



North Stradbroke Island  
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North Stradbroke Island  
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# North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum

**For Immediate Use**

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MEDIA RELEASE

## **The Straddie Shorts Film Festival 2012**

The Straddie Shorts film festival, “Out of the Blue”, will be held at the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum on Friday, 16th November.

The event features imaginative, documentary and animated films produced by locals’ Lucy Trippet, Barry Brown, and Vicki Kelleher.

A series of workshops, providing an introduction to digital editing and story writing are offered to young people. Event Organiser, Vicki Kelleher, said “This local short film festival aims to inspire creative direction and the formulation of big ideas by young people and the community.”

The community are invited to attend a forum discussing new technologies and making creative ideas workable. “I hope to bring people together and celebrate our unique Island culture through visual and sound arts, whilst having lots of fun,” said Vicki.

### **For further information, interviews and photos, contact:**

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## Media Pitches

### Number One Pitch – Newspaper (Bayside Bulletin and Redland Times)

Good Morning, Sue, it is Julie-Ann Ellis here.

I have a North Stradbroke film event for you.

It will be held at the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum and involves a series of workshops based on teaching young people the techniques of filmmaking.

A forum for the community, which discusses new technologies and making creative ideas workable.

The showing of the films will be on Friday, 16th of November and features local artists, Vicki Kelleher, Lucy Trip-pet and Barry Brown.

Your interested?

Okay, I will send through the e-mail now.

### Number Two Pitch – Television (Channel 7 news)

Good Day, Bob, it is Julie-Ann Ellis here.

Would you be interested in a North Stradbroke film event?

It does have lots of great visuals.

Yes, you could use some grabs from the films themselves.

At the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum on Friday, 16th of November.

Thanks for your time.

Bye.

Oodgeroo  
 (paper bark tree)  
 of the tribe  
 Noonuccal  
 and custodian of  
 Minjerribah

Kath Walker was a poet, artist, storyteller, activist and educator. She was born on the third of November, 1920, at North Stradbroke Island and was christened Kathleen Jean Mary Ruska. Oodgeroo returned home to Minjerraba (land of the mosquito or North Stradboke Island), after extensive campaigning.. She died at her home on Stradbroke Island on 16th September, 1993.



*Son of Mine (1960)*

*I could tell you of heartbreak, hatred blind,  
 I could tell you of crimes that shame mankind,  
 Of brutal wrong and deeds malign,  
 Of rape and murder, son of mine;*

*But I'll tell instead of brave and fine  
 When lives of black and white entwine  
 And men in brotherhood combine--  
 This I would tell you, son of mine.*

Oodgeroo's father, Edward (Ted) Ruska, was of Aboriginal (Noonuccal), German and Spanish-Philippino descent,. Her mother, Lucy Ruska (Aboriginal and Scottish descent), grew up in a Brisbane mission. Oodgeroo's parents met and married in outback Queensland, then set up camp at North Stradbroke Island.

Oodgeroo attended Dunwich State School and at age thirteen moved to Brisbane to become a domestic housekeeper. World War Two broke and Oodgeroo served in the Army as a signaller. At the Brisbane Headquarters, she noticed she was better accepted in uniform. Oodgeroo was dismissed from the Australian Army on medical grounds and following that she received a small pension.

In 1942, she married Bruce Walker (a descendent of the Logan and Albert River Aboriginal tribes) and they had two sons; Denis and Vivian. They lived in Buranda and were active members of the Australian Communist party (and later, Australian Labour Party and the Democrats), which was the only political party in Australia that did not support the White Australia policy at this time. Unfortunately, Kath and Bruce separated in 1946.

During the early 1950's, Oodgeroo worked in the Dandy Bacon Factory at Muarrie, she took in washing and ironing and then as a domestic servant for the Cilento family. She was well respected by the family and encouraged to access their vast library which led to a refresher course in stenography and typing.

