

Discover

THE GABBA'S

HIDDEN GEMS



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



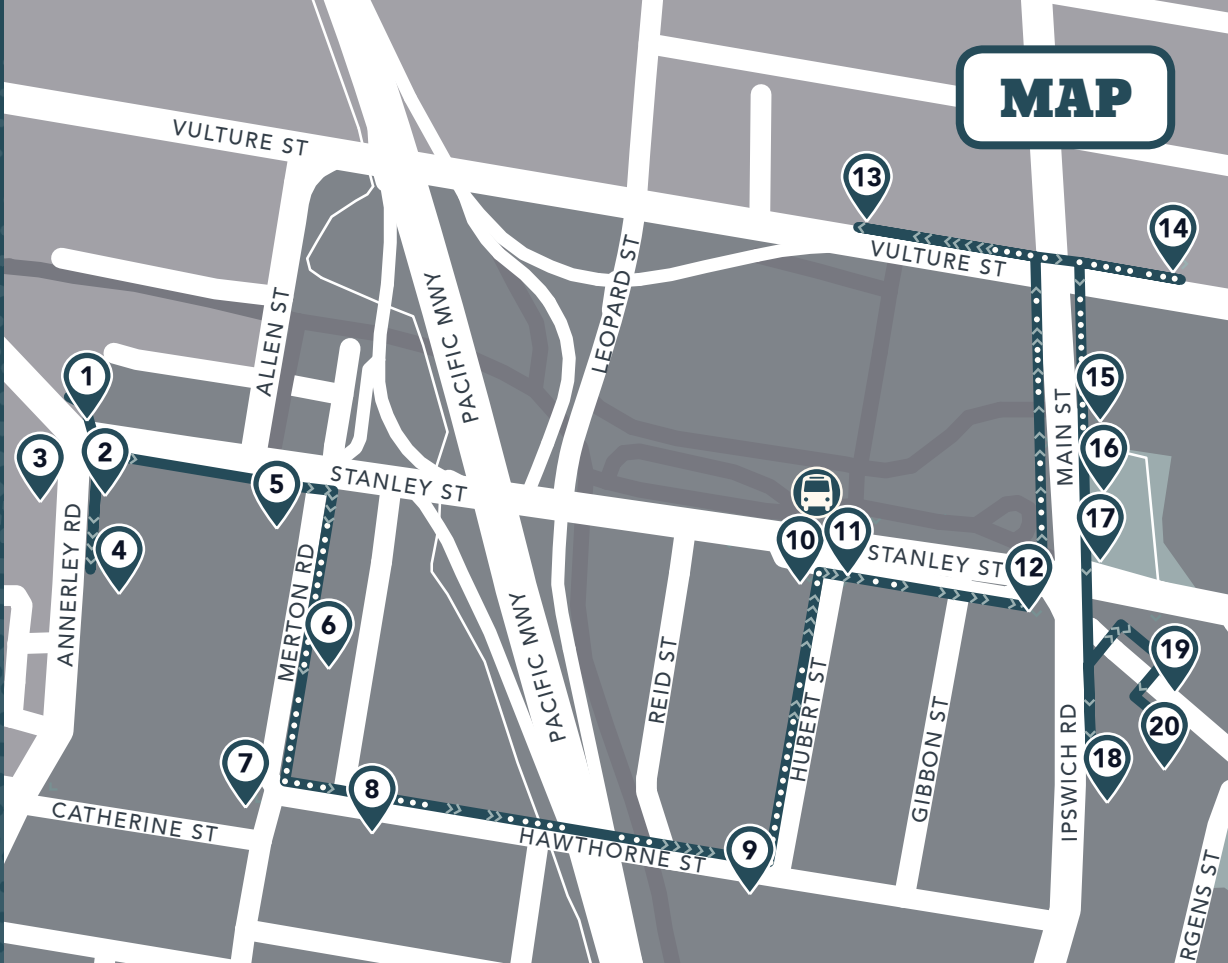
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MAP LEGEND

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MAP



Heritage site



Bus station



Walking trail



Public toilet

Access for people with limited mobility:

>>>> Gradient between: 1:20-1:14 (2.9-4.1 degrees)

..... Gradient in excess of: 1:14 (>4.1 degrees)

INTRODUCTION

In 1824, the founding of the Moreton Bay penal settlement heralded the beginning of the European presence in Queensland and the displacement of the First Australians in the area. The south bank of the Brisbane River was cleared and cultivated by convicts in an attempt to achieve self-sufficiency for the fledgling settlement.

After Moreton Bay was opened for free settlement in 1842, the south bank of the river quickly became the centre for shipping vessels carrying produce from the Darling Downs and Ipswich to Brisbane. By 1850, the wharves catered for 80% of all of Brisbane's imports and exports.

At this time the Woolloongabba area was known as One Mile Swamp. As the name suggests, it contained a series of water holes and swamps, which initially hampered European settlement. The roads from both the Logan district and the Darling Downs travelled through One Mile Swamp and teams of bullock drays and livestock rested there. The Clarence Hotel was established in the early 1860s to provide rest and refreshment to those passing through.

