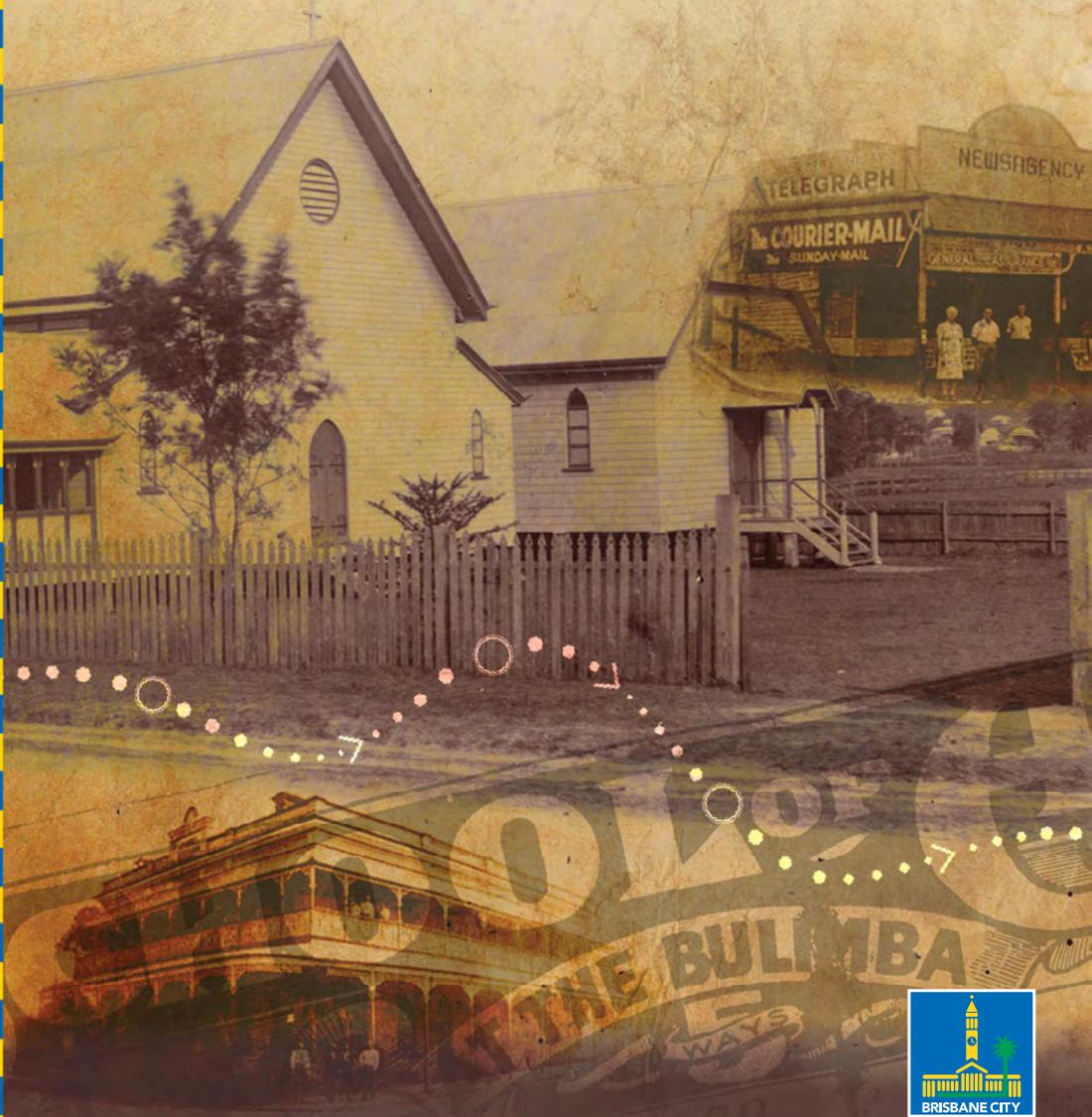


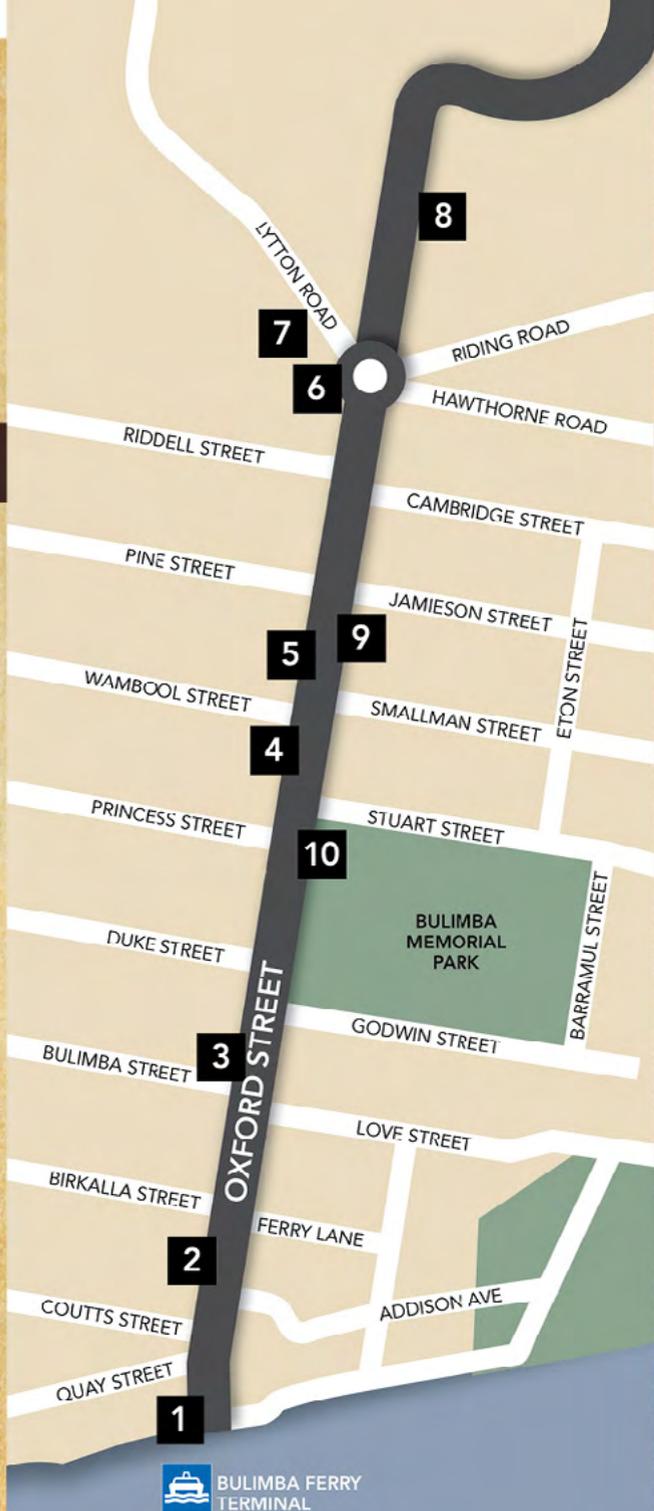
BULIMBA HERITAGE TRAIL