She became actively involved in supporting and encouraging Aboriginal rights, social justice and conservationism. Through her life she held prominent positions as chair for; National Tribal Council The Aboriginal Arts Board The Aboriginal Housing Committee Queensland Aboriginal Advancement League. One People of Australia League (O.P.A.L.) Additionally, she campaigned heavily for the 1967 referendum on Aboriginal rights.

At the same time, Oodgeroo's interest in poetry developed and in 1964, she wrote her first collection of poems, "We are Going", making her the best selling Australian poet since C.J. Dennis. She used the names of Kath Walker and Kath Walker Noonuccal.



Her works include:

“We are Going” - poems – 1964  
 “The Dawn is at Hand” - poems – 1966  
 “My People – a Kath Walker collection – 1970  
 “Stradbroke Dreamtime” – 1972  
 “Father Sky and Mother Earth” – 1981  
 “Quandamooka, the Art of Kath Walker” - 1985  
 “Little Fella” - 1986  
 “The Rainbow Serpent” - 1988  
 “The Spirit of Australia” - 1989  
 “Towards a Global Village in the Southern Hemisphere” - 1989  
 “Australian Legends and Landscapes” - 1990  
 “Australia’s Unwritten History: More Legends of our Land” - 1992  
 “Oodgeroo” - 1994

During her lifetime, Oodgeroo, travelled internationally many times with the intention of celebrating her culture by educating people on equality. In a 1988, Woman’s Day interview, Oodgeroo said, “I don’t want any misguided people, white or black, thumping each other to prove a point. That solves nothing. I pray there won’t be violence. Instead of confrontation on the streets, let’s have theatre in the parks where my people can get our message across and then others can judge for themselves what is right and what is wrong.”

Oodgeroo won several awards; Mary Gilmore Medal (1970), The Jessie Litchfield Award (1975), The International Acting Award, The Fellowship of Australian Writers Award,

honorary doctorates from Macquarie University (1988), Griffith University (1989), Monash University (1991), Queensland University of Technology (1992) and an MBE (The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire). In 1987, Kath returned her MBE and adopted the name of Oodgeroo Noonuccal as a protest against white man’s invasion. Oodgeroo said, “Taking up my Aboriginal name is a gentle way of pricking consciences. It’s my own way of protesting” (p. 10, March 7, 1988, Woman’s Day).

Oodgeroo returned to her “sitting down place”, in 1972 and set up a Noonuccal-Nughie Educational and Cultural Centre named Moongalba (female land) where she taught multitudes of children about fishing and bush tucker. Once again, she battled against the white man, as she attempted to purchase the land but was blocked by local council. Oodgeroo died and was buried at Moongalba.

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# North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum

## School Fact Sheet about North Stradbroke Island

North Stradbroke Island is 38 km long and 11 km wide.

North Stradbroke Island is only 13 km from the mainland.

The towns of North Stradbroke Island are; Dunwich, Amity Point and Point Lookout.

North Stradbroke Island is known as Minjerribah and has been inhabited by the Quandamooka people for at least 21-000 years.

The tribes of the Noonuccal, Goenpul, and Ngugu constitute the Quandamooka (Moreton Bay) people.

The Noonuccal people were in the Pulan (Amity Point) area and their language is called Munyjany.

The Goenpul (people of the pearl shell) were in the Moongalba (Dunwich) area and their language is called Jandai.

The Ngugi people were traditionally from Moreton Island but relocated to North Stradbroke Island in 1847.



Lieutenant James Cook sailed past Moreton Bay and charted the area, naming Point Lookout.

The first reported contact with Europeans was in 1803 when a group of Minjerribah people helped Matthew Flinders' crew find water.

In 1823, timber-getters Pamphlett, Finnegan and Parsons were shipwrecked on Moreton Island spent the next eight months travelling around Moreton Bay. The Noonucals at Pulan (Amity Point) looked after them for nearly six weeks. They housed, fed and advised the trio on canoe making, and saw them off some months later in the craft they'd made on the island. During their time on Minjerribah, the three experienced bora gatherings and ceremonial, celebratory and gladiatorial events.