Small shops and businesses appeared along Stanley Street following the drainage of the swampy land and cottages began to dot the surrounding hills.



*Tram Control Room, Woolloongabba Fiveways, 1930s,
Brisbane City Council, Negative Number BCC-B120-30757*



Panorama of the Woolloongabba Cricket Ground, Brisbane, ca. 1906, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 10143-0001-0001

It was not until the 1870s that the name of the area was changed to Woolloongabba. The Borough of South Brisbane was established in 1888 as a separate municipal body from the City of Brisbane, encompassing the Woolloongabba Divisional Board, and by 1903 South Brisbane had been declared a separate city.

Clarence Corner, at the junction of what was once known as Boggo Road (now Annerley Road) and Stanley Street, flourished with commercial activity by the 1880s.

Further east, at the junction of Stanley and Main streets and Ipswich and Logan roads, the Fiveways became one of Brisbane's major transit intersections, with a complex series of criss-crossing tram and rail lines.

When the South East Freeway (now the Pacific Motorway) was constructed in the 1960s, the Stanley Street commercial strip was split in two and so too were Woolloongabba's residential areas.



1

STANLEY STREET

Clarence Corner retains its historic streetscape with buildings dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. It is important in Brisbane's history as a reflection of Stanley Street's commercial prominence in the late 19th and well into the 20th Century.

Since the 1860s, this section of Stanley Street between Annerley and Merton roads has been known as Clarence Corner. The establishment of the Clarence Hotel in 1863 by publican Thomas Hayselden capitalised on the passing bullock teams on their way to the wharves at South Brisbane. The current hotel was built in 1889 and replaced the original 1860s structure.

Other businesses quickly appeared and Clarence Corner soon became a bustling commercial strip. Throughout the 1880s Stanley Street rivalled Brisbane's other large shopping precincts in Queen Street and Fortitude Valley. Successful retailers established their fledgling businesses along Stanley Street, including drapers Allan and Stark, and importers and grocers, J&T Heaslop.



*Clarence Corner, Stanley Street, South Brisbane,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 4048*

When the Woolloongabba Railway Station was opened in 1884 (beside the Fiveways), the increased passing trade encouraged further commercial development.

In just this section of Stanley Street, between Raymond Terrace and Merton Road, there were six fruiterers, four butchers, four grocers, four boot makers, three drapers, two hairdressers, a coach builder, several tobacconists, two hotels, a baker and a fancy goods dealer.



NEWTOWN

“Hey, Presto! An old-established shopping centre, which has been staggering with slack sails in the doldrums of commerce, is once more on the map with the harbour of prosperity on a smiling horizon of booming trade”

(The Brisbane Courier, 10 December 1928).

By the mid-1920s parts of Clarence Corner were in a dilapidated state and Stanley Street was in need of extensive roadworks. In 1927, Brisbane City Council resumed the land on the river side of Stanley Street between Annerley and Merton roads. The existing shops were demolished, the road widened to double its original width, and the tram tracks re-aligned.

This work took several years and had a heavy impact on the businesses along the street. Once these roadworks were complete, new commercial buildings were constructed including the Morrison Hotel, promising new vigour for the precinct.

Although shop owners resented the time it took to complete the work, they banded together to promote the renewed shopping strip to residents of Brisbane:

“An esplanade of handsome shops and a modern hotel and two other fine buildings grew out of the rubble the resumptioms had left” *(The Brisbane Courier, 10 December 1928).*



View of Newtown, 1937, State Library of Queensland

In a fervour of optimism, the business community proposed to have the official name of Clarence Corner changed to Newtown. A grand opening ceremony for the new retail precinct took place on the night of 10 December 1928 when Lord Mayor William Jolly was driven through the resplendent precinct that was “festooned in electric lights and signs” *(The Brisbane Courier, 10 December 1928).*

Along the newly laid road were rows of tinkling bells. This heralded five days of celebrations that included sales in the shops, competitions, and musical and comedy performances.

Although the business community heavily lobbied for the name change, it was never officially supported by Council or the Postmaster-General's Department.

MATER

Misericordiae Hospital

“The new hospital will fill a two-fold purpose. On the one hand it will provide a thorough up-to-date private hospital, for the use of surgeons and the physicians of Brisbane... On the other hand, the poor are not to be forgotten, and one side of the hill will be covered with ward blocks of a complete separate institution... nursed by the good Sisters of Mercy, no effort will be spared to alleviate the sufferings of the needy and indigent”
(*Telegraph*, 7 March 1908).

Six Sisters of Mercy, headed by Mother Vincent Whitty, arrived in Brisbane from Ireland at the invitation of Bishop James Quinn in the early 1860s to assist him in establishing schools. Renowned for their teaching skills and ability to care for poor children, they established All Hallows’ Convent and School in 1863 and subsequently in 1906 established the Mater Misericordiae Private Hospital in an old house on Numberth Quay. This quickly became overcrowded and plans were made for the construction of a new hospital on College Hill.

The Sisters of Mercy, who “personally benefit nothing, except so far that it will provide an outlet for their zeal for suffering humanity” (*Telegraph*, 16 May 1908) raised £25,000 for the venture through fundraising and generous donations from the public.



Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Stanley Street, South Brisbane, 1924, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 422079

The first part of the hospital to be built was the private hospital, followed by the public hospital a year later.

The Mater Hospital was officially opened in August 1910 at a ceremony attended by some 12,000 people. The architectural firm, Hall and Dods, was engaged to design the new hospital. Robert Smith (Robin) Dods was one of Queensland’s most innovative and respected architects in this period. Reputed for designing some of Brisbane’s most important buildings, such as St. Brigid’s at Red Hill and the Lady Lamington Nurse’s Home at the Brisbane Hospital, Dods’ designs followed the Arts and Crafts Movement and were innovative for the time in being designed for a subtropical climate.

The Mater Hospital was carefully planned with Brisbane’s humid climate in mind, as well as the latest scientific theories of germ control and hygiene. It has played a key role in the lives of many Brisbane residents and remains one of Brisbane’s most important hospitals.

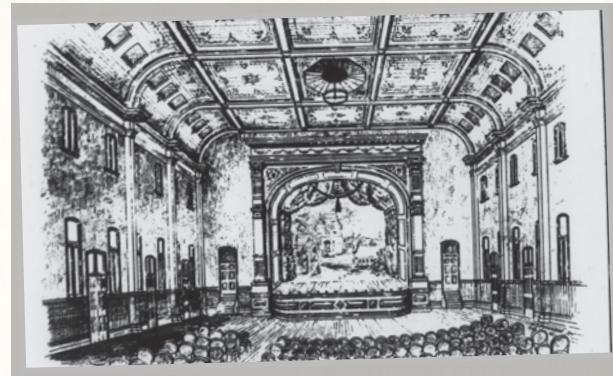
PRINCESS *Theatre*

The Princess Theatre is the oldest surviving purpose-built theatre on the Australian mainland. Originally known as the South Brisbane Public Hall, it was built as an entrepreneurial investment for Phillip Hardgrave, a Brisbane solicitor. He envisaged the potential for a successful theatre in South Brisbane as the population of the area quickly grew in the late 19th Century.

Live entertainment was part of Brisbane's culture from 1847, when George Croft performed acrobatic stunts at an open-air pavilion in South Brisbane. Nineteenth Century performances were held in a range of venues, including hotels, private homes and the School of Arts lecture hall which opened in 1851.

The first purpose-built theatre opened in Elizabeth Street in 1865. The economic and building boom of the 1880s saw more ornate theatres built in Brisbane, including this one. Unfortunately, the Princess Theatre was not an immediate success and for several years became a clothing factory. In 1912, however, silent movies began to be shown in the theatre by cinema chain, West's.

Moving picture technology had become increasingly popular in Australia, and the flourishing film industry in both America



Artist's sketch of the South Brisbane Theatre ca. 1892,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 199183

and Australia assured the South Brisbane audience a variety of silent films. This new use for the theatre was described in 1912:

"... the cheaper seats are fixed near the screen, and the better seats at the back of the hall, which undoubtedly is the best place from which to view moving pictures. The box to accommodate the machine and the operator is situated outside the building proper, the pictures being projected through a hole in the wall, which can be closed in a second"

(*Telegraph*, 1 June 1912).

In the 1930s live theatre was once again performed in the Princess Theatre, and performances were staged by Brisbane's fledgling amateur theatrical groups such as the Brisbane Amateurs Theatre (now the Brisbane Arts Theatre), Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society (now the La Boite Theatre Group) and the Twelfth Night Theatre.

PHOENIX *Building*

This set of six stately attached shops was built in 1889-90 as an investment for William Davies, a successful mining investor. At the time of their construction Woolloongabba was experiencing a commercial boom and the beautifully designed Victorian Filigree style building demonstrates this.

Davies engaged prominent Brisbane architect, Richard Gailey, to design the Phoenix Building. Gailey was responsible for designing some of Brisbane's most beautiful buildings and is most famous for his late Victorian era hotels including the Prince Consort, the Wickham and Jubilee hotels in Fortitude Valley, the Orient Hotel in the city, and the Regatta Hotel in Toowong. This set of shops is important as one of only a few known examples of Gailey's retail work.

In 1892 the first tenants in the building were recorded as including a bookseller, a tailor, a bank and an undertaker. In 1921 the Malouf family established their drapery business in the two end shops. Malouf and Sons was established by Syrian-born Calile Malouf, and became one of Brisbane's most successful retail businesses.



Stanley Street, Woolloongabba, 1969,
Brisbane City Council, Negative Number BCC-B54-30502

This success was described in 1925:

"As an example of what business acumen combined with grit and determination will accomplish, the business premises of C. Malouf and Sons, situated in Stanley Street ... are an apt illustration... so large has the business grown that it is able to keep busily employed as many as 12 assistants"
(*Truth*, 18 January 1925).

The Maloufs continued to run the business from the Phoenix Building until 1986.

MUIOOF HALL

This hall was built in 1891 for the South Brisbane order of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF). Used by the local Duke of Clarence Lodge, it became an important social centre for the movement.