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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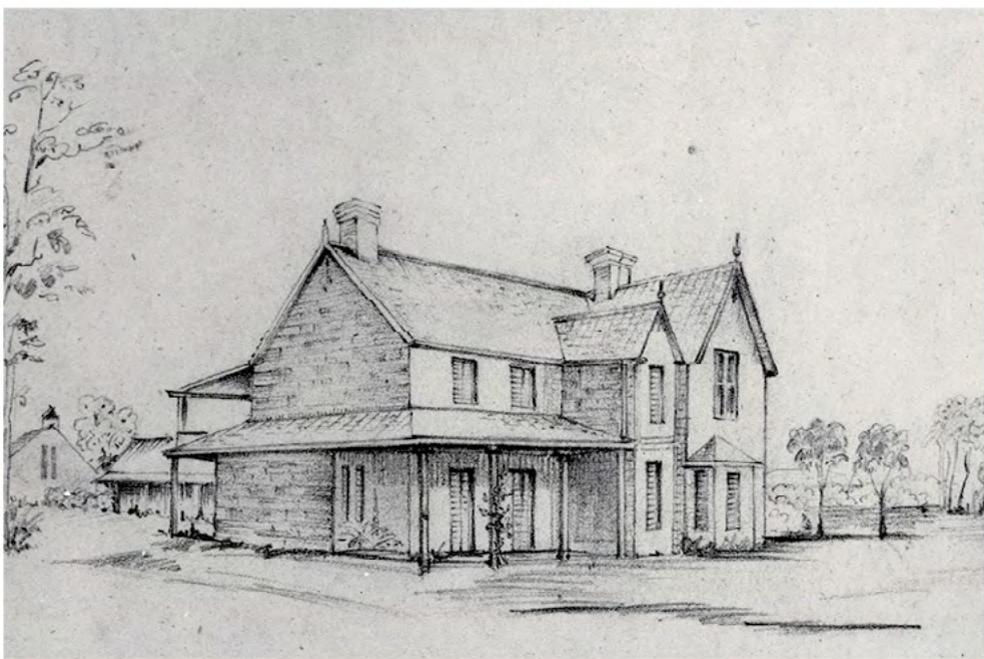


