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## **GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATES NERANG'S PIONEERING PAST**

Homes that celebrate Nerang's pioneering past are among the heritage gems that will open to the public at the third Gold Coast Open House on Saturday 4 November 2017.

Nerang was the birthplace settlement in south-east Queensland, home to timber cutters who logged for red cedar and their families.

The first town survey was conducted in 1865, the first school built a decade later in 1875. Nerang Creek Heads was renamed Southport.

Ceramic House, constructed circa 1919 of timber and tin and raised on stumps, is representative of early 20th century houses built in the Queenslander style.

Relocated to make way for a motorway, it was moved to nearby Bischof Pioneer Park and restored. It now serves as a visitor centre and museum furnished as family home in the period style.

It's neighbour Preece House, is a restored mid-20th century timber home that now serves as a community centre and art gallery that now houses a world-class exhibition of Aboriginal portraiture from the 1860s to the 1940s. Both homes were restored by the Nerang Community Association and its volunteers.

Riverside Bischof Pioneer Park is also home to The Maid of Sker, a replica fashioned from the remains of the paddleboat that ran its cargoes from Brisbane to Southport and Nerang from the 1880s to the 1930s.

Heritage treasures Queensland Naval Brigade Drill Hall, Gold Coast Sporting Hall of Fame, Southport Town Hall, The Station, The Exchange, Somerville Funerals, Southport Masonic Centre, St Hilda's School and The Southport School are always favourites of the Gold Coast Open House program.

Gold Coast Open House is a free event that teaches architectural appreciation and encourages locals and visitors to think differently about the built environment. Forty buildings, places and spaces will open to the public this year.

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