



*Etheridge Shire Council*

*Inform Newsletter*

*Special Edition*

*Centenary Celebration*

**2019**



# *Etheridge Shire Council*

## *Celebrates 100 Years*

Thank you to everyone who attended Etheridge Shire Council's Centenary Celebrations held on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March! The Etheridge Shire Council was first called the "Einaleigh Divisional Board" which then became the Einaleigh Shire Council in 1902 before changing its name to the Etheridge Shire Council in March 1919, because Council's mail was being sent to Einaleigh instead of Georgetown at the time. Making the journey back to where it all began, the festivities kicked off in Einaleigh on Friday with a light lunch and historical display. Phillip Cranwell shared his memories of Council and life in earlier years and started off the reminiscing around the table.

Saturday morning saw a good crowd roll up on High Street to witness the unearthing of the Time Capsule at the Georgetown Hostel. The Hostel was built by Council in 1968, and opened in 1969 - originally managed by the Country Women's Association before they handed the service over to Council to run. Today the hostel still operates, providing a home away from home, so that children who live on properties can attend school in town during the week. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1999, a Time Capsule was buried at the front of the Hostel with instructions on the plaque for it to be opened in the year 2019 to commemorate 50 years of the Hostel being open. The Ewamian Rangers from Talaroo Station welcomed everyone to country and burned Iron Bark leaves as part of their traditional Smoking Ceremony. Then the names of everyone in attendance who had put something in the ground 20 years ago were drawn out of a hat to decide who would unscrew the cap and pull out the Time Capsule. The lucky name chosen was Jodi Kernan, who was a student at the hostel when it was buried. Under the tree out the back of the hostel, the contents of the Time Capsule were read out and Cynthia Haigh, long term cook, shared a few stories before cutting the Centenary Cake and letting everyone get stuck into morning tea. It really was a fantastic morning and only highlighted the need for another get together to reminisce. This event was a great precursor to the Georgetown Hostel Reunion that will be towards



the end of this year so stay tuned for more details. If you would like to view the contents of the Time Capsule head to [www.etheridge.qld.gov.au](http://www.etheridge.qld.gov.au).

After that it was onto lunch at the Etheridge Shire Hall where Mayor Warren Devlin gave an update on Council's current projects and the Ewamian Rangers announced the exciting news that Talaroo Hot Springs will be open to the public again within a year. As well as some historical memorabilia, there were current projects on display for people to view, such as the Gilbert River Irrigation Area, the Charleston Dam and the Georgetown Multi-Sports Facility. Attendees were invited to interact with some of the displays, nominating their ideas for how to use funding like the Get Ready Queensland grant and what support Community Groups and Clubs would get the most benefit from. One of the highlights of the lunch was looking around the room and seeing old friends catching up, which they did, for a few hours until they were ushered out to move on to the next celebratory local.

To finish off the celebrations, a contingency made their way to the Georgetown State School where Novelty Games were held for the kids and a Tennis Tournament kept the adults busy. The Tennis Final saw Tony Potter and Joe Haase go head to head on the court and while it was a tight game, Joe finished off as the winner of the Centenary Tennis Tournament. There was a lot of laughter and physical exertion at both activities, which helped build the appetite for the beautiful BBQ dinner of locally sourced rib fillet burgers. With spirits high and bellies full, the chatter amped up even more as teams were formed and the Trivia got underway. Lots of fun (and banter between teams) was had and at the end of the night the Trivia Team – *The Old and the Beautiful* – went home with first prize. Thus ended the Centenary Celebrations.

All in all it was a great two days and Council would like to extend its gratitude to everyone who supplied stories and memorabilia that could be shared at the event and everyone who volunteered (or got roped in) to help out. Big events like this would not happen without the help and support of community members so thank you all very much!!



*Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Yarns over lunch in Einasleigh*



*Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Brunch at the Georgetown Hostel &  
Unearthing of the Time Capsule*



**The Talaroo Bush Rangers – Welcome to Country Ceremony.**





**Cr Warren Bethel addressing the ceremony.**



**The Talaroo Bush Rangers – The Smoking Ceremony.**





**Cynthia Haigh drawing the name from the hat to decide who would unearth the time capsule.**



**Jodi Kernan unearthing the time capsule.**



## GEORGETOWN STUDENTS HOSTEL

### TIME CAPSULE. 4-6-99.

*My name is Gregory Ryan, I was a student at the Georgetown Hostel in 1972, 73 and 74. The Matron for that period was Betty West, the Cook Cynthia Haigh, the Laundry was done by Betty Butler, and I recall three Domestics being Mavis Stephens, Ann Whitaker and Veronica Loudon.*