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BULIMBA HERITAGE TRAIL



▲ Sketch of Bulimba House, 1851
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



Before the arrival of Europeans in the early 19th century, the local Aboriginal people called Bulimba 'Toogoolawah', referring to the bend in the river...

The Bulimba Heritage Trail focuses on a select group of sites along Oxford Street that help tell the history of Bulimba. Other important sites such as Bulimba House, the Hawthorne Ferry Terminal, Father Canali Memorial Catholic Church, St Peter and Paul's Catholic School and the Bulimba Army Barracks have also played a major role in shaping the history of the area.

Before the arrival of Europeans in the early 19th century, the local Aboriginal people called Bulimba 'Toogoolawah', referring to the bend in the river. The land had an ample supply of fresh water, fauna and flora and the scattered lagoons and the winding river provided an abundant supply of fish and water fowl.

Prior to settlement, European visitors found Bulimba covered in dense vine scrub from the banks of the river to some distance inland. John Oxley's plan of the Brisbane River (1824) noted the area as "open country – hills stony but well covered with grass." Oxley's accompanying explorer and botanist, Allan Cunningham, noted that the banks of the river were overhung with lofty twisting and climbing plants and a density of brushwood with a one hundred foot hoop pine towering over the trees. More detailed exploration was carried out by James Warner who mapped Breakfast Creek and Norman Creek in 1839 and the following year proceeded downstream to Bulimba Creek.



The European settlement of Bulimba dates back to the late 1840s and Bulimba House is a reminder of this, situated in Kenbury Street overlooking the river (this is a private residence).

With the district's first purchase of land in 1849 by David McConnel, the area was cleared for agriculture. The McConnells employed a number of families on their property and built eight cottages, several enclosures and outbuildings, a carpenter's shop, a blacksmith's workshop and a wharf from which produce and supplies were transported across the river by rowing boat and punt.

They brought the first cotton gin into the district to process their experimental cotton crop and grew commercial crops of wheat, barley and oaten hay. In the course of their stay the McConnells helped many of their employees establish independent farms and soon other farms were located adjacent to them by Johnston, Thorpe Riding, Watts, Smith and Challenger families. In 1852 the McConnells sold Bulimba House due to Mary McConnel's ill-health.



By the 1870s Brisbane's population had increased considerably and so too did suburban development...

Its new owner was Donald Coutts, a Scottish grazier who continued to cultivate the land.

By the 1870s Brisbane's population had increased considerably and so too did suburban development. The government recognised the need for separate local governments. The Bulimba electorate was one of the first local administrative districts created under the *Electoral Districts Act of 1872*. It extended from the Brisbane River from its junction with Norman Creek, southwards along what is now known as the Pacific Highway to the northern bank of the Logan River and eastwards to include all the territory from Russell Island northwards including all the Moreton Bay islands, Redland Bay, Cleveland and Wynnum to the mouth of the Brisbane River.

When established, the district had 685 electors on the roll and the first member was Hon. William Hemmant. In 1902 the Balmoral Shire was formed as the *Local Authorities Act* of that year reclassified existing shires and towns.

BULIMBA FERRY TERMINAL

▶ Joseph Marconi,
GOANNA Products



▶ Goanna cartoon,
GOANNA Products

Ferries have been an important means of crossing the river since the colony was opened for free settlement in the early 1840s. The earliest official ferry service began in 1844 between Customs House and Kangaroo Point. By the 1880s the Bulimba ferry service was well established.

