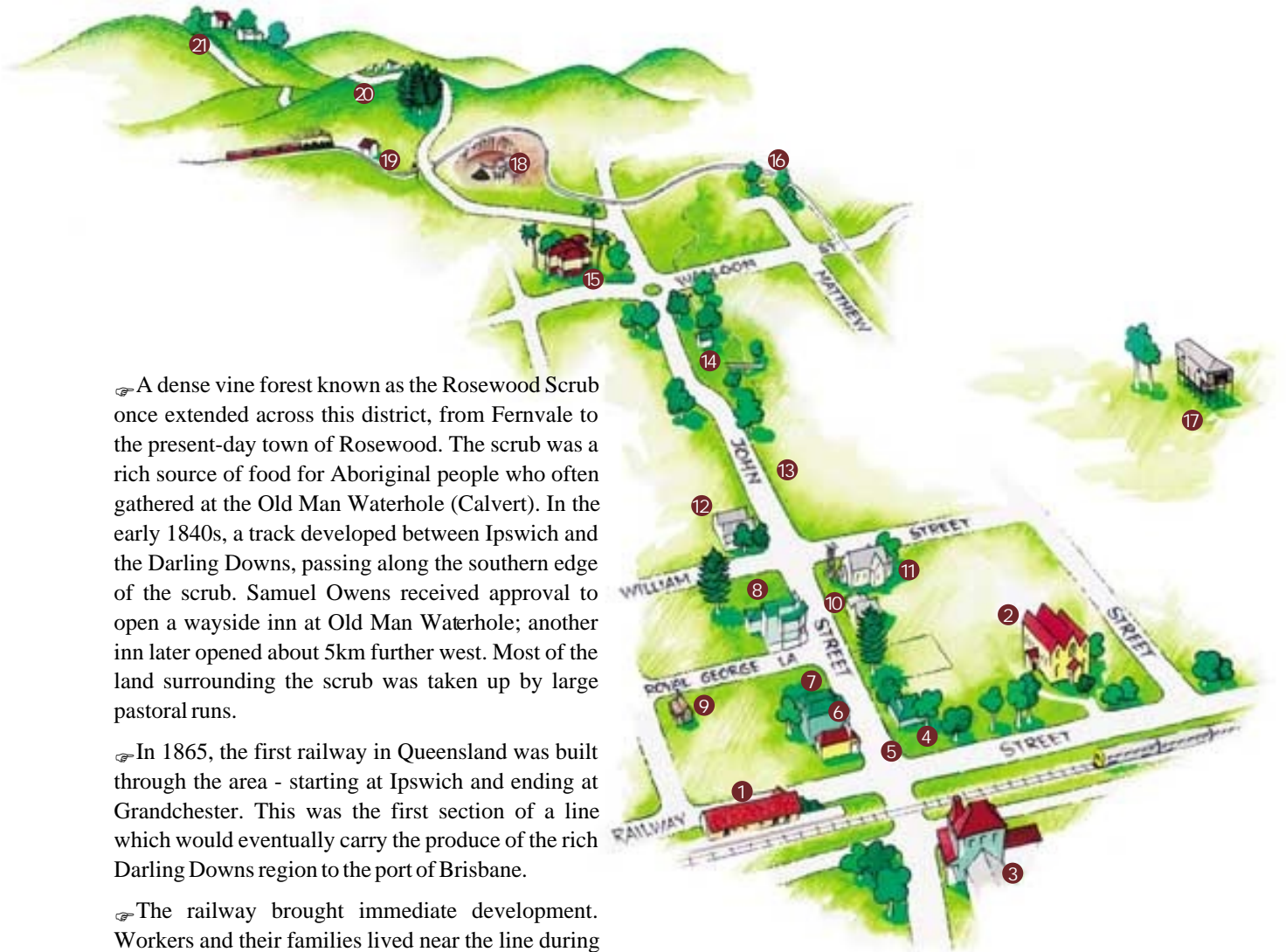


Rosewood Then & Now



☞ A dense vine forest known as the Rosewood Scrub once extended across this district, from Fernvale to the present-day town of Rosewood. The scrub was a rich source of food for Aboriginal people who often gathered at the Old Man Waterhole (Calvert). In the early 1840s, a track developed between Ipswich and the Darling Downs, passing along the southern edge of the scrub. Samuel Owens received approval to open a wayside inn at Old Man Waterhole; another inn later opened about 5km further west. Most of the land surrounding the scrub was taken up by large pastoral runs.

☞ In 1865, the first railway in Queensland was built through the area - starting at Ipswich and ending at Grandchester. This was the first section of a line which would eventually carry the produce of the rich Darling Downs region to the port of Brisbane.

☞ The railway brought immediate development. Workers and their families lived near the line during construction, and small townships later sprang up around the stations and stopping places.

☞ In the 1860s, the Queensland Parliament passed several Acts to encourage people to take up land. Over the next 20 years, new settlers gradually cleared the Rosewood Scrub and converted it to farms. Many of these early settlers were German families who gained a reputation for hard work and honesty.

