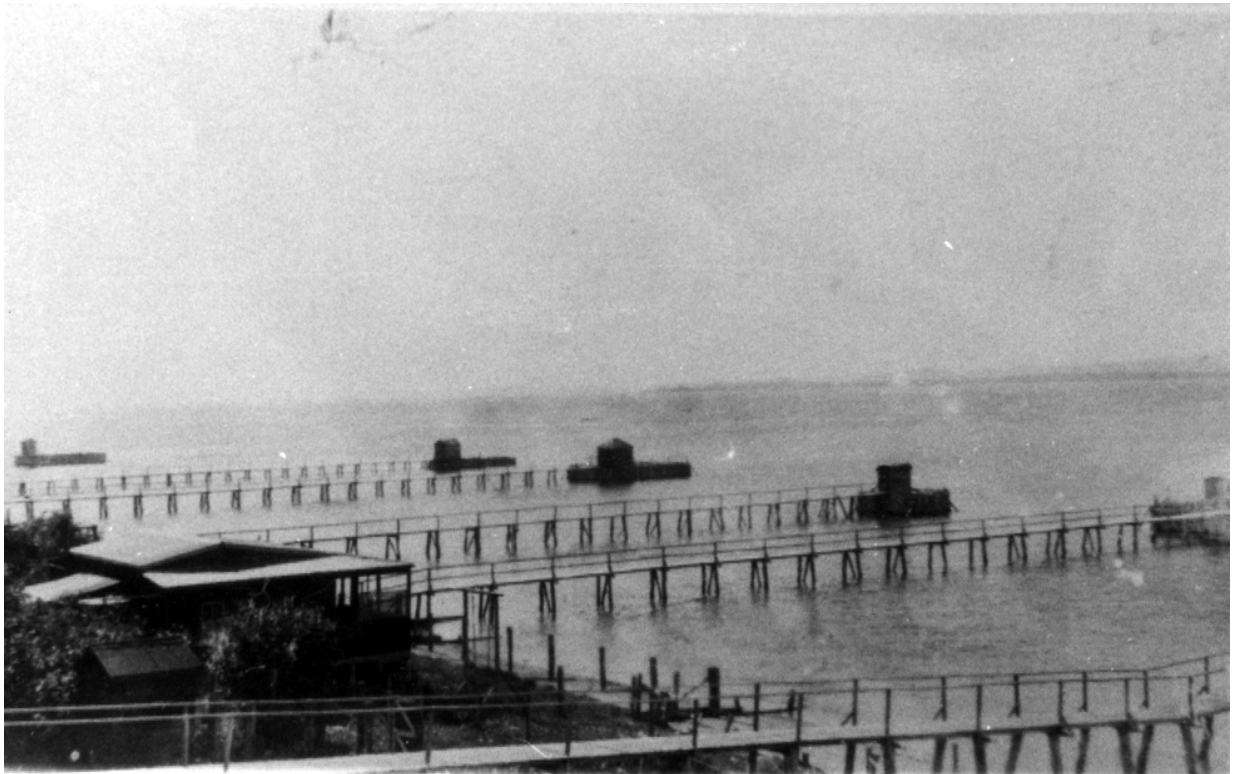


Jetties of the Redlands

What were they?

The Redland Shire has had many jetties. The first was built in the 1820s on Stradbroke Island.

Many were private jetties built by people whose land went down to the sea. They used their jetties to swim from, to fish from, or to tie up their boats.



HP332: these are some of the jetties that used to line Cleveland Point. These jetties had bathing enclosures and small changing sheds on the end. This photo was taken about 1940. Courtesy of Mary Noble.

Some jetties were built by the Shire Council with a swimming enclosure on the end. Many Redlanders learnt to swim in these enclosures. Other jetties were built by the Queensland Government for ships, ferries and other boats.

Some jetties were simple wood platforms that were barely above the water at high tide. Other jetties were built of concrete and steel and were big enough for passenger ferries.

Why were they built?

In the early days, many people living on the coast traveled by sea because it was quicker and easier than travelling over the land. Many farmers sent their produce (fruit, vegetables, etc) to market by boat. Others sent it by train. Cars and trucks did not appear in the Redlands until about 1912.

The boats needed safe places to tie up while they loaded and unloaded their passengers and cargo. They also needed to be able to load and unload at low tide, when the water was very shallow. So, many jetties in the Redlands were built for boats.

People were also very fond of swimming, fishing and walking by the sea, and some jetties were built so people could do these things.

HP735: this private jetty was in Tingalpa Creek. This photo was taken in the 1950s. Not all jetties ran into the sea. Many were in creeks or on lakes. Courtesy of Laurie and Shirley Tighe.



When were they built?

The first jetty built in the Redlands was at Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island. A 100-metre causeway was built out of rocks in about 1827-28. It was built by convicts living on the Island.

At the time, Dunwich was used by ships travelling to the penal (convict) settlement at Brisbane. The ocean-going ships unloaded their cargo at Dunwich, and the cargo was then loaded into smaller boats to be taken up the Brisbane River. The mouth of the River was very shallow and the ocean-going ships were too big to travel through it.

This causeway is still at Dunwich but most of it has been covered up by the roadway and carpark where the car ferry comes in.

The Redlands' second known jetty was built at Cleveland Point about 1852. It was also a stone jetty. It was built by pastoralists who hoped to build a port at Cleveland Point. The jetty was about 250 metres long.

