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Foreshore works a beach for veteran nipper

A new stage of the Surfers Paradise Foreshore Redevelopment was today unveiled to the public.

Chair of Council's Economic Development and Tourism Committee Cr Susie Douglas said despite an extremely wet 2010-11, much of the foreshore works had been completed earlier than expected.

"It's a real credit to the project team and the managing contractor that we have been able to unveil another stage of the foreshore ahead of schedule," said Cr Douglas.

"The fences came down today on the final section of stage two between Cavill Mall and Hanlan Street and last week stage three, the area between View Street and Elkhorn Avenue, was also opened up.

"One of the distinct features of the foreshore redevelopment is the outdoor gallery featuring historical photos of the Gold Coast from the 1930s through to the seventies - these are a wonderful reminder of the rich beach culture that has shaped our city."

Gallery images include the early Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club Nippers (1930), Longboard Locals (1964) and an advertising photograph for Paula Stafford's bikini shop (1958).

Long time Gold Coast resident Bill Hookway, who features in one of the images, said the beach and foreshore area had changed significantly since the photo was taken.

"A lot of days spent on the beach have passed since that photo was taken – I reckon I was 17 at the time and the photo is from a surf carnival around 1947," said Mr Hookway.

"It takes me back to an earlier time when, as a SLSC member, the beach was the big drawcard for me every weekend.

"It's great to see the Surfers foreshore get a much-needed makeover – it's definitely more appealing and more accessible to people now."

Completion of stages two and three sees the majority of foreshore works areas now open to the public, with the entire project expected to wrap up by June 2011.