*It is only with hind site that one appreciates the effort that the staff of that time put into the running of the Hostel: Matron West was a lady who could be a kind and gentle mothering figure or the mistress of discipline wheeling the port strap. Miss Haigh's cooking was as close as one could get to "Mothers" it was simply great. Mrs Butler ( an Aunty of mine ) always had our clothes from the previous day washed ironed and in our own little pile ready to be picked up after school. The Domestic's of course had to spend their day straightening up poorly made beds, sweeping, mopping, and generally tidying up the place.*

*I don't know the number of Students who were there, but at a guess it would have been close to forty as it was in this time the second boys dormitory was built, with an adjoining room that was used by a single female school teacher. Most of the Students were close enough to go home on week-ends, but there were some who had to stay at the Hostel over the week-end as well, or if they were lucky go out with someone else.*

*Matron West who came from the horticultural district of Bowen was a keen gardener and organised with the Council to build a large garden at the back of the buildings. A lot of the work in the garden was done by the Students after school, while I don't remember how much got to the kitchen, I would say it was probably a considerable amount.*

*In that time the Hostel also had an annual fete which included a concert. This was a big event which started in the afternoon and went into the night and was always well supported by the town community as well as those with Hostel connections.*

*A typical day for a Student was to get up in the morning, make your bed and get dressed for school. Breakfast was cereal and toast, get a piece of fruit and off to school. We always came back for lunch which was a variety of sandwiches, after school it was do your homework and then free time. (anyone gardening would do it in free time) It was then bathtime and in for a hot evening meal which always included pudding, but only for those who ate all their main meal.*

*There is no doubt that the Student numbers today are lower because a lot of parents are choosing to teach their children at home through the School of Distance Education. In the early 70's all the Station children came to town to school and none done school via correspondence.*

Sadly not all the Students of the last 30 years are with us today, as Helen Wallace (nee Daniels) passed away on the 17-4-99 after a long battle with breast cancer.

I believe the Georgetown Students Hostel has provided a good and valuable service to the Shire of Etheridge over the last 30 years. This of course would never have been possible with-out the support of the Shire Council who operates the Hostel throu the staff employed to do the day to day running of the complex.

What is the future of the Hostel?

Time will tell.

Keira Zammit

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Soda Creek Station



helping dad / working in the yards with the cattle / being with our ~~horses~~ <sup>horses</sup> / listening to my CDs and tapes / going swimming / dancing / partys / being with friends / sports

What I enjoy most about school - nothing

What I enjoy most about living at the Hostel :- being with friends and going for walks at night time

What I think I will be doing in the year 2019 :- I won't be married / I will be living on a station and working there or in the USA as a horses trainer

Other comments :- HELLO MUM AND DAD FROM KEIRA

3RD JUNE 1999

I have been employed by The Etheridge Shire council as Laundress at The Georgetown Students Hostel since the 25th of February 1971.

There was 21 children at the Hostel when I started work.

Joan O'mara the Matron, Cynthia Haigh the Cook and Margaret Congo was the Housemaid.

Over the years I have seen the numbers soar to 50 and chop back to 8. A third dormitory had to be built but later closed, and eventually rebuilt into the Child Care Center, which is a great asset to the town.

I have had 11 different Matrons to work with over the years and at present Isobel and Andrew Carmen are the Supervisors, the first Husband & Wife to be employed.

We currently have 20 Children.

I have fond memories of some of the Children who have passed through the Hostel and have made good friends with some of the Matrons.

Most of the years I have enjoyed my work at the Hostel with lots of funny incidents happening along with a few minor disasters.

One particular incident I remember over the years and have had lots of laughs about was, when a pig got in the side fence and the Matron decided we had to catch it. So all hands and the Cook were set the task, Janet Ryan, Cynthia Haigh, Catherine Pezzalato (the Matron)) and myself did a few laps around the enclosure before we finally cornered the pig, Catherine trapped him in the Rubbish Bin, where he stayed until a chap came and took him, needless to say we were all exhausted.

I hope that the Hostel continues to operate for many years to come, it certainly has been a great asset to the district.

With fond memories of my years working at the Hostel, I hope I am around to hear this letter read twenty years hence.

Betty Butler



# Georgetown Students' Hostel

High Street, Georgetown  
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Phone / Fax (07) 4052

30th Anniversary Celebrations

Friday 4th June, 1999.

