

THE LONG TRAIL

Yeppoon Lions Club was proud to sponsor the formation of Emu Park Lions Club in 1974, and Yeppoon Lioness Club in 1980. Both clubs have been extremely successful have grown to accomplish enormous achievements in community service and projects since their foundation.

There are many landmark projects developed by Yeppoon Lions Club in the area. The club's second park was developed at Ross Creek and dedicated to hard working late charter member, "Merv Anderson Memorial Park." The club then embarked on building a bridge and picnic table in Lammermoor Native Garden with plans for the developing the "Brian Gilligan Memorial Playground" following his sad passing. Then the Leslie Wilson Bushchildren's Home in Todd Avenue gave Yeppoon Lions a project to build a brick barbecue and to install fencing in the grounds of the home. In 1986, when the Capricorn Coast Olympic Pool Association started to build the Cooee Bay pool after 20 years of fundraising, Yeppoon Lions Club stepped in and built a wading pool at a cost of \$8000. Seeing a role in promotion and tourism, Yeppoon Lions built a viewing platform on Wreck Point, that is currently in the process of renewal, redesign and redevelopment. This led on to the construction of Yeppoon Lions "Welcome to Yeppoon" sign on the entrance into the town.

Major club milestones have been the construction of one the first cottages in the Senior Citizens Benevolent Housing Society Estate in Yeppoon in the early 1970s. A few years later the club built the first Capricorn Coast Blue Nursing Service Centre in Normanby Street opposite Yeppoon Town Hall at a cost of \$12,500.

In 1970, Yeppoon Lions Club entered a competition launched by the Livingstone Shire captain Cook Bicentennial Memorial Committee for a design for a built memorial to commemorate the discovery of Keppel Bay by Captain James Cook in 1770. The club's entry tied for winning place with the Singing Ship Memorial designed by Mrs Peggy Westmoreland. The Singing Ship was built because the opening that year left too little time to get the island camp underway. The Lions entry was the Yeppoon Lions Captain Cook Memorial Camp on Great Keppel Island. The club had acquired lease of a portion of land on the island from the State Government at an initial rent of \$6 a year. In 1973, Yeppoon Lions Club had built and opened the first stage of the project. The timber cabin on concrete stumps was designed with an open plan dormitory, dining, kitchen and recreation area, a supervisor's bedroom, showers and toilets. Building materials were shipped over in Markwell Fisheries barge. A week after the concrete stumps were put in the club completed a huge task in 24 hours. The building material was loaded at full tide from the seawall in Fig Tree Creek at 11pm. The following morning at 4.30am a team of club members aboard the barge headed out to sea for Great Keppel and arrived about 5.30am. Between 5.30am and 1.30pm all the building material was man handled up the beach and across to the camp site and the timber floor of the building was laid. The team of 14 Lions was quite dehydrated but by 1.30pm they were welcomed into the resort's Wreck Bar by the general manager, Hugh Fraser who had a high respect for Lions community spirit and patronage. He said: "Make way for the Lions" and shouted the first round of 110 pots consumed before the voluntary workers scrambled back down the beach to board the last boat back to Rosslyn Bay at 3.30pm. The camp was developed in stages to

accommodate about 50 people. The rent has increased considerably over the years and the land and improvements have become an asset worth more than \$1 million.