



Building a roof for the Olympia Airdrome.
Source: Picture Bundaberg



Moncrieff Entertainment Centre

Open Air Cinema

- In 1911 an open air theatre was built on the current site of Moncrieff Entertainment Centre. The open air theatre was taken over by Birch, Carroll & Coyle in 1922.
- Olympia Theatre was officially opened in 1955 by the late Mr FH Buss who was the then Mayor of Bundaberg.
- Being an airdrome, it was difficult to seat patrons under cover when storms arose.

The Crest Cinema

- The Olympia closed in November 1973 for major restoration works and reopened in December 1973 as the air conditioned Crest Cinema.
- The Crest Cinema was opened by the then Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke Peterson and was managed by Paul Neville until 1981 when he became Wide Bay Manager for Birch Carroll & Coyle.
- The Crest Cinema was then purchased by Bundaberg City Council.

Moncrieff Theatre

- The building underwent major changes and became a theatrical theatre as well as a cinema.
- The venue was renamed 'The Moncrieff Theatre' in honour of Bundaberg's first lady of yesteryear, singer Gladys Moncrieff.

- The theatre was officially opened on August 16, 1987 by Alderman AL Stewart, the then Mayor of Bundaberg.
- The first movie shown at the Moncrieff Theatre was 'Star Trek IV - The Voyage Home' and the first stage show was 'Johnny Chester'.

Moncrieff Entertainment Centre

- Updating the venue's façade in 2011, the theatre was renamed 'Moncrieff Entertainment Centre' to better describe the various forms of entertainment held at the venue, including live theatre, concerts, and conferences.

Gladys Moncrieff

- Born in Bundaberg in 1892, Gladys Lillian Moncrieff was a talented singer who became known as 'Australia's Queen of Song'.
- With a powerful, wide-ranging, rich soprano voice and excellent dictation, Gladys toured the state singing and performing and became a big success playing Theresa in a musical called 'Maid of the Mountain' at the Theatre Royal in Melbourne. Gladys also toured New Zealand where her work well received.



Building Australia's
best regional community





Upper level of new Olympia Theatre. Source: Picture Bundaberg



Olympia Theatre in Bourbong Street. Source: Picture Bundaberg



References

- Moncrieff, biography file (National Library of Australia).
- Peter Burgis, 'Moncrieff, Gladys Lillian (1892–1976)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, published first in hardcopy 1986, accessed online 22 May 2019, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/moncrieff-gladys-lillian-7621/text13319>.
- Australian Dictionary of Biography, n.d, Moncrieff, Gladys Lillian (1892–1976), Australian Dictionary of Biography, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/moncrieff-gladys-lillian-7621>.
- Picture Bundaberg, n.d, Building roof for Olympia Airdome [picture], Bundaberg Regional Library Service
- Picture Bundaberg, n.d, Upper level of new Olympia Theatre [picture], Bundaberg Regional Library Service
- Picture Bundaberg, n.d, Olympia Theatre in Bourbong Street [picture], Bundaberg Regional Library Service



1300 883 699
bundaberg.qld.gov.au