In the early 20th century the Balmoral Shire Council saw the need for the construction of a new ferry terminal. The council wanted the design to be of a high quality to reflect the important role that the ferry played in the district. The accepted design by GHM Addison and Son reflected this. GHM Addison designed many important buildings around Brisbane including 'The Mansions' on George Street in the City, the Albert Street Uniting Church, 'Cumbooquepa' (Somerville House) and the Old Queensland Museum on Gregory Terrace.

Marconi's Goannary

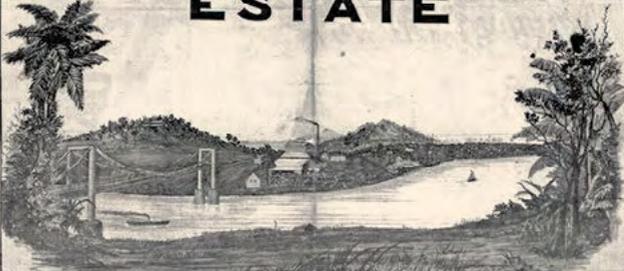
Joseph Cornelius Marconi came to Bulimba after travelling throughout Australia with various sideshows including Lyn 'Rocky' Vane's snake charming act. He gained knowledge of the professed curative qualities of goanna fat and certain herbs from the Indigenous people he encountered and began selling his famous 'Goanna Salve'.

Marconi established his goannary and factory under his house 'Astra', on the corner of Oxford and Quay Streets. The salve was reputed as a virtual panacea, "Hundreds testify...to cures of piles, rheumatism, sciatica, ulcers, infantile paralysis, sprains". (*The Brisbane Courier*, 19 August 1922). The use of goanna fat for the famous salve was prohibited in 1918 when the state government declared the goanna a protected species. Nevertheless, Marconi carried on with manufacturing his Goanna Salve – minus the goanna.

In 1921, as a reflection of the Bulimba residents' fondness and respect, Marconi was elected as local councillor representing the Nationalist Party in the Balmoral Shire Elections, in a seat that had traditionally been a Labor stronghold.

CROUCH'S COTTAGE

BULIMBA BRIDGE ESTATE



CLOSE TO THE PROPOSED SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Launceston *Free Conveyance*

| COYT ROAD | | MURCRET ST | | COYT ROAD | |
|-----------|----|------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 |
| 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 |
| 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 |
| 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 |
| 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 |
| 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 |
| 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 |
| 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 |

COYT ROAD **ROAD**

TERMS: Quarter cash, balance at 6, 12 and 18 months with 7 per cent interest added.

TO BE SOLD ON THE GROUND ON THE 24TH JANUARY, BY R. D. GRAMAM & SON.



► The Bulimba Bridge Estate Map
John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland

Crouch's Cottage was built in the late 1870s and is an example of the way many of the early houses in the area would have looked at this time. With the grand residence 'Bulimba House' at the top of the hill looking over the district and the majority of the modest houses of the working class at the base of the hill, Bulimba followed a pattern of development common in Brisbane in this period; the wealthier residents bought the land on the rises and apexes of hills, ensuring breezes, views, protection from flooding and protection from waste run off. The less wealthy purchased land on the base of the hills.

Just prior to the discovery of gold in Gympie in 1867 that heralded Queensland's gold rush, Bulimba had one of its own. During the latter part of 1866, Messrs Smith, Price and Harvey were reported as having discovered nuggets and particles of gold along the banks of the Brisbane River opposite Breakfast Creek. In January 1867 *The Brisbane Courier* reported:

About three months ago there arrived in Bulimba three young men – Messrs. Smith, Price and Harvey. Renouncing the luxuries of the town, they took to camping out in a tent, and one day Mr Harvey, quenching his thirst (like the stag in the fable) at a neighbouring waterhole, saw at the bottom what turned out to be gold. (*The Brisbane Courier, 4 January 1867*).

While some gold was found and a shaft sunk into the main quartz reef, gold-mining did not become a major industry in the area.

Please note: This is a private residence and is not open to the public.

