



Croydon Oral Histories and Report on the Cairns Timber Mill at Yungaburra

Accession number 7859

Author / Creator

Grimwade, Gordon

Abstract 27 oral histories with people who lived in Croydon; and a report on the Cairns timber mill at Yungaburra.

Scope and content Recordings from two oral history projects with residents past and present of Croydon. 'Croydon Lives' is a collection of oral histories with people who lived or who are descendants of people who lived in Croydon during and after the gold strike of 1885 to 1914. 'Never Was a Ghost Town' is a collection of oral histories from people born and raised in the Croydon area. The collection also includes a report on the Cairns Timber Mill at Yungaburra.

System of arrangement Arranged into 3 series.

Description 2 boxes of cd's and reports.

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items.

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply. Please contact Queensland Memory, State Library of Queensland for more information.

Copyright status In copyright.

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Notes The oral histories were digitised in 2014 as part of the Playback Oral History Project.

Preferred citation

7859, Croydon Oral Histories and Report on the Cairns Timber Mill at Yungaburra, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Croydon Lives Oral Histories (June 2001)

Series number 1

Series title Croydon Lives Oral Histories

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Croydon Lives is a collection of interviews with people, or descendants of people, who lived in Croydon during and after the gold strike of 1885 to 1914. They tell stories of life and hardship in early Croydon, in particular for the people who remained after the gold declined, when the townspeople left in droves taking with them jobs and services and the population plummeted overnight from thousands to a few hundred.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Description

Description 17 audio files (MP3)

17 hours 4 minutes 3 seconds

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Valma Alexander [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/1

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Valma Alexander, born in Croydon in 1939. In the first part of the interview Valma talks about her childhood in Croydon; small town life; going to school; her mother running a household with no electricity, as well as leaving school at 14 to go to work as a hospital laundress. In the second part of the interview Valma talks about being young in Croydon; socialising at the town dances and Gilbert races; marrying her husband and the lonely life of a drovers wife, as well as growing older in the town she spent her whole life in.

Author / Creator

Alexander, Valma

Gibson, Suzanne

Description

Description 2 audio files (MP3)

55 minutes 51 seconds ; 45 minutes 54 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Herbert "Skeeter" Alexander [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/2

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Herbert "Skeeter" Alexander, born in Normanton in 1930. In the first part of the interview Skeeter talks about his childhood in Croydon; being raised by his grandparents at "The Duke" mine; working as a fencer and going to school to get an education, as well as learning the stock man trade. In the second part of the interview Skeeter talks about droving; cattle rushes; getting injured on the job; working for the local council grading roads and driving heavy machinery, as well as his childhood experiences in a small town.

Author / Creator

Alexander, Herbert

Gibson, Suzanne

Description

Description 2 audio files (MP3)

1 hour 11 minutes 03 seconds ; 1 hour 13 minutes 38 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Nora and Chris Clarke [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/3

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Nora Wierman, born in Mareeba in 1921, and her son Chris Wierman. In the first part of the interview Nora talks about her family background; growing up in Croydon; the Georgetown polio outbreak; going to the races and dances; Green's Motors and working for the postal service; panning for gold, as well as having to go away for childbirth. In the second part of the interview Nora talks about her childhood with her siblings; the goat problem in Croydon, as well as working for the SES. Chris talks about his upbringing; his childhood and teen years in Croydon and teaching his mother how to drive.

Author / Creator

Clarke, Nora

Clarke, Chris

Gibson, SuzanneGibson, Suzanne

Description

Description 2 audio files (MP3)

42 minutes 02 seconds ; 45 minutes 10 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Gertie and Jack Douglas, Edmond Miles, Janet Busch and Gladys Lallore [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/4

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Gertie and Jack Douglas, Edmond Miles, Janet Busch and Gladys Lallore. In the interview Jack discusses with the group the work he did when younger and his father's trouble with the court. The whole group then discusses Ahlevale garden, as well as their dreaming and skins. Gertie talks about growing up on the stations; working at the hospital , as well as growing up with the Hughes family, and how they had taken her in as one of their own.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Douglas, Jack

Miles, Edmond

Busch, Janet

Lallore, Gladys

Douglas, Gertie

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

22 minutes 9 seconds

Ella Douglas [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/5

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Ella Douglas. Ella talks about her childhood at Waratah; the hard work and segregation on various stations; marrying and having kids; her husband's mail run; life in Croydon today; the coupon system; having to send her boys away to school before integration; getting out from under the Aboriginal Protection Act; Green's Motors; the races; the lonely life of a stockman's wife, as well her experience being raised around whites and missing out on a traditional Aboriginal upbringing.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Douglas, Ella

