

Queens Park

Leading the Way



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'Rocky' the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) and Plunket Mallee (*Eucalyptus curtisii*) have been adopted as Ipswich City's Faunal and Floral emblems.



Queens Park contains significant cultural heritage values not only for Ipswich but for Queensland. Queens Park was the first park to be developed in Queensland, first being surveyed in 1842. Its original architectural design dates back to 1862, and is perhaps Ipswich's most well known landmark. Visitors to the park will experience old world charm with modern day conveniences.

Its close proximity to the CBD allows for easy access to shady gardens and a relaxing lunch time outing.

Features of the park include extensive formalised garden beds, a Japanese-styled garden, a Nature Centre, Children's play facilities, Bush House, Bush Chapel, several sporting Clubs and a Kiosk.

History

The park reserve formed part of the first survey for the town of Ipswich in 1842. Trustees were appointed in 1862 and the park, named Queens Park after Queen Victoria, was laid out in 1864. In 1915 Parks Curator F.W. Turley was appointed and began to plant trees in what had been a fairly sparse parkland.

The Park was the venue for large gatherings such as royal visits, Coronation Day celebrations and for its champion band concerts performed on Saturdays. Queens Park was and is still very popular with Ipswich residents.

Opening hours

Queens Park is open 24hrs per day though no lighting restricts most activities to daylight hours. Contact (07) 3810 6810 for opening hours of Nature Centre & Nerima Gardens as they vary with the seasons.

Caring for our Parks

Please follow these simple guidelines to ensure that our parks remain in pristine condition for all to enjoy:

- Help keep our native animals safe and our natural areas clean by placing all litter in the bins provided. Food and rubbish items have the potential to kill or injure our native wildlife.
- Ensure pets remain on a leash at all times as they can scare or kill native animals, become injured or even get lost.
- For your safety do not venture too close to native wildlife. They may interpret your actions as a form of aggression and abandon their young.
- Protect the area's ecological value. Do not disturb or remove plants, animals, rocks or soil.

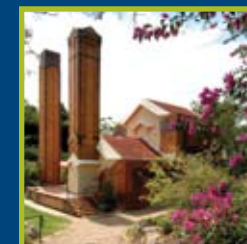
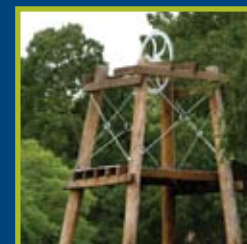


20. Children's Play Ground

The play equipment was designed to celebrate the rich mining history of the Ipswich area while providing an enjoyable and interactive environment for children to play.

21. Visitor Information Centre

If you would like information on any of the other attractions within Ipswich or would like to purchase a souvenir, be sure to visit the Ipswich Visitor Information Centre.



Suggested Activities and Attractions

1. Lions' Lookout

The road winding up from the Visitor Information Centre and the road through Queens Park both lead to a lookout, which gives a view across the central business district of Ipswich City. The lookout was constructed in the mid 1990's and also includes a view of the distant mountain ranges and Cunningham's Gap.

2. Naval Monument

The Naval Monument in the inland city of Ipswich is a memorial to all the naval servicemen of the district. Erected in 1967 by the Ipswich & West Moreton sub-section of the Naval Association, the memorial displays an anchor at the top of the monument.

3. Glassey monument

This monument celebrates the life of Irishman, Thomas Glassey. Thomas became a pit-boy and miner at the age of eight before moving to Australia with his family in 1885. In later years Thomas became secretary of the Ipswich Miners Mutual Protection Association. He was regarded as the first Labor Member of Queensland Parliament although he was not an official candidate. The cairn was unveiled in 1938 in the presence of politicians and all political parties.

4. Cunningham monument

Allan Cunningham, a dedicated explorer and botanist, visited Ipswich several times. In August 1828, he stayed for five days to rest his bullock teams. During this time, he took compass bearings of the distant mountains before setting out on his expedition to find a route to the gap in the ranges. In travelling from Ipswich he discovered Cunningham's Gap.