The following year, surveyor General John Oxley, botanist Allan Cunningham and surveyor Robert Hoddle visited Pulan and called it Cypress Point. It is now known as Amity Point after their ship.

From 1825 to 1938, a pilot station was built and ran at Amity Point.

In June 1827, Minjerribah was renamed Stradbroke Island by Governor Darling

in honour of the Honourable Captain JH Rous, son of the Earl of Stradbroke and also Viscount Dunwich.

In November 1827, a small settlement was established at Dunwich. A waterfront causeway built by convicts during this time is still used today.

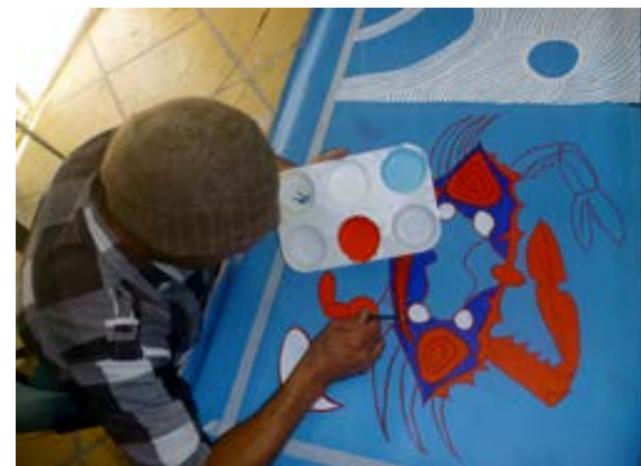
Ten or more violent clashes occurred between the Quandamooka people and Europeans stationed at Dunwich and Amity during the period of January 1831 to December 1832.

Four Passionist missionaries set up a mission at Dunwich to convert Aborigines to Catholicism. (1843-1847).

In March 1847, The Sovereign sank in South Passage between Moreton and North Stradbroke Island, the Ngugi and Noonuccal tribes rescued ten of the passengers and were rewarded for their efforts with a boat and breast plates.

On 16 July 1850, Dunwich was proclaimed as Moreton Bay's quarantine station (it closed in 1864).

During the fifties, North Stradbroke Island established various fishing adventures often employing the Quandamooka people.



The first telegraph was installed in 1861 from Brisbane to Dunwich.

Paid employment as cleaners and builders' labourers became available to Aborigines

at Dunwich. The employees became known as the Aboriginal Gang and were considered indispensable.

The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was officially opened in 1867.

Land in the township of Amity Point went on sale at the end of 1886.

The Island's first school, the Dunwich Provisional School for Aboriginal Children, opened for business on 7 January 1889 and closed on 16 February 1891.

In 1891, Dunwich became the home of about 80 leprosy patients until 1907 when the Peel Island lazaret was established. The Myora Special Provisional School opened on 29 May 1893 and closed in January 1941.

Prior to 1894, North and South Stradbroke Islands were joined but were separated;

after a barque, The Cambus Wallace, shipwrecked on the ocean side of a narrow part of Stradbroke Island, the ship's cargo of explosives had been blown up,

and two years later, a storm blew the two apart.

In 1894, Billy North was granted a lease over Point Lookout and for nearly 40 years, he ran cattle and operated a fish cannery.

The first post office was opened in 1896. The Aborigines Act was based on isolating Aborigines and was effective from 1897 to 1977.

The Prosperity sank off Point Lookout on its way from Sydney to North Queensland in 1902. In 1956, a skeleton and boot were uncovered in the sand on Deadman's Beach (this is the origin of the name) and it is believed they were the remains of the Prosperity's mate or cook.

The Dunwich Provisional School opened

on 18 August, 1904.

Amity Point school opened on 7 April 1919.

The first telephone was installed at Amity Point in 1922.

