Community Organisations

Peter Brown

St Lucia History Group Paper 17
17. COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Author: Peter Brown © 2017

Contents:

1. Introduction ................................................................. 2

2. Government .................................................................
   2.1 Land Administration ............................................... 2
   2.2 Colony of New South Wales Self Government ............. 7
   2.3 Queensland Government ......................................... 9
   2.4 Local Government .................................................. 9
   2.5 Federal Government .............................................. 11

3. Associations and Individuals ........................................
   3.1 Progress Association ............................................... 12
   3.2 Individuals ............................................................. 23

4. Churches ........................................................................
   4.1 Bible Christian Church ............................................ 24
   4.2 Methodist ................................................................. 27
   4.3 Presbyterian Church and the Uniting Church in Australia 30
   4.4 Christ Church Anglican Church of Australia ............ 37
   4.5 St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church ....................... 42
   4.6 Baptist Church ......................................................... 44
   4.7 Chinese Christian Church ...................................... 44

5. Clubs and Groups ...........................................................
   5.1 Indooroopilly Golf Club at St Lucia ......................... 44
   5.2 Cricket Clubs ......................................................... 48
   5.3 St Lucia Bowling Club ............................................ 49
   5.4 St Lucia Scouts ....................................................... 51
   5.5 St Lucia Girl Guides ............................................... 53
   5.6 St Lucia Garden Club ............................................. 56
   5.7 St Lucia Red Cross .................................................. 57
   5.8 St Lucia Orchestra ................................................... 57
   5.9 Other Clubs and Groups ......................................... 58

Peter Brown 2017

Private Study Paper – not for general publication

St Lucia History Group
PO Box 4343
St Lucia South
QLD 4067

Email: slhgcoordinator@gmail.com
Web: brisbanehistorywest.wordpress.com
1. Introduction

From 1850 the areas of present day St Lucia Ironside and Long Pocket were referred to as Indooroopilly, as they were the only communities within the Parish of Indooroopilly. Around 1860 the farming area at the end of the peninsular became known as Six Mile Reach, and after about 1870 the area in the vicinity of the sugar mill became known as Coldridge, after Mr Dart’s Coldridge Plantation. Another general description was Indooroopilly Pocket; the Post Office referred to the area as just ‘Indooroopilly’ up until 1890.¹

2. Government

2.1 Land Administration

Until the late twentieth century a freehold land title for St Lucia was described as being in the ‘County of Stanley, Parish of Indooroopilly’. This terminology dates from the methods and terms used for land administration by the government in Britain, and were brought to New South Wales by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1788.

During the Anglo-Saxon period 600 – 1000 AD, England was split into Shires of roughly equal size for the purpose of raising taxes and usually centred around a fortified town. Each Shire was headed originally by a Sherriff and later by an Earl. Many Shires derived their name from the main town i.e. Gloucester/ Gloucestershire. These Shires were further split into Hundreds being enough land to sustain one hundred families; each Hundred was administered by the ‘hundred-man’ who was responsible for administration, justice and supplying troops. Hundreds were the basis of the Court system for centuries.

After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the French changed the word Shire to County which was in their mind an area under the jurisdiction of a Count although that latter term was not adopted in England. In England today a County is an administrative division of national government not dissimilar to an Australian State, and is politicised in a similar manner.

In later centuries employment and economics became more important, and a system of Manors was established with Lords having title to large areas of productive land around a Manor House and employing local residents to farm it.

Civil Parishes were later established within a County based around a Manor and its Lord, as a unit of local government and justice making the Lord responsible for administration, justice and relief of the poor. The Church of England had a monopoly on religion in those days and for management purposes established Ecclesiastical Parishes utilising the same boundaries as the Civil Parishes. The Church played a big part in the Parish, eventually levying a local tax or Tithe, and taking over the relief of the poor from the local Lord of the Manor.

The two types of Parish established different identities in the 19th century, with the responsibility for local government and the poor and for levying of a local tax, returned to the Civil Parish. The Ecclesiastical Parish remained an area of administration within a Church, but not necessarily tied to the Civil Parish boundaries.

Boroughs were similar to Civil Parishes but covered more populous areas outside the Manor system. Administrative Divisions covered low population areas outside the Manor system.

Governor Phillip established the first practice of land administration in New South Wales, naming the area immediately around Sydney Cove as the ‘County of Cumberland’ (Earl of Cumberland son of King George III).

