

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

# LOGAN CAMPUS

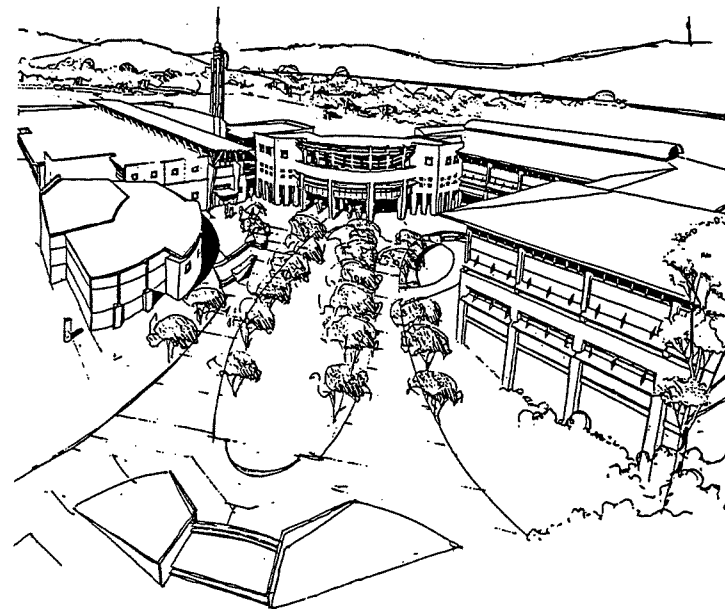
## SITE HISTORY

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY



# Griffith University Logan Campus Site History

written by Harry Spratt



*Artist's Impression of the Entrance to the Logan Campus, Griffith University*

Queensland Studies Centre, Griffith University

GRIFFITH  
UNIVERSITY



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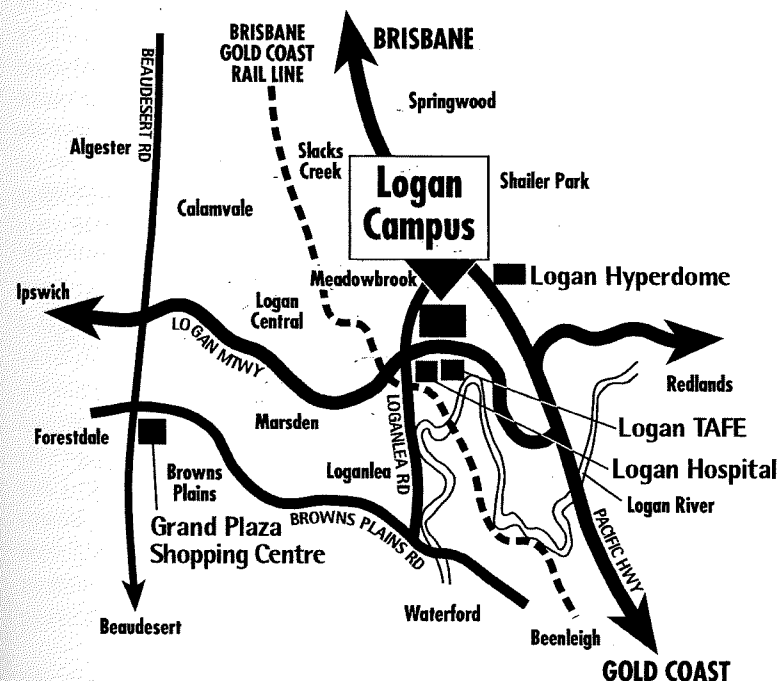
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**Logan Campus, Griffith University  
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## Introduction

In 1998 Griffith University's Logan Campus opens to an inaugural intake of approximately five hundred undergraduate students. Situated in the Logan City suburb of Meadowbrook the campus lies only four kilometres from the administrative hub of the city, Logan Central. The property occupies a total area of fifty-five hectares bounded to the north by the Logan City Golf Course, to the south by the Logan Motorway, to the west by Suncorp property destined for residential and commercial development, and to the east by the local waterway Slacks Creek. Commencing on its western boundary is low-lying, flood prone land intended for recreational and sporting use. This section rises in a gentle gradient forming a breeze-clad hill which rolls more steeply down to the southern bank of Slacks Creek.

The University campus will provide higher education services to the residents of Logan City, the Redlands Shire, Beaudesert, and the southern and northern extremities of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The campus is located in a commercial and residential district of growing importance within Logan City. The immediate vicinity boasts the Logan Institute of Technical and Further Education, Logan Hospital, Logan City Golf Course, Loganlea State High School, Loganlea railway station, Logan Motorway and Loganlea Road, a developing light industrial estate, and expanding residential estates. With the inclusion of Griffith University this area constitutes a highly significant residential, commercial, and services corridor. Combined, these various facilities symbolise Logan City's vibrant growth, expanding service provision, and promising future.

However, it is the past which will be explored in the following pages: the Aboriginal presence in the region surrounding the campus site; the origins of white settlement in Queensland; mid-nineteenth century immigration to the new colony, and the opening up of the Logan district to pastoral, plantation, and farming activity. Finally, the prior land use of the University site will be outlined together with the history of the pioneering families who farmed the site and its immediate surroundings.

Throughout Logan City there exist tangible clues to this past. A stand of remnant rainforest containing botanical species rare in Queensland lies on the University property along the bank of Slacks Creek parallel to the Logan Motorway. This is one fragile yet concrete tie with a past which silently slips away as each day passes and the city develops.

Amidst the energetic activity of the neighbourhood whisper faint echoes of the site's

history in the form of road and place names. Directly opposite University Drive is an abbreviated section of a once longer Ellerslie Road. This road once crossed Loganlea Road on into the campus site to the bank of Slacks Creek. The name of the greater part of it was changed to University Drive at the University's request. The relocated Evans Road reflects the presence of a family who once worked the property. Likewise, Armstrong Road, which lies south of the Logan Motorway, recalls another long-established pioneering family. These roadways are important ties to the site's history.



3. The new "Evans Road" replacing the original road named after one of the pioneering families of the area. The new road is on a different alignment but in the same part of the site.

Slacks Creek itself represents the commemoration of the early pastoralist, Mr W. D. Slack, who grazed cattle over the immediate district in the mid-nineteenth century. The Logan River bears the name, as does the city itself, of Captain Patrick Logan, the harsh professional soldier who commanded the Moreton Bay penal colony from 1826 until he met an untimely, violent death at the hands of either escaped convicts or Aborigines at Mt. Beppo near Esk. Further afield, adjacent to the intersection of Loganlea, Kingston, Brisbane-Beenleigh, and Tygum Roads lies Tygum Lagoon. The Gugingin, a regional Aboriginal family, once called the land around Waterford "Tygum".

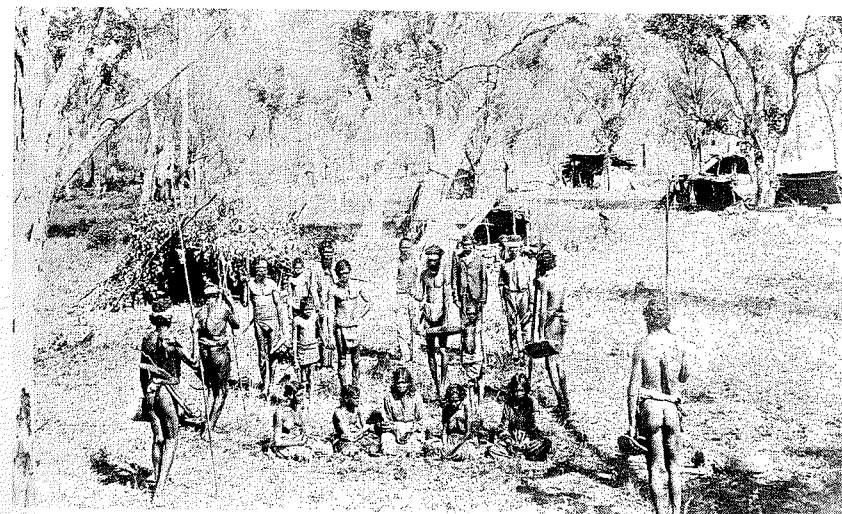
The campus site's past is inextricably linked to the history of the suburbs of Loganlea, Meadowbrook, Kingston, Tanah Merah, Shailer Park, Logan City itself and the wider

south-east corner of the State.