YELLOWLEY'S NEWSAGENCY



▶ Oxford St Newsagent, 1945
John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland



▲ Motorbikes outside Oxford St Newsagency, 1953
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

At the same time Yellowley was establishing his business in Oxford Street, Bulimba became one of the few areas in Queensland where a state butcher shop was established. This was located on the corner of Riding Road and Grosvenor Street. State butcher shops were established by the Queensland Labor Government as a means of influencing prices of household staples such as meat and sugar. From 1915 to 1925, the state government established or acquired a number of business enterprises in order to provide competition against possible business monopolies, as well as a means of offering products at cheaper rates. This was able to be done under the *State Enterprises Act of 1918*. These businesses included state fish shops, the 'State' brand jam and sauce factory, a sugar mill, cold stores and some cattle stations. Ninety state butcheries were established in Queensland between 1915 and 1929. But the state butcheries, as a whole, were a drain on the state economy, losing £6,000 during the 14 years that they were in operation. Commencing in 1926, the Labor Government began disposing of the majority of the state butcheries and after the 1929 election of the Country, Progressive and Nationalist Parties' coalition government, the remaining 39 butcheries throughout Queensland ceased operating as state enterprises on 30 June 1929.

BULIMBA HOTEL

▶ Balmoral Hotel
(former Bulimba Hotel), 1929
John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland



Balmoral Hotel, Bulimba.



▶ Chinese Camp at
Bulimba, WWII
John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland

The Bulimba Hotel (later called the Balmoral) was built in 1888 and was designed by one of Queensland's most celebrated architects, Richard Gailey, who is most famous for designing some of Brisbane's best known hotels - the Regatta Hotel (Toowong), the Orient Hotel (City), the Prince Consort Hotel (Fortitude Valley), the Jubilee Hotel (Fortitude Valley), the Wickham Hotel (Fortitude Valley) and the Empire Hotel (Fortitude Valley).

During the Second World War the Apollo Barge Assembly Depot (also known as the Bulimba Army Barracks) was swiftly built by the United States Forces on land that had been acquired by the Commonwealth of Australia in March 1943. The position of the Apollo Barge Assembly Depot was pivotal to its importance as a military vessel supply base. The American military built six large warehouses, one of which was the workshop.

As is suggested by the name, the U.S barges were assembled at the Bulimba base. The steel components were shipped in via the Brisbane River and delivered by barge to the assembly depot. During the Second World War a wide wharf was constructed for the assembly depot that allowed an efficient means of distribution. Once assembled, the barges were shipped out as deck cargo to the conflict in the Pacific.

Each barge, measuring approximately 18 metres by eight metres and with two refrigeration units, was designed as a supply vessel that would be deployed into secured territory in the Pacific region of the war. The workers within the assembly depot were mainly Chinese. Approximately one thousand Chinese workers were housed in the barracks.

AVRO PICTURE DROME

▶ Avro Picture Drome, 1920s,
Private Collection



▶ Sailing Regatta at
Bulimba Flats, 1924
*John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland*



In 1920 a new addition to Oxford Street was the Avro Picture Drome (also known as Avro Picture Palace) run by Henry Thompson. It and the Hawthorne Theatre heralded the confidence in the local market for this new form of entertainment.

There is evidence that a picture show operated in a paddock in Oxford Street from around 1912. The Avro was built beside Henry Thompson's Coach and Motor Works. In 1954 a foyer and four shops were added. The latter helped the cinema to survive the lean years following the introduction of television.

The Bulimba district was home to other attractions in this period. A short distance from the Avro theatre, one of the earliest aerodromes in Brisbane was opened in July 1920. Joy-flights in BE2E and Avro 504 aircraft (after which the theatre was named) drew adventurers from Brisbane and surrounding districts.

Swimming baths were constructed on the river in 1926 near the Hawthorne Ferry, providing safe swimming for district residents.

The Brisbane Sailing Club, which later became the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, held sailing races in the Bulimba reach of the river before moving to Manly in 1964.

In the late 1940s the Balmoral Amateur Cycling Club was established and a quarter mile circular bitumen track was laid by Brisbane City Council in Hawthorne Park for cycle meets. Cyclists from all over the state competed at the track, including Olympians.