This stone jetty was very badly damaged by storms and bad weather, and so the pastoralists built a timber jetty to replace it. They also built another timber jetty in 1861. This jetty ran from Cleveland Point towards Ormiston.

The first big public timber jetty in the Redlands was built in 1866 by the Queensland Government. It was a 330-metre timber jetty on piles and ran from Cleveland Point towards Peel Island. This jetty was used by the small ships (coastal steamers) travelling between Brisbane and the farming settlements on the Logan and Albert Rivers.

HP255: this was Cleveland's first public jetty, built in 1866. The shed was for sheltering people and goods. The photo was taken about 1871.

Courtesy of Oliver Rowney.



HP882: This photo of the same jetty was taken a few years later.

Courtesy of Pauline Davis.



The 1887 jetty

The 1866 jetty also got damaged by the weather, and in 1887 the Queensland Government built another timber jetty off the other (western) side of the Point. The 1887 jetty replaced the 1866 jetty as the main one used by the coastal steamers. This jetty lasted longer because it was more sheltered on that side of the Point. However, it also wore out, and was demolished in 1978 because it was falling down and unsafe.

HP289: of all the jetties in the Redlands, this one was the most well-known. It was built on Cleveland Point in 1887 by the Queensland Government to replace the 1866 jetty. Photos of this jetty were used for postcards like this one. This photo was taken about 1914. Courtesy of Redland Museum.





HP1048: This is the same jetty but this photo was taken about 1930. Note the bathing enclosure half way along the jetty. Courtesy of Jean Rhodes.

Other jetties in the Redlands

Many more jetties were built all over the Redlands in the next 150 years. Some of them were:

Redland Bay jetty

Redland Bay was a long way from the railway line, which ended at Cleveland. Therefore boats were very important for the farmers who needed to get their produce (crops) to market. Redland Bay has had several jetties built by either the Shire Council or the State Government, and some farmers had their own jetties as well. It is not known exactly when the Redland Bay public jetty was first built. By the 1898 the main jetty was worn out so the boats used another jetty just below the Redland Bay Hotel. In 1907 a new jetty was built on the site of the present Redland Bay jetty.

*HP675: this shows the Redland Bay Hotel and the jetty below it in the early 1920s. This jetty was the main one used by farmers from 1898 to 1909. The two tracks on the jetty were for a trolley that carried the fruit and vegetables to the boats. The boats took the produce to market in Brisbane.
Courtesy of Ken Gold.*





HP1050: this little jetty was in Redland Bay. It was for the owner's boat, and for children who fished and swam off it. Note how narrow and low it is compared with the bigger public jetties. There were many jetties like this one in the Redlands. The photo was taken in about 1959. Courtesy of Merlene Black.

South Street jetty:

This jetty was built off the end of South Street, Thornlands, about 1919. It was built for recreation such as fishing and swimming, and many students at the Thornlands School learnt to swim there.

The remains of this jetty can still be seen at low tide in the mudflats at the end of South Street.

Black's jetty:

This jetty was built about 1922. It ran from just below Cassim's Hotel on Cleveland Point. It was named after the man who ran the hotel at the time, William Black. It became one of the main jetties used by boats travelling to North Stradbroke Island and Peel Island.



Oyster Point jetty:

HP1118: the photo shows people at the bathing enclosure on the Oyster Point Jetty in 1940. This jetty was built in the 1920s off Oyster Point in Cleveland. Students from Cleveland State School used to swim there. Courtesy of Carol Davis/Cheryl Dowling

Wellington Point jetty:

The Wellington Point jetty was first built about 1937 in the same place as the present jetty. It has been renovated and repaired since then. It was mainly used by visitors to Wellington Point, which was a popular camping spot especially during school holidays.

HP1596: The Wellington Point jetty in the mid-1980s. Courtesy of Rural Press.



Paxton Street jetty:

This jetty was built about 1951 to replace Black's jetty. It was at the end of Paxton Street, Cleveland Point. It was one of the biggest jetties and was used by passenger ferries travelling to North Stradbroke Island and Peel Island. The Cleveland Fish Market was in Paxton Street so fishermen used to unload their catch on the Paxton Street jetty so it could be taken easily to the Market.

The Paxton Street jetty was pulled down (demolished) in 1991 because it was unsafe. This was the last of the big public jetties in Cleveland.

HP1319: The Paxton Street jetty can just be seen on the right of this photo. It was very popular with locals who fished off the end. Courtesy of Rural Press.



Victoria Point jetty:

The first big jetty was built in 1909, and like the Redland Bay jetty, it was mainly used by local fruit growers who wanted to ship their produce to market. Other jetties were built from the 1930s, mainly for people travelling to Coochiemudlo Island. A new public jetty was built in 1954 for the passenger ferries travelling to the Island.

HP1049: two of Victoria Point's jetties. Note the tents on the Point: many people camped at Victoria Point at this time.

Courtesy of Kevin Routledge.



Amity Point jetties

The jetties at Amity Point probably had the toughest lives of all the jetties in the Redlands because over the years, many parts of Amity have literally fallen into the sea because of erosion.

What happened to the jetties?

Jetties get damaged by weather (storms and cyclones) and sometimes by the boats that use them. Sometimes vandals damage them too. Woodworm and other pests attack the wooden jetties, and wooden piles can rot away. Most of the Redlands' wooden jetties either fell down or were pulled down because it cost too much to fix them.

Most new jetties are built of concrete and steel so they last a bit longer. There are still lots of jetties in the Redlands, but they are not the old wooden jetties that were so popular.