



Rediscover
GRAFTON

**Discover
Grafton's
gnome-town
heroes**





There are 20 colourful gnomes to be found, all with stories to tell. Many are based on real people, others inspired by their surroundings. All you need to do is find them. To help get you started all the gnome-work has been done.

There's a map to guide you, and brightly colour stickers to lead the way. The gnomes can be found around Grafton, near buildings and trees. A few even made it across the river to South Grafton.

So what are you waiting for? These gnomes are ready to share their fascinating stories. How many can you find? Who will be your favourite?



This activity is part of Clarence Valley Council's Rediscover Prince Street project to reinvigorate the CBD as part of the Grafton Precinct Plan.

Clarence Valley Council acknowledges the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We honour the First Nations peoples culture and connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



NORTH



BACON ST

BACON ST



QUEEN ST

PRINCE ST

15.

14.



13.

MARKET SQUARE

12.

11.



LIBRARY

17.



16.

POUND ST

POUND ST

6.

10.

7.

8.

9.

5.

4.

SCHAEFFER CL

SCHAEFFER HOUSE

18.



MARY ST

GRAFTON REGIONAL GALLERY



QUEEN ST

KING ST

PRINCE ST

FITZROY ST

FITZROY ST

3.

TO SOUTH GRAFTON

19.

20.



DUKE ST



VICTORIA ST

VICTORIA ST

2.

1.

Clarence River
This Way



HOCKEY ST

KEMP ST

PRINCE ST



Once upon a time there were flying boats. We're not kidding. They were called Catalinas and this gnome was the first to land one on the Clarence River. But **Capt. PG Taylor** had a big journey ahead from there. From Grafton he went on to fly to South America — the first person in the world to make the 13,600km flight across the Pacific Ocean. Lots of Graftonians came out to see the captain and his flying boat. He was so thankful to the people of Grafton, when he flew back from Chile, South America, he performed a fly-over to say thank you before heading home to Sydney.

Captain Patrick Gordon 'PG Taylor'



FUN FACTS: The man who founded Qantas said Capt. PG Taylor was one of the greatest pilots in Australia's aviation history. The flying boat he landed in Grafton is at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.



Shirley Adams



There are two titles this gnome held that are the closest thing to royalty here in Grafton — mayor and Jacaranda Queen. Trailblazer **Shirley (Young) Adams** was crowned Queen of the Jacarandas in 1952 and declared mayor in 1995, the first female councillor to do so. Even though she was very busy, Mrs Adams was also a dedicated leader of the Girl Guide movement, her service across four decades helped to empower hundreds of Grafton girls and earned her a special medal (OAM) from the other Queen, Elizabeth the Second.

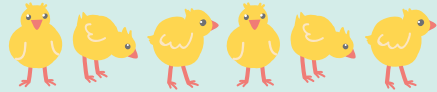


Fig Tree Guardians (Legend)



3.

These two gnomes are very old. They have lived in this area since the dawn of the first people in this valley. The fig trees are their homes and also provide food, medicine, and a source of technology. So these trees are very important to the gnomes. This particular variety is a favourite of the gnomes because they are big and leafy, providing lots of space and shade to stay cool on those hot Grafton days. Typically, you don't see them because the tree has plenty of places to hide but the gnomes do occasionally come out to enjoy the view and do some people-watching, including you.



Can you imagine cattle being herded down the street right past here? Then across the Grafton Bridge to get to the sale yards on the other side of the river? Last century, these gnomes rode the horses to do just that. The four stockman were made up of two sets of Aboriginal brothers — the Harringtons and Bancrofts. Uncle Pat Bancroft was one of the best known stockmen around Grafton and one of the best stockwhip makers in Australia. He used watergum and kangaroo hide to make his whips, some of which were sent across the world to Ireland and America.

The Four Stockmen



4.