¹ Post Office Directory 1890 p 195 SLQ
Phillip set aside specific areas of land as ‘Government Reserves’, and allocated specific areas for the soldier’s and convict’s tents. A year later he granted two acres (0.8 ha) of land at Parramatta to James Ruse for farming, and was instructed by the Colonial Office to make land grants to any of the marines who wished to settle in the new Colony. These grants were in fact probably ‘licences’ or ‘leases’ and the holder would have had to pay an annual rent.

In that first year the Governor also sent a party of soldiers and convicts to establish a settlement on Norfolk Island. In 1803 a settlement was established in Van Diemen’s Land.

In 1791 the first free settlers were being given land grants (licences) in several areas outside of Sydney Cove.

In 1802 the County of Cumberland was divided into two Civil and Ecclesiastical Parishes, St Philip’s and St John’s, but with the Ecclesiastical Parish used only for administration within the Church. The Civil parishes were further split into thirteen Hundreds although this classification was a hangover from the old British system and was not generally used in Australia and later abolished.

As the Settled Districts expanded, the County of Northumberland was declared in 1804.

All land was owned by the Crown and a system of land grants/licences/leases had been introduced for worthy souls, within the Counties. Those taking up land outside the County jurisdiction did so initially under ‘licence’ as the land could not be formally surveyed; they were classified as squatters and were unable to call on Government services such as the Police.

In 1810 Governor Macquarie established the first town plan for Sydney, setting the width of the streets and naming them for the first time – George, Pitt, York, Clarence, etc. He also established five new town sites – Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town and Castlereagh.

By 1820 land allocation was in a mess due to an overwhelming demand coupled with a lack of surveyors to establish boundaries. The new Governor Brisbane improved policies for the management of land, and established a process for the sale of ‘licensing’, ‘leasing’ and ‘free-holding’ of land thus reducing the amount of illegal ‘squatting’ of land. His aim was also to restrict the administrative area to mainly coastal regions for ease of control.

In 1819 Lord Bathurst had appointed John Bigge to travel to New South Wales and among other things, report on land tenure. As a result, land within 40 miles (64 klm) of Sydney remained under the leasing system but land outside that could be sold licensed and parts free-held at 5/- to 10/- an acre, with the funds raised being used to promote immigration of skilled workers.

Subsequently three new Counties were established by Governor Darling in 1825 - Westmoreland, Camden, Argyle, to add to the earlier Cumberland and Northumberland. Each was approximately 160 square miles (414 klm²). The cadastral-survey principal was used and related to cardinal points or specific geographic features such as a river or a watershed. Lord Bathurst instructed that in any survey, one seventh of the land in each County was to be set aside for the Church of England and an educational system under the control of the church.

Within the Counties, Civil Parishes were established of approximately 25 square miles (65 klm²), each. One square mile or 640 acres (260 ha), became a standard for agricultural leases. Smaller blocks for lease or sale were defined in terms of acres/roods/perch based on measuring the sides of the area with a Chain/links, and the angles with a compass bearing.

---

In 1829 New South Wales Governor Darling expanded the Settled Districts and progressively established the Nineteen Counties. This enlarged area stretched from Kempsey to Batemans Bay, west to Wellington, and was mapped by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1834. One of the Counties was named Brisbane but does not relate to the City of Brisbane as we know it today.

In setting these Counties Darling set limits of settlement as within 150 miles (241 klm) of Sydney, and to preserve the remoteness of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement.

Map of the Nineteen Counties.

The Settlement had been established in 1824 solely because it was remote from the Settled Districts and overland exploration and squatting had not reached the area. As a precaution against later settlement an area within a 50 mile (80.5 klm) radius of the Colony was established and travel and occupation within was banned.

The system of land administration has changed many times over the years, and just a few years after Darlings limits were imposed and ignored, a system of paid licences (£10) evolved for ‘runs’ established by ‘squatters’ outside the Settled Districts. By 1839 licensees were able to convert their land to leasehold, and indeed improved parts could be free-held in lots of 160 acres (65 ha). By 1868 a system of ‘closer settlement’ was introduced whereby leaseholders were forced to relinquish some of their land to enable subdivision in to small farms.

