

Part G:

Future Aspirations

Introduction

Toowoomba is the major educational centre on the Darling Downs, with many state and private primary and secondary schools, some having boarding facilities. It also contains a leading centre for technical education and a major university.

Some of these have a tradition stretching more than a century. Others such as the University of Southern Queensland, although more recent, have become an integral part of the Toowoomba community.



G1.

G1. The Farm

For many years this open space bounded by Beech Lane, Taylor and Mort Streets has been associated with the adjacent school, formerly Mort Estate School and more recently North State School. Today The Farm is a park administered by the Toowoomba Regional Council.

The surrounding Mort Estate was Toowoomba's first residential development dating from 1862.

It is believed The Farm was used as a horse paddock by school children and later for sporting activities.

An archaeological dig by lecturers and students from the University of Southern Queensland recorded an early well on the site.

G2. Silver Ceremonial Trowel

On Thursday afternoon, 4 August 1875, His Honour Justice Lilley used this trowel to lay the foundation stone of Toowoomba Grammar School. It is silver-plated and bears the hallmark of Atkin Brothers of Sheffield. The hand-engraved trowel with its worked bone handle was returned to the school by the Lilley family in 1955. It was used by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Colin Hannah, when he officially unveiled the foundation stone of the school's Centenary Hall dining room in 1975. The occasion marked 100 years since its first use. Twenty-five years later the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Glen McCracken, tapped the foundation stone for the Hugh Rose Centre. The trowel has been used on three important occasions in the history of one of the city's oldest schools.



G3.

G3. University Ceremonial Mace

On 29 March 1993, the Toowoomba City Council presented the University of Southern Queensland with its ceremonial mace to mark the close ties between "town and gown".

The mace was made by Hay's Jewellers and features the USQ Coat of Arms surmounted by the three-dimensional figure of a phoenix surrounded by flames.

The shaft is made of locally grown cedar from the demolished medical block of the Toowoomba General Hospital and symbolises the healing of humanity through knowledge. It is embellished with 38 garnets, symbolising the purity of learning.

All elements have local origins, with the woodwork and jewellery work performed by two apprentices. Each worker was judged Apprentice of the Year in their respective craft. The garnets were faceted by members of the Toowoomba Lapidary Club.

The ceremonial mace is a significant part of USQ's academic heritage, highlighting the university's traditional regalia and its close connections with the Toowoomba community.



G2.

