

magnificent area it is today. Additions to the Mt Mee Cemetery include seating, gazebo, 2 tanks, memorial gardens with concrete edging, a War Memorial honouring all branches of the Australian Armed Forces and an eco-friendly toilet. At some stage, the Wall named after Auntie Florrie was built. The current Mt Mee Cemetery Trustees are Rodney Eaton (President), Leigh Knight (Secretary), Dan Ford (Treasurer), Lenore Hewitt, Sabre Austin and Earl Eaton.

A big CONGRATULATIONS to the members since 1986, for locating and marking graves; and later for the mammoth effort to achieve, and keep maintaining, what we have now.



Monthly Activities of MMDHSI

General Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month, 2pm, Mt Mee Hall.
Workshop/Information Sharing on 3rd Thursday of the month, 9am - 11am, Mt Mee Hall.
Stall at monthly Mt Mee Markets

For further information contact Kevin Austin 54982282, Darcy Hewitt 54982275, Rowena Crouch 54982262

MT MEE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

March 2018 Newsletter



Keeping Mt Mee history alive

Our Society was formed on 12 September 2013

Mt Mee Cemetery

As the closest cemetery was 'some 16 miles away over a very rough road' in Caboolture, a public meeting of Mt Mee and District residents was held in 1892. This meeting unanimously decided to request land be set aside for a cemetery at Mt Mee. The committee chose a 'dry ridge, of about 5 acres, on the Mt Mee Reserve that they would have surveyed for this purpose'.

James Horne wrote the first letter to the Honourable Colonial Secretary in Brisbane on 26 January 1893 informing him of the need for a cemetery at Mt Mee. On 20 September 1893 Governor Norman notified the Mt Mee Committee that '5 acres of land as surveyed has been permanently reserved for the purpose of Reserve for Cemetery'.

In the Government Gazette of 22 December, 1894, Governor Norman notified the Mt Mee Cemetery Committee that he had appointed John Anderson (Chairman), Richard Thomas (Secretary), Johnathan Litherland (Treasurer), John Atee and John Horne as trustees of Mt Mee Cemetery.



The first person to be buried in Mt Mee Cemetery was eleven year old Helen Clark 'Nellie' Stewart in 1895.

To dig a grave in these early days took neighbours all day to dynamite and dig the grave. It is reported that an 18 gallon keg was put on to get people to turn up.

Headstone for Helen Stewart

On 22 December 1916, as 4 of the original trustees had died, Robert Adamson, Thomas White, James McKitrick and Edwin Smith joined Richard Thomas as Trustees. The 13 April 1933 saw Charles Hewitt, George Thomas and John McKitrick join Thomas White as Trustees.

1922 saw the first Minister of Religion conduct a funeral service. This was for the funeral of Richard Thomas. His funeral notice, shows that undertakers were not used because of the distance. The first undertaker was used in 1929.

This funeral notice of Richard Thomas
The Family Notices, Courier Mail Thursday 22 November 1928.

.-The Friends of Mrs. A. J. Thomas, Miss F. E. Thomas, and Mr. G. S. Thomas, of Mt. Mee, are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of her deceased Husband and their Brother (Arthur John), to move from the Mt. Mee Post Office, This (Thursday) Afternoon, at 2 o'clock, for the Mt. Mee Cemetery.

ALEX. GOW.

In February 1933, Francis Staunton wrote a letter to the Department of Lands explaining the present cemetery site was too difficult with gravel 3 feet (1 metre) below the surface. A return letter was received saying that the original site would be kept.

In 1948, this Committee of Trustees, gave up digging the graves, and closed the cemetery. Even though the cemetery was closed, there was always a Committee of Trustees. Another Committee was formed in 1953, with Neville Robinson, Henry Hewitt, Thomas White, Clifford Thomas and William Hewitt being the trustees. By 1986, there was only Neville Robinson left. Ronald Tumbridge, Raymond Thomason, Anthony Hewitt and John Robinson became the trustees. This Committee of Trustees started to clean the Mt Mee Cemetery up, as it had become like the surrounding paddocks. From records they obtained from the Caboolture Shire Council, they started to locate the graves and mark them with stones.

The Mt Mee Cemetery was re-opened in 1986 for the funeral of life-long resident Arthur Duncan in early July. Dynamite was not used for digging the graves now. Martin Crouch's trusty old backhoe dug some graves, until the Committee and Martin decided too many hoses had blown. Earthmoving people from Woodford, with newer equipment were then hired. Today, local resident Ian Chapman does this duty.

After the decrease in size of the Committee of Trustees by 2008, a new Committee was formed. Since then, the Committee has changed due to deaths and people leaving Mt Mee. These Committees have continued the improvements at the Cemetery until we see the a