As pastoral settlement within New South Wales progressed Government decided in 1839 to divide the remaining ‘Unsettled Districts’ where a degree of settlement was occurring, into Pastoral Districts and to appoint a Crown Lands Commissioner for each. The Colony was divided into groupings of Pastoral Districts, namely the Western Districts – mainly what is now Victoria, the Middle Districts – around Sydney and to the west, and the Northern Districts. Within the latter the Pastoral Districts came about progressively as settlement spread: the Pastoral District of New England was gazetted in 1839, that of Clarence in 1842, Moreton in 1842, Darling Downs in 1843, Wide Bay in 1847, Maranoa in 1848, Port Curtis and Leichhardt both in 1854, and Mitchell and Kennedy in 1859.

---

3 Queensland State Archives (QSA) Division of Queensland into Pastoral Districts, Counties and Parishes; researched by W Kitson.
Upon the closure of the Penal Settlement in 1842 the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement became the ‘Moreton Bay Pastoral District’, with Dr Simpson appointed as the first Crown Lands Commissioner on 5 May 1842. Dr Stephen Simpson built Wolston House at Woogaroo c.1850. The only town within the Moreton District was the original convict settlement known as Brisbane on the Brisbane River, so named by explorer John Oxley after the Governor of the day.

As closer settlement occurred it was necessary to progressively subdivide the Moreton Bay Pastoral Division into more of Governor Darling’s Counties and Parishes. In 1842 under

---

5 QSA, Division of Queensland into Pastoral Districts.
Governor Sir George Gipps the County of Stanley was formally established within the Moreton Bay Pastoral District. The County encompassed an area of 2 000 000 acres (810 000 ha) and at that time had a population of 2 000. The land was approximately within a 40 mile (64 klm) radius of the Old Windmill in Spring Hill, its boundaries were set by geographical features - to the South the Logan River, to the West the Brisbane River at what is now Lake Wivenhoe, to the north-west the Stanley River at what is now Lake Somerset, to the north by the Caboolture River, and it also included Moreton and Stradbroke Islands. Later Counties within the District were named Canning around Caboolture, and Ward around the Gold Coast area, and Churchill and Cavendish to the west.6

New South Wales Surveyor General Sir Thomas Mitchell selected the name of Stanley for the County (Edward Stanley was the 14th Earl of Derby and Secretary of State for War and Colonies 1841-1845 and three times Prime Minister of Britain) and the subsequent Parishes (sometimes from names suggested by his local surveyors).7

---

6 QSA, Division of Queensland into Pastoral Districts.
7 Division of Queensland into Pastoral Districts, Counties and Parishes; Department of Lands letter 8 March 1946 to Oxley Memorial Library, QSA Batch 150 researched by W Kitson.
The terms County and Parish have been used mainly in connection with land titles and have
not had the ‘administration, justice and relief of the poor’ roles that they had in England.

The County of Stanley was subdivided into (Civil) Parishes and today’s St Lucia fell within
the Parish of Indooroopilly (based on the aboriginal word for ‘gulley with leaches’); the land
between Indooroopilly Parish and Brisbane North was designated the Parish of Enoggera
(based on the aboriginal word for corroboree), land to the west was designated the Parish of
Moggill (based on the aboriginal word for water lizard) and land on the other side of the river
Parish of Oxley (after the explorer John Oxley).  

Robert Cribb was the first to buy freehold land in the County of Stanley, Parish of
Indooroopilly and his Title Deed above shows the use of the terms.

Land Title Deeds until a decade ago classified the land as being within the ‘County of
Stanley, Parish of Indooroopilly’ etc although in more recent times the words have been
replaced with ‘City of Brisbane’.

Ecclesiastical Parishes were initially aligned with the Civil Parishes but have been modified
over time.

2.2 Colony of New South Wales Self Government

---

From its inception in 1788, the Colony of New South Wales was funded by the British Government, later supplemented by local land sales, leases, taxes on exports, gold etc. The Governor made the day to day decisions, and it was not until 1823 that the first Legislative Council was established allowing the people ‘to advise’ the Governor.

The Morton Bay Penal Settlement was funded by the British Government and administered by the Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. When the Settlement was closed in 1939 the area came under the direct control of the Colony.