BULIMBA UNITING CHURCH

▶ Bulimba Methodist Church, 1960s,
Private Collection



▶ School of Arts and Council Chambers in Bulimba, ca. 1918
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



The fledgling primitive Methodist congregation held their services under a large tree, believed to have been situated on Birkalla Street. The generous donation of land by William Thorpe Riding enabled the congregation to construct a permanent church building in 1866.

As a reflection of the progress that was occurring in the Bulimba district in the late 19th century, a school of arts was constructed on the corner of Oxford and Riding Roads (where the current Brisbane City Council library is now situated) between 1886 and 1887. The School of Arts Movement was an important educational initiative first established in Britain in the early 19th century. The intention was to assist middle-class adults with self-improvement and to promote moral and intellectual growth. An important aspect of a school of arts was the inclusion of a free lending library at a time when many could not afford to buy books.

In 1914 additions were made to the Bulimba School of Arts building; the recreational hall was widened and a second storey was added to the front portion of the building. As well as the large hall, the building also had a lodge room, a reading room and a library. The new additions to the building were officially opened by the then Acting Premier Hon WH Barnes on 23 May 1914, who stated:

The brawn as well as the brain needed development, and in a school of arts such as that they were catering for the healthy exercise of both body and mind. Those who paid proper attention to these methods of character development were all the better men and women for it.
(The Brisbane Courier, Monday 25 May 1914).

Unfortunately the Bulimba School of Arts was demolished in the 1980s.

SITE OF BULIMBA POLICE STATION

- ▶ Demonstrators wearing gas masks at the Brisbane City Fire Brigade, 1942
*John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland*



- ▶ Anti-Japanese Propaganda Poster,
Australian War Memorial

Bulimba was one of the most vulnerable areas in Brisbane to a potential Japanese air attack during the Second World War.

The intensive war-time activity along the river between New Farm and Hamilton, as well as the American presence at the Apollo Barge Assembly Depot, highlighted the precarious position of the suburb.

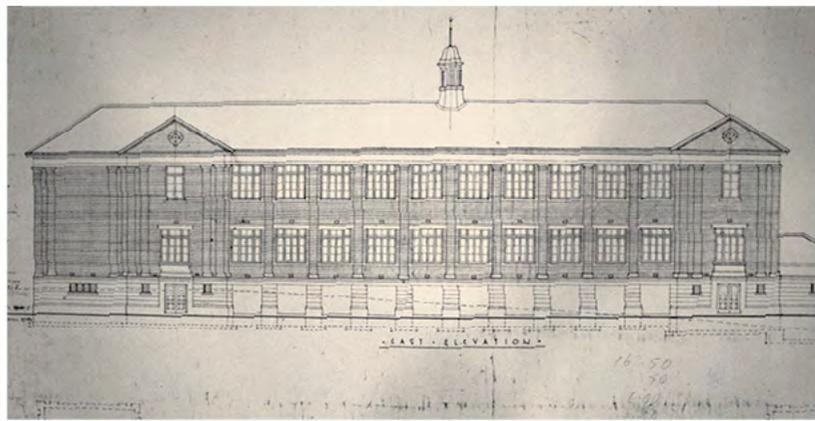
The role of the Bulimba police at this time was essential for the safe-keeping of the Bulimba community. As well as carrying out their usual tasks, the police were in charge of managing, recruiting and training the air-raid warden unit, essential to managing the safety of the community if it was bombed.

The police were responsible for the receiving and transmission of information related to air-raids from the Defence Information Centres. Petrol rations were also under police control. Several air-raid shelters were constructed in the area. Split trenches were also dug, especially at the Bulimba State School.

The police and the air-raid wardens also coordinated blackouts and drills. Luckily, Brisbane never experienced an enemy air-raid.

BULIMBA STATE SCHOOL

► Bulimba State School, 1946, Queensland State Archives



▲ Bulimba State School architectural drawing, Queensland State Archives

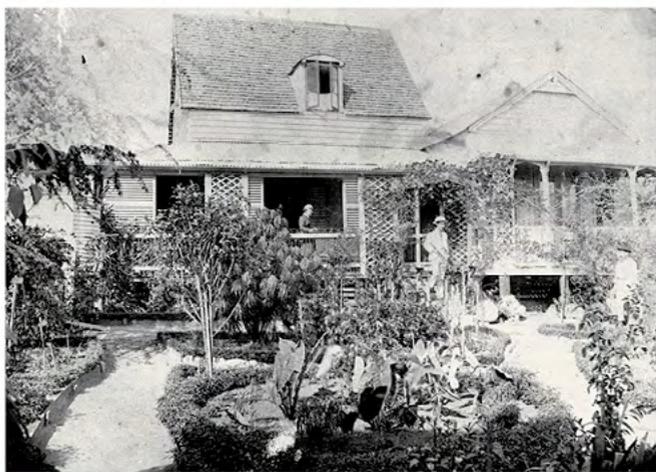
The Bulimba State School opened in 1866 with an enrolment of 28 students from 19 families and by 1867 this had risen to 40 students.

