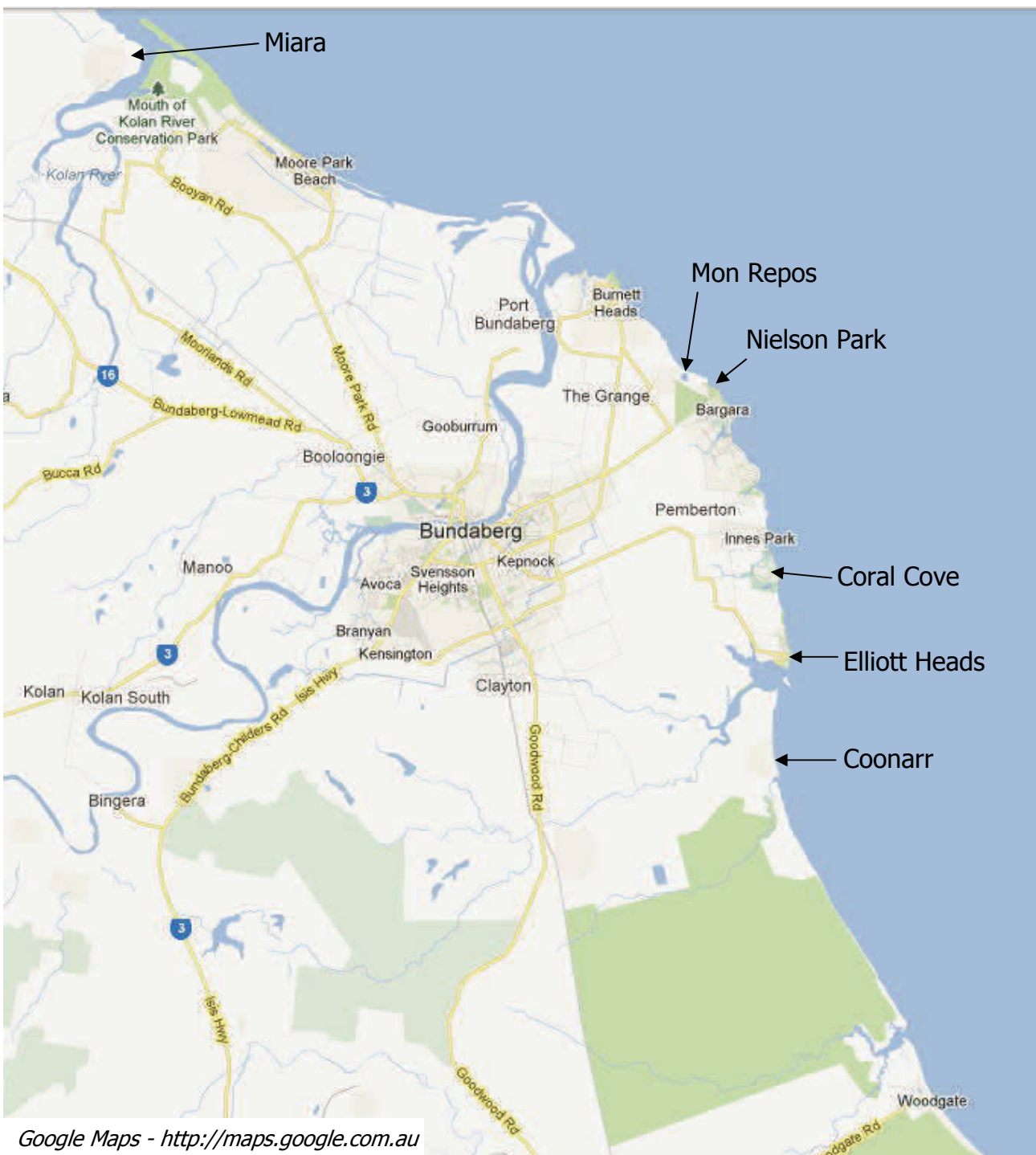


# Our coastal localities: names & notes from north to south



Google Maps - <http://maps.google.com.au>

## Miara

1. From Aboriginal word for 'wild woman' or 'wild Mary'
2. By early settler John Broom, for two family names 'Margaret' & 'Ian'