The term Pastoral District and County were used in the early days to delineate government boundaries. In 1843 the Colony of New South Wales established the first partially elected Legislative Council, and Alexander McLeay from Port Macquarie was elected to represent the Northern Pastoral Districts of Gloucester and Macquarie, and the County of Stanley.9

Tasmania had become a separate colony in 1825, Western Australia in 1830, South Australia in 1836, and Victoria in 1850.

In 1847 the Northern Districts of New South Wales above the 26th parallel (Wide Bay) was separated from the Colony and temporarily became the Colony of North Australia, with its seat of Government at Port Curtis (Gladstone). However, a change of Government in England reversed the process three months later.10

The British Government decided in 1850 that with the end of convict transportation and the discovery of gold, the Australian Colonies (except WA) should become self-governing in most respects.11 In NSW the Electoral Act of 1851 paved the way for a partially elected Legislative Council. In the Northern Pastoral Districts four electorates were nominated – County of Stanley; United Pastoral Districts of Moreton, Wide Bay, Burnett and Maranoa; United Pastoral Districts of New England and McLeay; and the United Pastoral Districts of Clarence and Darling Downs. Two seats were allocated to the County of Stanley and were won by J Richardson for the County (including St Lucia) and R Jones for the Boroughs.12 As under the English system Boroughs represented the townships, in this case of Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Kangaroo Point, and Ipswich. The Rev John Dunmore Lang replaced J Richardson from 1854 until 1856.13

In 1856 a NSW Legislative Assembly was created to better represent the people, with all its members being elected. Henry Buckley was elected for Stanley, and re-elected in 1858.14 For those years of the 1850s our representatives had to travel to and from the Parliament in Sydney – a sometimes hazardous trip by ship. Also these were honorary rolls, with no salary paid.

In 1858 the boundaries of the electorates changed, away from the land administration ‘counties’ which reflected areas of land, to specific Electoral Districts which reflected the size of the population. These Electoral Districts have constantly changed ever since to reflect the changing population size and the need for balanced numerical representation. Robert Cribb, the original owner of Lang Farm at St Lucia, was elected to the NSW Legislative Council in 1859 for the District of East Moreton, which included the residents of St Lucia.15

9 Greenwood p 40; Sydney Morning Herald 16 June 1843 issue of writ.
10 RHSQ Journal Vol.20 No 12 p.695, and Gladstone the City that waited L McDonald.
12 Greenwood p.48, and NSW Votes and Proceedings 16 October 1851 p.3.
14 Darbyshire A, St Lucia History Group Research Papers 6, 2005.
2.3 Queensland Government

The British Government’s Australian Colonies Bill in 1850 had made provision for the Moreton Bay District to become a separate colony in the future, and local residents immediately began campaigning for separation of the Northern Districts.

Separation was approved in 1856, but it was not until 1859 that the new Colony of Queensland was formally proclaimed in Brisbane, with the arrival of a new Governor. The Colony was divided into sixteen electoral districts. Governor George Bowen established a Legislative Assembly in 1860 made up of 26 members from the 16 electorates. Only white males could vote but military personnel and police were disqualified. Local land owner Thomas Lodge Murray Prior was canvassing for votes in St Lucia. George Edmondstone and Henry Buckley were elected for East Moreton although Buckley resigned when appointed Auditor-General; he was replaced by T S Warry. The first Queensland Parliament sat in the convict barracks on 22 May 1860 exactly 90 years after Captain Cook sailed past and named Moreton Bay.

Towards the end of 1863 Robert Cribb again became the representative for East Moreton, and remained as such until 1867. In 1873 St Lucia became part of the electorate of Oxley, then transferred to Toowong in 1911, and since 1992 has been in the electorate of Indooroopilly. It was only from 1889 that politicians received a salary.

A Legislative Council had also been established made up of 11 appointees of the Governor, mainly wealthy graziers and merchants who were appointed for life; it was abolished in 1922.

With the introduction of Federation in 1901 the Colony of Queensland became the State of Queensland, but this didn’t change the existing electoral boundaries. Andrew Darbyshire has written St Lucia History Group Paper No 6 – ‘Representing St Lucia’, which covers the governance of the area until today.

The eight-hour day was introduced in 1916, and the 44 hour week was adopted in 1925. The 40-hour week was introduced nationally in 1948.

2.4 Local Government

NSW Governor Bourke tried to implement a system of Local Government in 1835 and Governor Gipps established the Parish Trust Act in 1840, both unsuccessfully. Provision was made in the Constitutions Act in 1842 for the establishment of District Councils, but this didn’t work either.