Point Lookout's first tourism venture started in the 1930s when Bert Clayton bought land above South Gorge to establish a guest house. The first guests were accommodated in tents which were slowly replaced by one room cabins. He sold up in 1946 and the new owner, the Bulcocks, renamed the complex Samarinda.



Point Lookout Headland Camping Ground  
1980

The Point lookout lighthouse was built in 1932. Materials for its construction were landed on a Point Lookout beach and the cylinders for the light were constructed on the beach and carried up to the site, as a result the beach became known as Cylinder Beach.

In 1934 a design was drawn up for the township of Point Lookout.

In 1938, Aboriginal activists Jack Patten and William Ferguson formed the Aboriginal Progressive Association to demand award wages, eight of 28 Queensland members were from Myora.

In 1939, the first postal and telephone services started at Point Lookout, based in Bert Clayton's guesthouse. Mr Clayton had to string up the telephone line him-

self from Dunwich to Point Lookout. The American liberty ship "Rufus King" ran aground on the Soth Passage bar in 1942.

The Australian hospital ship "Centaur" was torpedoed off Stradbroke Island on 14 May 1943, a total of 268 lives were lost and only 64 people survived.

The first vehicular ferry service commenced in 1947 with the "Amazon" soon renamed the "Karboora".

That same year the Surf Lifesavers began patrolling Point Lookout's beaches. The following year saw the Point Lookout Club being affiliated with Queensland Surf Lifesaving and a permanent club house was erected on the Main Beach Headland where it remains today.

In 1948 North Stradbroke Island became part of the Cleveland Shire.

In 1949, Zinc Corp began sand mining on Stradbroke Island.

In 1950, there were 65 students at the Dunwich Primary School.

In 17 November 1963, the four-bed Dunwich Hospital was opened.

Aerial spraying to control mosquitoes (an Australian first) occurred in 1969.

In 1972, Point Lookout was connected to town water.

In 1976, Dunwich Primary school had 220 students.

In 1983, poet Kath Walker (Oodgeroo Noonuccal) led a protest over a mining lease threatening two middens near the Blue lake national park.

In 1985, Amity Point was connected to a town water supply.

In 1986, Myora Aboriginal Cemetery was entered on the Australian Heritage register.

In February 1988, North Stradbroke Islanders protested over plans to close the

Dunwich Hospital and the closure was later shelved.

The fire brigades were set up in 1991 at Point Lookout, Duwich and Amity Point. At the same time, the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum relocated to Welsby St, Dunwich.



Dunwich State High School opened in 1992 with an initial enrolment of 60 students.

In 1995, The National Native title Tribunal began assessing a claim lodged by local residents for native title over North Stradbroke Island and surrounding areas. Last year, the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act (2011) was passed in Queensland.

The object of the Act is to substantially end mining interests over land in the North Stradbroke Island Region by the end of 2019, and end mining in the region in 2025

- a) to protect and restore environmental values of the region; and
- b) to facilitate, under other Acts, the staged creation of areas to be jointly managed by the State and the traditional owners of the region.



North Gorge, Poit Lookout,  
North Stradbroke Island

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# North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum

## Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Fact Sheet



Early days at Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island  
Courtesy of John Oxford Library

As defined by the “Benevolent Asylum Wards Act of 1861, the function was to provide for the poor people who because of age, accident, infirmity or otherwise were unable to care for themselves.

The incredible mix of people meant that the (Dunwich) facility was overcrowded and difficult to manage. Over its eighty years the asylum admitted and readmitted 21, 000 people. Most of the inmates of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum were housed in wards of various sizes to accommodate approximately five hundred people. Some of the remaining buildings from the Asylum now form part of the North Stradbroke Historical Museum.

1861, the telegraph was installed to link Dunwich with Brisbane.

1866, the Queensland Legislative Assembly established a Benevolent Asylum to house Moreton Bay’s elderly and homeless. It occupied the former quarantine station buildings at Dunwich.