The first person to secure land at Miara was James Palmer in 1870. John Broom was next in 1872, then his brothers Stephen and Abraham - the Brooms owned much of the land in Miara. In the mid-1890s A.M. Broom, Otto Mikkelson and Douglas Helmore purchased Greenwood Mill (on Yandaran Creek) and re-erected it at Miara. The mill began crushing in 1897 and was successful until its closure at the end of the 1917 season. Advertised for sale by auction in July 1918 it was at some point mortgaged to the Fairymead Company. Fairymead later cancelled the debt in return for the land.



bun01498: Miara Mill (date unknown)

Mrs Miara Ferguson (nee Broom, b.1893), niece of John Broom, and daughter of Abraham Broom, claimed that Miara was named for two family names commonly used by the Broom family, as above. Miara herself was named after the family property. She became Queensland's first female sugar chemist when she qualified by 1916. Her intent was to work at her family's Miara Mill testing the Commercial Cane Sugar (CCS) content of the cane crushed at the mill.

Always a popular fishing and picnic spot, a caravan park was established around 1970, and Miara has become a popular relaxation area for residents of the Bundaberg Region and beyond.

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## Moore Park Beach

### Isaac Moore (c1821-1903), landowner - Tantitha Station

The land on which Moore Park Beach now sits was originally part of Tantitha Station. Tantitha went through several hands before Isaac Moore, of Barambah Station, went into partnership with James Henderson. When Henderson pulled out in 1882, Isaac partnered with his brother. At some stage they made the Moore Park land available to Gooburrum Shire Council.



bun02133: Man on motorcycle on Moore Park Beach, 1942

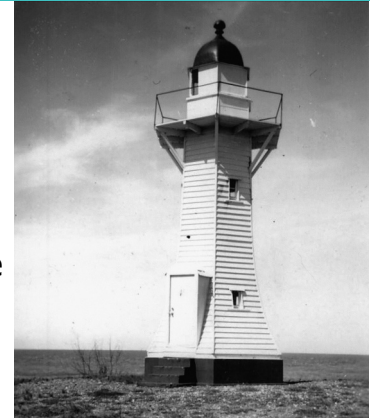
In 1960 Moore Park and North Coast were officially merged to become known as Moore Park. Prior to the first world war Moore Park was a little known village with a few fishing shacks. Its reputation for fishing grew and the population swelled to hundreds during weekends as more people discovered the hideaway.

Gradually more land became available for residential settlement and the town grew. Shops, a lifesaving club, bowling club, and businesses formed. In 2002 the local Community Association asked for a review of the town's name and in 2005 its name was formally changed to Moore Park Beach.

## Burnett Heads

### James Charles Burnett (1815-1854), Surveyor & Explorer

Exploring on foot in 1847 Burnett became the first white man to stand on the future site of Bundaberg on 1 April that year. However, on this trip he wasn't able to get through the Baldwin Swamp to find where the river met the sea. He returned later in 1847 by boat and found the mouth of the (now) Burnett River. Sir Charles Fitzroy, Governor of New South Wales, officially named it the Burnett River on 7 September 1847.



bun00442: Burnett Heads Lighthouse (1873-1972)

Originally known as Wallace Town (John and Michael Wallace were among the first settlers of the area), the name Burnett Heads most likely came about due to common usage. As the head of the Burnett River, in the early days the locality was often referred to as *the* Burnett Heads. This then morphed into the shorter form 'Burnett Heads'. In 1883 the Burnett Heads/Port Bundaberg area was briefly known as the Barolin Marine Township, and in 1885 as New Bundaberg, as land sales companies tried to sell allotments.