The Municipalities Act of 1858 enabled municipalities to raise local revenue by way of rates, tolls, licence etc. Their responsibilities were limited to the provision and regulation of local works and services such as roads and water.

By the will of the people, the Town (Municipality) of Brisbane was formalised in 1859, being approximately one mile square (259 ha), the western boundary being where Hale St is today. Elections were held for the nine positions, and so the first local government came to

---

17 Government Gazette No. 4, 31 December 1859, p.18, QSL microfilm.
18 Affidavits by John Carmody to bring land under Real Property Act, Portion 17, 1890, DNRW.
19 Government Gazette No. 27, 19 May 1860, p.175, QSL microfilm.
21 Johnson B, Robert Cribb from an Iceberg to Brisbane Town, p.161,170.
Queensland at the same time as the Colony was created. St Lucia was not within the Town boundary and remained a country area under the direct control of the Department of Land and Works of the Colonial Government.

The establishment of Road Trusts was seen by the Colonial Government as a manifestation by a local community, of its desire to provide its own infrastructure, even though it was not capable of becoming a municipality. In 1871 the Government Gazette noted that the Indooroopilly Roads Trust Board had been established and the members were all local farmers.

This was the forerunner to Local Government and for the first time gave local residents input into how their locale was managed. The Trust Board chairman even discussed with a newspaper reporter the desirability of the Government imposing a small land tax to pay for roads.

In 1878 and 1879 the Local Government Act and the Divisional Boards Act established a network of municipalities, shires and divisional boards. St Lucia and Long Pocket fell within the new Division of Toowong, although it changed names several times between then and the creation of the Greater Brisbane Council in 1926. Unfortunately all the records of local government covering St Lucia have been lost, however extensive newspaper coverage of their meetings by *The Brisbane Courier* newspaper have been researched. St Lucia is now within the Walter Taylor Ward of the Brisbane City Council.

In April 1885, 109 local residents petitioned the Government for an extra subdivision to be created for the area of the future St Lucia/Long Pocket. The following is a transcript of part of the handwritten petition although not all signatures are decipherable:

> That your Petitioners consider that the most equitable way to subdivide Subdivision Two would be by the Railway line. The Eastern side to be Subdivision Three and the west side including Fig Tree Pocket to be Subdivision Two.
> That on the basis of last year’s receipts the rates of Subdivision Two would be £204 – 3 -0 and for Subdivision Three £212 – 5 -0.
> That in consequence of the deadlock now virtually existing with the present members it is desirable that all the member’s seats should be declared vacant and an entirely new Board elected.
> Your Petitioners therefore pray that Subdivision Two may be subdivided into two Subdivisions as numbers Two and Three and that the boundary line be the Railway line running through the present Subdivision from Toowong Creek to the Brisbane River just past the Indooroopilly Railway station.
> And your Petitioners will ever pray etc

Signatories:

Richard Gailey  W A Wilson  E C Tidewell  J Ball  
James Patterson  James Jolly  ? Wilson  ?  
John Dyer  John ?  Newman Wilson  Charles Lane  
J de Villiers  Ch Morrell  J Oven Baildon  E Timmins  
J Surman  James Anderson  E Lambert  R H Scott  
Hiram Rountree  C Lambert  
Caldwell  C H Bundy  John Powell  Samuel Bowden  
Charles Hanna  William Mitchell  W Chapman  J Holmes  
David Lanes  Thomas Penman  James Behan  George Carr  
John Redhead  Copeland Spode  Mark Blasdall  Patrick Carmody  
Augustus Rivo  Robert Strong  John Garmley  John Williams

---

24 W Ross Johnston *The Call of the Land* p 80 The Jacaranda Press.
26 *The Telegraph* 16 November 1872 p3 c3.
27 QSA Colonial Secretary’s Inwards Correspondence File, COL/037, researched by A Darbyshire.
Prominent local citizens on the early Divisional Boards included George Carr, Richard Gailey, William A Wilson, Charles Lane, Thomas Ryan, T Munro, T Morrow and James Carmody. They generally gave their time without financial reward. George Carr’s son William T H Carr also served on the local Council for many years.  

John Chandler, later Sir John Beals Chandler, was a long time resident of St Lucia and was the Lord Mayor of Brisbane during and after World War II, from 1940 until 1952.

