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
463 Interview: Ronald and Vera Bradley, March 2004
464 Interview: Daphne and Ben Wong Hoy and Phoebe Mow, March 2004
465 The GMH truck still exists on a farm near Dimbula on the Atherton Tablelands.
466 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004 & Estelle Kingsley, March 2004
467 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
468 ENDNOTES 1940-1950
469 Bottoms, A History of Cairns, p. 511-512
468 ibid. p. 514
469 Interview: Mrs Alma Fang Yuen in April 2004, interview conducted by Ms Mary Low
471 ibid. p. 3
472 Interview: Major General Darryl Low Choy, Brisbane, July 2002 & Giese, Courage and Service, p. 45-6
473 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 21
474 Interview: Vera Bradley, March 2004
475 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 21-23. He kept a meticulous diary of every bomb run that they made.
476 Interview: Vera Bradley, March 2004
477 Interview: Ronald and Vera Bradley, March 2004; & Vincent Lee Private communication June 2004
478 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
479 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 1
480 Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee Family Tree”, p. 43
481 ibid, p. 47
482 ibid, p. 47
483 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 13
484 ibid.
485 ibid.
486 Interview: Bishop Tung Yep, Cairns, May 2002
487 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 13. & Vera Bradley, I Didn’t Know That, p. 183. Over the other side of the inlet, Wong Wah Day’s farm was used as an Army depot because it was located half way between False Cape, where there was a large gun, and Gordonvale. The family boat was given permission to travel the inlet and he supplied vegetables to the Navy through J.G. Sang. He also made home deliveries to the remaining housewives in Cairns, delivering the vegetables in the traditional baskets slung on a bamboo pole across his shoulder.
488 Vera Bradley, 1995, I Didn’t Know That, Boolarong Press, Moorooka, p. 305
489 Grimwade, Rowney, Rusty’s Markets Redevelopment Site Archaeological Excavation Report, p.25 & 47
490 Interview Ben and Daphne Wong Hoy and Phoebe Mow, March 2004
491 Interview: Vera Bradley, March 2004
492 Pers. Comm.: Vincent Lee, June 2004
493 Vera Bradley, 1995, I Didn’t Know That, Boolarong Press, Moorooka, p. 305
495 Vera Bradley, I Didn’t Know That p. 406
496 Interview: Estelle Kingsley, March 2004
498 Interview: Amelia Wagnner, March 2004
499 Interview: George Wah Day, April 2001
501 Bottoms, A History of Cairns, p. 568
502 ibid. p. 577
503 ibid. p. 580-1
504 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
505 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 17
506 Bottoms, A History of Cairns, p. 523-4
507 Interview: Vincent Lee March 2004
508 ibid.
509 By 1950 Chinese families in and around Cairns included; Fang Yuen, Hong Choi, Yin Foo, Wong Hoy, Lee Chin, Young, Tung Yip, Wah Day, Sing, Yet Foy, Low Jip, Shangs, Ming’s, Song Lee, Lee See, Ah You, Gillespie, Awee, Lee Quai, Tong Sing, Lee, Chin Soon, Fang Yuen, Sue Yek and Kum Yuen. In the larger region including Edmonton and Gordonvale families such as Lee Yan, Hing, and Lee Sye were present and on the Tablelands Jue Sue and Fung On.
510 Vera Bradley, I Didn’t Know That, p. 302
511 Giese, Courage and Service, p. 12
512 Personal Communication: Peter Merrotys, April 2004. This sometimes extended past the Federal Hotel, around the block, and into Lake Street.
513 Vera Bradley, I didn’t Know That, p. 305
514 Diana Giese, Courage and Service, p.13
515 Pers. Comm.., Peter Merrotys, April 2004. American Servicemen were kept in a separate camp at Lake Placid to the white American Troops. Their equal treatment and presence was considered a threat to white society and a bad influence on the local Indigenous society.
516 Cairns Water Rate Meter Book 1946-7, p. 162. Business commenced on the 8 January 1947
517 Cairns Water Rate Meter Book 1958-61, p. 158
518 Interview: Sir Robert Norman, March 2004
519 ibid.
520 Interview: Bob Norman, March 2004
521 Interview: Stan Grieves, March 2004
522 Bottoms, A History of Cairns, p. 519
523 Interview: George Wah Day, April 2001; George Gong , April 2001 Edmund Lee Wah Bow, “The Lee Family Tree”, p. 43

ENDNOTES 1950-2012

525 Interview: Stan Grieves, Former plain clothes Police Officer, Cairns CID, 1956-1972, March 2004
526 Alan Hudson, “The best of the North I Knew” supplement in the Cairns Post, February 2004, p. 8
527 Interview: Stan Grieves, March 2004
528 Alan Hudson, “The best of the North I Knew” supplement in the Cairns Post, February 2004, p. 8
530 Cairns City Council Register of Café Licenses 1950-1970
531 Cairns City Council Water Fund Meter Rate Book 1958-1961
532 Interview: Ben and Daphne Wong Hoy and Phoebe Mow, March 2004
533 Interview: Ronald and Vera Bradley, March 2004
534 Hudson, p. 8
535 In 1955, over 800 Italians were recruited in Italy to immigrate to northern Queensland as indentured
labour to service the cane industry. Thus a new wave of Italian immigrants arrived and changed the landscape of Grafton Street.

536 Cairns City Council Register of Café Licenses 1950-1970
537 Cairns Water Rate Meter Book 1946-1947, p. 85
538 Interview: Vincent Lee, March 2004
539 ibid.
540 Hudson, , p. 15
541 Interview Ron and Vera Bradley, March 2004
542 Personal Communication: Kenny Wong, June 2004
543 ibid.
544 Interview: Bishop Tung Yep, Cairns, May 2002
545 Interview: Ronald and Vera Bradley, March 2004
547 ibid. p. 18
548 Personal Communication: Estelle Yet Foy.
549 Grimwade, Rusty’s Markets, DRAFT EXTRACT, p. 9
550 Certificate of Title: Volume 91, Folio 188, Number N1573
551 Grimwade, April 2001, Rusty’s Markets Re-Development site Archaeological Report, p. 3