

Goodna Then & Now



Introduction

Goodna and Redbank are now part of a large urban area which extends between Ipswich and Brisbane, but they were once separate villages with their own distinct character. Goodna was a small but substantial community surrounded by farmland. Its buildings included churches, hotels and stores.

- A Brisbane Terrace:** This quiet terrace beside the river was once part of the main road from Ipswich to Brisbane. The avenue of trees was planted during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Each October, the gold silky oaks and purple jacarandas come into bloom at the same time - a sight that is well worth a detour from the main road.
- B Royal Mail Hotel, 92 Brisbane Terrace, Goodna:** There has been a Royal Mail Hotel at Goodna since the 1860s. The present-day hotel, apparently not on the same site as the original, was built in 1894.
- C The Church Street Precinct:** The original Goodna township was near the river, but flooding proved a major problem. When St Francis Xavier Church (at the time known as St Patrick's) was built in 1881, it provided a focus for a new settlement. The Church Street precinct now includes houses built around the late 1890s, as well as the Police Station, Convent and Church.
- D Goodna War Memorial, Cnr Queen and Church Streets:** This memorial in a small open area records the names of 124 local people and was unveiled by the Governor Sir Matthew Nathan in 1921. Local senior citizens sometimes gathered here for a conversation and this led to the tree behind the memorial being called "The Tree of Knowledge".
- E St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 6 Church Street:**



The church (originally known as St Patrick's) is open for most of each day and the interior may be inspected respectfully except when a wedding, funeral or other church service is taking place.

This beautiful church is built of sandstone quarried nearby in Stuart Street. The congregation is said to have helped reduce the building cost by carting the stone themselves. The church was opened on May Day, 1881. The architect was Andrea Stombuco of Brisbane. The front porch was added in 1924 and the side porch in the 1980s.

F The Peace Centre, (formerly the Sisters of Mercy Convent) 6 Queen Street: The Goodna parish was formed in 1892 and in the early years, two Sisters of Mercy travelled from Ipswich to teach Sunday religious lessons. A timber school was built in 1910 and this convent was built in 1911. It is now an administrative centre for support of young people in the area.

G Old Police Barracks and Lock Up, 10 Church Street: Because of flooding, the Police Station was moved here from a site near Woogaroo Creek. A new police barracks was built in 1889. The plans showed two "cells" at the rear - the old lock-up can still be glimpsed from the road. The new brick police station at 12 Church St was built in 1985 on the site of the old Goodna Court House.

H 16 Queen Street: The house was built about 1906 for the parents of Edward Carroll who was later one of the partners of the cinema company Birch Carroll and Coyle.



I Anzac Cottages, 5 View Street and 48 William Street: These cottages were built in 1918 for widows of World War I soldiers. George Armstrong donated the land, the Queensland War Council supplied materials and 50 men of the district gave their labour.

J Penhelyg, 43 William Street: This charming house was built in 1896. It has decorative lacework on the front verandah and is framed by trees.



Historical Facts

The ceremony of "turning the sod" for the first rail link between Ipswich and Brisbane took place near Goodna on 30 January 1873. Two thousand people attended the event, most arriving by paddle steamer. To officially start the work, the Governor (the Marquis of Normanby) used a solid silver spade to dig a small piece of earth and place it in a wheelbarrow.

- ☞ Cobb and Co coaches stopped at Goodna on their way to and from Brisbane (their only other stops were Oxley and Rocklea). After the railway link was completed in 1875, this service ended. The busy riverboat traffic past Redbank and Goodna also declined.
- ☞ Edward Carroll, one of the founders of the cinema group Birch Carroll & Coyle, grew up in this area. His family lived at Redbank Plains and then at Goodna.
- ☞ The first recorded burial at the Goodna Cemetery was in November 1873 but there are believed to have been 29 earlier burials. There are now around 1000 graves and a crematorium has been built on part of the site.