It is with pleasure that we have been able to be a part of the 30th Anniversary Celebrations held here at the Hostel today. The Hostel has been "open house" all afternoon with many folk dropping in to see the facilities and old photos on display.

We, (Isabel & Andrew Carman, Mr. & Mrs. C to the children) have been the contracted managers of the Hostel since April, 1998 in which time we have seen many changes to both the facilities as well as the children here and children themselves. We came here for the children and our aim upon arriving was to make the Hostel a "Home away from Home" for all children. We have a close rapport with all school teachers and school life which we see as being essential to our total care for the children.

We had to implement a diverse record system (medication, incident, absence and children's cash) along with the development and implementation of a behavior management policy, a Hostel Strategic Plan and a Hostel Prospectus within the first few months of our arrival and then came the organization of a complete renovation of the Hostel facilities. By the commencement of the 1999 school year the Hostel had been painted inside and out, all new vinyl and carpet throughout, a totally new kitchen, new fly wire screens, security doors were installed at each end of the cover way, air conditioning throughout the complex, new dining room tables and chairs and new beds, mattresses, pillows and doonas for all children.

The children spend a lot of time doing craft i.e. painting and leather work. The installation of a basketball court is almost completed which is being eagerly waited for by the children. We take the children to Swimming Club and help organize Little Athletics.

All in all we are now one "big" happy family. In general, the children's behaviour is now very good and they seem to eat everything we prepare for them. Well done kids!!

We trust that in 2019 when this capsule is exhumed the Hostel will still be running well and that the basis has now been laid for it to enter the new millennium with a bright future.

May God bless you all.

Andrew & Isabel.



1999

Back left - right

Matthaeo Gillott, Jodi Bethal, Keira Zammit, Warren Carlill, Laine Keough, Damien Fitzgerald

Centre L-R

Brian Furber, Shannon Fitzgerald, Kathy Fitzgerald, Damien Bethal, Lavinie Carlill, Robert Lethbridge, Trevor Henry.

Front L-R

James Lethbridge, Brendan Gillott, Tayke Keough, Sara Fitzgerald, Mackayra Masterson, Meryl Carlill, Lori Henry.





**James Lethbridge opening the time capsule.**



**(Left to right) Cr Warren Bethel and past students James Lethbridge, Keira Zammit and Jodi Kernan reading the letters they wrote 20 years ago while attending the Georgetown Hostel.**





**Karen Jenkins reading her mother's (Betty Butler) letter she wrote while working at the Hostel.**



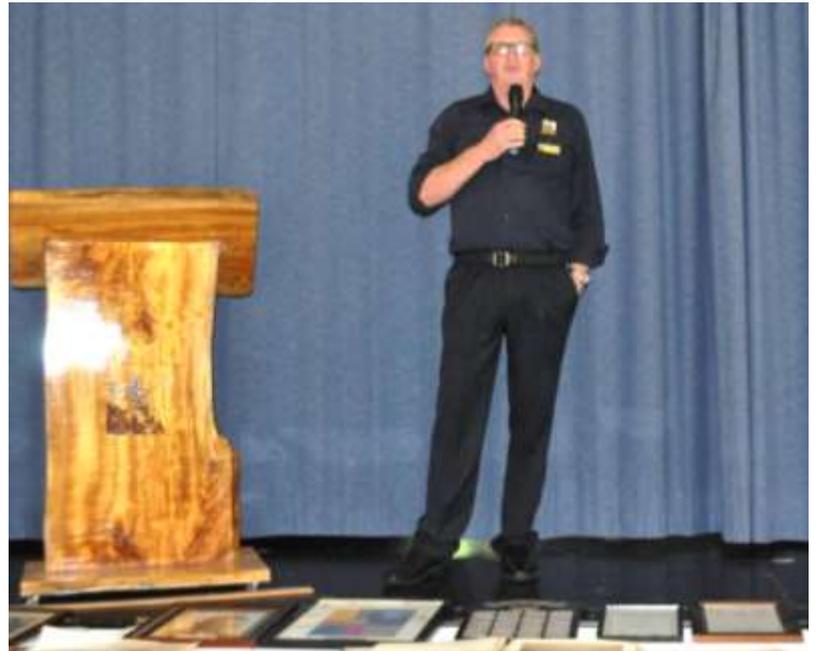
**Greg Ryan reading the letter he put in the time capsule in 1999.**



