

YANDINA

Yandina is 15 metres above sea level and the urban population is 1013. (Information from ABS and DNR)

The name, Yandina, is derived from the Aboriginal words, yan meaning go and dinna on foot. The area around Yandina Creek was the earliest to be known by this name. A rich heritage of Aboriginal names abounds: Ninderry, Maroochy, Dunethin, Wappa and Kulangoor.

Yandina is the oldest town in Maroochy Shire. The first land selection was in 1868, proclamation of the town was 1870 and the town survey was 1871. Surveyor William Fryar's recommendation spoke of the navigable river and the supply of fresh water. The site was half way between the established towns of Caboolture and Gympie. Yandina was to be a metropolis. But the town was slow to develop until the railway was opened in 1891.

The approach to Yandina over the James Low Bridge is one of the most historic places on the Sunshine Coast dating from when the Brisbane to Gympie Road crossed by a ford in 1868. A commercial centre was established with a hotel, post office and store. Cobb & Co had stables at the settlement at South Maroochy Crossing from 1868 to 1879. At first the coaches overnighted there. A Telegraph Office was opened in 1874.

Yandina's first hotel closed in 1883 and Yandina was a dry town for five years until the present hotel was built near the traffic lights. It was shifted on log rollers to its present site near the railway station while trading all the while and upstairs the hotelkeeper's wife had a baby. The town's streets, Stevens, Farrell, Scott, Buckle, Fleming and Low and are named after the first buyers of corner blocks.

Cedar, beech and pine were the first timbers in demand. They were cut down, snigged to the riverbank, made into rafts and floated down the river to be milled at Maroochydhore or taken to Brisbane. When they were all cut out, hardwoods which were too heavy to be rafted were sent by rail. The cleared land was then used for dairying, cane growing and fruit growing. Yandina has always been an agricultural community.

Some early pioneer families were: Low, Stevens, Dyne, Chambers, Fleming, Sommer, Burton, Best, Flatt, Meldrum and Potts.

The first school was established in 1879 half way between Nambour and Yandina. It was called the Maroochie Provisional School and catered for the children from Maroochy (Yandina) and Petrie Creek (Nambour). Yandina Provisional School was established in 1898.

Yandina has been called a river town, a highway town, a timber town and a railway town. In 2007 it is known as a ginger town and recently APN opened a large newspaper printing factory.