In 1925 the 19 Councils and Shires surrounding the City were amalgamated to form the Brisbane City Council, covering some 375 square miles (97 000 ha approx.). Again, Andrew Darbyshire has written further on local government in his St Lucia History Group Paper No 6.

2.5 Federal Government

The first of January 1901 saw the Australian Colonies federate under the banner of the Commonwealth of Australia, and a new Australian Parliament opened on 9 May in Melbourne. The bicameral legislature was based largely on the Westminster system, but each State retained its own Parliaments ceding only certain national matters to the Federal Government. J Wilkinson was the first member for the Electorate of Moreton, representing the people of St Lucia in the Lower House. The boundaries have changed over the years and St Lucia has also been in Brisbane, Griffith, and Oxley and is currently in the Electorate of Ryan.

Compulsory voting was introduced in 1924 throughout the nation. The voting age was lowered to 18 in 1973. Disability pensions, age pensions, maternity allowance and workers compensation were first introduced by the Government in 1910. Unemployment and sickness benefits were introduced in 1945. Two weeks annual leave was introduced in 1946, increased to three weeks in the 1960s and four weeks in the 1970s. 

28  Picture Australia Jersey Cattle 128610
29  The Sunday-Mail 21 February 2010 p 56.
3. Associations and individuals

In 1853 Robert Cribb and Lang Farm won First Prize for Cotton at the first Moreton Bay Horticultural Society exhibition.\(^{30}\) In 1865 a group of some 44 local farmers including W Cribb and W Dart submitted a petition\(^ {31}\) and persuaded the Government to ‘open’ the piece of road from the Toowong Hotel to Mr Jarrott’s farm (at Long Pocket).\(^ {32}\) This road is now known as Burns Rd from Moggill Rd down to Toowong Creek crossing, and from there, Indooroopilly Rd up over Fiveways and down to Long Pocket.

The East Moreton Farmers Association was a grouping of persons with mutual interests and also a lobby group to parliament.\(^ {33}\) At the inaugural meeting in 1867 Mr Jarrott and Mr Watt were nominated to be the representatives for Indooroopilly.\(^ {34}\) The Indooroopilly Branch of the Association was formed on 1 July 1868,\(^ {35}\) and the Chairman was R Jarrott, Secretary A Watt, and Treasurer W Dart Jnr. Monthly meetings were held and topics discussed included improving cotton growing, and the possibility of growing sugar cane.\(^ {36}\) Ploughing matches were also held and on occasions local farmers such as Carr and Redhead won prizes.\(^ {37}\)

By 1870 Mr Jarrott was chairman and A Watt was a committee member of the East Moreton Agricultural and Horticultural Society.\(^ {38}\) In 1871 Mr Watt was awarded ‘best bale of lucerne’ and ‘excellent Circular Head potatoes’ at the annual show held at the Brisbane School of Arts.\(^ {39}\)

Both the chapel and the school were established at this time by local residents. Proceeds from the school opening were used to establish a library for a mutual improvement society, and a series of lectures was held during the year with the same purpose.\(^ {40}\)

In 1872 members of Temperance Group requested permission to use the Government school building for its meetings, as illustrated by the following transcript of a handwritten letter.\(^ {41}\) A spelling mistake appears to have been made as this was no doubt from Mr Jarrott.\(^ {42}\)

COPY OF LETTER SENT TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

30th May 1872

Sir, on Behalf of myself and many of my Neighbours we beg at your Hands the Favour to use the School Room for the Purpose of Mutual Improvements and the advocacy of Total Abstinence from all Intoxicating Drink.

Religious Controversy and Political Subjects will not be allowed.

N.B. As we have no other suitable Place to meet in a favourable Reply will much oblige,

Your Humble Servant,

Signed, R. Jarrott.

