Explore the beauty and history of Caloundra

Caloundra is the ancestral homeland of the Kabi Kabi First Nation People and is a place of cultural and social significance. The original inhabitants lived sustainably with their environment and hunted the ranges, fished the rivers and gathered seafood from the ocean, celebrating a unique spiritual connection with the land and sea.

From the 1860s European explorers reported the region around Pumicestone Passage as fertile and settlement began. Caloundra was first referred to as Cullawanda Point, an indigenous word meaning ‘place of Beech trees’.

Thomas Ballinger was the first landholder in Caloundra around 1870. His land was conveyed back to the Crown and later issued to Robert Bulcock in 1875. Caloundra became a popular seaside resort, as Brisbane residents discovered the beauties of the region and the pristine coastline. The first guesthouse, Sea Girt, opened in 1886 on a ridge overlooking present day Moffat Beach.

Development continued during the inter-war period, with later subdivision and improved road connections. Significant progress occurred in the 1960s, and further expansion in the 1980s with increased interest in Caloundra as a tourist destination.

Cultural Heritage Levy

The Cultural Heritage Levy is an annual payment that council collects from each household.

The levy aims to:

• Protect cultural places such as buildings and other significant sites
• Raise people’s awareness of the value of local heritage
• Celebrate the cultural heritage of the Sunshine Coast.

The levy supports the identification, protection, conservation and management of the region’s heritage assets.

Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2015-2020

The Heritage Plan sets out council’s vision for heritage – Our heritage is our gift for the future.

Cultural Heritage News

Visit council’s website to subscribe to the Cultural Heritage eNewsletter – Heritage Hype.

Walk Caloundra is a Sunshine Coast Council initiative, funded by the Cultural Heritage Levy.

Other heritage walks across the Sunshine Coast can be downloaded from Sunshine Coast Council’s website.

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

We welcome your feedback. Please contact Cultural Heritage on 07 5420 9680 or email culturalheritage@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Images courtesy of Picture Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Libraries.

#HeritageSunshineCoast

Did you know?

In 1910 an incandescent vapour light was installed at the Caloundra Lighthouse – the first of its kind in Queensland. The light was moved to the Caloundra Lighthouses in 1968.

Contact Friends of Caloundra Lighthouses.

www.sunshinecoastplaces.com.au

Walk Caloundra

Explore the beauty and history of Caloundra.

Caloundra Lighthouses

3-6 Canberra Terrace, Caloundra

The Caloundra Lighthouses mark the entry to Moreton Bay and the North West Channel, the main shipping route into Brisbane. The 1886 lighthouse is the oldest surviving building in Caloundra and was replaced by the new Signal Station, Light and Radar Installation in 1968. Both lighthouses stand together on the original site. Today, the light that ships use to navigate comes from beacons located at sites along the coast.

The Friends of Caloundra Lighthouses provide guided tours of the buildings, giving visitors the opportunity to explore and learn more about the important part they played in the history of the town.

T: 07 5491 7654

www.sunshinecoastplaces.com.au

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The Homestead was built in 1878 and was the first house in Caloundra. The owner, Robert Bulcock (1832–1904), purchased 277 acres of land for £70 in 1875, now known as central Caloundra. Both Bulcock Street and Bulcock Beach are named after the family.

In 1995, the council chambers moved to the current location at 1 Omrah Avenue.

The Ithaca Life Saving Club was formed at Ithaca Baths, Brisbane. By the late 1950s the Club had two shops on the site, one of which was the iconic Glen Ellice Cafe.

Felicity Park is named in memory of Felicity Stiensen, who with her husband Maurice, lived in the original cottage on the site. There is a sandstone and brick bbq on the park edge, which was in their backyard. The family was well known for their hospitality and popular charity garden parties held in the grounds. Maurice sold the property to Landsborough Shire Council in 1974 and requested that the area be dedicated to his late wife. Felicity Council built Caloundra Library on the site in 1976, now Caloundra Regional Gallery.

The 1896 lighthouse is the oldest surviving building in Caloundra. The timber framed lighthouse with corrugated metal cladding was built on land donated by Robert Bulcock. In 1987 a new concrete lighthouse was erected next to the existing lighthouse and operated until 1992.

Caloundra Lighthouse Keeper’s residence on Canberra Terrace. In 1934 the post office was moved to this site and leased to the Rapkins family. A new post office was built in 1953. This image shows both the old and new post office side by side.

By 2016, the original building is still intact.

Bulcock Street

The first dwelling in Bulcock Street was a weatherboard holiday hut built in 1915 by Ben Dennis from Mooloolah. This hut was demolished in 1930 and a new house built on the site. The double storey house shown at the back left was the residence of the Daybell family.

The Esplanade, Bulcock Beach

In 1980 – also named The Strand. The three-storey building took up six adjoining shops and was designed by architect Kerry O’Rourke.

Caloundra Cinema

Established in the 1930s, the Amusus Theatre was built by Mr H.M. Dean for the Page family, owners of Page Furnishing in Pomona. In 1937 the Page brothers changed the name to The Strand and continued to operate the theatre until 1942. The old theatre was demolished in 1979 and the existing Theatre Royal shopping and cinema complex was constructed and opened in 1980 – also named The Strand. The three-storey building took up six adjoining shops and was designed by architect Kerry O’Rourke.

Caloundra Post Office

Caloundra Post Office was originally located in a room within the Caloundra Lighthouse Keeper’s residence on Canberra Terrace. In 1934 the post office was moved to this site and leased to the Rapkins family. A new post office was built in 1953. This image shows both the old and new post office side by side.

For holidaymakers, Happy Valley and Bulcock Beach offer great fishing in Pumicestone Passage and off the beach, diving boards, and a steam engine a safe swimming spot. Camping was possible, beach hire shops proliferated, there were pony rides on the beach, diving boards, and a steam engine in the park for children to play on. Ashton’s Circus regularly visited and set up on the sand flats at Happy Valley. Due to erosion the vast sand flats have changed considerably.

H.M. Dean for the Page family, owners of Page Furnishing in Pomona. In 1937 the Page brothers changed the name to The Strand and continued to operate the theatre until 1942. The old theatre was demolished in 1979 and the existing Theatre Royal shopping and cinema complex was constructed and opened in 1980 – also named The Strand. The three-storey building took up six adjoining shops and was designed by architect Kerry O’Rourke.

The 1896 lighthouse is the oldest surviving building in Caloundra. The timber framed lighthouse with corrugated metal cladding was built on land donated by Robert Bulcock. In 1987 a new concrete lighthouse was erected next to the existing lighthouse and operated until 1992. Also on the original site was the lighthouse keeper’s cottage ‘Valhalla’. Allow one hour to complete the walk, longer if visiting Caloundra Lighthouses. Iowa's map is not to scale.