Some of the individuals and families who were closely associated with the history of the Logan region are well known locally while others are perhaps not so familiar. Among the former are the names of Shailer, Kingston, Dennis, Slack, Murray, and Noffke. Some of the less familiar are Armstrong, Benson, Evans, Fuller, Gomersall, Hampson, Harris, Holdsworth, Leitzow, Love, Ludwig, Markwell, and Morrow. Often these names express an historical association with the wider region which continues to the present, as in the case of the Shailer and Dennis families. Others, such as the Armstrong, Evans, Holdsworth and Harris families have similarly firm roots in the immediate vicinity. Nonetheless, the story begins not with the persistent, often heroic efforts of these pioneering agricultural families, but rather, their predecessors, the original inhabitants of the region: the local Aboriginal communities and traditional families.

### Traditional Owners

Prior to the occupation of Australia in 1788 the continent was inhabited by at least three quarters of a million indigenous people speaking a minimum of five hundred different languages and dialects. They had occupied most of the continent for at least forty thousand years, probably much more. The majority of them lived in the area now called Queensland and the Northern Territory.



4. Southern Queensland Blacks Camp - 1895.  
(Photo courtesy of John Oxley Library)

Thirty eight years after the establishment of the penal colony at Botany Bay the seminal white settlement of Queensland commenced with the establishment of the Moreton Bay penal colony, to accommodate the most serious and persistent offenders. However, the region now occupied by Brisbane, Logan City, Ipswich and the Gold Coast was, and remains, the spiritual, cultural and material homeland of thousands of indigenous people in distinct families within larger communities. In the early 1820s there were several thousand Aborigines inhabiting the immediate Moreton Bay vicinity; in 1851 there were still at least two thousand Aborigines in the Logan region.

The wider Moreton Bay, Logan and Gold Coast districts were traversed by large Aboriginal communities now differentiated from each other by their distinct but related dialects. These language groups and the traditional constituent families of which they were composed criss-crossed the Logan region. The Logan area lay on the cusp between the Brisbane based Turrubul language group and the Gold Coast based Yugambeh language group. The Jagarabul family of the northern Turrubul language group may have traversed the Logan and Albert river basins as did the Gugingin of the Yugambeh language group. The Jagarabul inhabited the wider Kingston area, its members setting kangaroo traps around Slacks Creek waterholes, fishing throughout the district, conducting corroborees, and forming large hunting parties. The Yaggapals are said to have called the Carbrook area which they inhabited "Tablababa".

The various custodians of this and the much larger region traversed a territory characterised by an abundance of food in the sea, on land and in the many waterways. For example, Moreton Bay, Stradbroke and Gold Coast Aborigines fished with spears from outrigger canoes and reputedly used dolphins or porpoises to drive fish into their finely crafted nets. Those around the Logan and Albert Rivers harvested fish from these waterways.

These people's first significant contact with Europeans was with those of the Moreton Bay penal colony. Large numbers of Aborigines may have witnessed the initial disembarkation of soldiers and convicts at Brisbane. Their ensuing interactions with this largely criminal diaspora and those who followed were to be, with some exceptions, overwhelmingly hostile.

Toward the middle of the nineteenth century the fencing of the Aborigines' homelands by pastoralists impeded their access to its resources and thus to their ancient means of subsistence. In response, many Aboriginal communities, including those of the Logan region, actively resisted the pastoral activities which they recognised as a grave threat to their culture. In a *Brisbane Courier* article from 1931 reference is

made to the nineteenth century Aborigines around Slacks Creek "whose unfriendly attitude hampered the small band of pioneers...". In response to such resistance, the colonial government formed the Native Police Force in 1848 and later expanded and officially re-established it on the banks of the Logan River in 1863. These Aboriginal units were the government's principal means of asserting its dominance over recalcitrant indigenous individuals, families and communities.

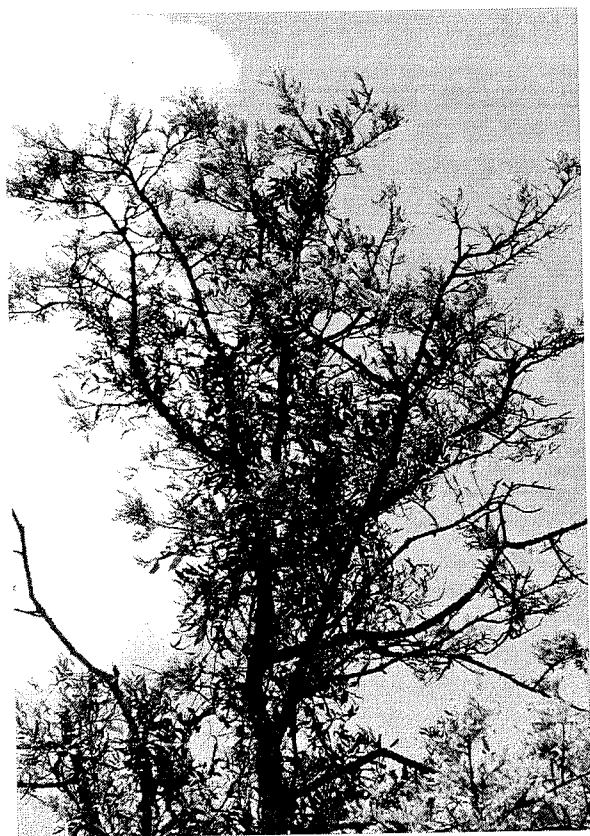
Although the historical contact between whites and Aborigines has been largely characterised by disharmony, there are some oral and written examples of co-operation between nineteenth and twentieth century settlers and local Aborigines. Aborigines who returned any of the almost continuous stream of escapees from Moreton Bay gaol were rewarded, following the colonial practice, with gifts of blankets and tools. Hanlon (1935) recalled that settlers and Aborigines on the Logan River bartered food, swapping some of their staple items for flour, sugar and tea. Glen Shailer (1997) recalls the occasion on which his grandfather loaned a wagon to an Aboriginal family to carry their deceased daughter to her final resting place in a burned out log or stump near Murrays Road at Tanah Merah. The cart was returned, the family moved on, and they were not seen on the property again. In the mid 1860s Aborigines in the Logan area helped the German settler Rehfeld build a secure bark shelter and a shed for his family. On another occasion, as family lore tells it, local Aborigines invited the Shailer men to a corroboree. They attended, but so did some of the Shailer women, dressed as men in trousers and hats. Thus we see that, amidst the larger conflict, white person to black person interactions were not always hostile. The white settlers and local indigenous inhabitants were sometimes able to communicate and cooperate.

### Early White Settlement

The Moreton Bay penal colony was established as a jail in 1825 where Brisbane's CBD now rises. The prison was set up in response to an official requirement to send the most serious and repetitive offenders to a place where an oppressive climate would accentuate the misery of their incarceration. In total two thousand two hundred convicts passed through a jail in which floggings for minor offences were commonplace and where such treatment led to over seven hundred escapes. Such was the magnitude of the problem that a sentry was posted at Point Danger to arrest escapees passing through the Logan district. An early Commandant, Captain Logan, conducted independent exploration during his term, discovering a river he named the "Darling" but which its namesake, the New South Wales Governor, renamed the "Logan" in 1827, the year after Captain Logan's bloody demise. Nine years later, transportation to Moreton Bay ceased, but the convict legacy lingered for an indeterminate period, as many prisoners remained serving out life sentences.



In 1842 the Moreton Bay area was opened for free settlement, the first substantial industry of the wider region being timber cutting. Cedar, pine, mahogany and other desired species grew along the Logan River and other waterways throughout the region. These timbers were first cut by convicts to build projects at the penal colony. Independent cutters and bullockies hauling loads unwittingly cleared areas destined for later agricultural settlement. This allowed pastoralists to move into the area with their sheep and cattle, the former proving largely unsuccessful. One such cattle grazier was Mr W. D. Slack whose name attaches to the area once known by its indigenous inhabitants, and by settlers, as "Mungaree". The felling of native timber continued and the few squatters on large runs yielded in turn to the first substantial wave of free settlement in the Logan region.



5. One of the remaining stands of Silky Oak on the campus, close to Slacks Creek.  
Silky Oak trees were once prevalent on the site.