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

55 minutes 23 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Jack Douglas [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/6

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Jack Douglas, a Tagalaka man, born in the Warratah camp in Croydon in 1914. In the first part of the interview Jack talks about his childhood working on stations; learning to muster at the age of 10; working for a butcher slaughtering cattle; working as a police tracker; the breaking and mustering horses, as well as getting out of the Aborigines Protection Act. In the second part of the interview Jack talks about his long career mustering; returning to Croydon to mine tin and finally retiring in Croydon as well as learning about the traditions, skins, dreaming and the laws of his people.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Douglas, Jack

Description

Description 2 audio files (MP3)

1 hour 12 minutes 26 seconds ; 40 minutes 40 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Margie Hughes [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/7

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Margie Hughes, born in Croydon in 1932. Margie talks about her childhood in Croydon; her wedding to Bert Hughes; her father's mail run; living in a home with no electricity; working at the hospital as a domestic; entertainment in town; school; married life; the difficulties of giving birth without proper medical attention; camp cooking; life back at Alehvale; using the two way radio; leaving Croydon, as well as her father's crushing plant and death.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Hughes, Margie

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

1 hour 15 minutes 46 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Bert Hughes [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/8

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Bert Hughes, born in Croydon 1918. In the first part of the interview Bert talks about the mining settlements around Croydon; the mining processes he used; growing fruits and vegetables; his early life, going to school and looking after goats; the shops in Croydon, as well as his work in woodcutting and mining. In the second part of the interview Bert talks about the Chinese in Croydon; working as a carpenter with his father; working with cattle; working in the mines; the Croydon Voluntary Defence Core, as well as enlisting for the Second World War. In the third part of the interview Bert talks about training for the army; his time in the war; coming home with malaria and other medical issues after the war; courting and marrying Margie Houston; buying, droving and managing Alehvale station, as well as crocodile shooting and poddy dodging.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Hughes, Bert

Description

Description 3 audio files (MP3)

1 hour 12 minutes 36 seconds ; 1 hour 9 minutes 48 seconds ; 1 hour 7 minutes 46 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

The Hughes Family [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/9

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with the Hughes family, Bert, Margie and their daughter Jean. In the interview Jean

talks about going to school; growing up at Esmeralda; playing and working as a child; school break fun; going to the pictures and dances, as well as Croydon's first tape recorder. The Family discusses how women were not seen in bars or doing stock work in those days; the availability of meat and milk; the locals in town; the nightsoil remover in the days before septic tanks, as well as the Gilbert races.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Hughes, Bert

Hughes, Maggie

Haines, Jean

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

1 hour 8 minutes 8 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Margie and Bert Hughes [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/10

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with Margie Houston and Bert Hughes. Margie and Bert talk about traditional bush cooking; food shortages; the towns around Croydon; the coach road to Croydon; Greens motors delivering in the wet; Bush timbers; Native berries; dealing with snakes and toads while camping as well as clearing waterholes of predators for the cattle.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Hughes, Margie

Hughes, Bert

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

1 hour 9 minutes 9 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

The Miles Family and Lance Owens [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/11

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Interview with the Miles Family and Lance Owens. Born 1906, Edmond Miles, a Tagalaka man, talks with his daughters and Lance Owens about life in Croydon. The family talks about the hardships that faced the Aboriginal people of the Croydon area; getting out from under the Aboriginal Protection Act; the Croydon school and town; the Gilbert races; the work undertaken in the early days; the coupon system and low pay for Aboriginals as well as the half-caste children being taken away.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Miles, Edmond

Busch, Janet

Callope, Gladys

Owens, Lance

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

1 hour 16 minutes 44 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Series 2: Never was a ghost town (June 2001)

Series number 2

Series title Never was a ghost town

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Never was a Ghost Town is a collection of short oral histories from people born and raised in the

Croydon area. The histories provide proof of survival beyond the heady days of gold rushes, and tell tales of station work, town life, hard yakka and distance.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Description

Description 16 audio files (MP3)

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Access

Access restrictions Some restrictions apply.

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Never was a ghost town - introduction [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/12

Date June 2001

Scope and content

An introduction to the series 'Never was a Ghost Town' by its creator Suzanne Gibson.

Author / Creator

Gibson, Suzanne

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

1 minute 32 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Gold! (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/13

Date June 2001

Scope and content

George Priestley, Skeeter Alexander and Bert Hughes talk about their experiences mining for gold around Croydon.

