

A Walk

THROUGH HISTORY

TOOWOOMBA HERITAGE STREET WATCH



"Anyone for tennis?"
'Grantleigh', Burns Street, 1924



Toowoomba's Caledonian Estate

Allow 30 minutes for a brisk walk
or about an hour for a leisurely stroll.

Welcome to The Caledonian Estate Heritage Precinct

Commence the walk at the three Gallipoli Pines in the Mothers' Memorial Park, Burstow Street.

In the 1870s the land from the gaol to Herries Street, between Burstow and Lindsay Streets was used by the Caledonian Society for its sports. The name was retained when the first residential land sales took place in 1904. We hope you will enjoy your walk through this historic area with streets named *Stirling*, *Burns* and *Bruce* which reflect the city's Scottish connections.

1 This is the site of the *Caledonian Store* near the Gallipoli Pines. Before the re-siting of the Mothers' Memorial in 1985, there were a number of cottages between here and Margaret Street.

2 Cross the street, which is named after Thomas Burstow who was Mayor in 1904, 1907 and 1919. He was also a member of the first Austral Association Committee.

In *Stirling Street*, houses numbered 11, 9 and 7 are examples of the housing styles common in Toowoomba at the beginning of the 20th century. Note the moulded bargeboards, metal window hoods, finials, ridge cresting and iron lace.

Fairly intact collections of houses of a similar age and style to these are a significant feature of our Heritage Precincts. Many of the verandahs were closed in during the Second World War when accommodation and materials were at a premium.

3 At the eastern end of *Stirling Street* are the massive foundations of the *Toowoomba Gaol*. These basalt rocks were quarried at Picnic Point and supported high

walls made from bricks manufactured at nearby locations such as Queen's Park. Some of these bricks were used in constructing the Boer War Memorial gateway to the Mothers' Memorial.

The gaol opened in 1864 in time for the first execution, which was the hanging of Andrew Ritchie. Ritchie was convicted of robbery under arms and murder. The gaol closed in 1904 and the main building was converted into a hall for the Austral Association.



1860s gaol site in Austral Lane

Under the leadership of the poet George Essex Evans, an annual festival promoting music, art, literature and science was held. The sudden death of the poet during the festival in 1909 marked the decline of the Austral Association.

4 "*Austra*", 3 *Stirling Street*, was the home of Dr & Mrs M C Brothers, whose daughter married Hubert Allom, a well-respected teacher. Mr & Mrs Allom subsequently lived here, with the same family continuing to own the house since 1921.

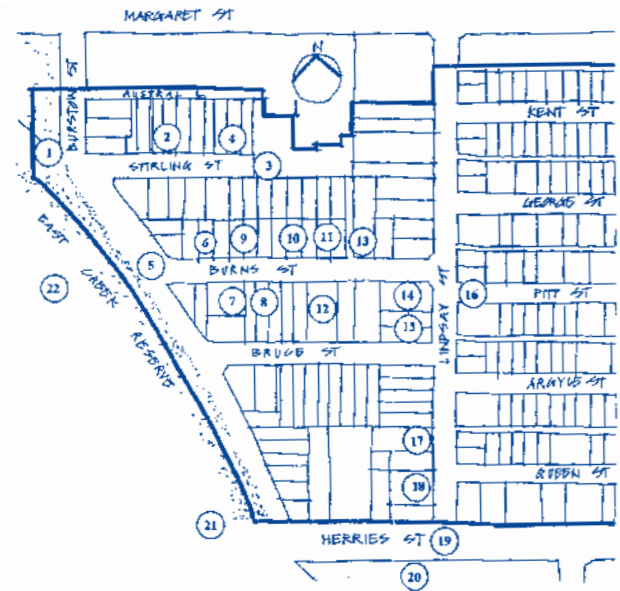
5 Follow *Stirling Street* back to *Burstow Street*, noting the pine trees at *Number 7* planted in 1914, the holly bushes at *Number 9* and the fine London Plane tree at the junction of *Burns* and *Burstow Streets*.

6 On the left in *Burns Street*, four workers' cottages form a group similar to that seen previously but more modest in design.

In 1922 Mr and Mrs HF Saffery bought *Number 15* through the Darling Downs Building Society. The loan repayment



Window hood



If you have some more time to enjoy Toowoomba's heritage you may like to try other walks around *Queens Park*, *Russell Street*, the *Mort Estate* and the *City Centre*. Brochures on these walks are available at various outlets including the *Tourist Information Centre* on the corner of *James* and *Kitchener Streets*.

Alternatively you may like to informally wander through nearby *Kent*, *George*, *Pitt*, *Argyle* or *Queen Streets*, accessible from *Lindsay Street*.

Further information on Toowoomba's history can be gained from a wide range of sources. The *Council's Local History Information Centre* at 476 *Ruthven Street* and the *Historical Society* at 49 *Lindsay Street* are two excellent starting points.

If you have no further use for this brochure please consider recycling it by returning it to where you collected it, so that others may enjoy this walk.

Thanks to: Eleanor & Peter Cullen, Beris Broderick, John Clements, Bob Dansie, Stephanie Keays, Ivan McDonald and the Residents of the *Caledonian Estate*. Cover photo reproduced with the kind permission of the *Sinnamon Family*.



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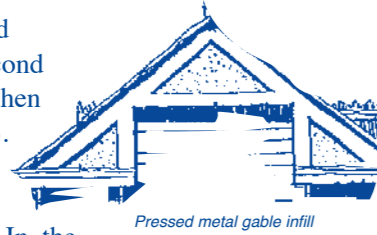
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book includes, in their address, reference to the Estate name, long after the first sales of land in the estate.