As with most schools in the late 19th and into the 20th century, Arbor Day was an important date on the school calendar. The tradition of Arbor Day started in America in 1872. The first Arbor Day was held in Queensland on 1 August 1890 and was proposed by Philip McMahon, the curator of Brisbane's Botanical Gardens. He distributed 2,496 trees obtained from the Botanical Garden's nursery for planting to schools throughout Queensland. This soon developed into an important day on the annual school calendar for Queensland. School children were given trees to plant around the school grounds in places where they might provide playground shade and add to the aesthetic attractiveness of the school grounds. They were often planted along the fence line of the school to help mark the school boundary.

In 1892 the Arbor Day celebration at the Bulimba State School was attended by the district's State Minister, Hon. JR Dickson (who was to become Queensland Premier in 1898). In his speech he stated "if a man only planted one tree he would be doing a good work for his fellow man". (*The Brisbane Courier, Saturday 30 April 1892*). Many of the Arbor Day trees that were planted over the years still remain in the school.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

- ▶ Omega Cottage in Church St,
Bulimba, 1886
*John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland*



- ▶ Interior of St John the
Baptist Church, 1888
*John Oxley Library,
State Library of Queensland*

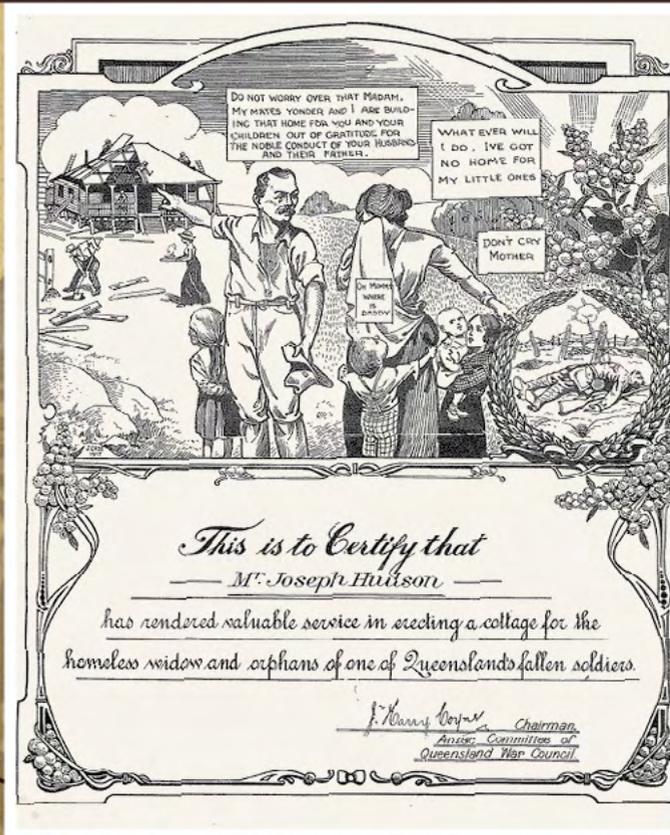


Prior to the construction of the Anglican Church on Oxford Street, Mrs Elizabeth Coxen donated a portion of land to the Anglican congregation in Birkalla Street as well as £100. The sale of this land allowed the current site of the Anglican Church to be purchased. Mrs Coxen was a much loved and respected figure in Bulimba and was described after her death in 1906 as the 'Mother of Bulimba'.

Elizabeth Coxen's husband, Charles, was an important figure in Queensland; he was not only a politician and land commissioner, but an expert Ornithologist and became the first honorary curator of the newly established Queensland Museum in 1855. Elizabeth was, in her own right, an important figure in Brisbane's early scientific community. Her knowledge of meteorology and conchology (study of shells) led her to manage the collection in the museum for a time.