The Crossing Guards

Axel and Sedan love to see people cross roads safely. They also love native animals. When they found out they were on duty to watch over new wombat crossing being installed in Prince Street, they were super excited to see their two favourite things come together. Of course, there aren't any actual wombats involved. It's the affectionate term for the crossing design, so humans can walk safely across the road at footpath level. This means motor vehicles will have to slow down. Which is a great thing for pedestrians, and wombats.



Axel Hubcap and Sedan Steering

7.



5.



Aunty Robyne Bancroft

6.



This gnome loves to research and read, read, read. **Aunty Robyne Bancroft** is an elder of Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr descent, and the first Indigenous Australian woman to become an archaeologist. She uses her academic knowledge, family knowledge, and Aboriginal community knowledge, to teach children (and adults) about Australia's Indigenous heritage. She is passionate about truth telling and sharing stories that are both good and bad but need to be told, so Australians understand more about their country's history and be a part of its healing.

Ruby Payne-Scott

8.



Grafton is the birthplace of this gnome who was Australia's first woman radio astronomer, **Ruby Payne-Scott**. Ruby was extremely smart and made very important discoveries about space activity in the early 20th century, using radio waves instead of eyesight. She was a pioneer in the field and one of a handful of women working in astronomy at the time. Because she was a woman, she was also subject to unfair workplace rules and eventually forced to retire at age 39 as she was a married woman and mother. She fought hard for equality in the workplace and for women's rights despite the difficulty. She was recognised for her extraordinary work many years later with an award in her name, and was the subject of a postage stamp and Google Doodle.

This gnome is single-handedly responsible for bringing jacaranda trees to Grafton. German-born **Henry Volkers** ran a huge nursery garden in the late 1800s in the town centre and after a visit to his homeland, was struck by the beauty of the jacaranda. This inspired him to grow them back in Grafton so he convinced the city council they would make lovely street trees. There are now more than 2000 of them around the 'Jacaranda City' and a very popular festival to celebrate the beauty of their purple blooms every October/November.

FUN FACT: There is also a rarer white jacaranda called White Christmas because of the time of year it flowers.



Henry Volkers

9.



Jack O'Randah (Legend)

10.



This hipster gnome is of Irish descent and pops up from underground every October-November. His job is to make sure the jacaranda trees flower, by dancing around their trunks and tapping them with his purple magic stick. He's been a busy gnome lately but now his work is done for another year it's time for a beard trim before heading back home for Christmas to give his cousin elves a hand.

11.

Harry and Sister Daley



Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung elder, Aunty Jannay Daley tells this special story about her parents **Harry and Sister Daley**. As a child Aunty Jannay and her siblings would spend time at the mango trees in Market Square waiting for their mum at the tables and chairs. The mangoes were good to eat and many yarns were told under their leafy canopies, Aunty Jannay remembers. All their family and friends did this. It was a meeting place, and these gnomes represent the spirit of her parents. Knowing her parents will always be here makes Aunty Jannay very happy.

Guardian of the Time Capsule



12.

Time capsules and their precious contents stay buried for many years so having someone to watch over them until their date is up is an important job. This gnome is the **Guardian of the Market Square time capsules**. He has been on the job since 2001. In 2026 he will see one of the capsules opened after 25 years underground. Inside will be a range of items from 2001 that will help to tell the story of that period in Grafton. But there is still a lot of work ahead for this gnome. The other capsule won't be dug up until 2101, 100 years after it was buried. Most of us won't be around to see it opened but the guardian will as he continues to keep the capsule safe.

Captain Tom Dellow

13.



This gnome was the first captain of the Grafton Fire Brigade, which was formed in 1880 after a store in Prince Street (near the ice-cream shop) burned to the ground.

Firefighters had to be extra fit in those days because they didn't just hold a hose connected to water mains, they had to pump it by hand. After that it was a steam pump pulled by horses. Water was limited because it was stored in wells and tanks. To help, a big storage tank was built at Fisher Park, which had its own main line to Prince Street only. It was a hit and miss affair. Thankfully, the Nymboida water supply came along in 1915, a brigade motor vehicle arrived, and a new station was built at Market Square (which is still there today).

