

If you have some more time to enjoy Toowoomba's heritage you may like to try other walks around Mort Estate, Caledonian Estate, Russell Street and the City Centre. Brochures on these walks are available at various outlets including the Tourist Information Centres.

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. Also, books like "The Toowoomba House: Styles and History" produced by Toowoomba City Council and "Cottages - a History of Cottage Life in Toowoomba 1860-1910" written by Beris Broderick and illustrated by Val Russell, will provide further details on houses in this area and other areas of the city.

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.

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# A Walk

THROUGH HISTORY  
WITH BERIS BRODERICK



Toowoomba's  
Queens Park

TOOWOOMBA  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL

Allow a minimum of 1 hour for a brisk walk and longer for a leisurely stroll.

## Let's wander the areas around Queens Park

Commence the walk at the Parks entrance arch in Lindsay Street.

**1** Work commenced on the Botanic Gardens in 1875 and planting has continued steadily since then. This area is now known as Queens Park Gardens. The entrance arch in Lindsay Street is made of local Helidon sandstone and was erected in 1987.

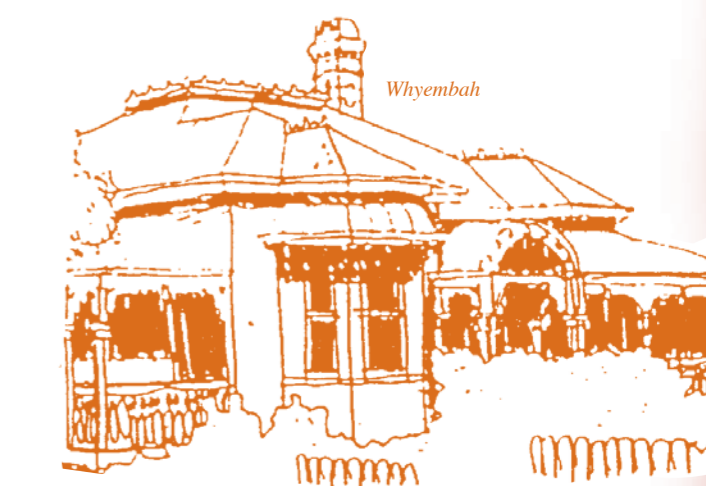
Walk into the gardens, noting the nearby pillars donated after the removal of the National Australia Bank in Ruthven Street.

Queens Park was originally the Government Camping Reserve covering 60 acres. Toowoomba's Christmas races were held on the grounds in 1860 and the clay was dug for brick making. The early curators, Way and Harding were faced with the mammoth task of creating a park from an area covered with fallen trees, clay pits and general rubbish. Mr Way established a botanical garden in this corner of the park. He also planted 11 acres with experimental crops of new cereals and other crops and fruit trees. Most of the trees were planted about 1900 but some are over 100 years old.

**2** The Alfred Thomas Fountain was erected in memory of Alfred Thomas, who had been the Supervisor of the Southern and Western Railways in the 1870s. His death from drowning in Sydney Harbour in 1881 shocked the local community who donated the



**3** Turn into Campbell Street. Note on right, the windmill display, Cobb & Co Museum, the National Carriage Factory and the T.A.F.E. College on the left, Whyembah is located next to Queens Park at 80 Campbell Street and was built around 1890 on one acre of land. The property previously included a bowling green and tennis court. The home has wide verandahs and pressed metal walls. It fell into disrepair in the late 1940s losing much of its original stained glass, cedar joinery and colonial hardware. It has since been restored.



**4** Kimblehurst at 94 Campbell Street was owned at one time by Mr B J Beirne, who became the city's first Toowoomba-born Mayor.

**5** Claremont at 91 Campbell Street was built around 1905 with a coach house and stables at the back. It has elaborate iron lacework around its bull-nosed verandah.

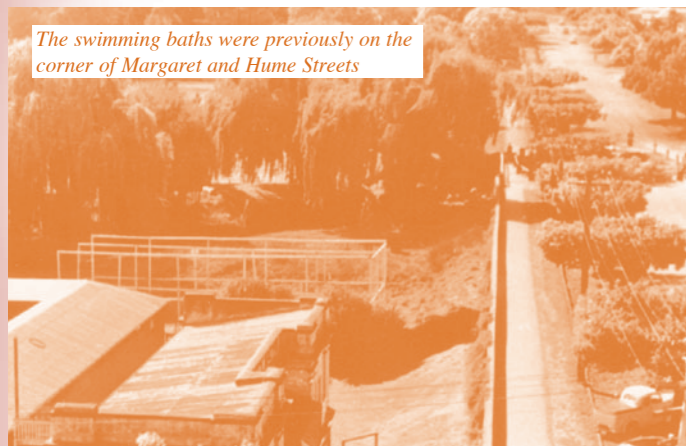
Continue down Campbell Street noting the many historic homes, bluestone kerbing and mature street trees. Turn left into Hume Street.

