

WOOMBYE

Woombye is 36 metres above sea level and has an urban population of approx 720. (Information from ABS and DNR)

The name, Woombye, is derived from the Aboriginal word, wambai meaning axe handles made from the black myrtle tree.

The occupation of the Woombye district was delayed by a proclamation by Governor Gipps in 1842. But in 1860 pastoralists occupied the district and in 1863 the timbergetters began removing cedar, beech and pine which were snigged to Eudlo Creek and rafted down the river to Maroochydore for shipment to Brisbane.

With the discovery of gold at Gympie the government built the Brisbane to Gympie Road in 1868. As Woombye was exactly halfway between Brisbane and Gympie, Cobb & Co, carrying mail and passengers twice a week, overnighed at Woombye on the two-day journey to Gympie. Cobb & Co built a hotel, a keeper's residence, horse stables and a horse yard. Cobb's Camp Hotel opened in 1870. Both a police station and a post office were established in 1878. Cobb & Co ceased to operate after 1879. McCallum & Murdock operated a coach service from 1885. A Magistrates Court was also established in Woombye but removed to Nambour in the 1890s. The railway line opened from Landsborough to Yandina in January 1891 and to Gympie later that year. Roads such as the Bruce Highway opened in the 1930s and the Nambour - Woombye Bypass in 1988.

Some pioneer early selectors were Costar, Keil, Samwell, Stumpf, Heddon, Cogill, Aird, Boudet, Shurvell, Davy, Rose, Brinkley and McClintock. A community hall, the Woombye School of Arts, opened in 1898.

Woombye has enjoyed an excellent reputation with citrus and pineapple production. The Sunshine Coast Show began at Woombye in 1900 as the Maroochy Agricultural Horticultural Pastoral & Industrial Association Show. It moved to Nambour in 1909. Small pineapple canneries were set up about the 1920s but closed within a few years. Farmers have sent their fruit to the Golden Circle Cannery in Brisbane for many years. Bulk loading began in the 1960s. The Big Pineapple which promotes local agricultural industries is known Australia wide as a tourist attraction.