Significant settlement of the district was intricately associated with several events. First, in 1859 Queensland was separated from a then much larger New South Wales. As late as 1861 more than half the Australian continent was unexplored although territory north to Rockhampton and some considerable distance west had been opened for settlement. Second, Queensland's fledgling colonial government faced particular economic problems. At the time the colony was beset by labour shortages, a small population, inferior rural infrastructure, uncertain returns on investment, a capital shortage, and large quantities of unimproved land. To overcome these difficulties the new colonial government chose to facilitate economic development through agricultural activity spurred by an extensive assisted immigration programme founded on the distribution of cheap land and other subsidies.

A Select Committee proposed a policy wherein one hundred thousand acres of land would be set aside in clearly defined Agricultural Reserves. These in turn would be subdivided into identifiable acreage lots for sale or lease. Each settlement in Queensland with a population of five hundred persons or more was to have an Agricultural Reserve of not less than two thousand five hundred acres. In any reserve an individual settler was permitted to select a minimum of forty acres of land and a non-negotiable maximum of three hundred and twenty acres. The Logan Agricultural Reserve, which followed the west bank of the river from Waterford to its junction with Slacks Creek occupied an initial area of twenty thousand acres. This particular reserve was gazetted on 5 January 1861, having been surveyed by Walter Hill, Government Botanist, Curator of the Botanic Gardens and Chief Selector of Agricultural Reserves.

### Plantation Agriculture

An extension of eight thousand acres was added to the Logan reserve and proclaimed by Governor Bowen on 18 October 1864 pursuant to the *Agricultural Reserves Act of 1863*. In September 1864, in a letter to the Secretary for Lands and Works, Walter Hill noted that most lots at the Logan reserve had been taken up. However, there still remained six hundred and fifty acres of unselected scrubland as a result of the reserve's chronic lack of suitable roads, a problem that persisted for decades to come. On these early properties Hill reported crops of potatoes, oats, maize, arrowroot and sugar cane growing, all of which figured prominently in the years to come.

Cotton, though, was the crop that dominated the 1860s and 1870s. In the late 1850s cotton growing had been promoted as a viable agricultural industry for Southern Queensland. Dr John Dunmore Lang portrayed the cotton growing industry as the ideal mechanism to spur settlement of the region by small family farms using the



labour of husbands, wives and children.

Whereas Lang himself promoted a family utopia centred around cotton, others temporarily achieved the opposite - a dystopia of southern-American style plantations using virtual slave labour. In July 1861 the colonial government released acreage lots in the Logan region of between 320 and 1,280 acres for the purpose of developing large cotton plantations.

Around this time the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, Bishop Quinn, established the Queensland Immigration Society to relocate impoverished Irish Catholics to Queensland. America, the preferred destination of the Irish, was cut-off to immigration due to the American Civil War. As a result, over six thousand Irish immigrants settled in Queensland, many taking up land at Logan, particularly in and around the Logan and Eight Mile Plains Agricultural Reserves. Similarly, Dunmore Lang's competing Immigration Society brought to Queensland large numbers of English working class and rural worker families, some of them settling on the Logan. As well as these independent immigration programmes the colonial government established its own scheme under the direction of an Imperial Emigration Commissioner in England by the name of Henry Jordan.

The outbreak of the American Civil War had not only redirected Irish immigration to Queensland; it also severely disrupted cotton production in America's southern states. The blockade of Confederate ports in 1861 resulted in the near collapse of Great Britain's cotton manufacturing industry, throwing thousands of factory workers out of work and desperate to emigrate.

Henry Jordan organised an emigration scheme in Great Britain which granted to Mackay, Baines and Company's Black Ball Line sole responsibility for transporting shiploads of up to five hundred settlers to Brisbane and Queensland's more northern ports. Seventeen hundred of these were unemployed Lancashire cotton mill workers. Many of these immigrants, especially children, died on the voyage from typhoid, measles and scarlet fever.

The first Black Ball ship, the "Wansfell", arrived at Moreton Bay in 1861 returning to Great Britain in early 1862 loaded with produce shipped to them by local river steamers. These ocean going vessels always returned to Great Britain with cargoes of wool, cedar, and a variety of animal products. In this way trade in goods strengthened the invigorated immigration of this period.

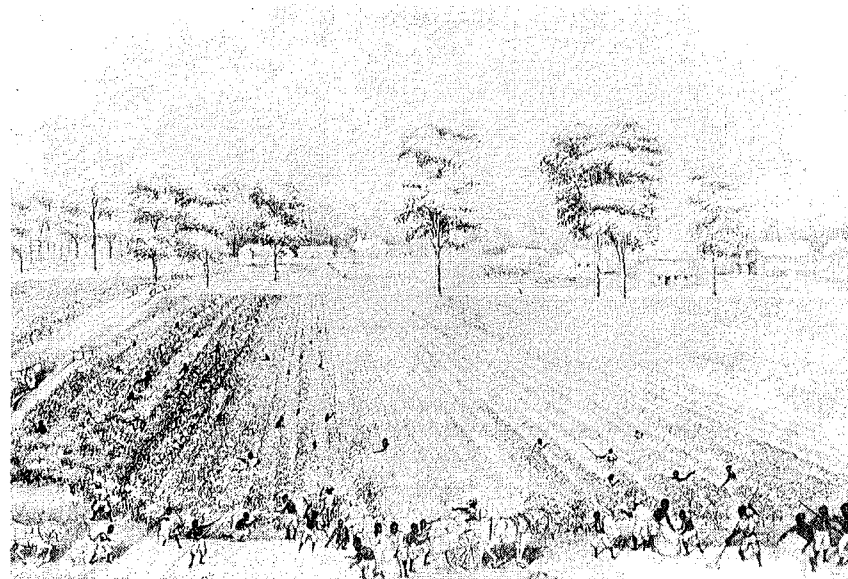
From 1861 onwards the immigration system was underwritten by a government

subsidy on all aspects of cotton's production. A scheme was implemented granting immigrants land orders exchangeable for eighteen acres or twelve acres of land, and valued accordingly. The larger of these land orders was redeemable upon the immigrant repaying the cost of their passage, the smaller order taking effect after two years residence in Queensland. Through the Land Order Scheme the government also paid the shipping line: for every passenger brought to Brisbane or north Queensland ports they received an eighteen pound land order, plus cash. Land orders were also used as production incentives. For example, bonus issues were granted to settlers who produced cotton commercially. A further cash bonus of ten pounds per bale of Sea Island cotton substantially underwrote production. This bonus was the fundamental factor in the establishment of the plantations so strongly supported by Governor Bowen. At the same time, the 700 acre plantation of the short-lived Queensland Co-operative Cotton Growing and Manufacturing Company was established at Loganholme. Cotton Co. Road harks back to this period of Queensland's history.

First among the plantations was the property of Robert Towns near Beaudesert. Towns, a one-time Chairman of Directors of the Bank of New South Wales, took up an initial 240 acre selection on the Logan River in 1860, later extending it to 1,280 acres. In 1865 Towns went into partnership with William Tutin Walker, eventually establishing an 8,000 acre plantation. Unsatisfied with the cheap labour provided by an immigration system which saw around 21,000 immigrants come to Queensland during 1865-66, Towns independently sent the schooner "Don Juan" to the New Hebrides (now the Republic of Vanuatu) to return on the 14th of August, 1863 with a cargo of about seventy contract labourers colloquially called kanakas. By the late 1860s two hundred and fifty of these indentured Melanesian labourers worked a sixty hour week at "Townsvale" and other plantations for less than a quarter of a standard labourer's pay plus clothing, rudimentary accommodation and the oft-unkept promise of a passage home at the expiration of their "contract".