The original lighthouse was erected in 1873 and the telegraph link to Bundaberg was established in 1875. A few years later in 1878 the Provisional School was opened.

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## Mon Repos

### 'My Rest'

Augustus Purling Barton took up Moolboolaman Station, near Mt Perry, in 1860. In 1882 he decided to enter the sugar business and took up the land at Mon Repos to plant cane and erect a mill. He also built a residence for the family to spend time at the seaside. Barton had visited the Schloss Monrepos in Germany as a child, and this was perhaps his inspiration for the name of his new residence. The beach takes its name from this plantation/home.



bun02708: Turtle at Mon Repos

Although now known for its turtle rookery, in 1893 the French, Queensland and NSW governments chose Mon Repos as the Australian terminus for an undersea cable between here and New Caledonia. This cable linked Australia by telegraph to the rest of the world. It was so important that at the start of the First World War in 1914 members of the Bundaberg Rifle Club were ordered to guard the cable and watch that it was not interfered with. In 1912 Bert Hinkler conducted a test flight of his aircraft on the beach.

The mill, and some other parts of Mon Repos were purchased by the Queensland National Bank in 1899. In 1985 developers won a 3-year battle to subdivide land at Mon Repos but with limits on street and property lighting and after agreeing to give the land nearest the beach for environmental park purposes.

Today it is well-known as a turtle conservation park where visitors can see turtles nesting and hatching on the beach of a night time during November to March.



## Nielson Park

### Charles Frederick Nielson (1871-1924), State Member

Nielson Park was once part of Barolin Station and later a 1200 acre pasturage reserve. Woongarra Shire Council designated a large portion of this reserve as Nielson Park in 1912. From about 1914 the Council started to develop the area as a tourist resort.



The entrance, Nielson Park, Bargara

bun00889: Entrance Gates to Nielsen [sic] Park

The Council used to operate free excursion trains to Neilson Park, and after a drowning at the beach in 1916, a team of 'proficient swimmers' also travelled by the trains to look out for the public. This free travel ceased in 1918 when the State Government took over the rail line. This then prompted the formation of the Bundaberg Surf Lifesaving Club which has its headquarters at Nielson Park.

Other memories of Nielson Park include the regular Railway Picnics from approximately 1922-1972 and the roller skating rink. This rink was opened by Norm and Herb Spence in 1947, sold to Ernest Ward in 1975, and closed in the late 1990s. The archway pictured above was removed in the 1970s.

The area was named after C.F. Nielson. Born in Denmark Charles was educated in Bundaberg and Maryborough and practiced as a solicitor in Bundaberg. Heavily involved in the sugar industry and serving as a director of the Bundaberg Foundry Co., Nielson was also elected to State parliament as the member for Musgrave from 1904-1907.

## Bargara

### *Barolin & Woongarra* - local government authorities

Originally known as Sandhills, Bargara was part of Barolin Station, held by A & A.H. Brown. In 1889 land development began in earnest and allotments in 'Sandhills Estate' went on sale. In 1913 the new Woongarra Tramway was inspected by the then Queensland Government Railways Commissioner. He declared that Sandhills should change its name to Bargara, after the two local government authorities - Barolin and Woongarra. Over time, the spelling has changed from Bargarra to Bargara, and the pronunciation from Bar-garra to B'gara.



bun02704: Esplanade at Bargara

The main streets for Sandhills were originally named, with one exception, after fish. Bauer St was Mullett St, See St was Dolphin St, Tanner St was Barramundi St, Grimwood St was Baracouta St, and Croft St was Bonito St. The odd one out was Platypus Street which is now Holland St.

Bargara is probably best known for its beaches, and in particular The Basin, a horseshoe-shaped swimming hole. The rock wall enclosing the Basin was apparently built by South Sea Island (Kanaka) labourers. Another institution in Bargara is the Bargara Hotel (originally Sandhills Hotel). It was first opened in 1893 in the hollow in front of the present golf club house. In the 1920s it was moved and rebuilt on its present site (Bauer Street) and the name changed to Bargara Hotel in 1936.