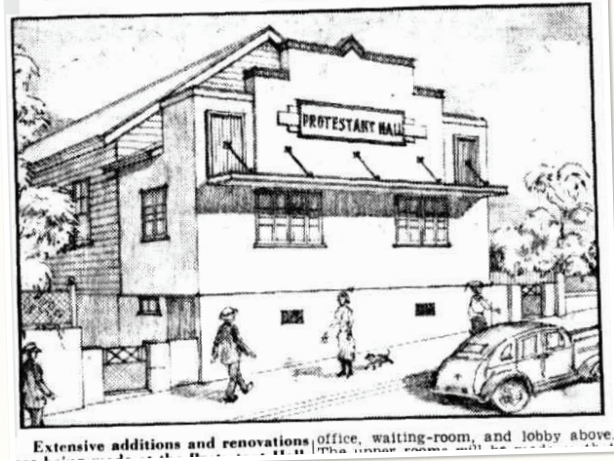
The MUIOOF was originally founded in 1810 in Manchester, England as a 'benevolent fraternity' organisation. It provided a form of medical and funeral insurance to help offset the high costs of sickness and death during an era of poor public health standards, high funeral costs and no government welfare for hospitals and medical expenses. Members made regular contributions to their lodge funds in return for payment upon death or illness to either themselves or their dependants.

By August 1891 this new hall had been completed and the official opening ceremony had taken place.

"After the general lodge business had been disposed of the lodge went into harmony, when some very good songs and recitations were rendered and much appreciated"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, 7 August 1891).

Protestant Hall Alterations



The Courier-Mail, 19 March 1940

The hall continued to be used for the Duke of Clarence Lodge's meetings and fundraising events.

In 1923 the Protestant Church purchased the property and it became known as the Protestant Hall. The Loyal Orange Institute of Queensland acquired the hall in 1927 and in 1940 carried out additions that included the construction of the 'Art Deco' style façade and the extension of the hall.

MERTON ROAD

cottages

As you walk up Merton Road, take note of the intact 19th Century streetscape. At the rise of the hill are two timber cottages and a timber duplex constructed in 1885 for George Richardson, a draper on Stanley Street.

The cottages were constructed just prior to the Queensland Government's introduction of the *Undue Subdivision of Land Prevention Act 1885*.

The government began to have concerns with over-population in inner-city areas from as early as the 1870s. The construction of small tenements and tiny cottages on very small parcels of land increased the risk of disease and fire throughout the inner-city suburbs. With the passing of the 1885 legislation it became illegal to subdivide land into lots of less than 16 perches (405 square metres). It also regulated the width of new roads and lanes and the distance between new houses and the road.



Looking south towards Merton Road, Woolloongabba, 1962, Brisbane City Council, Negative Number BCC-B54-18299

The Merton Road cottages are important to the Woolloongabba area as they demonstrate the pattern of development when its population boomed and housing was in high demand. They were designed by respected Queensland architect A.B. Wilson, who was also responsible for designing buildings such as the Plough Inn and Allan and Stark's department store in Stanley Street, South Brisbane (now within South Bank Parklands).

Once complete, the cottages were swiftly tenanted. Amongst the tenants between 1885 and 1895 were a tinsmith, a tailor, a plumber and a shearer.

These houses are private property. Please **do not** enter.

HOLY TRINITY

Anglican Church

This beautifully designed and prominently positioned church is one of Brisbane's finest examples of Italian Romanesque interwar architecture and was completed in 1930. The first church on the site was built in 1870 but was destroyed by a wind storm in 1874. One year later another was constructed. In 1929 however, it burnt down and was swiftly replaced by the impressive current church.

From 1907 the rector of the Holy Trinity Church was Canon Garland, who was instrumental in establishing the Anzac Day traditions all Australians follow, and is often referred to as the 'architect' of Anzac Day. With the outbreak of war in 1914, Garland became Queensland's senior army camp chaplain and for several years served in the Middle East. From as early as March 1916, less than a year after the start of the ill-fated Gallipoli Campaign on 25 April 1915, Chaplain Lieutenant-Colonel Garland was an integral member of the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee. This committee, founded in Queensland, was the first in Australia. Other committee members included Queensland Premier TJ Ryan and Catholic Archbishop James Duhig. The committee's purpose was to establish a national day of remembrance for those who died in World War I.

View of the tower and dome on the Holy Trinity Church at Woolloongabba, 1938, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 202767



Canon Garland wrote,

"When the news first came through of the terrible losses on the first Anzac Day, 1915, people were stunned by the immensity of the losses, that the best lives, our youth, and those to whom we looked for the future of our country were killed or so seriously injured that they never could be the same" (*Telegraph*, 25 April 1939).

Among some of Garland's legacies to the Anzac Day ritual were Anzac Day marches, two minutes' silence, wreath-laying ceremonies, returned soldiers' luncheons, and badge selling to raise money for servicemen's graves overseas and at home.

After the war Canon Garland was rector for the Ithaca parish until his death in 1939.

THE PLAGUE

In April 1900 the bubonic plague arrived in Queensland after first appearing in Sydney in January. The first case of plague in Brisbane was 24-year-old Hawthorne Street resident, James Drevisen, who lived in a small house close to the Ipswich Road intersection. Drevisen worked on the wharves and at the Brisbane markets, and it was suspected he contracted the plague at one of these locations. He survived.