Such plantations were semi-feudal fiefdoms in which the contract workers lived in poor conditions in huts at the edges of the canefields. Men, women and boys as young as nine years old were brought to Queensland between 1873 and 1904 by individual plantation owners such as Towns. From 1863 to 1871 this was largely unregulated by the government. The year after the first labourers arrived another group of fifty-four commenced work at Louis Hope's sugar plantation at Ormiston near Cleveland. The Queensland government had initially tried to provide plantation owners with regulated servile labour by importing Indian "coolies" via the *Coolie Act of 1862*, but the Indian colonial government was uncooperative. Striking out on their own the plantation owners started a trade in cheap black labour thus severely undercutting domestic workers and coming within a hair's breadth of slavery. In

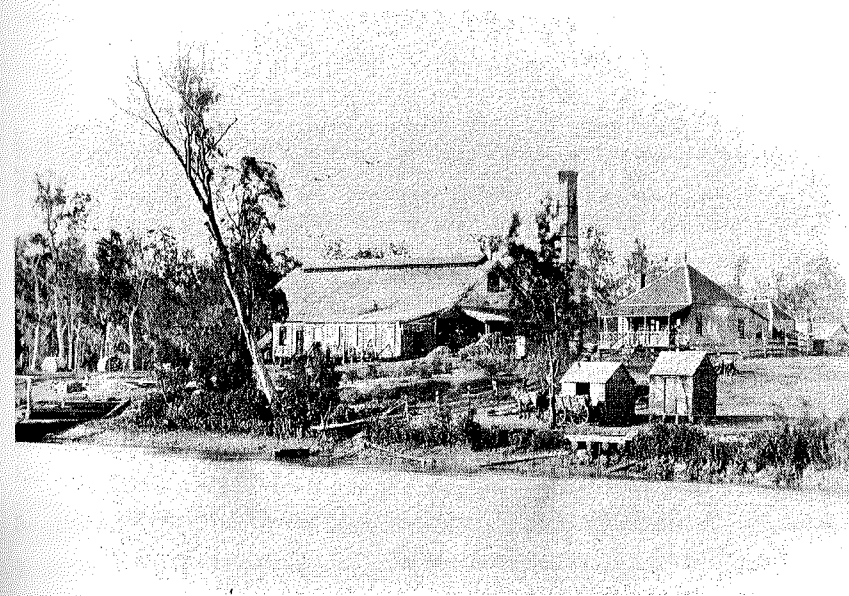
total, between 1863 and 1904, 62,475 contracts between plantation owners and Melanesian and Polynesian islanders were entered into. So extensive was this system that in total no less than 111 vessels were involved in the "trade". One, the "Daphne", was fitted out in the manner of a slave trader, minus shackles; another notorious schooner was the "Black Dog". Melanesian and Polynesian labourers were used throughout the colony as cotton workers, sugar cane workers, shepherds, station hands, domestic servants and general labourers. They toiled in, among other places, the Logan district, Beaudesert, Cleveland, Clermont, Springsure, Dalby, Taroom, Nebo and Roma and northern sugar growing areas.



6. "Townsville Polynesian Labourers Working Cotton Plantation".  
(Photo courtesy of John Oxley Library)

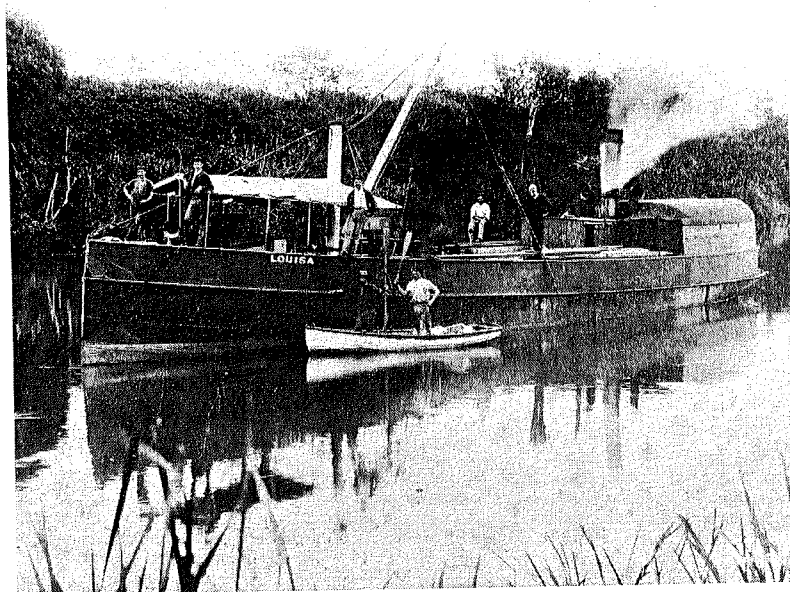
Cotton growing was also conducted on the Bremer, Albert, Mary and Burnett rivers as well as at Oxley, Booval, Bundamba and Redbank. The cash incentive of ten pounds per bale was a reducing bonus decreasing over ten years to five pounds then

finally to two pounds ten shillings. This reduction was one pivotal factor in the eventual decline of the cotton industry in Queensland. The other was the cessation of the American Civil War and the consequent reconstruction of Southern cotton production, leading to its recovery in the United States and a slump in world prices. In addition, crops were planted on flood-prone creek and river banks, and local knowledge of soils and climate was not fully developed. Cotton seed was often of inconsistent quality, and pests and diseases such as caterpillars and blight affected crops. Road transport was wholly inadequate as was river transport after floods. All these factors impacted on the industry. Cotton production in the Logan district decreased from its 1868 peak to virtually nothing by 1875. By 1887-1888 significant cotton production had effectively ceased throughout Queensland.



7. Loganholme Sugar Mill circa 1888.  
One of several large and many small  
river borne mills and distilleries.  
(Photo courtesy of John Oxley Library)

The decade-long dominance of cotton was briefly usurped by maize grown by small farmers who, having taken up their initial Agricultural Reserve lots, consolidated their holdings in the region. More often than not, they cultivated other crops as well. But while these families tirelessly grew their fruits, vegetables and other produce, and reared their cattle and pigs, the large plantations switched to sugar cultivation. Ancillary activities developed to support plantation sugar production, foremost among these being the milling of cane and the transportation of it in its raw and processed states. Using local timber in their boilers, small mills on individual farms competed with mills and rum distilleries on river-borne steamships such as "The Walrus". Large mills were constructed to undertake commercially viable crushing of cane from surrounding farms and plantations. In the Beenleigh district alone a dozen mills existed, not including those on large plantations.



8. The ship "Louisa", a local steamer which carried cargo along the Logan River.  
(Photo courtesy of John Oxley Library)

The waterways were the highways of commerce in the region. Roads were barely more than bush tracks for decades following white settlement. W. D. Slack used an existing Aboriginal trail; "Slack's Track" becoming a common route to South Brisbane. Other Aboriginal trails followed creeks and rivers, a well worn one running along the bank of Slacks Creek. The first road to the Logan ran through the Eight Mile Plains Agricultural Reserve. This road was surveyed and opened in 1858 and extended

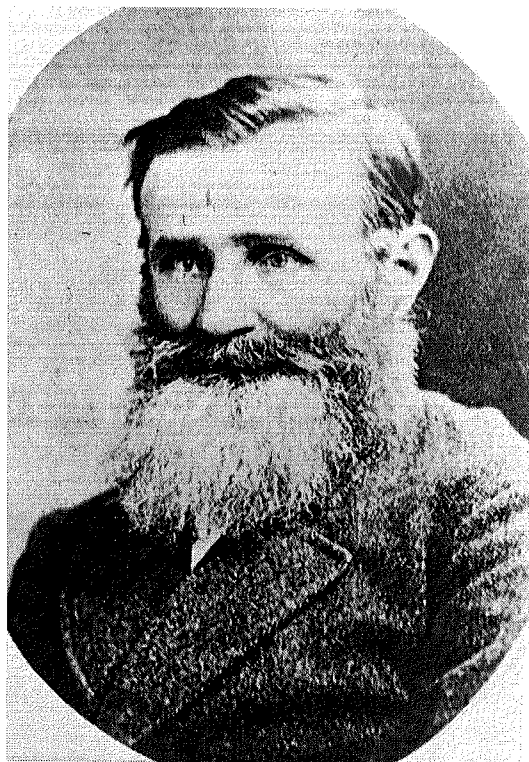
later in 1864, becoming Kingston Road. The extremely poor standard of the roads saw river transportation, in the form of small punts, ferries, and larger steamers and sailing ships, transport all manner of produce including cotton, timber, maize and sugar cane from farm to mill to market in Brisbane. These craft returned with supplies for locals who would sometimes be down to their last pannikin of flour by the time the boat arrived. Some of these vessels were paddlewheelers while larger punts could carry fifty tons of cargo. Those that entered Slacks Creek would make their necessary turns at the junction of the creek and the Logan River.

Unlike cotton, sugar production did not completely disappear from the Logan region. However, with the onset of its own specific problems such as rust, frosts and floods, and regional competition, large-scale production in Queensland shifted to the colony's north where it flourished. By the late nineteenth century Southern Queensland's sugar production had ceased to be significant in proportion to the colony's total sugar output.

