

<b>Name of Library</b>	Fraser Coast Libraries
<b>Address</b>	127-129 Bazaar Street, Maryborough
<b>Phone</b>	(07) 41905788
<b>Contact Person/s</b>	Karla Chisholm

<b>Title of project/innovation/initiative</b>	Live Local History
<b>Date Initiated</b>	July 2013
<b>Date completed</b>	Ongoing

<b>The issue/challenge</b>
To provide a venue and platform for the community to engage with local history.

### **Project details**

In July 2013, Maryborough library hosted the first of its Lunch Time Local History Talks. These talks are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 12 noon. More than 45 people attended the first talk which was about a local Maryborough property that has been in the presenter's family for over a century.

Each discussion so far, has introduced interesting history topics and the presenters are known as specialists in their own field, and are well known and liked by the community. These lunch time talks have been embraced by the community as they offer the opportunity to share their knowledge to an avid audience.

The topics that have been discussed to date have been:

'Tandora', the Mary River property that has been in a single family for over a century. Lindsay Titmarsh published "Tandora, A Pioneer's Dream" in 2007 to mark a century of his family owning the property. The book chronicles the Titmarsh family's life over a century on the grazing property. At the talk Lindsey reminisced about memories of life in early Maryborough as told to him by his family as he was growing up.

Ken Brookes has been involved in the museum industry since 1989, including the work prior to and during the restoration of Brennan and Geraghty's store in Maryborough. The store is now a museum showcasing the community of Maryborough and is operated by the National Trust of Queensland. Ken also manages the National Trust Interiors Resource Centre which houses objects from Queensland interiors from the 1860's through to the 1980's. The collection includes wallpaper, floor coverings, soft furnishings, paint catalogues, wall stencils and other items used in decorating Queensland homes. This facility was opened as part of the 2012 Maryborough Open House and will be open again this year. As part of his local history talk, Ken presented information on historical interiors and brought along some of items from the Interiors Resource Centre. Ken showed the audience some of the fragile items and how they could be used to help understand home decorating trends of the past.

Doreen Williamson from the Maryborough Hospital Museum came and spoke about the history of nursing in Maryborough and what could be found in the Museum. The museum contains items relating to the hospital and the medical profession. These items include original plans of the hospital built 1887; minutes of board meetings, early records of births and deaths, surgical instruments and apparatus, dental and pathology articles, reference books donated by doctors, and silverware from the private section of hospital.

So far, these lunch time talks have been hugely successful with over 40 people attending. Feedback has been positive with many commenting that they are looking forward to the next one.

Some of the comments received have been:

“It’s also a great opportunity for like-minded people to meet, discuss history and debate ideas”

“The talks are great for locals to hear about different topics and a valuable opportunity for historians to share their research and their passion”

“Almost 50 people came to our first talk which demonstrates that there is a deep interest in local history”.