Only a few weeks later another case appeared close by in Gibbon Street. An 18-year-old man contracted the plague and the sad case was reported in the *Telegraph*:

“The plague in Brisbane has now assumed serious proportions, and it is our dismal duty today to report the first death from the disease in Brisbane. Richard JJ Shanahan, the young man who was reported as suffering from plague last evening, died at his residence, Gibbon Street, Woolloongabba, this morning. At the time of death the only person with him was the wardsman who was sent to attend him until his intended removal to the plague hospital”

(*Telegraph*, 16 May 1900).



Quarantine barricade around houses in Hawthorne Street, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland 1900, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 73241

Before the discovery of antibiotics, bubonic plague was a deadly and rapidly spreading disease carried by rats' fleas; the rats were attracted by the unsanitary conditions in crowded inner-city suburbs such as Woolloongabba. Faced with this crisis, local authorities implemented extensive improvements to sanitary conditions.

By September there had been 46 cases in Brisbane, including four in Woolloongabba. Those who contracted the plague were swiftly taken to an isolation hospital in Colmslie. Anyone who had been in contact with the patient would be either isolated in their houses or also taken out to Colmslie. For burials, the bodies of plague victims were wrapped in a sheet that had been soaked in carbolic acid and placed in a lime-lined coffin. In Brisbane, they were buried on an isolated section of Gibson Island, an area that was thought to be undevelopable. Extensive rat eradication programs were also implemented throughout Brisbane.

This outbreak of plague continued to haunt Queensland until 1909. The total number of deaths in the state reached 219. The highest mortality rate was in 1900, with 57 deaths from 136 cases.

WOOLLOONGABBA

Post Office

At the end of the 19th Century the bustling centre of Woolloongabba was one of Brisbane's busiest areas. Businesses on Stanley Street, between Hubert Street and Ipswich Road, included two bakers, two fancy goods stores, two grocers, a stationer, a dressmaker, a fruiterer, a butter factory, a furniture warehouse, an oyster saloon and the Woolloongabba Hotel. The Ipswich and Logan road commercial strips along the intersection, known as The Gabba Fiveways, were just as busy.

Amid this activity, the business owners, local politicians and prominent residents lobbied the Postmaster-General "to ask that a post and telegraph office should be established at the Fiveways, Woolloongabba, which was an important centre at which there was a considerable amount of business done"
(*The Brisbane Courier*, 13 September 1889).

The request was successful and a post and telegraph office was established in a leased shop along Logan Road.



*Woolloongabba Post Office, Brisbane ca. 1906,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 19335*

By 1902 the postal service proved inadequate and the Australian Government purchased a block of land on Stanley Street for the erection of a new post and telegraph office. Government Architect, Alfred Barton Brady, designed the masonry building.

On its opening in 1905, the Woolloongabba Post and Telegraph Office was one of Brisbane's most prominently situated and striking post offices in Queensland. The post office was finally closed in 1994.

DAVID WEBSTER'S

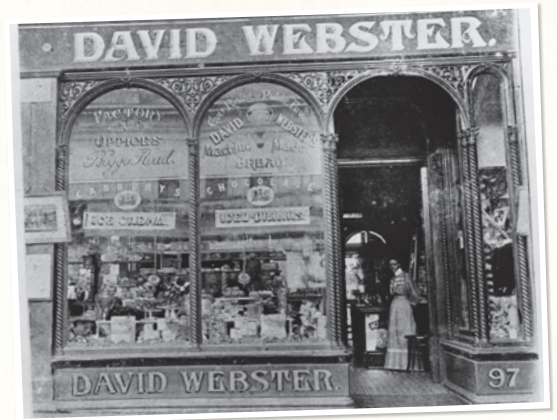
Tea Rooms

"Dainties for the rich, dainties for the poor, dainties for everybody at David Webster's Tea Rooms"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, 20 August 1904).

In 1898 successful South Brisbane baker and businessman, David Webster, established a bakery and tea rooms on this corner. At the time, it was the only café in this section of Stanley Street and so was certain to be a successful venture. The tea rooms were one of a series created by David Webster throughout the city, with several in busy Queen Street, one in George Street, a few in Fortitude Valley and another in West End. By the 1930s more had been established, including the once-famous 'Shingle Inn' on Edward Street in the city.

The tea rooms specialised in cakes, baked close by in Webster's factory on Annerley Road (then known as Boggo Road) located opposite Boggo Road Gaol. The factory had been founded by David Webster in the early 1880s and became known as David Webster & Sons Ltd. It was soon one of the largest bread and cake-making factories in the state.



David Webster's Tea Rooms in Brisbane, 1900,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 10353

In 1900 the impressive scale of the business was highlighted in the newspaper: "[Webster] has a large factory in Boggo Road, employing a staff of sixty men, and requiring the services daily of between forty and fifty horses, and twenty-five vehicles or delivery vans. Mr Webster's factory is the only one in Brisbane with a complete plant for making bread by machinery"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, 22 December 1900).