### Pioneer Farmers

The failure of both cotton and sugar to form the lasting foundation of a flourishing plantation society in the Logan area is significant. The collapse of the plantations opened the way for the battling pioneer small farmers who arrived on the wave of cotton immigration. Present throughout the dual ascendancy of cotton and sugar they came to form the backbone of both agricultural production and rural community in the immediate vicinity of the Logan campus site. Their farms, often worked for decades by the first selector families whose names appear on the original maps of the Agricultural Reserves, or by the families who followed them, were significantly more successful than any of the plantations. Their long-term presence in the wider district surrounding the present University campus resulted in the firm establishment of a community of neighbours, families, and friends. Their presence over several generations was responsible for the establishment of many essential social institutions such as religious and state schools, churches, community halls, progress associations, recreational clubs and other community groups. Importantly, they developed a historical continuity with the district which saw many of them and their descendants engage in community service such as representation in local government.

Of the pioneer families who came to this neighbourhood in the 1860's, the earliest is the Markwell family. Samuel Markwell was born in Lincolnshire in 1814. In 1849, aged thirty four, he came to Australia from Lincolnshire aboard the "Chaseley" with his twenty-six year old brother William and thirty-one year old brother Isaac and their families.



9. Samuel Markwell - 1814 to 1883.  
(Photo courtesy of Poppy Hampson)

Markwell leased acreage not far from the Logan Campus in 1866 on Loganlea Road near its junction with the present Pacific Highway, in relatively close proximity to Scrubby Creek. He is said to have called his one hundred and fifty-two acre property "Mungaree" after the Aboriginal name for the area now known as Slacks Creek. The name "Mungaree", or "Mongree", certainly appears on extracts of birth certificates of the era, the region itself being called Mungaree by settlers. In 1876 Markwell bought the five lots he had been renting. Among the crops which he grew were cotton, pumpkins, maize, fruit and other vegetables. He very probably raised pigs and poultry, and produced milk, cheese, butter, and eggs for home consumption. These products are listed in contemporary documents as being produced on Markwells' and other Logan Agricultural Reserve farms in the 1870s. Markwells' property was eventually purchased by a land owner in the district named John Morrow who, though not one of the original selectors of Agricultural Reserve lots in this immediate area, was a significant local figure.

South of Markwells' selection, also by Loganlea Road, was the Fuller family property. John Swan Fuller and his wife Mary Ann settled at Loganlea in 1866 in close proximity to the current University site. Their original property was probably expanded when emigrating neighbours, the Thompsons, sold land to them which was less flood prone than their own, adjacent to the creek itself. The Fullers grew millet, corn, potatoes and cotton in the latter decades of the nineteenth century, at times suffering the heartbreak of seeing their produce ruined by the floods which have afflicted the wider region over the last century and a half. In 1894 the Fullers lost both the senior male member of the family, John Swan, and his eldest son John Edward to tragic accidents. The Fuller family property was also subsequently bought up by John Morrow.

The Fullers' produce, and that of the other property owners of the area, was transported by the punts, sail and steam ships which traversed both Slacks Creek and the Logan River. The paucity of decent roads ensured the use of Slacks Creek and the Logan River as major transport corridors much like the canals of England though on a smaller scale. There were three loading wharves on the creek adjacent to Murrays Road where today there is a Council flora reserve. Ellerslie Road crossed Loganlea Road from the west and proceeded almost to the creek bank where a fourth wharf was used by farmers to load produce and logs onto the steamers.



10. Slacks Creek as it is today, looking left across to the campus. The original wharf on the old Ellerslie Road was to the right. The creek was once much larger.





11. This large gum tree (now broken) once supported cables for a flying fox used to load timber from the old Ellerslie Road wharf on to punts on Slacks Creek.

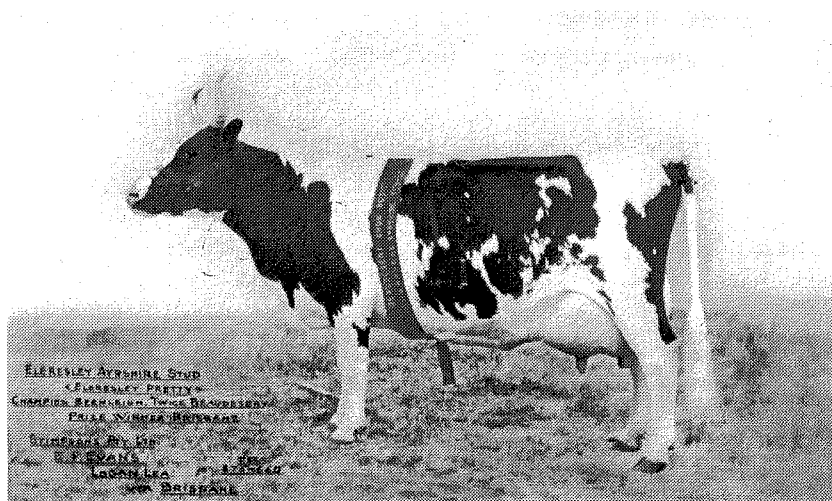
Morrow now owned three properties in the vicinity of what is now the Logan Campus. The first of these was called "Ellerslie"\* and occupied much of what is today the Logan Campus of Griffith University. Morrow also owned the property he named "Fullers" and that which he called "Markwells". By 1920 the "Ellerslie" property covered 192 acres, "Markwells" 175 acres and "Fullers" 145 acres.

Upon his death in 1920 John Morrow's two sons, Robert and William, inherited the three properties of which they were executors until the estate was legally settled. In 1922 ownership of the "Ellerslie" property passed to a family company, Stimpsons Ltd., guided by Mr. Frederick Arthur Stimpson. "Ellerslie" was set up as a dairy stud farm called "Eleresley and Ayrshire Stud, Loganlea" in order to distinguish it from the original property.

By the turn of the century the plantations had faltered and the small farmers whose selections had been taken up in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s had adopted dairying as their agricultural mainstay. Of course throughout the wider region a great variety of other crops, vegetables, and fruits were grown, but dairying was central to the farms in the immediate vicinity of the Logan campus site. Pivotal to the local dairying industry was the foundation of The Southern Queensland Co-operative Dairy Company Limited and the 1906 decision at a public meeting of dairymen to build the Kingston Butter Factory which opened in 1907. The farms in the region sent separated cream to the factory by train from Loganlea station, and by cart and later automobile, for making into butter. Milk was sent to small factories in Brisbane until the manufacture of milk was consolidated by Pauls. Shares in the Kingston factory were distributed throughout the greater dairying region as far as the Gold Coast with the majority of the 318 shareholders in 1907 being the factory's cream suppliers. Some of the families associated with the Logan campus area took up shares in the factory including the Armstrongs, Fullers, Shailers and Morrows.



12. Southern Queensland Co-op Dairy Factory (Kingston Butter Factory) circa 1908. The factory was later rebuilt in brick and is today a museum and community centre. (Photo courtesy of John Oxley Library)



13. Prizewinning Eleresley Ayrshire Stud "Eleresley Pretty".

(Photo courtesy of Fred Evans of Fruitgrove)