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6 Hume Street runs along the western edge of Queens Park. The two streets on the left side, are thought to have been named after the Godsall family. The father, Richard, and two sons were former mayors of the city. Eleanor Street is particularly interesting because it is lined with palm trees marking an earlier entrance to the Botanic Gardens. Eleanor Godsall, Richard's wife, was later married to Alexander Mayes who was also Mayor of Toowoomba in 1896, the year Eleanor died.

Continue along Hume Street and turn left into Margaret Street.

7 Vera Lacaze Park is on the corner of Hume and Margaret Streets. With its well-laid out gardens and fountains, it recognises the contribution of Vera Lacaze, who was the first woman elected to the Toowoomba City Council and who served on Council from 1952-1962.



The swimming baths were previously on the corner of Margaret and Hume Streets

8 196 Margaret Street on the north-western corner of Margaret and Hume Streets was formerly the Canberra Private Hotel. It was built and operated by the Temperance Society and became THE place to stay. Many retirees from the land made the hotel their permanent address. As times changed the hotel was converted to a motel, and it continued in that capacity until it was sold to the Grain Growers Association about 1970. It is now used as offices and known as Canberra Place.

9 The first section of the Technical College, on the south-western corner of Hume and Margaret Streets

was completed in 1912. Mr Alexander Mayes, who was also the President of the Technical College, was the successful tenderer at 7,000 pounds. The front façade of the building features brown glazed bricks known as "brown teapot bricks" which were specially imported from Yorkshire, England and may be the only example of these unique bricks in Queensland. The rest of the bricks and the sandstone used in this building are of Australian, mostly local, origin.

Cross Margaret Street to view the next site.

10 At the corner Margaret and Burstow Streets are East Creek Park, the Boer War Memorial Gateway and the Mothers' Memorial. When the gaol was converted for use as the Austral Hall, the building was dedicated as a memorial to those who served in the Boer War. The Austral Hall was later demolished and some bricks from the hall were used to construct the memorial gateway.

The Mothers' Memorial was originally constructed in Margaret Street, near the intersection with Ruthven Street, and officially unveiled by the State Governor on 28th January 1922. The mothers of those local men who were killed in World War I erected the Memorial. It was relocated in 1985 to East Creek Park causing great controversy at the time. A plaque (to the north west of the intersection) denotes the original site.

Other memorials commemorating the involvement of Australia's Armed Forces in conflicts around the world are also located in the park.



Memorial at original site.



Memorial in its current location.

11 The Toowoomba Antiques Gallery at 100 Margaret Street was built in c. 1910 as a residence for the father of Fred Crook-King, a well known Toowoomba photographer.

12 At 94 Margaret Street is the Repertory Theatre. This federation-style red brick building with curved bay window and cast iron balustrade was built c.1905.

13 92 Margaret Street was originally the hospital for the Women's Gaol. Today it houses a cafe.

14 *De Molay House* at 90 Margaret Street is thought to have been the early Court House which was later converted to a women's reformatory by Richard Godsall. It was adjacent to the gaol walls. The gaol covered the area now occupied by the Park Motor Inn. You can still see the solitary confinement cell beneath the rear of No. 90. After the closure of the gaol, the building was used for the annual Science Contest held in conjunction with the Austral Festival. It later became The Rutlands Guest House and was purchased in 1967 by the Order of the De Molay.

Cross Margaret Street opposite the Park Motel to steps leading to the park and the Richard Ross Harding commemorative garden.

15 At 73 Margaret Street is the Bishop's House. Originally called Killalah, it was designed by Harry

Marks and built for William Charles Peak, a prominent businessman in c.1911. Its construction is unusual as each brick wall in the building has individual foundations to counter soil movement. The house was purchased about six years later by a Mr Horrigan and given the name of Dalmally. The house had a number of other occupants before it was acquired by the Toowoomba Catholic Diocese in 1944 as a residence for Bishop Roper. It was recently restored for the Catholic Education Office.

Cross Lindsay Street to view the next site.

16 A drinking fountain was placed in the corner of Queens Park in 1936 to recognise William Charles Peak's service to the community. Mr Peak ran a grocery business and was Chairman of the Board of Directors of both the Darling Downs Building Society and Security Trust Co as well as being on the executive of the Royal Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce.

Continue down Lindsay Street toward the starting point of the walk.

17 A cluster of sporting venues line Lindsay Street and Arthur Street - tennis courts, Bowls Club, Croquet Club 1903 and the former Athletic Oval, which is the home of Toowoomba Rugby League.

18 The Toowoomba Historical Society occupies the building beside Queens Park Gardens. Opening times are indicated on the outside of the building.

While you are in the area, consider visiting the Cobb and Co Museum Cafe at 21-27 Lindsay Street.



The picture shows the hot houses in the Park that have since been removed.