Speaking About Place

NOCTURNE Project

Brisbane | Bundaberg Region | Grafton | Muswellbrook
New South Wales | Toowoomba | Victoria | Woolli | Xmas Street

cooper+spowart
Our arts practice is informed by our ongoing and evolving connection with Place. Our Place-Projects are influenced by the context and the consequences of living within a constantly changing landscape.

Through our Nocturne documentary photography and Facebook social media projects, we have explored connections with Place in urban and regional communities throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

As the Nocturne project has evolved, we have discovered the importance of sharing place stories through images, words, in person and online. Through Speaking about Place we have extended the potential for this project to share the transformative nature of lived experience and everyday life in each community.

Victoria Cooper+Doug Spowart

The online Nocturne Projects can be accessed at http://nocturnelink.com
What the dancing school girls saw ...
The lodge. My grandad went there, and would never tell us what they did.

Masonic lodge my dad was a long time member and yes Donna he never told us anything either. I also went to dance lessons in the downstairs area for a few years

When I was a child I did danse classes there 1965...1973 with Larry Ryan Dance School(Larry came to Childers as an ANZ bank teller on country service)some wonderful memories of those days although to this day have not been around the back of the Masonic Lodge building. as young kids we had ourselves convinced there were died bodies out the back...

Oh and it wasn't that pretty blue building back then either it was a big scary brownie/ red building and from the front some nights it looked like it had teeth...... Lof funny now

we used to sneak up the steps ever so quietly, and lift the peephole in the door, then someone would creak a board, and we would race down the step as we thought it was haunted......during dance lessons.

I'd forgotten the peephole/keyhole. We never could see anything much through it, but it was all so cool to sneak up there.

I remember my dad going to lodge with elvin did not see my dad for two days never told what they did there

Yes! I remember the forbidden stairs and the creepy room above.
What was revealed behind this façade ...
I loved Gerard's store. I still often dream of it... I couldn't figure out why I saw the front as I did, but seeing this pic, I realise it's because the shop front WAS exactly the way I dream it now...

Gerards took up the whole corner and was the place to shop for special gifts like engagement, wedding or extra special birthday presents. It was a great loss to the town when it was forced to close. I have never seen a one stop gift store as good as Gerards in all the years since its' closure, and I still have a beautiful textured glass serving bowl my husband bought for me from Gerards for my 18th birthday.

Yep - same building. From memory I think Gerards - which was a beautiful department store - also included the Bargains shop on the left of the photo. I can remember gazing at the goodies in the front windows as a little girl - it was very glamorous! Wish it still looked like this.

What happened to that beautiful old facade?

It would be great if the facade is still in place behind the iron. What an improvement for the main street. Can it be done?

What a tragedy. Could it be restored?

You always knew when it was the start of winter when you walked in and could smell the donuts cooking, one of my favourite kid memories!

It was Gerards we used to have lunch in the eatery in the middle of the store when we were at tafe.

It means more now because I found out it was family that owned it...

I remember Gerards!! and it closing.

Gerrards Pty the big supermarkets killed The Abrahams business
Some ‘fishy’ stories about a creek ...
It used to have mussels in it and I think I remember something about the first white explorers to the area finding piles of shells left by the indigenous inhabitants of the area.

Still does in some areas Brad

Me and my mate's use to fish this spot 25 years ago. Good times

Old fishing and hang out

I remember you never catching anything Adam M

I worked with green corps about 8 years ago and we did restore it. We planed a lot of native trees down there and cleaned it all up... Then a flood came through and washed it all away. It was all just a waste of time, and a lot of effort

I was about to say I thought this was restored within the last decade, they also cleaned up the walkway and the little creek crossing bridge but then it all got destroyed by floods.

Used this as a photoshoot on wedding day.

Would back up when the Hunter flooded water would be almost up to Cheats furniture shop. Also a poor fellow fell to his death in the 70's I think.

i kissed alot of beautiful women down there

Very moody and yes mysterious. Kind of exotic too, part of a jungle in Africa or South America perhaps. As for a story, it's a nice place to go for a walk (where there is suitable access) lots of interesting locals to catch up with. I often see lizards basking on a rock or log, or ducks going about their business and try to sing along with the Rosellas and Cockatoos in the trees, OK well maybe not lol.

I remember kicking the snake into u at pinnerco caravan park that time ...lol ...it was u wasn't it ...

I remember that to LOL. We did have some bloody good times.
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