

Laguna Jack's Cellar & Bar The Legend Lives...

Jack's Facts...

- No one really knows where Jack was born, some say, Ireland, some say England and some say he was born right here in Queensland but one thing for sure Laguna Jack was first seen in the Noosa area when he was spotted at a black fella camp with Warrior Eumundi on the banks of the river mouth at Noosa's main beach.
- *"I recall my party approaching the tribe very cautiously not knowing if the tribe were friendly or not and was shocked to see the white man so at ease with the aborigines. Further to my surprise this man introduced himself as Jack, he spoke quite elegantly and with authority and was obviously from European heritage and good stock. As to my enquiry as to where he was from or camped? He proclaimed right here, Laguna"* (extract from the Petrie journals circa 1842).
- The only official records of Jack or Laguna Jack as he was known was from his Selectors Title and his time as Landlord of the old Coach Road Hotel which burnt to the ground in the bush fires of 1872.
- Jack was a legendary fisherman & overall waterman. He was one of the first River Boat captains on the Noosa River, having sailed the Schooner "Starlight" from Woolloongong to Noosa in 1861.
- In the Gympie gold rush in the late 1860's he was rumoured to find one single nugget worth approx \$2 million in today's money. This nugget was never seen again. At the time Jack returned to his home on the bank of the Noosa River where Gympie Terrace is today. Some say it is still there.
- Jack the "Sly Grogger". Jack's home brew was much sought after, especially during periods of floods and before the roads came when the local supplies ran out. We found the recipe and brought back Laguna Jack's Lager for you to enjoy today.
- Noosa's first Surfer. During the storm of 1873 Jack's boat was wrecked out the back of Laguna Bay. He was spotted the next day riding the waves of the

wreckage of his boat. He was kneeling on what was left of the transom of his boat on the waves at "First Point."

- Always the Environmentalist. When the first Council was formed in 1910, Jack was instrumental in lobbying the Council to save the wildlife and natural bush surrounding Noosa and hence the National Park was formed.
- Generous Jack. Jack would not let any settler or local tribes go hungry. He gave over half of his catch away on the return of each fishing trip. Early settlers would scan the horizon for his return and gather at the harbour to welcome him home and reap from his generosity.
- Jack the "Peacemaker". During the early settlement days many disputes arose between the local Gabbi Gabbi tribesman and the new settlers. It was always Jack the settlers looked to keep the peace and restore tranquility to the area. Tribal elders looked to Jack for reassurance their land and way of life was maintained.
- Hero. In early 1892 two local girls went missing in the rough bushland surrounding what is now Lake Weyba. As local constabulary sent search parties in every direction Jack knew where to look and returned with both girls safe and sound some three days later.