Author / Creator

Priestley, George

Alexander, Skeeter

Hughes, Bert

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

4 minutes 49 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Green's Motors (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/14

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Bert Hughes, George Priestley, Ella Douglas, Nora Wierman and Chris Wierman talk about the Greens Motors postal service.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Bert

Priestley, George

Douglas, Ella

Wierman, Nora

Wierman, Chris

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

5 minutes 32 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Never was a Ghost Town - Wood and Water [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/15

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Margie Hughes, Ella Douglas, Gladys Callope, Lance Owens, Janet Busch and Skeeter Alexander talk about finding wood and water, the essentials to life in the early years of Croydon.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Margie

Douglas, Ella

Callope, Gladys

Owens, Lance

Busch, Janet

Alexander, Skeeter

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

3 minutes 8 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Never was a Ghost Town - Bush Cooks [Oral History] (Juen 2001)

Unit ID 7859/16

Date Juen 2001

Scope and content

Bert Hughes, Margie Hughes and Valma Alexander share some tips for cooking in the bush.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Bert

Hughes, Margie

Alexander, Valma

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

3 minutes 9 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Never was a Ghost Town - Dances [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/17

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Valma Alexander, Jean Haines, Janet Busch and Lance Owens talk about the Croydon social dances.

Author / Creator

Alexander, Valma

Haines, Jean

Busch, Janet

Owens, Lance

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

2 minutes 48 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Around Croydon (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/18

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Bert Hughes, George Priestly, Ella Douglas, Gladys Callope and Janet Busch talk about life around Croydon.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Bert

Priestley, George

Douglas, Ella

Callope, Gladys

Busch, Janet

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

2 minutes 21 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

The Chinese (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/19

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Bert Hughes and George Priestly talk about their experiences with the Chinese population of Croydon.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Bert

Priestley, George

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

3 minutes 55 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Croydon VDC (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/20

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Margie Hughes, Bert Hughes, George Priestley, Skeeter Alexander and Valma Alexander talk about their experiences with the Croydon Voluntary Defence Core during WWII.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Margie

Hughes, Bert

Priestley, George

Alexander, Skeeter

Alexander, Valma

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

1 minute 7 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Poddy Dodgin' (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/21

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Margie Hughes, Bert Hughes, George Priestley and Jack Douglas talk about poddy dodgin'.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Margie

Hughes, Bert
Priestley, George
Douglas, Jack

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)
2 minutes 49 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Never was a Ghost Town - Races [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/22

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Jean Haines, Bert Hughes, Ella Douglas, Jack Douglas and Nora Wierman talk about the Gilbert races.

Author / Creator

Haines, Jean

Hughes, Bert

Douglas, Ella

Douglas, Jack

Wierman, Nora

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)
3 minutes 45 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Never was a Ghost Town - Hardwork [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/23

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Jack Douglas, Eddie Miles, Margie Hughes, Ella Douglas and Skeeter Alexander talk about the hard work undertaken in the early days of Croydon.

Author / Creator

Douglas, Jack

Miles, Eddie

Hughes, Margie

Douglas, Ella

Alexander, Skeeter

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

3 minutes 53 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Never was a Ghost Town - Those days were hard work [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/24

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Jack Douglas, Ella Douglas, Gladys Callope and Janet Busch talk about the difficulties they faced as Aborigines living in Croydon.

Author / Creator

Douglas, Jack

Douglas, Ella

Callope, Gladys

Busch, Janet

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

2 minutes 59 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Never was a Ghost Town - Croydon Hospital [Oral History] (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/25

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Margie Hughes, Valma Alexander, Gertie Douglas and Jack Douglas talk about their experiences with Croydon Hospital.

Author / Creator

Hughes, Margie

Alexander, Valma

Douglas, Gertie

Douglas, Jack

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)

4 minutes 31 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Croydon School (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/26

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Jean Haines, Bert Hughes, George Priestly, Jack Douglas, Janet Busch and Valma Alexander talk about their experiences attending the Croydon School.

Author / Creator

Haines, Jean

Hughes, Bert

Priestly, George

Douglas, Jack

Busch, Janet
Alexander, Valma

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)
6 minutes 18 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Cattle droving (June 2001)

Unit ID 7859/27

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Skeeter Alexander, Jack Douglas and George Priestley talk about cattle droving.

Author / Creator

Alexander, Skeeter

Douglas, Jack

Priestly, George

Description

Description 1 audio file (MP3)
6 minutes 24 seconds

Access

Access restrictions Restricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Series 3: Report on Cairns Timber Mill at Yungaburra (June 2001)

Series number 3

Series title Report on Cairns Timber Mill at Yungaburra

Date June 2001

Scope and content

Report on the Cairns timber mill at Yungaburra.

Author / Creator

Grimwade, Gordon

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMOSBOX Box 15266 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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