ACTIVITY: Check out the photo of Captain Tom Dellow with the old steam engine at Schaeffer House Museum.



14.

Henry Kendall

This poetic gnome would love to know the building he worked in as a solicitor's clerk, is now a cafe, a place creative folk loved to hang out. **Henry Kendall** was one of Australia's most famous poets and grew up around the Grafton area after his family moved here when he was five. He returned to area as young man to work and wrote many poems about places around Grafton. These were published in the local paper at the time but can now be found in publications all around the world.

FUN FACT: Henry Kendall had fancy handwriting. You can see for yourself at Grafton's Schaeffer House Museum where a poem hand-written by Henry, hangs on the wall.



Doris and Gladys O'Grady

15.



The O'Grady sisters, Gladys and Doris, spent their entire lives together at their family's farm on the Clarence River at Seelands, outside Grafton.

The sisters loved drawing and painting their natural environment. Doris's favourite things to paint were watercolour landscapes, fungi, and flowers, which is why these gnomes are hanging around a florist. Gladys preferred birds, her photographic memory making her artworks more like scientific studies.

Both sisters lived long lives so the number of paintings and drawings they left behind were in the thousands. Many of these can be found in homes across the Clarence Valley as well as institutions around Australia including our very own regional gallery. The Grafton gallery has one of the biggest collections of O'Grady sisters' works in the country.

ACTIVITY: Why not pop into the Grafton Regional Gallery for a visit and see if you can spot an O'Grady artwork.





This gnome, Gumbaynggirr Elder, musician and entertainer **Uncle Johnny Marshall** was a local legend. He was a professional busker who played the didgeridoo, guitar, and clap sticks. Anyone who walked down Prince Street during his time would remember Uncle Johnny. Every Jacaranda season he would come back to Grafton and busk up and down the street. When he wasn't in Grafton he was in Sydney playing didgeridoo professionally for the band Pinchgut. He also starred on the small screen in some legendary Australian TV shows like Skippy and Skyforce (ask your parents/grandparents).

Uncle Johnny Marshall

16.



Sir Earle Christmas Grafton Page

17.



Phew, this gnome's name is quite the mouthful but who wouldn't love to have Christmas and your hometown as middle names. Sir Earle worked hard and had some very important jobs including medical doctor, politician, and, you're not going to believe this, he was even Prime Minister of Australia. He may have only held that role for 20 days but his legend lives on in the political party he founded (the Country/National Party) and the Grafton library that bears his name.

CHALLENGE: Look around and see if you can spot his name.



These gnomes should feel right at home here at Schaeffer House Museum because it was once their family home. Husband and wife Frederick William Conrad Schaeffer and Louisa Lambert raised four children in this house designed and built in 1900 by FWC Schaeffer as he was known. He was one of Grafton's most important architects of his time and responsible for a lot of the beautiful buildings and houses you can see around Grafton. It's likely you pass by or visit his handiwork every day. Some of his more famous designs include the Crown Hotel and Weiley's Hotel as well the heritage-listed home Arcola in Victoria Street. His work can also be seen in South Grafton including Walkers Marina Hotel and McKittricks Store now trading as The Emporium.



FWC Schaeffer & Louisa Lambert

18.



ACTIVITY: Check out what's inside Schaeffer House Museum. You'll be amazed.



Guardian Gnomes of South Grafton (legend)

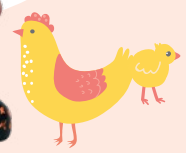
19.



These are Gumbaynggirr gnomes. They have been here for many years. They treasure this place and have seen many changes. Some good, some bad. Whether you live here, or you are visiting please respect this place, keep it clean and safe. This is their home.

Uncle Derek Skinner

20.



One of the loveable wags of South Grafton, Uncle Derek Skinner was as friendly as they come. He enjoyed a good laugh and was one of the snappiest dressers around.



Thanks to the local community and artists who helped bring our gnomes to life:

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