5. Scout Den

The second Ipswich Scout Group was founded in 1922. This den was purchased for removal and re-erected on its current site with the addition of a new floor and fireplace. The official opening took place on 7th August, 1937 and was named the 'King George V Memorial Hall'.



6. Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator

This building, built in 1936 as an incinerator for burning the city's rubbish, is now the headquarters of the Ipswich Little Theatre. It was designed by Walter Burley Griffin, the architect who designed our nation's capital.

7. Rotunda

The octagonal rotunda at the entrance to the Nature Centre was constructed in 1891 and was utilised over the years by bands who played Saturday afternoon concerts. For many years Ipswich was famous for its champion bands. With these bands utilising the rotunda, it became a popular spot for locals with up to 2000 people regularly attending the Saturday afternoon events.

8. The Limestone Terrace

Limestone Terraces and Pyramid of Terraces (Cunningham's Monument Site) were built by relief workers during the depression of the 1930's. Relief work was created to supply many out of work men with jobs during the depression.

9. Lime Heap

The heap is a reminder that Ipswich was established in 1827 as a convict out-station to quarry Limestone, which was converted to quicklime and sent to Brisbane for use as mortar for early brick buildings.

10. Park Curator's House

Was built in the 1930's. The hedge and terrace gardens were constructed in the same period to enhance the house, with one section of hedge spelling out the words 'Queens Park'.

18. Bush Chapel

The Bush Chapel is a popular place for open air weddings and can be booked through Ipswich City Council.

19. Tennis Club

The courts and centre are the home of the Ipswich Junior Tennis Association formed in 1906. Establishment of the courts and centre commenced in 1929 with the centre opened in 1934, with four additional courts being added in 1948. The Clubhouse bears the name of "Shenton House", as a mark of respect and esteem for the popular and keen President "Clarry" Shenton who passed away while still in office shortly after opening the new centre on the 7th July, 1934. Memorial gates were also erected in honour of Alderman Tom E. Woodford who played a big role in Ipswich tennis.

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14. Bowls Clubhouse

Ipswich Bowls Club was founded in 1910 and is the third oldest bowls club in Queensland. The clubhouse was estimated to have opened in 1915, with an extension built in 1935. The architect of the original building was Will Haenke. The building he designed has since been replaced with the present brick building.

15. Croquet Club

The Croquet Club was founded in 1902 and was originally allotted ground for only one court, but as the game proved so popular, extra courts had to be laid out. The Clubhouse was erected in 1933.

16. Nerima Gardens

Nerima Gardens has been designed in consultation with the Japanese city of Nerima. The Nerima Prefecture is situated within greater Tokyo and has a population of some 750,000 people. Ipswich and Nerima have been sister cities since 15th October, 1994 with residents from both cities regularly visiting the other for business and holidays.

Nerima Gardens seeks to capture elements of a Japanese style garden whilst retaining a distinctly Ipswich identity through the use of local plants including rare and endangered species.

The garden is a picture of the local environment and how its rivers, mountain peaks and vegetation fit within Ipswich and the south-east Queensland landscape.

17. Ipswich Nature Centre

The first animal enclosure was built in 1936 in Queens Park and was home to a population of emus, kangaroos and ducks.

Since then the Nature Centre has seen many changes and is continually being improved. Ipswich contains 36 known rare and threatened species with a large quantity of otherwise significant plants and animal species.

Through the use of local plant and animal species the Nature Centre hopes to provide awareness of the City's natural resources.

11. Greenhouse, Glasshouse and Formal Gardens

The Glasshouse and neighbouring Greenhouse were constructed in 1941 for the purpose of displaying and producing plants of various species that would not normally be available to the people of the district. A number of community organisations are involved in maintaining the plants in these facilities.

12. Stand of Grass Trees

The tall grass trees of this region were first described by Captain Patrick Logan when he found the site of Ipswich in 1827. The trees are estimated to be several hundreds of years old.

13. Macfarlane Monument

Was erected in memory of former Ipswich Mayor and member of Parliament John Macfarlane.



The formal gardens and hedges were established during the 1930's & 40's.

