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OUTBACK FREEMASONRY - QUEENSLAND STYLE

To paraphrase the immortal 'Banjo' Paterson, 'the countryfolk have pleasures that the townfolk never know.'

These items are taken from *Masonic Centres of Queensland* by Bro. Wayne L. Budgen published in 2005.

Everyone knows about the *Queenslander*, a timber house or other building erected on stumps to allow circulation of air under the floor to provide ventilation in the hot, humid climate.

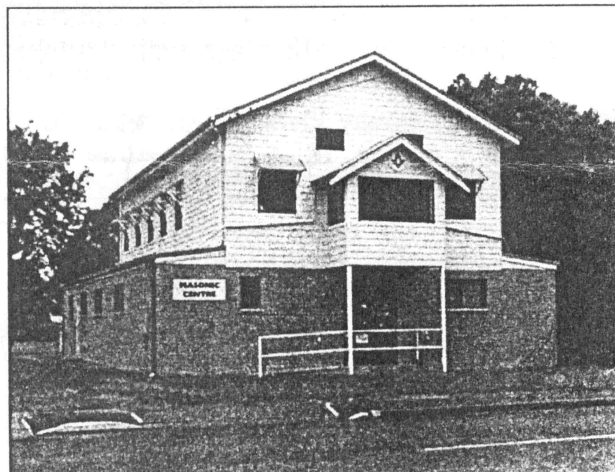
Many Masonic buildings have been constructed in this manner.

In some buildings, the stumps were high enough to afford useful space under the floor which could be partly enclosed.

Many of them are still in use.

In the old days at Pialba, a coastal town on the southern shore of Hervey Bay, 250 km north of Brisbane, the lodge room and hall used to shake when the horses tethered underneath rubbed against the stumps to relieve themselves from the bites of sandflies and mosquitoes. Just what you need for the Third Degree!

The Masonic Centre
at Pialba.



No such problem at Maroochydore, a small coastal town some 90 km north of Brisbane, where, in the 1870's the first lodge meetings were held on the beach with the lodge being marked out on the sand. The members travelled down-river to the beach by the paddle steamer *Iona*. The number of Tylers required is not mentioned but the ancient penalty of the First Degree would, no doubt, have added to the impact.