[Request was refused]

\(^{30}\) W. Ross Johnstone *Brisbane the First 30 years*, p 208.
\(^{31}\) Helen Gregory *Arcadian Simplicity*, p 27.
\(^{32}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 4 Nov 1865 p 4 c 7. and QSA, Lands & Works Dept Correspondence Received File LWO.A26 Doc 1816 18.8.1865.
\(^{33}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 11 April 1868 p 10 c 7.
\(^{34}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 15 July 1867 p.2.
\(^{35}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 3 July 1868 p2 c4.
\(^{36}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 5 Sept 1868 p.5 c.2 sourced by John Kerr.
\(^{37}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 17 June 1870 p.3.
\(^{38}\) Pugh’s *Almanac* 1871 p 118. Fryer Library University of Queensland.
\(^{39}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 23 January 1871 p.6.
\(^{42}\) Pugh’s *Almanac* 1871 p 115. Fryer Library University of Queensland.
In May 1872 the ‘Lodge No. 8 A Shining Light Indooroopilly’ of the International Order of Good Templars was formed but was unable to immediately find a place to meet – being refused use of the Government school as above, and the adjacent chapel. Members included Robert Jarrott, William Dart (Jr.) William Lane, John Deller, John Redhead and some of their family members.43

In 1873 a Penny Reading group was established on the Friday before each full moon:

Mr Arthy’s musical class, after only fifteen lessons in singing, astonished their friends. To all who enjoy an evening’s ride in the bush and an hour’s good amusement, we strongly advise a Penny Reading at Indooroopilly.44

Mr Brenan described the meetings thus:

Arthy…organised monthly Penny Readings at the local Long Pocket School [now Ironside State School], which took place on the Friday nearest Full Moon. The programme comprised Lectures, Readings, Songs and old English Glee s, etc., and some of us remained afterwards for a dance. Large audiences found their way there from all parts of the surrounding district, and also from town.25

In 1875 the East Moreton Agricultural and Horticultural Association awarded a medal to W Dart for ‘best sugar’. In 1876 Ann Jane Carr, the thirteen year old daughter of George Carr, a farmer from St Lucia and later Long Pocket, walked with two friends from Long Pocket to Toowong where they caught a horse-drawn bus to town. From there they walked to the RNA showgrounds at Bowen Hills to attend the first RNA Show.46

In 1878 the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (later the RNA) awarded three medals to farmers from the St Lucia district.47 Photographs of some of these medals are with Professor Robinson’s manuscripts at the University of Queensland Fryer Library. Historian Rosamond Siemon believes that W Dart was involved in organising the earliest Agricultural Shows and that they were held in Queen St initially.

From 1898 to 1914 the river flats along the north side of the peninsular were used for Saturday afternoon exercises, trench digging etc. by the Matilda Field Artillery.48 In 1932 the University grounds were used by the Army as a training camp for field engineers.49

3.1 St Lucia Progress Association

The ‘St Lucia and Ironside Progress Association’ was formed at a meeting of some 60 residents at the Ironside State School in January 1914, as the residents were not satisfied with that the Taringa Council was doing justice to Division 3. The inaugural Patron was E H Macartney MLA, President JF Bergin, Vice Presidents J Mitchell and JHH Morgan, Hon Secretary A Pollard.50 Meetings were held on the first Tuesday of every month and matters such as the lack of a public park, the need for a cross-river ferry, and water, gas and postal services were discussed.51 Discussion also began on obtaining a piece of land for a hall.52

---

43 The Brisbane Courier 22 May 1872 p 2 and 1 July 1872 p 3.
44 The Brisbane Courier 4 September 1873 p4 c7, 6 September 1873 p4 c6.
46 Great Western Gazette 26 August 1959 as quoted in Andrew Derbyshire draft Paper on Carr Family.
47 Prof. Robinson’s 1952 The University of Queensland and other Universities Fryer Library p11.
48 Robinson F W Prof. ‘The University of Queensland at St Lucia and other Universities 1952’ and other papers. p 16.
49 Thomis M A Pl of Light and Learning p 163.
50 Brisbane Courier 23 January 1914 p 9; 19 February 1914 p 9.
51 Brisbane Courier 24 March 1914 p9; 15 September 1914 p3; 7 November 1914 p10, 10 October 1919 p8; 16 November 1921 p 4.
52 Brisbane Courier 3 October 1914 p7.
President Bergin collapsed and died at the January 1915 meeting at age 46. Mr Mitchell was elected President at the next meeting.

In March 1915 the Hon Sec Alfred Thornton Pollard was presented with an inscribed gold fob watch ‘in recognition and appreciation of his services on behalf of the members’, he went on to marry Jessie (Dolly) Guyatt in 1917 and they lived in Depper and Sisley Streets.