The Stanley Street tea rooms continued serving Woolloongabba shoppers until the early 1920s. David Webster died in 1937 but his Annerley Road factory continued to bake household treats until 1966 when the business was moved to Kedron. Today, this tradition continues in the 'Top Taste' factory on Gympie Road.

WOOLLOONGABBA

Fiveways

“Daily through the junction at the Fiveways thousands of workers pour into the city from the outer suburbs... [who] must pass the tramway signal house which has been erected to control the frequent services. The railway goods yard flanking Stanley Street are of immense importance... many new buildings costing thousands of pounds have been erected... Woolloongabba must continue to make progress”
(*The Brisbane Courier*, 7 June 1930).

The Gabba Fiveways, as it became known, was once Brisbane’s busiest intersection. The convergence of Logan, Ipswich and Main roads and Stanley Street ensured this part of Woolloongabba was a hectic mix of noisy traffic, shops, hotels and businesses.

From 1884 a rail line from the South Brisbane wharves, south to Loganlea and later to Beenleigh crossed through the Fiveways and a railway station delivered passengers to the busy centre. Behind the station, the large railway goods yard added to the commotion.



Steam train crossing Woolloongabba Fiveways, 1960s, Brisbane City Council, Negative Number BCC-L11-9531

In 1886 a horse-drawn tram service delivered passengers from South Brisbane to the Fiveways. Once electrified, there were several tram services converging at the Fiveways from Ipswich Road, Logan Road and Stanley Street; the railway line wound through the intersection shared by everyday traffic and pedestrians.

In 1927, in response to the growing safety concerns at the busy intersection, a signalman’s cabin was built at the centre of the Fiveways. The cabin sat above street level to provide the signalman with uninterrupted views of the traffic.

By the late 1960s the railway goods yard had been closed, and the South East Freeway was constructed through the centre of the former yards. The rail link to the wharves was no longer needed as Brisbane’s port facilities were moved away from South Brisbane and trams ceased to traverse Brisbane streets in 1969.

ST NICHOLAS

Russian Orthodox Cathedral

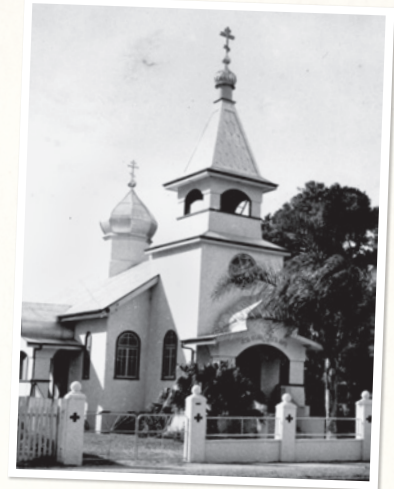
"This is a story of triumph over adversity. It is the story of the struggles for over a decade of the small community of Russians in Brisbane to build a church for themselves... that would inspire in them the atmosphere of Russian grandeur as it was before Bolshevism, infusing into the cold grey embers of dying memory a new glow in which they might see once more the graceful cupolas of the old fatherland"

(Telegraph, 16 November 1935).

As the first purpose-built Russian Orthodox church in Australia, St Nicholas Cathedral holds great importance to Brisbane's Russian community. Although there had been some Russian immigration to Queensland in the late 19th Century, it was during the early part of the 20th Century when Brisbane became home to many White Russians fleeing violence and persecution at the hands of the revolutionary Bolshevik forces in Russia.

Most had fled Russia via China and with difficulty had gained passage to Australia. Brisbane became home to the largest community of White Russian exiles in Australia. This small community, faithful to the Russian Orthodox religion, first held services in an Anglican church in South Brisbane.

Russian Orthodox Church of St Nicholas, Woolloongabba, ca. 1936, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 125727



In the mid-1920s the small parish purchased a cottage on Vulture Street and this became the first Russian Orthodox Church in Brisbane, named St Nicholas.

In 1935 the community decided to have a new church built that would reflect traditional Russian architecture: "the little dilapidated building did not please them, and they longed for the architectural warmth of old Russia" *(Telegraph, 16 November 1935).*

The beautiful new church was completed by 1936 and consecrated with full rites that October. It became Australia's first Russian Orthodox Cathedral in 1948 when Bishop Theodore located to the Woolloongabba church. Today, St Nicholas Cathedral remains central to Brisbane's Russian community.

BRISBANE

German Club Hall

In 1889 Brisbane's first German Club, or *Deutscher Turn Verein* as it was known in German, was established in South Brisbane. The club, however, was destroyed by fire in the same year. Following this, the German community acquired property on Vulture Street and swiftly built a new club that became a landmark in the area: "the structure has a very showy and ornamental appearance, with its two balcony towers" (*Telegraph*, 27 May 1890).

By the 1930s a new premises was required, and an impressive club house with a large dance hall and a skittle alley was officially opened by the German Consul-General in September 1934.

During both world wars, as conflict raged between the Allies and Germany, Brisbane's German community voluntarily closed the club for the duration of the wars. Many in the broader Brisbane community were vehemently against the club's existence. It was reported that: "the committee of the club persistently protested their loyalty to Australia. As persistently, however, the public refused to believe" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 29 November 1922).