**Cynthia Haigh cutting the cake.**



# *Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March Luncheon at the Etheridge Shire Hall*



**Mayor Warren Devlin (above) & Cr Will Attwood (top right) addressing the community at lunch.**

**Bottom right: Talaroo Bush Rangers announcing the news that Talaroo will hopefully re-open within the next year.**



*Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March*

*Tennis, softball and novelty races before a BBQ dinner and 'Etheridge History' trivia at the Georgetown State School*

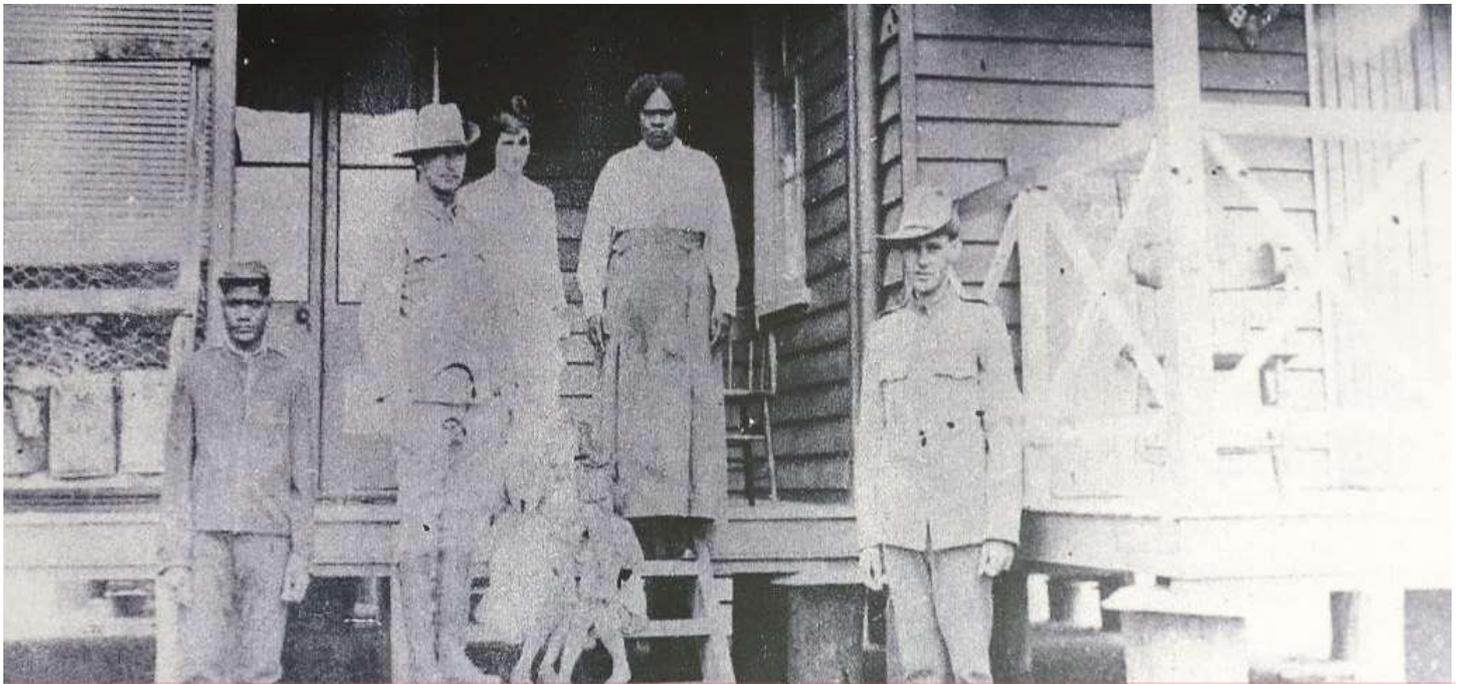


**Winner of the Tennis Comp. – Joe Haase**



**Trivia Winning team - The Old and The Beautiful**





**EINASLEIGH POLICE STATION, 1924  
CONSTABLE NORM LAWLEY (ON STEP) – STATION SERGEANT PETER  
GAFFEY (NOT PRESENT)**



**EINASLEIGH LIBRARY BUILDING, 1924**



**FORSAYTH HOTEL, 1924**



**AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, GEORGETOWN, 1924**



**BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, GEORGETOWN, 1880**



**GOLD ESCORT LEAVING BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, GEORGETOWN, 1901**



**ST GEORGE STREET, GEORGETOWN 1907  
LOOKING SOUTH FROM OLD POST OFFICE**



**TOWNSHIP OF FORSYATH, 1911**



**TOWNSHIP OF MT SURPRISE, 1929**