



BRANELL  
HOMESTEAD



*Troy, my little dog Benji and I (Kathy), in 2003, standing on the verandah of our new home. You can see there were no ant caps over the stumps because instead of having stumps that were separate from the posts that held up the house, the people that built the cottage simply chiselled the stumps up into posts. As a result, the termites chewed straight up the stumps, into the posts and then through the house. The cottage was so termite ridden and fragile that Troy was able to attach the winch on his 4WD Troopie to the front of the cottage and easily pull it down.*



*My Dad and I when we first decided to buy the property (I was very excited). You can just make out my mum standing in the gully. If she was there now, she would be at the bottom of our dam. The big mango trees to the left of the old cottage are still there now, they are next to the Kensington Suite in the yard to the left of the Homestead.*

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## PHOTO GALLERY

# *The Homestead*



*Constructing the dam. The main reason we built the dam was to improve the driveway to the Homestead which was too steep for a conventional car to drive up when there was wet weather.*



*Troy and Dad on 12 foot trestles cutting off the tops of the telephone poles at the end of the Jetty. Our nieces Brae and Riley having fun in the mud at the bottom our newly constructed 6m deep dam before it filled with water.*



*My Mum and I standing on the house pad where the front lawn is today.*

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*We asked a few friends if they wanted to come over for breakfast to look at our new property. Once everyone arrived, we asked if they would help us with a small job that would probably only take an hour or two. We needed to thread some lengths of orange conduit over our 400m long underground electrical cable to our house pad (you can see the house pad to the right of the mango trees at the end of the trench in the top right hand section of the first picture). Twelve hours later, a dozen men collapsed exhausted, completing the mammoth task.*



*Left: My sister-in-law Angela, Oscar our boxer, Troy and my Mum standing at the end of our nearly completed Jetty.  
Middle: My nieces using our newly painted Homestead weatherboards as a trampoline!  
Right: Here I am painting a post for the Homestead.*

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## PHOTO GALLERY

# *The Homestead*



*The crane putting the ridge beam on the Western Wing of the Homestead. We lived in a shed with no hot running water at the top of our property for 18 months while we constructed the Western Wing. The big wooden chopping board in the kitchen is an off cut from the ridge beam.*



*After the frame was completed, we put a roof and some walls on, connected the hot water (hooray!), Troy painted the deck and we moved into the shell that was the Western Wing.*

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*Construction of the Eastern Wing, looking into the Kensington Suite.*



*Almost finished! I was teaching and Troy was painting full time so it took us five years to build the Homestead in our spare time and on weekends. When the Eastern Wing was completed, we began the Bed and Breakfast, opening up the Jacaranda Suite and the Kensington Suite. After a few short months, the B&B became so busy that we moved out into our separate managers residence so that the whole house could be used by the guests.*

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## PHOTO GALLERY

# *The Pavilion*



*Above: The earthworks for the Pavilion. We were originally going to have the Pavilion down lower directly in front of the jetty, however, we decided in the end that it might be nicer to elevate it a bit and have it here, so that it overlooks the grassy area and the jetty below. Below Right: Troy, Dad and Lance at the Pavilion construction site.*



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# The Pavilion

## PHOTO GALLERY



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## HISTORY OF BRANELL



In 2003, 80 acres of both bush and farm land was purchased by Troy and Kathy Brady. At the time, there was only a small run down cottage where Branell Homestead now stands today. Jacaranda trees lined the driveway and there were over a hundred mango trees scattered around the property. Unfortunately, the quaint cottage that was built early last century, was condemned due to extensive termite damage.

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# BRANELL HOMESTEAD



Troy and Kathy were disappointed that the original cottage could not be salvaged and they decided to rebuild a house that was similar to it. They completed an owner builder course and spent five years creating a Queenslander with the same pitched roof and old fashioned features as the original Homestead.

Originally when Troy and Kathy were building the Homestead, they did not plan to use it for bed and breakfast accommodation. However, in March 2008 when construction of the Homestead was completed, Troy and Kathy decided to live in the Western Wing and use the Eastern Wing for bed and breakfast accommodation. Just a few months after opening, the bed and breakfast was so busy that there was demand for extra accommodation, so Troy and Kathy built a separate managers residence, 400 meters away from the Homestead at the top of their property and opened up the Western Wing for additional guest accommodation. The entire Homestead became available for the exclusive use of the bed and breakfast guests. In 2010, due to popular demand, construction began on a wedding venue and function centre down at the Jetty.

In 2014 three new Luxury Cabins for extra accommodation were constructed at the top of the property.