## Innes Park

### **Sidney North Innes (1864/65-1940) & Caroline Matilda Innes (1869-1952/53), landowners**

Sidney North Innes owned Walla Station near Gin Gin for over 40 years. In 1912 his wife Caroline purchased two portions of the former Barolin Station and these would eventually become the site of Innes Park and surrounds. Sidney and Caroline donated the land that now forms the public park area of Innes Park to Woongarra Shire Council in approximately 1930.



Innes Park, 2009. BRC Photo Gallery

The Innes' built Barolin Homestead, designed by local architect F.H. Faircloth. In the 1940s Sidney Burnett Innes, son of Sidney North and Caroline began subdividing the property allowing for rural and residential settlement and the development of what would become Innes Park.

Pearl Logan, longtime resident of Innes Park, and former Woongarra Shire Councillor, reportedly instigated the process with Woongarra Shire Council to have Innes Park formally recognised as a town, named after its pioneers Sidney North and Caroline Matilda Innes. This recognition came on 9 October 1986 with the formal publication in the Government Gazette occurring on 25 October 1986.

## Coral Cove

### **Name origin unknown**

Designed as an international resort, golf course, country club and residential estate, Coral Cove had its beginnings around 1987 when golfing developer Robert (Bob) Johnson Snr returned from a US trip with a dream to build a new golf course in the Wide Bay area. Seven years later, in approx. 1994, a nine-hole course was opened. In 1996 an original 900 lots were released for residential development. The course was later upgraded to 18 holes.



Coral Cove, 2009. BRC Photo Gallery

In 2003 Bundaberg-based development company Pacific Shores Pty Ltd partnered with Austcorp, the latter managing the resort and residential development. In April 2005 Austcorp bought out Pacific Shores to become sole owners.

Coral Cove celebrated their eighth year of development in March 2005 with a family fun weekend. At the time there were big plans to upgrade Coral Cove - the golf club, resort, residential area, and community and active spaces. In 2008 Austcorp announced plans for the installation of a recreation park for the whole community, as well as an application to Council for 775 more residential lots and four integrated housing sites (212 dwellings total), which would be developed over 10-15 years.

Today it is a popular seaside suburb for golfers and families alike.

## Elliott Heads

### Gilbert Elliott (1796-1871), Member for Wide Bay & first speaker of Queensland parliament

Maryborough Harbour Master Richard B. Sheridan, explored the Elliott River in 1861. He apparently decided to name it after Gilbert Eliot (with one 'l'), a man who had taken up pastoral leases in the Wide Bay and represented Burnett in the NSW Legislative Assembly. Eliot was opposed to Queensland separating from NSW but won the seat of Wide Bay in 1860 and was chosen as the Parliament's first speaker. Elliott Heads takes its name from the Elliott River.



bun01791: Picnic at Elliott Heads River Mouth, c1920

Originally known as Springfield, the name Elliott Heads most likely came about through common usage in referring to the head of the Elliott River. The name was officially changed by the Queensland Place Names Board on 1 Nov 1967.

Another former name from the area is Airey (also seen as Airy) Park. This was the name of the school from 1912 to 1967 when it was changed to Elliott Heads State School. The school took its name from the Breusch family property opposite the school site. The Breusch's had named their property Airy Park after Peter Airey, a schoolteacher turned Labor politician. He was a pupil-teacher at Bundaberg North from 1878-1883 and several members of the Breusch family were school teachers at the time.

