

**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, the Kabi Kabi people and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.**

### **Short History of Wallace House**



This land on which Wallace House stands was bought by Walter B Hay. After the home he built on the land was burned down, the land was resold and subdivided. Arthur Wallace bought portion 151 of that land in 1930.

Arthur Wallace was born in Mackay in 1876. After qualifying as a surveyor in 1901, he married Alice Dimmock, whose father

was the Mackay Mayor. From 1904 to 1930. Arthur was a member of the British Government Colonial service and spent many years in the Malay States. Their two daughters, Jean and Barbara, were born during that period. Wallace House was the family's retirement home, designed by R M Wilson.

It was considered to be an authentic example of a Californian and Federation style bungalow. Cooroy builder, Dick Cadell, built the house for £1,246. Alice is reputed to have paid for the furniture with her winnings from contract bridge tournaments in Malaya. The Wallace family moved in on June 17, 1931. Dick Cadell later added a boat house and jetty with a causeway to the house over the swamp for an extra £120.

Wallace House was designed to accommodate the colonial lifestyle the family had become used to before returning to Australia. There were servants' quarters at the back and wash basins in the bedrooms of the main house. There are stories of shark jaws being tied to balustrades, shelves of bottled snakes and a carpet of macadamia shells beneath the house. Electricity was connected to the house in 1947 but it was not until 1966, twelve years after Alice died, that town water was installed. Their widowed daughter Jean, whose husband and son had been killed in a boating accident in 1933, lived with Arthur until his death in 1974.

In 1978 the house was sold but it was not until 1980 that the family finally moved out. Between 1980 and 1992, Wallace House became a rental property and had a variety of tenants. There are rumours that the house was even a casino and later a brothel. In 1992 Noosa Council bought Wallace House as a future home for the arts and crafts of Noosa Shire. The house was officially opened on June 8 1993 with a membership of 150.

Since then the membership has increased to over 400. Despite being damaged by fire in 1999, which took nearly two years to repair, Wallace House has had many successful years of hosting workshops, courses and seminars in a wide variety of arts and crafts.