Again notice the window hoods, gables and similar features which make these buildings so special.

Many early residents walked or rode their bicycles to work in, or near, the centre of town at locations including the Post Office, Empire Theatre, gas works, foundry and the railway.

7 *Number 14* was named "*Grantleigh*" by its second owner, James Grant, when he moved here in 1913. He had been Post Master at Kingaroy prior to his transfer. In the 1930's his daughter Eleanor married a pharmacist, Cecil Sinnamon and they lived at *Number 12*. When the young family needed extra space, they swapped houses with her parents.



Pressed metal gable infill

The gable of *Number 12* with its distinctive pressed metal infills is worth a look. It is now named "*Brora*" after the Scottish birthplace of James Grant's father.

8 *Number 10*, a typical early cottage, was built in 1910. While its first owner was a labourer named Henry Moffat, a railway worker, Herbert Apelt, lived here for many years. Its fretwork entry adornment is quite unusual for this area; the only other being "*Grantleigh*".

9 *Numbers 9* and *9A* were built during the Second World War when an older house, pictured on the extreme left on the cover, was demolished.

10 *Number 7*, "*Kinlossie*" is one of the few houses to remain unaltered since it was built in the 1900's.

11 "*Bramhope*", *Number 3*, was built in 1907 by a pharmacist, Frederick Thorley who had a business in Ruthven Street. Mrs Thorley enjoyed an important



Finial

social position. The Darling Downs Gazettes in 1908 and 1909 contained notices informing that "Mrs Thorley 'Bramhope' will not be 'at home' tomorrow".

In the 1960's, owners named Fraser built *Number 3A* for their son.

12 *Number 4* was built on the first land sold in the *Caledonian Estate*. Its symmetrical style is earlier than those houses with protruding front gables. For many years it was the home of the McDonald family, still associated with the printing industry and sport in Toowoomba. The brick flats to the east were built on its tennis court.

13 The *Queensland Bungalow* at *Number 1* was built in 1935 by Mr and Mrs Ernest 'Billy' Benson. For many years he worked at TT Hardware when it was in the city centre.

14 Oscar Muller was the first owner of *89 Lindsay Street* in the 1930's. He later built and moved to *2A Burns Street*.

At *Number 89* there is an interesting attempt to design a garage in a similar style to the house. It was later modified to provide an extra room.

15 *91 Lindsay Street*, "*Rothsay*" was built in 1905 for Mr and Mrs John Provan. He was a partner in the Ruthven Street Newsagency, Robertson and Provan.



Lindsay Street cedar tree

The house is an excellent example of a Larger Early House as described in the Council's publication *The Toowoomba House: Styles and History*.

To celebrate moving into their new home, Mrs Provan planted the cedar tree (*Toona Australis*) on the corner. It is now an outstanding feature of the Caledonian Estate.

16 The area on the eastern side of *Lindsay Street*, originally named the *Paddington Estate*, was first offered for sale in 1866.

17 The house, which formerly occupied the tennis court site, has been relocated to the rear of the existing dwelling at *Number 99*. In 1999, the house at *Number 95* was removed.



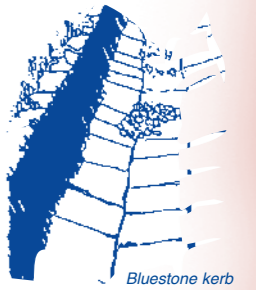
Inter War house

18 The gates of the *Caledonian Sports Ground*, were opposite *Queen Street*. Between 2000 and 3000 people attended the sports here on New Year's Day 1896. After a march from Ruthven Street led by a standard bearer carrying the flag of Scotland, the crowd including many Highlanders in their different tartans, enjoyed a varied sports program for old and young alike. It included a Highland Fling Competition, tent pegging and lemon cutting by the Mounted Infantry as well as handicap foot races and a one mile bicycle. £80 was taken at the gates and the celebrations concluded with a ball at the Masonic Hall.

We now see an unbroken streetscape of well conserved, modest *Queensland Bungalows* built between the First and Second World Wars.

19 Turning into tree-lined *Herries Street*, one immediately notices the avenue of camphor laurels above bluestone kerbing on the southern side of the street. These features are part of Toowoomba's heritage.

20 James Renwick, builder of the Masonic Hall and St Stephen's Church, constructed "*Blink Bonny*" and "*Bonnie Doon*" at 72 and 74 *Herries Street* in 1893. The bricks used are marked with his name.



Bluestone kerb

21 Prior to being drained in 1874, the area between the Herries Street Bridge and the Mothers' Memorial was part of the *East Swamp*. In the 1970's the water was channelled underground providing the open space as we see it today. Murray Clewett designed the bridge and ponds.

22 Along the cycle path towards Margaret Street, look out for the bird life - Red Wattle Birds and Thornbills in the Eucalypts and Swamp Cypressses and black ducks in the ponds.

Prior to the underground channelling, horses from a bakery where the Transport Department building now stands were pastured here. Locals remember the mad rush to take them to higher ground when a sudden storm caused flooding. There was a horse trough where the picnic table stands at the end of *Burns Street*.

23 At the conclusion of the walk you may enjoy a rest beneath the *Trafalgar Oak* in the *Peace Garden* near the *Gallipoli Pines*. On the nearby Mothers' Memorial are the names of two former residents of the *Caledonian Estate*, Glen Saffery and Colin Apelt.