

Irwin District

By Shire of Irwin

The Irwin District had just over 130 men and women enlist in WW1, sadly around 10% of this number lost their lives during WW1, causing a huge impact on the farming community.

In 1921 the town site of Denison was proclaimed and gazetted. In 1939 the first electric lights in town were turned on by Mr. J Brennand. Following World War 2, when the roads and vehicles had improved, and petrol rationing had ceased, more and more families took their summer holidays and swimming lessons at the beach. The new Dongara- Denison bridge was opened by Sir David Brand in 1964.

Over the years camping conditions have improved with the introduction of caravans. The camping areas were all around the point, past South Beach, until the 1970's when the new caravan park was established near the surf beach. Now you can camp at any one of the four caravan parks but no longer on the beach.

The Russ Cottage was opened in 1971 by the Premier of Western Australia, Sir David Brand. The Russ Cottage was acquired by the Shire of Irwin from the Russ family 100 years after it was built. The Irwin District Historical Society leased the cottage and its volunteers restored the building as it was badly deteriorated. The Russ Cottage is a fine example of a rural worker's home of over 145 years ago.

The name Port Denison was officially gazette in 1973.

A centenary celebration for the Moreton Bay Fig trees were held in 2003, when they became heritage listed.

*information supplied by the Irwin District Historical Society

Excursions/ information

Historical Society which is run by volunteers operate a Heritage building, now the Museum which was the goal and court house, plus they have renovated a typical rural workers yeoman's cottage, Russ Cottage. Their website is <http://www.irwinhistory.org.au/> which includes images and stories.

There is a culture and heritage link on the website with a brief explanation of the town.

<https://dongaraportdenison.com.au/arts-events/culture-heritage/>

As you scroll down you will then come to the Oral History project and a few short videos from residents talking about their stories on growing up here, the war,

aboriginal connections, agriculture, the ware and religion which was part of the development of our town. This project is now in its 3rd year with more to come.



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