In 1886 she became the first female member of the Royal Society of Queensland. Throughout her time in Bulimba, Elizabeth was an active member of the Anglican community. A marble plaque and lectern were dedicated to her in the Anglican Church in 1907. At the unveiling ceremony she was described as "a true churchwoman, a true wife, and a true friend". (*The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 2 December 1907).

BULIMBA MEMORIAL PARK



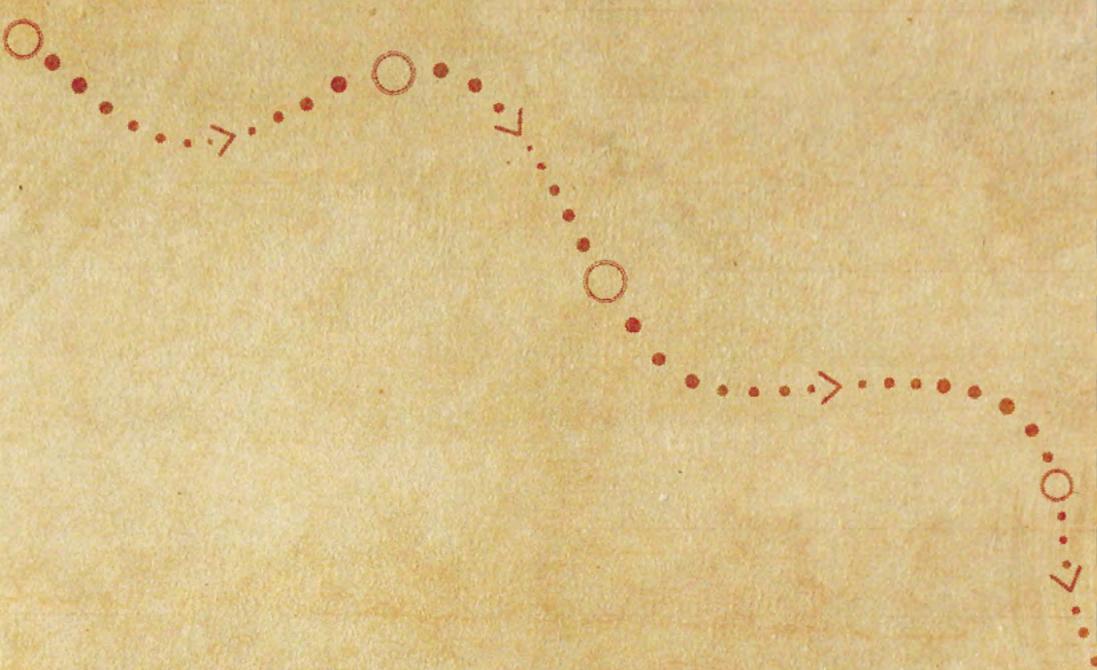
▲ ANZAC Cottage Certificate,
Private Collection

The land on which the park now sits was initially part of a farm owned by early Bulimba resident, Robert Jamieson. In 1904 the Balmoral Shire Council acquired almost four acres of the land to be used for recreational purposes that was known as 'Jamieson Park'. The First World War had a profound affect on the lives of the Bulimba residents. Many lost loved ones in the conflict. As a reflection of the grief experienced in the community, the park was dedicated as the 'Bulimba Memorial Park' on 4 November 1919 to honour those from the district who served overseas, many of whom did not return.

Bulimba took part in an important social housing movement at the end of the First World War with the construction of five ANZAC cottages. The ANZAC Cottage Trust was established in Queensland in 1915 in an effort to ease the hardship experienced by the widows and children of soldiers and sailors killed in the First World War.

The proceeds for the establishment of the cottages were funded from the profits made by the Queensland lottery 'Golden Caskets', lottery numbers three, four and five. The scheme provided timber cottages, mostly built on donated land and constructed by volunteer labour. Much of the material used for the construction of the cottages was supplied at cost price by many Brisbane businesses.

Thirty-eight ANZAC cottages were built in various suburbs in Brisbane. There were two ANZAC cottages constructed beside the park on Stuart Street.



Brisbane City Council
Information
GPO Box 1434
Brisbane Qld 4001

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