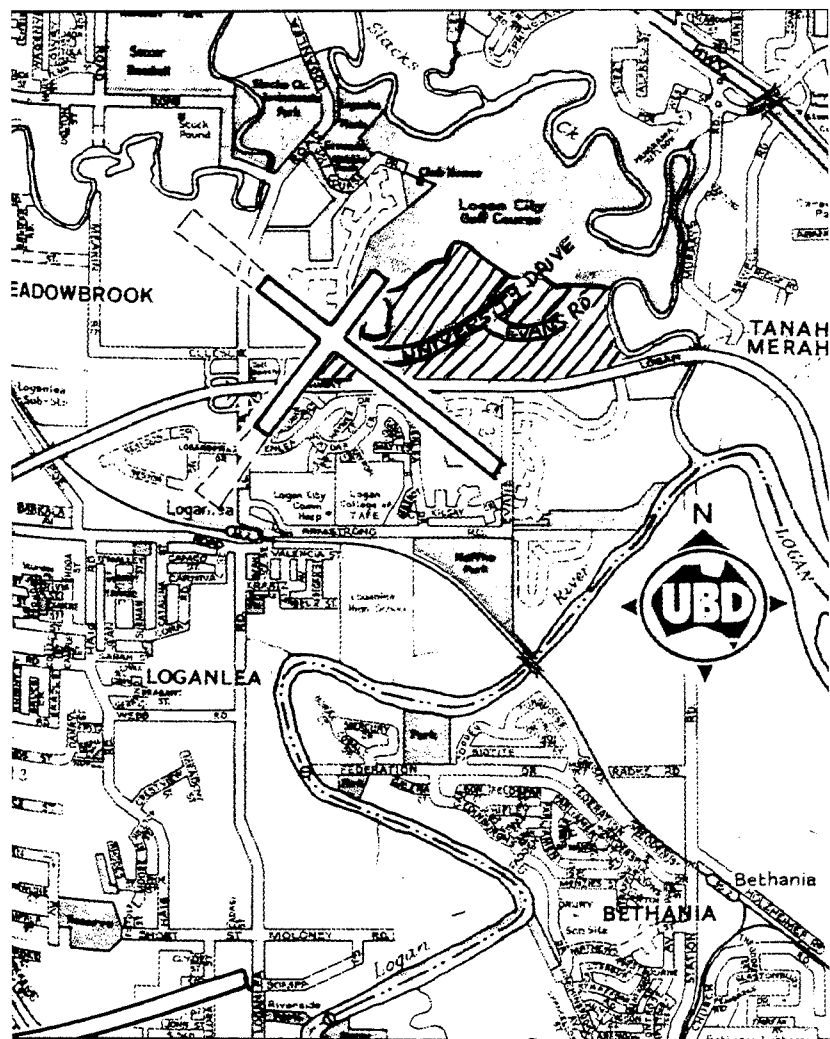
Dairying became the mainstay of the area's properties, including those closely associated with the Logan campus. The "Eleresley and Ayrshire Stud, Loganlea" was managed by F. A. Stimpson's son-in-law Mr Ernest Robert Evans. Ayrshire cattle from the "Eleresley" stud won many prizes at southern Queensland agricultural exhibitions including the Brisbane, Beenleigh, Beaudesert and Gympie Shows. They were reported in an early *Brisbane Courier* article as being among the best Ayrshires "...in the Commonwealth...". As well as the dairy cattle stud, the Evans family raised up to three hundred pigs in sties and pens on the property. Other structures included the "Ellerslie" homestead which was located near a large macadamia tree fifty to sixty metres off Ellerslie Road (now University Drive). The homestead was destroyed by fire in the late 1960s but a macadamia tree still stands near the place where the house once stood. There were bull pens, a two-bedroom workers cottage, several sheds that served as dairy, feed room and engine room, and a nearby cattle dip. There were several galvanised water tanks on the property, a hayshed, an irrigation plant shed, two bores and a few small dams. As well, "Ellerslie" was a fully fenced property. Even the individual paddocks were fenced, and the Evans family worked the property using the most up-to-date tractors and farming methods. "Ellerslie" occupied much of the present University site from the time when the Stimpson and Evans families took it over in 1922.

From the early decades of this century the dairy farm of the Holdsworth family was nestled between "Ellerslie" and the southern bank of Slacks Creek. The Holdsworths raised Jersey cattle described in the *Brisbane Courier* of 10 January 1931 as 'a herd of note'. Like the other dairy farmers in the campus vicinity around this time, the Holdsworths probably devoted a proportion of their acreage to growing crops such as sugar cane, maize and lucerne. In the early years of agriculture in the district, before the turn of the century, corn, or maize, was grown as a substitute for flour while arrowroot was extensively cultivated for the manufacture of biscuits and the production of starch for use in pressing clothing. Hay was stored on the Holdsworth's property in a large concrete silo. Also on the property were the unmarked graves of three people, thought to be a family. The graves were situated high on the hill near the boundary of the "Ellerslie" property and the Holdsworth's, near the original Evans Road.

From the mid 1940s other immediate neighbours of the Evans family were the Harris family. Mr. Tom Harris bought "Markwells" during the Second World War from John Morrow's widow who lived there for twenty years after her husband's death. Tom had married John Morrow's daughter, Florence, some time earlier. On the Markwell property he cultivated potatoes, lucerne, oats and other crops, raised pigs, and ran a dairy. Tom Harris sold the property in the late 1940s.



14. The Facilities Management Building, the first building completed on the new campus. The south-east runway of the World War 2 airfield ran across the front of the building.



15. Map showing location of Old Airstrip.  
Extract from Map 72 of the 1991 UBD Brisbane Street Directory.  
Griffith University site details amended by Queensland Studies Centre.

During the Second World War a grass, crucifix-shaped military airstrip crossed Ellerslie Road, now University Drive; the two intersecting runways were 1,900 metres and 1,133 metres in length. Each strip extended across what is now the Logan Motorway on into the Meadowbank Estate and the Logan City Golf Course. First constructed for the United States Air Force by M. R. Hornibrook Pty. Ltd., they were transferred to the RAAF in 1943, and occupied much of what were the Armstrong family's original selections and a smaller proportion of "Ellerslie". The airstrip was used on one occasion by two lost pilots who mistook it for Archerfield airport. Igloo-shaped fighter 'hides' constructed of timber frames with wire, hessian and brush camouflage materials were located on the airstrip's western reaches adjacent to Loganlea Road. Although they were used by wayward pilots it is almost certain that the 'hides' were not used for their intended purpose, as a base for fighter aircraft.

The Armstrongs, whose land the airstrips principally covered, were another family of original selectors with a long established connection to the immediate vicinity of the present campus. They occupied land productively in the area for several generations



16. Pipes unearthened during campus construction.  
The pipes were used for drainage under the runways of the 1942 airfield.



from the crucial period of the 1860s. William and Margaret Armstrong came to Australia during the 1860s wave of immigration previously discussed. William took up forty to fifty acres at Slacks Creek growing cotton, sugar, corn, millet, and maize, raising poultry and pigs and breeding dairy cattle while he and his family dwelt in a slab "humpy". Their sons, Thomas and William Armstrong, took up adjacent selections in the region centred around Armstrong Road, at Loganlea (now Meadowbrook). Like others of the time they struggled, but eventually succeeded in establishing themselves as dairy farmers, becoming active members of the wider Loganlea community. In the early 1880s the land on which the then Slacks Creek New Wesleyan Church (now the Loganlea Uniting Church) was built in 1885 was donated by William Armstrong. He and his brother Thomas were among the first trustees of the church which cost one hundred pounds to build. Later, after the turn of the century, Fred Armstrong ran a successful Illawarra dairy on family land closer to the Logan River. Fred's son, Ashley, continued the Armstrong presence in the region as did his wife Emma and their son Trevor through into more recent decades. A proportion of the Logan Campus site parallel to the current Logan Motorway is former Armstrong land.



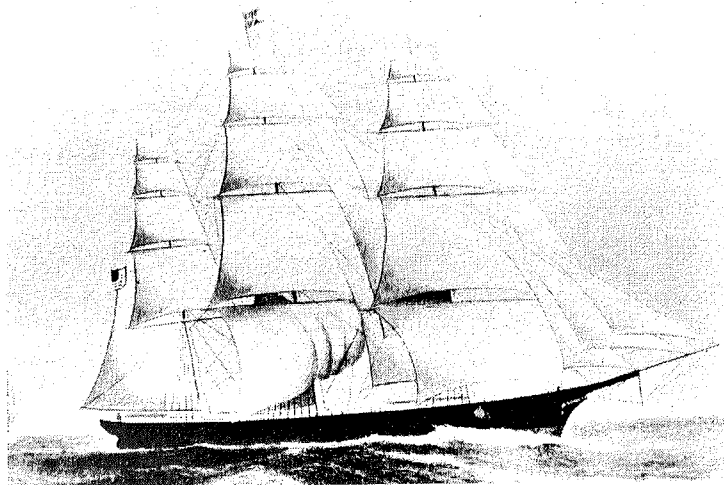
17. Mr and Mrs Fred Armstrong circa 1930.  
(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Lamb of Runcorn)



18. Slacks Creek New Wesleyan Church circa 1920's.  
(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Lamb of Runcorn)

Although Slacks Creek today demarcates the boundaries of distinct properties, earlier farms crossed the creek as did a natural ford which allowed access at low tide. Steam ships collecting timber co-ordinated their loading activities to avoid being stranded by the rapidly receding tide. On one occasion, with that prospect in view, a winch operator had to keep working after virtually losing an ear in an accident. The creek claimed at least one life on the 18th of December 1867 when Samuel Markwell's three year old son, Edward Samuel, drowned in a deep waterhole.