## Coonarr

### Name origin unknown

The name Coonarr has been around since at least 1934 - the *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton) recorded on 1 February of that year a near-tragedy when the motor boat *Cygnets* went up in flames off Coonarr beach. All crew made it to shore and were brought to Bundaberg by Scoutmaster Rev. Osborn, who happened to be overseeing a Scout camp at Coonarr Creek.



bun02028: Whale washed up on Coonarr Beach, c1930

It is believed most of the development of Coonarr has occurred since the 1970s. In 1970 93.5 hectares of wallum heath land was designated a wildflower reserve, after Vera Scarth-Johnson - local artist, botanist, and conservationist - secured protection for the area. It was known as the Coonarr Wildflower Reserve until 24 August 2005 when it was renamed the Vera Scarth-Johnson Wildflower Reserve.

In 1996 sand mining commenced at Coonarr Creek. A pilot plant initially produced 12,000 tonnes per year to the foundry and swimming pool industries, and for architectural coatings and decorative finishes. A new plant was constructed in February 2001 and can produce 100,000 tonnes per year.

In 1997 it was proposed to build a railway to Coonarr from the Surat Basin coalfield at Kogan Creek near Chinchilla. A port would also be constructed at the northern end of Coonarr beach so the coal could be exported to Asia. Bundaberg was competing with two other proposals which would utilise the Gladstone Port and had to be chosen by the State Government as the preferred option. However, the proposal was believed to have stalled in 1999.

## Woodgate Beach

### Thomas Wood, first permanent resident

Once a horse paddock for Blissett and West of Goodwood, Woodgate developed into a holiday resort for the people of the Isis district, and then to tourists from further afield.

Originally named either Ascot by West after England's Ascot racecourse, or Ascot after the Hotel Ascot built at Woodgate by Mr McKenzie, the name changed around June 1899 to Westgate, after C.J. West of Goodwood (Charles West built one of the first houses at Woodgate). It was desired to establish a Post Office around this time and to save confusion with the suburb of Ascot in Brisbane the name was changed.



bun00692: Brand family in front of swimming enclosure at Woodgate, 1940

In December 1907 the *Brisbane Courier* provides a brief write up of "Westgate, with its miles of golden sands, excellent fishing, and safe bathing...", which was a popular holiday spot for local farmers and their families. It took a few hours in those days to drive (in horse and cart) from Childers to Woodgate (nowadays it takes approximately 30 minutes by car).

At some point between 1907 and early 1921 (when 'Woodgate' appears to have first been mentioned in the Trove online historic newspaper collection) the name changed again, this time to Woodgate, after Thomas Wood, the first permanent resident. The name changed for a third time to Woodgate Beach in 2003.

Farming of rice and pineapples was tried without success in the early years, as was wine production. Woodgate has developed into a seaside town with permanent residents and many visitors.

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## Winfield, Norval Park, Skyringville, Riverview, Buxton

Apart from Norval Park & Skyringville, these are river localities, but have been included out of interest.

**Winfield:** At the northern end of the Bundaberg region Winfield was initially known as lower Baffle Creek due to its location on the southern bank of the Baffle Creek (the town of Baffle Creek is located on the north bank). John Grills & Carl Schmeider selected land there in 1893.

**Norval Park:** Probably originally a camping and fishing spot it has been developed by Council as a basic 'bush camping' site with zero or limited facilities. Norval Park is located on the coast south of Littabella Creek, between Rules Beach and Miara.

**Skyringville:** Apparently the original mouth of the Burnett River and long a site for fishing shacks. It was likely named after a member of the Skyring family, or the family as a whole. George Skyring arrived in Bundaberg in 1870 and started a butchery business in Bourbon Street. Brothers Henry and Charles arrived by 1884. Henry began a sawmilling business and Charles partnered in the butchery.

**Riverview:** On the north bank of the Elliott River just up from Elliott Heads. Seemingly a farming area to begin with. Gradually attracted residents and now known as a fishing area.

**Buxton:** At the southern end of the Bundaberg Region, it was originally named Burrumba (after the Burrum River beside which it sits). In the 1880s it was thought that Burrumba would be the port for Isis and the locality would be called Newport. However, this never eventuated and the name was later changed to Buxton, after the English town near Manchester.



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