



# THE HISTORY OF THE COOROY BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Association Limited, Cooroy, ca. 1939  
Photograph: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Image No. 8121

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Approaches were made to both the Caboolture Co-operative Co. and the Wide Bay Cooperative Dairy Co. for a branch factory to be established at Cooroy.

1910

Water diviner, Professor Neumann, located an abundant supply of water at a spot adjacent to the proposed factory.

1911

Caboolture and Wide Bay Co-operatives inspected the proposed factory site.

1914

Mr Sinclair, Manager of the Wide Bay Cooperative Dairy Co met with the committee of the proposed butter factory. Steps were now underway for the construction of a new factory.

Foundation stone laid by Councillor James Duke.

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



The Fenwick Bros. were contracted to complete the construction of the timber factory at a cost of £4,500. Messrs Waugh, Josephson and staff commenced plant installation.



**1915**

Mr A Munro constructed a bore at the Cooroy Butter Factory to locate a better water supply. A good supply of water was found at 27 feet.



**1930**

The new Butter Factory was officially opened by the Premier of Queensland, Mr DF Denham. Factory Manager was Mr Cumming. The first of 116 cream suppliers was C Bennett.



Plans were prepared by Mr H Hammar and approved for a brick building, approximately 60 feet by 70 feet, which comprised the butter roller, churn room, cold storage room, testing room and a pasteurising room which was not included in the old building. Present churns were utilised as well as installation of a Flash pasteurising system, vats and cream cooler. Estimated cost of the building: £10,000.



# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Mr C Heaven from Norman Park, Brisbane, obtained the contract for demolishing the old Cooroy Butter Factory and constructing the new brick building. Mr Walsh from Gympie won the tender for the supply of broken metal and Cooroy local Mr Washington won the tender for the required sand.

Mr. C Carlson of Kandanga was the successful tender for the purchase of removal of the old office buildings at 32 pounds.

Mr. J McPherson was appointed engineer, replacing Mr. W Smith.

1930

Mr D Munro obtained the contract for sinking the Butter Factory well an additional 24 feet. The Butter Factory ceased operations. Cream was sent to the Gympie factory until the new factory was completed.

Butter Factory operations resumed in the newly completed building.

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Cooroy Butter Factory was officially opened by the Minister for Railways, Mr. Godfrey Morgan. Factory Manager - Mr. F G Krebs. By 1931, there was 263 cream suppliers.

Railway carriages arrived at the Cooroy Railway Station with four of the 10 carriages used to create a railway restaurant/tourist attraction on the siding next to the Butter Factory.

Tric Tracs Restaurant opens at the Butter Factory siding.

Cooroy Butter Factory advertised for sale.

1931

1975

1976

1985

The Butter Factory ceased production and cream was again forwarded to the Gympie butter factory. Spiraling production costs and a decline in dairying forced the closure.

Rohan Schneider and Jane Stephenson purchased the Cooroy Butter Factory for \$110,000.

Potters Jo Harrold and Dick Bradley turn the Butter Factory into a craft centre where they can work at their pottery and also display items of weaving, leather, glasswork and general arts and crafts.

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Brian Jackson and Rob Rolfe opened 'Passengers: the rail restaurant'. A specialty of the restaurant was their Agatha Christie style 'Murder Evenings'.

1988

First meeting of the group which was to become the "Friends of the Butter Factory".

1993

Volunteers joined with Noosa Shire Council in the refurbishment of the Cooroy Butter Factory into new headquarters for local arts and crafts enthusiasts. Permaculture Noosa Group planted an edible garden at the Cooroy Butter Factory.

1994

Noosa Shire Council purchased the Butter Factory and adjacent buildings for use as a community centre.

The Friends group becomes incorporated as The Cooroy Butter Factory Association Inc (CBFA).

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Opening of the Cooroy Butter Factory “Raising the Floor”. Official opening by Mayor Noel Playford.

Concrete foundations for ceramics building laid.

Inaugural Contemporary Furniture Exhibition held at the Cooroy Butter Factory in partnership with Queensland Homes.

1995

TAFE certificate in art begins at the Butter Factory.

Big Marimba project (part of the Brisbane Biennial Music Festival) inspires concept of the Cooroy Street Festival. Marimbas were made at workshops run at the Cooroy Butter Factory.

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Cooroy Streetscape Project – over 400 participants were involved in community workshops through the stages of facilitation, planning, design, creation and installation of six major works and 1500 pavement works in Maple Street, Cooroy.



**1996**

The old office building was renovated by the Cooroora Woodworkers for use as a clubhouse.



Proposed Kiln and Shed for TAFE Ceramics approved by Noosa Council.



**1997**

Permaculture Noosa Inc. (via job skills program) established the grounds of the Cooroy Butter Factory as a permaculture garden.



Cooroy awarded first prize in the Tidy Towns awards for community participation (as a result of the Cooroy Streetscape Project).





# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Temporary closure of the Butter Factory due to a white ant infestation.

Noosa Council funded \$257,000 worth of repairs to the termite infested building including the replacement of the room and refurbishment of a section of concrete flooring.

1999

2000

The Combined Coastal Car Club, Johnson Park in Cooroy became the temporary office of the Cooroy Butter Factory Association Inc.

Butter Factory reopens in September.

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



TAFE does not renew Butter Factory lease. Cooroy Butter Factory Association continues to manage the building. Final Contemporary Furniture Exhibition.

The Cooroy Butter Factory Association (CBFA) terminates its lease agreement with Council to manage whole of the Butter Factory.

Creative Noosa takes over management of the building.

2004

2005

2006

Noosa Council establishes Creative Noosa Unit based in Cooroy to service artist and communities of the shire and partners with adjoining shires to develop regional projects and strategies.

CBFA sign a 12 month license to use the pottery and front gallery space in the Butter Factory.

Major refurbishment works undertaken to the entrance and floor.

# BUTTER FACTORY ARTS CENTRE



Noosa Council handed the management of the Arts Centre over to community organisation, the Cooroy Future Group.

**2016**

**2017**

**CURRENTLY**

Noosa Council supports the Cooroy Future Group in running this successful and vibrant art community hub today.

Full use is made of all the space in the original Butter Factory building for gallery exhibitions, local artisan's retail space, workshops and events.