Twin cupolas decorate the German Club in Woolloongabba, 1907, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 79523

In 1914 the Australian Government passed the *War Precautions Act* which allowed the authorities to intern any person they believed may pose a security threat to Australia.

During both conflicts, German-Australians were termed 'enemy aliens' and many were forced into internment camps for the duration of both wars. One of the country's largest camps was in Gaythorne, near the Enoggera Army Barracks. More than 7000 people were interned throughout Australia during World War I and this number almost doubled in World War II.

It took several years after the end of both conflicts before Brisbane German Club was re-opened. Today, the club is one of Brisbane's favourite social centres.

WOOLLOONGABBA

Police Station

This stately building was the third in a succession of police stations in Woolloongabba. The previous two had been in rental houses. As the population of the district rapidly grew in the early 20th Century, the need for a larger and better-equipped police station was recognised and plans for the new Woolloongabba Police Station were prepared.

The new station was complete by 1913 and its main purpose was to provide accommodation for the officers. There was a two-storey residence for the commanding officer and two-storey barracks for the constables, as well as a mess and day room. There were also four cells in the basement.

In 1937 the police station became the headquarters for the South Coast District, an area of 5335 square kilometres that stretched to Coolangatta. Extensive additions were made to the station at this time, including a three-storey building that was constructed behind the original.

This was an era of economic hardship for many as the Great Depression caused widespread unemployment.



Construction of a railway turntable in Main Street, Woolloongabba, 1921, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 37394

The government at the time established relief work schemes to reduce unemployment and to provide a source of income for unemployed men and their families.

At this time, a Relief Office, where the police administered intermittent relief work, was established in the basement of the station. On visiting the newly renovated station in July 1937, the Minister for Home Affairs was impressed to see there was: "separate accommodation for the staff handling relief matters, so that relief workers and their relatives would not have to go near the portion used as a police station" (*Queensland Times*, 27 July 1937).

Whether this was to protect the workers and their families from the often unsavoury characters and events at police stations, or to afford a level of discretion for the unemployed workers, is unclear.

The Criminal Investigation Branch was relocated to the station in 1951 and the station was closed in 1993.

THE GABBA

Officially known as the Brisbane Cricket Ground, The Gabba is one of Queensland's iconic sporting venues. Most famous for its cricket, the grounds have also hosted cycling events, athletics, harness and dog racing and various football codes. Traditionally, the first international test match of the cricket season is held at The Gabba.

The once-swampy ground was set aside as a recreational reserve by the government as early as the 1860s. In the late 1890s the reserve was handed to the trustees of the Brisbane Cricket Ground, who swiftly organised the site to be filled and properly drained. It was reported that more than 40,000 tons of fill was used. Once the ground was levelled, the pitch laid and the parameter timber fence complete, the first game of cricket was held in December 1896. This match was between Queensland Parliament and the press gallery. It was reported that the "game on Saturday was historic in its way, since it opened the Woolloongabba Sports Ground, on which in the near future international and intercolonial athletes will try for championship honours" (*Queenslander*, 26 December 1896).



Woolloongabba Cricket Ground, 1899,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 11972

Today, The Gabba continues to be Queensland's premier cricket venue. As well, it has become the state's home of Australian Football League. From 1996 it was the base of the newly formed Victorian Football League club, the Brisbane Bears. After merging with the Fitzroy Football Club to form the Brisbane Lions in 1997, the team went on to win three premierships in a row from 2001 to 2003.

FIGHT TALK place

"Round their camp fires at night fun and laughter prevailed. They rarely slept until midnight... After supper the fires were made up, adjacent hollow logs were fired, and the smoke coalescing overhead created an atmosphere of warmth that no cold could get through"

(*'Reminiscences'*, by W. Clark, *Queenslander*, 14 October 1916).

This quote from an early Woolloongabba resident helps to describe the One Mile Swamp camp. One of the largest Aboriginal camps on the southern side of the river was situated on the site where the former railway goods yards were. The name 'Woolloongabba' is believed to be an Aboriginal word that means 'fight talk place'. On the land beside the camp there was a significant fighting ground where hundreds of men from different southside groups would gather to take part in the important events. These were often very violent gatherings and were held when a serious breach of the laws had occurred:



1858 map of Brisbane depicting the chain of waterholes known as One Mile Swamp, Brisbane City Council Archives

"The thud of hundreds of feet on the ground was impressive... the lines of fighters advanced to the footline of the ridges, and soon hundreds of spears were crossing and recrossing each other in the air"

(*'Reminiscences'*, by W. Clark, *Queenslander*, 14 October 1916).

As well as the fighting ground, there was a large bora ground on the southern side of the river. The bora ground was used for ceremonies including male initiation ceremonies where women were forbidden to attend. It was reported that ceremonies could last for several weeks.

These important Aboriginal places were disregarded by the newly arrived Europeans who did not appreciate their deep cultural and spiritual significance.