The families who lived and worked around the present campus site were intimately associated with those who farmed throughout the region. They worked and socialised together forming ties of business, friendship and marriage. For example, Samuel Markwell's daughter Mary Ann married James Dennis in 1867. James arrived in Australia from Cornwall aboard a fast Boston clipper, the Black Ball Line's "Flying Cloud". He and his brothers George and William, with their wives and children repaid the cost of their passages to Baines and Co. with land orders received under the Land Order system.



19. The ship "Flying Cloud", source *The Courier*, 17.1.1863.  
The Boston built clipper brought immigrants from England, breaking speed records in the process. (Photo courtesy of John Oxley Library)

In 1868 James and Mary Ann took up acreage in the Eight Mile Plains Agricultural Reserve around what is now Daisy Hill, so named for the daisies which grew upon the second of the three hills making up the current suburb's high places. James initially selected sixty acres but by 1882 he had acquired over eight hundred. Much of this was the Oakey Mountain property bought in 1875 after a five year lease. The Dennis association with the region spans over a century, with other family members engaging in agriculture pursuits in the area until very recently.

Joseph, Samuel and Isaac Dennis all worked properties in the region, Isaac owning land down to the bank of Slacks Creek. His "Springlands" property produced fruit and vegetables, maize, sorghum, sugar cane for fodder and honey. During the Second World War, he ran a dairy and a Jersey stud. During the Great Depression of the 1930s Joseph Dennis called his eighty acre property "Hard Up Farm". Occupying part of the western side of Daisy Hill Road it produced honey, pawpaws, pineapples, bananas and vegetables such as peas, carrots and beans. Sam Dennis, who occupies his farm to this day (1997) grew commercial quantities of strawberries and bananas.

The Dennis family intermarried with the Shailers whose connection with the region goes back to the 1860s. James and Mary Ann Dennis's daughter Nanny married Frederick Francis Risen Shailer's son Alfred. F. F. R. Shailer came to Australia in

1865 from Chelsea aboard the Black Ball Line vessel "Sultana". The Shailer forebears conducted plant nurseries in England back to the early eighteenth century.

Apart from his activities as a farmer and orchardist F. F. R. Shailer was Clerk of the Tingalpa Provisional Board, the forerunner of the Tingalpa Shire Council which held local government jurisdiction over the region for much of the latter part of the nineteenth century. In the 1960s and 1970s Glen Shailer carried on in F. F. R. Shailer's footsteps representing his local area as a Councillor on the Albert Shire Council and as Chairman of the Logan Shire Council in the early 1980s. F. F. R. Shailer was also head teacher at the Slacks Creek Provisional School from late November 1878 to March 1880.

James Dennis's Oakey Mountain property was sold in 1914 and for almost a quarter of a century it was in other hands. In 1938, in the dismal aftermath of the Great Depression, Nanny Shailer bought it back, Glen Shailer working to rebuild the property. To this day (1997) Shailers still live and work on the Oakey Mountain property. F. F. R. Shailer's nephew, Alfred (not to be confused with his son of the same name), bought a portion of Samuel Markwell's holdings north of the campus site in 1898. On it he grew, in the Shailer tradition, mandarins and oranges. Yet another Shailer, Francis Jnr., supplied timber for the construction of the Loganlea rail bridge across the Logan River.

Thus far it can be seen that the newly formed government of Queensland enticed thousands to the colony in an attempt to closely settle the land with small farmers. At the same time it encouraged large capital-intensive plantations, using cheap imported labour, to compete with these farmers; but cotton and sugar production on the plantations collapsed and the mixed agricultural pursuits of the long-staying pioneer settlers proved sustainable.

By the 1890s and into the twentieth century dairying became an agricultural mainstay in a cornucopian breadbasket on Brisbane's doorstep. Because the big plantations were ultimately unable to dominate the region the families who arrived during the 1860s and 1870s migrations from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany became the backbone of the area. These families consolidated their holdings, improved their farms and in the process formed a tightknit community (evidenced by close marital ties), which sustained them as they co-operatively established social institutions which have lasted to the present day.

It is clear that after the "Ellerslie" property was sold by its long-time owners to a Mr McKinnon in 1964 it was in turn sold to an entrepreneur whose intention was to

fatten cattle on the property's paddocks. However, this project was unsuccessful in part because of the relatively unproductive nature of the pastures which were unsuited for this type of intensive grazing. In 1980, following its sale to a failed land bank in the 1970s, the property passed into the hands of Burchell and Partners, a team of consulting engineers. Through a series of purchases, "Ellerslie", portions of the Armstrongs' holdings, the Harris land, and the Holdsworth farm then became the property of the State Government Insurance Office in 1984. Suncorp, as it is known today, intended to subdivide the property for residential development. The corporation retained ownership for nearly a decade and a half until 1996 when it passed into the hands of Griffith University following its purchase by the Queensland Government Department of Education for the purpose of constructing a university campus.

Nonetheless, the establishment of a campus of a larger University on these various holdings was by no means a *fait accompli*. There was a period in 1990 when the land now emerging as the home of Logan City's most significant educational institution was proposed as a potential location for a very different enterprise. In 1990 a consortium comprising Australian Golf Management Limited and a foreign investor unsuccessfully sought to expand the current Logan City Golf Course. The proposed Wakansa Golf Course Resort, including housing estate and additional nine hole courses, would have utilised the university site and the 1.6 hectare Loganlea Picnic Grounds.

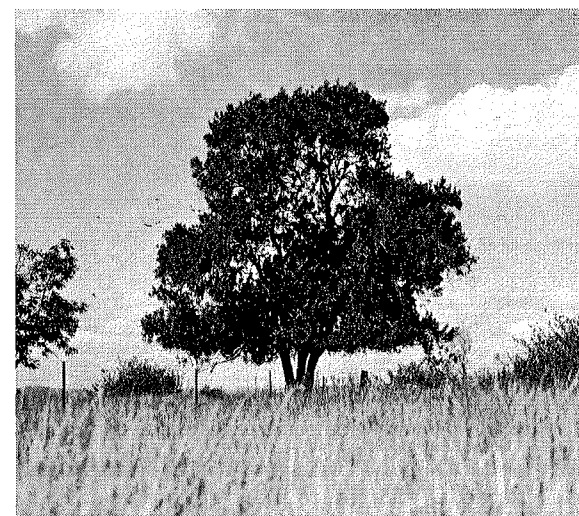
### Griffith University: Logan Campus

However, the resort did not proceed. Instead Logan is to join those cities which support and are enriched by a local institution of higher education. Rather than acquiring a place of sport and entertainment a community of research, teaching, and learning is being established. This particular cluster of finely interrelated activities has evolved over centuries in the world's universities. Yet the Logan Campus of Griffith University will not only be characterised by its continuation of these traditional forms of University activity. It will also be known for its innovative and sophisticated approach to these scholarly practices.

From the early planning stages the University has sought to integrate campus architectural distinctiveness with student needs, regional characteristics, evolving technologies, and degree course profiles. This will be achieved in the Stage One built environment which is to fulfil the needs of the Logan campus community until the turn of the century. The award winning campus master plan integrates pragmatic design features such as the north-south orientation of buildings. Griffith's reputation for environmental responsibility will be enhanced by the incorporation of energy

conserving building design features, extensive landscaping using native species common to the region, and the use of low maintenance concrete and masonry building materials. As well, it synthesises campus architecture with the contemporary character of Logan City, the local landscape, and the views to Mt. Gravatt and the Logan River Valley which are afforded by the site's topography. Yet the campus design will distinguish it from the suburban commercial architecture of the city and will express its cultural significance.

The best physical features of Griffith University's Nathan, Mt. Gravatt and Gold Coast campuses have been considered in planning the Logan campus. Logan will complement the existing character of the University by limiting building height, facilitating access for the disabled, minimising reflected glare, arresting the monotony of exterior walls by modulating flat surfaces, punctuating colour consistency with appropriate variations of building materials and colour, and by utilising a variety of flat and pitched roofing designs.



20. Old trees which have been preserved through a redesign of the initial 850 space carpark. The Brushbox trees occur naturally. The Strangler Fig probably grew from seeds spread by birds.

The heart of the new campus will be at the highest point of the site, where the driveway, homestead and other buildings of the "Ellerslie" property used to be located. The macadamia tree that the homestead drive circled around will feature as the "Tree of Knowledge" in the campus court. In place of the old homestead this central quadrangle will be bounded by the Information Services building, Community Place, the Auditorium and Learning Centres. In particular, the Learning Centres constitute

the point at which Logan's academic philosophy merges with building design and with the learning process itself. The principal academic functions of the campus will be accommodated in buildings constituting their own distinct academic precinct. The Logan Campus has been intricately planned to incorporate all that is best at Griffith University's other locations with the environmental features of the site. So too the academic profile of Logan has been designed to reflect the University's established strengths and to serve the needs of the local community.