☞ Coal mining began near Walloon in 1877 and became a major industry in the Rosewood region, along with dairying. Both industries have declined since the 1950s and the region's focus is now largely rural residential.

1 Rosewood Railway Station: The current station is an attractive and unusual building, constructed in 1918 of pre-cast concrete which imitates timber.



2 St Brigid's Catholic Church: This is the largest timber church in Queensland and was opened in 1910. The interior is exceptional and includes murals, a pressed metal ceiling and stained glass windows depicting female saints. Visitors may inspect the interior respectfully unless a church service is in progress. Also in the complex are a convent, presbytery, bell tower and school.



- 3 **Rising Sun Hotel:** Two earlier hotels, the Sunrise and the Rising Sun, burned down in the 19th century. The current two-storey Rising Sun Hotel was designed by Ipswich architect Will Haenke and was completed in 1909.



- 4 **Rosewood Court House and Police Station:** Built in 1892, this building is a reminder of the time when country towns were far more self-contained. Rosewood Police Station is adjacent to the Court House. The complex is state heritage listed.
- 5 **John Street:** This street is characterised by a continuous line of street awnings held up by timber posts. Although there are some modern intrusions, the character of the town is still apparent. A huge fire destroyed nine buildings in the main street in 1914 and many of the current buildings date from just after this time.
- 6 **Rosewood Hotel:** The earlier Rosewood Hotel was destroyed in the 1914 fire. The current hotel was rebuilt shortly afterwards. It is a handsome two-storey building, with an interesting double verandah.
- 7 **Group of shops:** This group consists of two single-storey buildings and a two-storey building with an elaborate upper verandah.
- 8 **Royal George Hotel:** There has been a Royal George Hotel in Rosewood since the 1890s. This building was badly damaged in a fire in October 1933. Note the hitching rings on the verandah posts.
- 9 **Settler's Cottage: 3 Albert Street, Rosewood (cnr Royal George Lane)** This quaint relic was probably built as a separate cottage but was later the kitchen wing for a larger house. It is a well-known and much-photographed local landmark.
- 10 **Rosewood Post office and the Wisdom Seat:** A timber bench in the shade of a fig tree outside the Post Office is a popular place for residents to sit and exchange opinions, hence the name. The Post Office is a very typical country town example with Federation-era charm. It was originally the post office for Marburg but was moved here in 1941.
- 11 **Uniting Church:** A Congregational Church opened on this site in 1875 and a manse was built in 1898. The church has a timber bell tower which is a focal point of the street. In the right-hand corner of the block is a columbarium - an unusual feature for a main street. The town of Rosewood has seven churches.
- 12 **Timber sheds, corner of William St:** These large sheds were formerly Elders Wheelwright and Blacksmith shop. David Elder was born in Scotland and migrated to Queensland in 1884. He made spring carts, farm wagons, ploughs and agricultural machinery.
- 13 **Group of houses.** The northern end of John St is lined with attractive timber houses of traditional Queensland design.
- 14 **Johnston Park:** is an attractively landscaped park in the main street with an enclosed playground, toilets, BBQ and picnic tables.
- 15 **Glendalough:** One of the grandest houses in Rosewood, it was once the home of Thomas and Edith Bulcock. Thomas was apprenticed to a merchant in Brisbane but in 1908, he moved to Rosewood and bought an existing business and a cottage in John Street. As the business grew, so did his home. The small cottage was extended until it became this grand residence with an octagonal summer room and extensive gardens.
- 16 **Rosewood Scrub Peace Park:** This park contains an arboretum (a tree garden) which has been planted with around 100 of the original species once found in the Rosewood Scrub. Other rare or endangered species from the general Ipswich area have also been planted in Peace Park. The arboretum was established by the Ipswich Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants.



- 17 **Coal loading gantry: Private property do not enter.** There are several good positions to take photos along the main road. This old timber loading gantry built c1929 is a relic of the Normanton Mine. Coal was loaded into skips at the coal face, hauled out of the mine and lowered down the hill. A winch then hauled the skips up on top of the loading gantry and the coal was let out into railway wagons waiting beneath. Each afternoon, a steam train came through the paddock to collect the full wagons and leave empty ones.



- 18 **Oakleigh Colliery:** On the right as you leave Rosewood is Oakleigh Colliery, one of the few remaining coal mines operating in this district.
- 19 **Steam Railway at Cabanda:** The Railway Historical Society's steam railway operates on the former Rosewood to Marburg Railway Branch Line. Open on the last Sunday each month from 10am to about 5pm.
- 20 **Tallegalla Lookout and Cemetery:** The picturesque Tallegalla cemetery is on the top of a hill. There is room to park on the left-hand side of the road and admire the views on both sides of the road.
- 21 **Former Tallegalla School:** When the school opened in 1879, most of the pupils were German children who knew little English. John Watkins, Head Teacher from 1889 to 1903, was responsible for planting many of the mature jacaranda, pine and Moreton Bay fig trees in the grounds.