BROADWAY *Theatre*

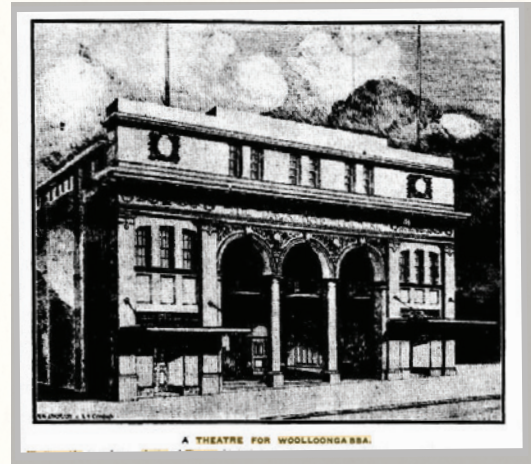
"The theatre will be in the centre of a large population, who will have the advantage of being able to attend entertainments without the long journey into the city"

(The Brisbane Courier, 3 May 1923).

The early 1920s was a time of prosperity for the businesses located in The Gabba Fiveways. Rapid residential development in surrounding suburbs such as Greenslopes and Annerley meant many more shoppers were visiting the Fiveways as it became their closest centre easily reached by public transport.

It was amid this activity that theatre proprietor John Lewis recognised an opportunity to establish an entertainment venue at the Fiveways. He created the company Broadway Theatres Limited and set about having plans drawn for the construction of a grand theatre close to the corner of Logan and Ipswich roads.

Prominent Brisbane architectural firm Atkinson and Conrad was commissioned to design the theatre. Once complete, the theatre was a striking masonry and timber building with a set of decorative Romanesque arches at the entrance to an elaborately designed vestibule.



The Brisbane Courier, 3 May 1923

The theatre could accommodate up to 2000 people and had a large stage. It was officially opened by the Mayor of South Brisbane in January 1924 and at the time was described as an "imposing addition to the theatres of Brisbane. Designed and built for the comfort of the patrons, and well ventilated, the Broadway will be among the most comfortable of the city's amusement houses" (*Telegraph, 4 January 1924*). Music, theatre, movies and political meetings were among the activities held in the theatre.

Sadly, the Broadway Theatre was destroyed by fire in 1962.

'MORAL SUASION'

This stately building was built between 1889 and 1890 as a set of three shops, and since then has remained a prominent landmark. Over the years the three shops have had a range of tenants. The largest of the shops at the east end of the row became the People's Cash Store, which was trading from the premises by 1891 and continued to until the 1920s.

The business was owned by successful retailers, James and Thomas Heaslop, who had previously established the first People's Cash Store in Clarence Corner. They went on to establish others in the city, South Brisbane, Fortitude Valley, Charters Towers and Rockhampton, and were described in 1898 as "importers, ironmongers, grocers, provision and produce merchants" (*Telegraph*, 21 December 1898).

In the late 19th Century, People's Cash Store was at the forefront of a campaign to improve the conditions of shop assistants:

"... the time had at last arrived when there would be some release from the heated and unwholesome shop atmosphere, when they would be able to return to their homes in daylight, and not in a jaded, tired, and exhausted condition"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, 5 January 1901).

Many shop assistants worked extremely long hours and were rarely given days off.

Female shop assistants were seen as particularly vulnerable as they would travel home alone at night.

The Early Closing Movement was established in an attempt to lobby the government to introduce standard opening hours. The progressive management of the People's Cash Store voluntarily reduced the opening hours of their stores as well as introducing a half-day holiday on Wednesdays. The movement called on 'moral suasion' for those in the retail sector to also voluntarily reduce their opening hours. Initially, the idea was well received by both shop owners and the public. It failed, however, when unscrupulous retailers ignored the push and continued opening late, forcing competitors to also open late.

The movement then shifted its focus to legislative change and through hard lobbying the *Early Closing Act* was passed in 1901, making it compulsory for shops to close every Saturday afternoon.



People's Cash Store at Fiveways, Woolloongabba, 1900, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 16343

WOOLLOONGABBA

Baby Clinic

"To suppose that the reduction of infant mortality is the only, or even the main object, is a grievous error. The object is the building up of a new generation more sound in body and mind and more resistant to disease than the present"
(*Telegraph*, 3 April 1933).

The Queensland Labor Government introduced the *Maternity Act 1922*, seeking to decrease infant and maternal mortality rates, increase the birth rate, and educate mothers in the care of their children through the provision of improved maternity and baby health services. The policy was linked to the idea that a healthy society would lead to a strong economy.

There had been a baby clinic in Woolloongabba from 1918 but by the mid-1920s its small premises, which was situated across the road, became too small and it was deemed necessary to construct a larger clinic. Completed by 1928, the Woolloongabba Baby Clinic was one of 23 established in the state, with four central Brisbane clinics in Fortitude Valley, the city, West End and Woolloongabba.



Nurse working at the Child Welfare Centre, Woolloongabba, May 1949, Queensland State Archives, Image Number 23380

The clinic played an important role in many women's lives as it provided not only free advice on the care of babies from qualified nurses but also education on maternal and children's health: "to this want of knowledge can be traced most of the ailments of the young, and by education, especially by education of mothers, can this be prevented" (*Sunday Mail*, 2 April 1933).

The Woolloongabba Baby Clinic provided this important service well into the late 20th Century.



Brisbane City Council

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