21. The "Tree of Knowledge" will be preserved as a feature in the Central Court of the campus.  
The *Macadonia Integrifolia* is the original native species of the Queensland Nut Tree.  
The tree is not far from the original homestead.

To facilitate this process the Logan Campus Academic Planning Taskforce was established in August 1995 with University, State Government and local representation. In the degree planning process local input was sought, including suggestions from regional high schools and the completion of a major survey of over 4,200 of their senior students.

At the forefront of planning considerations were the requirements to create new and innovative courses which would be readily accessible by the regional student body and fundamentally directed towards sound career outcomes. To achieve these objectives course accessibility has been prioritised and firm links have been established with business, industry, government and community services. This has been achieved by two methods. First, the degree courses will be substantially oriented to flexible methods of learning. Second, each course will include practical work components.

Flexible learning is a method of course provision which makes innovative use of advanced communications technology. Computer based Internet and CD-ROM technology supplements traditional audio-visual and printed materials to allow students to study on campus, at home or at other appropriate locations at times convenient to them. Griffith University's Faculty of Arts is a provider of quality flexible learning subjects to Open Learning Australia and is well established in the delivery of resource-based subjects. With flexible learning as an integral feature of Logan's academic profile the practical means to realise its significant benefits to students have been incorporated into building design. Just as water, power and roads are fundamental infrastructure at the Logan Campus so too is the electronic communications pipeline connecting students, academics and researchers. Griffith's Faculty of Science is an acknowledged leader in the provision of degree courses at the forefront of Internet Applications and Communications Technology.

Links with employers will be consolidated in the integration of practical work components into Logan's degree courses. The importance of new business development and entrepreneurship to the local economy is recognised in the business management and enterprise management degree courses. Regional students may make the transition to the Logan Campus from either Logan TAFE's or the Redland Bay Community College's business studies courses. In a similar manner students in Logan TAFE's Diploma of Child Care may progress to the Bachelor of Human Services-Child and Family Studies. Career-based links may also develop between Bachelor of Nursing students and the nearby Logan Hospital. The Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Nutrition will foster similar relationships between students and the regional food industry.

An extensive employment service will be combined with practical work and other industry links to assist graduates in the transition from University to employment. To this end, all courses have been designed with evolving regional and national employment trends in mind.

In these ways Flexible Learning and industry links will enhance the Logan graduate's access to courses and potential employment. Initiatives such as the Priority Access System, Unireach, Tertiary Access Program, Early Admissions System and Deferred Admission will enable regional students and others to plan their University studies with certainty around their varied commitments and personal circumstances. A well resourced careers service will maximise the benefits of links with employers who have been involved in the planning of Griffith University's Logan Campus and the provision of its practical work components.

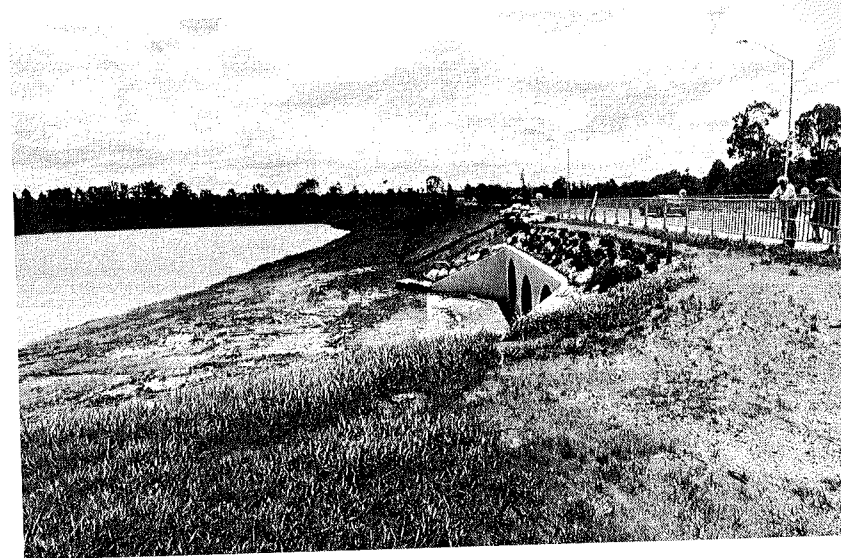


At this point several interesting conclusions can be drawn about the early settlement of the Loganlea area, the Griffith University site in particular, the wider Logan district in general, and the establishment of the Logan Campus of Griffith University. First, the indigenous people of the region sustained themselves with their time-honoured practices in an environment which provided them with an abundance of natural resources. Here as elsewhere, they resisted white settlement which dispossessed them of their land and threatened to destroy their culture. On the other hand, a few instances of personal co-operation between settlers and Aborigines mitigated some of the harshest effects of the larger historical process.

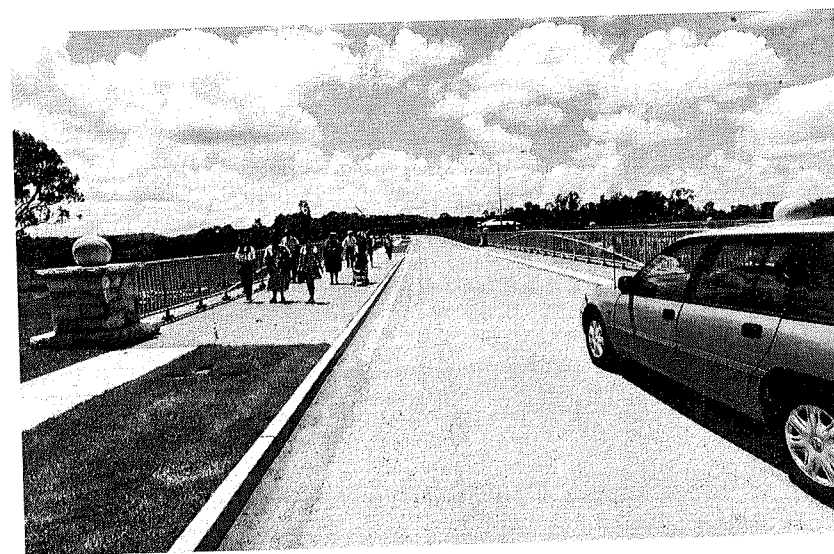
The farming pioneers of this region were linked by the complex ties of mass immigration, kinship, business interests, property ownership, common agricultural pursuits, shared adversity in the face of flood and drought, friendships, social interaction and civic duties often selflessly performed. All of these combine in the history of the Logan Campus of Griffith University and its environs. The land use of the site itself has its own special interest. Nonetheless, of particular note is the way in which initially loosely related families, individuals, farming pursuits, and larger historical processes have interacted over the past one hundred and fifty years in a way at first not formally intended. The plantation society did not take hold. Instead, the battling small farmers struggled then flourished. Together they produced a strong community of pioneering families who farmed the area for generations and established the beginnings of a modern society in the Logan region. However, in the face of expanding urbanisation and the march of time their stories are moving into the annals of local history. Their lives await closer documentation. This task may well be carried out by the research efforts of undergraduate and postgraduate students studying in the Faculty of Arts at the Griffith University's Logan Campus.

Today, on land where perhaps Indigenous people once roamed, timber was harvested, pastoralists grazed cattle, mixed farmers struggled and dairying later succeeded a new activity is about to commence. The Logan Campus will fulfil the historic transition of this fifty-five hectare site's land use. From activities which shared the common feature of extracting produce for the benefit of the human body the land will now accommodate an institution devoted to the educational fulfilment of its students and the cultural enrichment of its host city.

\* The original name of the property and homestead was 'Ellerslie', and the road was also spelt that way. In the 1920s, Mr F. A. Stimpson adopted the form 'Eleresley' for the stud to differentiate it from the property as a whole. In the postwar period the 'r' was inadvertently dropped from the road name by successive local councils (hence 'Elleslie'), but the original spelling ('Ellerslie') has now been restored.



22. "Lake Ellerslie" under construction. The new lake has been named to retain the "Ellerslie" association after the original road into the campus site was renamed "University Drive".



23. Entrance to the Logan Campus on University Drive. The bridge structure provides a "sense of arrival" at the new Lake Ellerslie.

