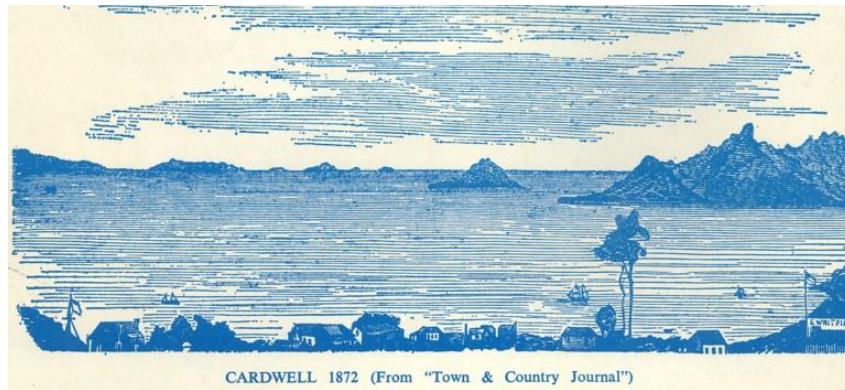


Historic Cardwell



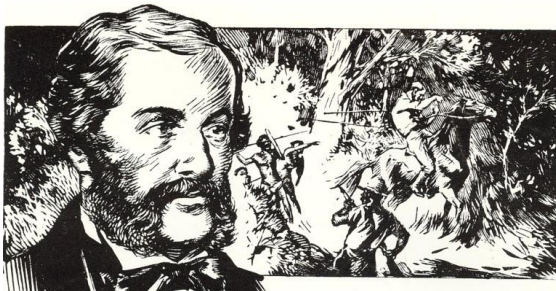
The Scott Monument



Outside the Cardwell Anglican Church stands an impressive stone cross, a memorial to Walter Jervoise Scott. Scott and his brothers came to Australia from England, establishing the Valley of Lagoons station inland of Cardwell in the 1860s. Walter died at the station in 1890 and his family sent this headstone of granite from Scotland to be placed on his grave. However, it was too heavy for a bullock team to haul it up the rough, narrow Dalrymple Gap track, so it remained in Cardwell, and a smaller stone was sent from Scotland which was actually placed on his grave.

The Kennedy Cairn

The first European overland exploration of the present Cardwell hinterland occurred in 1848, when Edmund Kennedy and his expedition passed through the region. Kennedy landed at Tam O'Shanter Point on Rockingham Bay but had to travel southwards seeking a way through the coastal swamps. After traversing the flood plains of the Hull, Tully and Murray Rivers, he finally was able to turn north near Meunga Creek near the present Cardwell township. Camp VI, which is now a picnic area, indicates this spot.



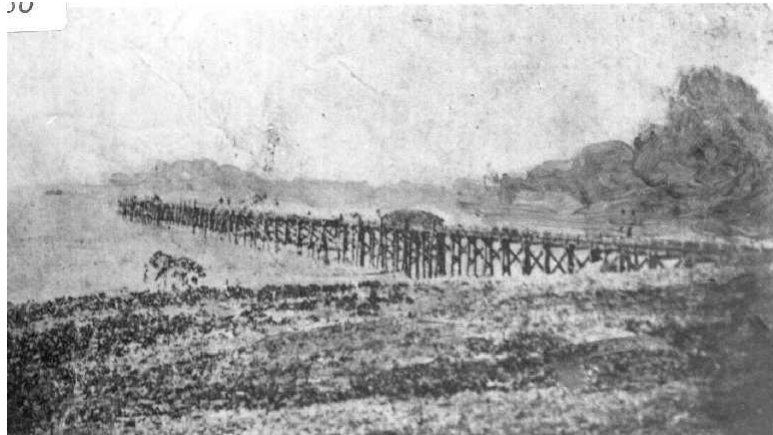
In 1948, a celebration marked the centenary of this epic and tragic journey, which ended in the death of Kennedy and most of his party but pointed the way for early pioneers. A cairn, near the old Post Office, Cardwell and a plaque on the Meunga Creek bridge were unveiled by S. Theodore, M.L.A.

Dalrymple Gap Track Bridge

To the south of Cardwell, the Dalrymple Gap Track winds up the range: the main road to the inland between 1864 and 1872, connecting the coast to the Valley of Lagoons and grazing properties on the Herbert River. About 1.2km from the Cardwell end of the track, a stone bridge spans Damper Creek, believed to have been built in late 1864 or early 1865 by Conlon's road party. It is Heritage listed and is the oldest existing bridge in Queensland, the only known masonry bridge, and represents the earliest remaining civil engineering work in Queensland.

Cardwell Jetty

Cardwell was originally settled to provide a port for the inland property, the Valley of Lagoons. A jetty was built over the water in front of the present JC Hubinger Museum (Visitor Information Centre). Some 2000 feet in length, it was destroyed by



a cyclone in 1890. A second jetty was constructed near the present jetty, which remained in use, for some years despite damage in a cyclone in 1918 which resulted in it being somewhat shortened. The present concrete jetty is 620 feet in length and was completed in 1969. In the late 1920s a jetty was planned at Oyster Point, as part of a scheme for Cardwell to be the sugar port for Tully, Macknade and Victoria Mills. The scheme did not eventuate.

Old Post Office and Telegraph Station

On the corner of Balliol and Victoria Streets stands the old Post Office and Telegraph Office. A post office operated in Cardwell from 1864, but when the government proposed a telegraph line from Townsville to the Gulf of Carpentaria via Cardwell, a Telegraph Office building was approved for the town. The telegraph office opened in July 1870. It is one of the oldest buildings in North Queensland surviving on its original site. It continued as a post office until 1983. It is heritage listed and was restored as a heritage centre in 2002.

J.C. Hubinger Memorial Museum

Erected in 1892, this building was originally used for the offices of the Cardwell Divisional Board, which had been established in 1884, and later for Shire Offices when the old Board became the Cardwell Shire Council. It served the Cardwell community and Shire from 1886 for 50 years until the centre of local government moved to Tully after the establishment of the Sugar Mill there. The Hall was renovated as part of the 1988 Bicentennial celebrations and was renamed to commemorate J.C. Hubinger who served the township from his arrival in 1870 to his death, as store-keeper, and as Board member and Chairman of the Board and Council. It became the library until a new purpose-built library was opened in 2008. It now

houses a community museum as part of the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Heritage Centre, and also serves the wider community as a Visitor Informaion Centre.

Old Court House

Behind the JC Hubinger building stands the old Court House which was erected after the first large two-storey court house building was destroyed by the 1890 cyclone and removed. The present building, known as the “match-box” was re-located to make way for a new police station and, along with the old lock-up, hall and post office, is now part of a heritage precinct.