1867, the Benevolent Asylum was officially opened.

1867, the Benevolent Asylum assumed responsibility of the mail service. The Superintendent was put in charge of the country Telegraph Station and Office.

1896, the first post office was opened.

1897, the first recreation, entertainment and library building (Victoria Hall) was built at Dunwich.



Dunwich Institution Buildings  
c. 1938  
Courtesy of John Oxford Library

1903, Billy North won a contract to supply beef to the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.

1904, Tuberculosis patients were removed from the asylum and moved to tents at Polka Point.

1904, the Dunwich Provisional School opened on 18 August, catering for the children of staff working at the Benevolent Asylum.

1946, the Benevolent Asylum was moved to 'Eventide' at Sandgate.

1947, the former Benevolent Asylum land was subdivided and available to the public as perpetual lease.



Dunwich,  
North Stradbroke Island  
today,  
2011

## References

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# North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum

## Vision Statement

The North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum actively records, conserves and provides access to the unique social history of North Stradbroke Island to promote a sense of identity and place that reflects, engages and is thought-provoking.

## Logo

The logo of the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum consists of two elements; The carpet snake (rainbow serpent), Kabool, is a powerful traditional symbol of the Noonucal Goenpul and Ngugi tribes of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) The motto for the Stradbroke Coat of Arms is “Je vive in espoir” which means “I live in hope”. The island was named in honour of the son of the first Earl of Stradbroke.



## History

The North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum was founded in 1987 and its contents are housed within six historical buildings;

- a replica of the 1896 Dunwich Post and Telegraph Office
- a replica of an 1872 Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Ward
- the actual Asylum Dairy Herdsman Hut
- the main museum building (The mineral sand mining company, Consolidated Rutile Limited, built two workers flats from a dismantled Dunwich Benevolent Asylum ward. The building was later acquired by the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum).
- a whale pavilion, and
- lighthouse lantern house.

### Present Displays

The current 2012 collection includes;

A timeline, 20 000 years +

Amity Point Pilot Station – 1927

Dunwich Convict Station – 1827

A showcase of North Stradbroke celebrities

Dunwich Quarantine Station – 1850

Cemetery's

Church's

A history of each town – Dunwich, Amity Point and Point Lookout

A look at the humpback whale

Dunwich State School's Year Two display (2012)

A history of aboriginal culture and marine life collecting

An example of a pre-electricity house

University of Queensland's Moreton Bay Research Station

Point Lookout Life Saving

Point Lookout Light House

Ship Wrecks

Fishing

Sandmining

Telegraph and Telephone Office

Sperm Whale

Oodgeroo Noonucal

Early Island Transport

Early North Stradbroke featuring each town

Historical and contemporary photographs

Documents including Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Admission Register 1860-1904

Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Death register 1860-1946 database

Accession database records

Secondary source published and unpublished material, including rare and out of print books

Oral Histories

Contemporary audio and visual material

Intangible multi-cultural heritage such as oral traditions and collective memory held by the community

Most of the displays in the Museum are designed to be in place for the long term as they represent the history of the Island. However, we also present exhibitions of contemporary events and items as they come to hand. One of our means of interacting with the broader community is to have a new Community Display every six months in conjunction with a local organisation. We use some of our own material in these displays, supplemented by items loaned by the relevant organisation and community members.

### The Reading Room

The museum receives many enquiries from visitors researching their ancestors' history, either from Dunwich Quarantine Shipping records or from the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum records. The Reading Room has been set aside as a quiet area, where the visitor can conduct research into any material we may have on our files.

### Funding

Funding comes from the Redland City Council, various grants, admission fees, raffles, craft and jam sales, functions and research activities.

### Public Access

Museum Opening hours:

10 am – 2 pm Tuesday to Saturday

11 am – 3 pm Sunday

[info@stradbroke-museum.com.au](mailto:info@stradbroke-museum.com.au)

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