By 1919 Mr J Morgan was the President, and in 1921 Mr West was in the chair, followed by Mr Chandler.

In 1921 a campaign began to provide the ‘St Lucia Baths’ on land adjacent to the river near Mobolon (now Guyatt Park); funds were raised at sports days. In 1922 the Progress Association advised Council that it had acquired land for the baths along side the river and requested rates relief. Further funds would also be raised to assist in the erection of the Church Of England Hall. Later funds were set aside for the construction of dressing sheds and the fencing off of a swimming area in the river. However with the formation of the Greater Brisbane City Council in 1924 it was decided that it was a function of Council to provide bathing facilities.

The fencing of swimming and bathing areas in the Brisbane River was very common, as bull sharks were a constant risk and a number of people were taken from 1848 onwards.

The Progress Association dropped the Ironside component of its name in 1926.

In 1922 the Taringa Shire Council agreed to the Progress Associations requests for parkland and agreed to offer £2000 for Carmody’s Paddock. Possibly the offer was not formally accepted as it was not until 1926 when the Brisbane City Council purchased the land at the request of the then St Lucia Progress and Debating Society for use by the St Lucia Football Club and Cricket Club, who offered to improve the ground. The St Lucia Cricket Club

53 Brisbane Courier 8 January 1915 p 4.
54 Brisbane Courier 15 January 1915 p 7.
55 Brisbane Courier 23 January 1915 p 7; Brisbane Courier 6 March 1915 p 7.
56 Watch held by Nanette Asher, daughter of Alfred Pollard; SLHG meeting minutes 7 October 2006.
57 The Brisbane Courier 14 October 1919 p 8; 10 May 1921 p 8; 12 October 1921 p 4.
58 The Brisbane Courier 21 June 1921; 14 July 1921 p 8, 11, 16, 22, 26, 28 November 1921.
59 The Brisbane Courier 16 February 1922 p 11.
60 The Brisbane Courier 8 February 1922 p 13.
61 The Brisbane Courier 4 June 1924 p 16.
62 The Daily Mail 16 July 1927
63 Voracious monsters Chris Dawson in RHSQ Journal Vol 21 No 10 2012
64 The Brisbane Courier 21 July 1926 p 22.
65 The Brisbane Courier 9 May 1922 p 4.
however was playing matches at the ground in 1923. The paddock became known as the St Lucia Sports Ground and was situated between the river, Mill Rd, St Lucia Rd and Keith St. The Council were draining a 10 acre (4 ha) lagoon there in 1931.

A Mr P Carmody was the Secretary of the Progress Association in 1922, but this was probably Peter Carmody, son of Patrick Carmody of Long Pocket and distant relative to the St Lucia Carmody’s.

The ‘St Lucia and East Taringa Improvement and Debating Society’ (later just the ‘St Lucia Improvement and Debating Society’) was formed in March 1923 with the objective to ‘advance the social, intellectual, and material welfare of the district generally’: Mr I (Innes) Henderson was elected President together with a full committee. From August 1923 the meetings were held in the newly erected Church of England public Hall. The Society seemed to be campaigning for the same things that the Progress Association had been set up for, i.e. roads, parks etc. The Society and the Association seem to have joined c.1926 with Mr Henderson being the President, and the name then became the St Lucia Progress Association and Debating Society.

In 1924 it was reported:

Representatives of the Toowong and Taringa councils, with representatives of the Progress Associations of the two municipalities recently decided to ask the South Brisbane Council to assist in an endeavour to have the West End tramway extended to the river at Hill End, and then across the river to St Lucia and Ironsides [sic] School.

With the formation of the Greater Brisbane Council a conference was held in July 1925 to try to establish a Central Council of local Progress Associations, of which there were 60 or 70, so that they could speak with one voice. By October agreement had been reached on forming a number of area based Progress Councils who would then have representatives on a Grand Council. In November 1925 Mr Henderson (of the St Lucia Improvement Society) and others instigated a meeting between a number of the Western Suburbs Progress Associations with a view to harmonising constitutions to allow them to work together. Subsequently the Western Suburbs Council of Progress Associations was formed and meetings held. In June 1926 the Grand Council of Progress Associations was officially formed with St Lucia as a member.

In July 1926 the local Progress Association noted that St Lucia was a better site for a University than Victoria Park. At its meeting of September that year the Grand Council decided to support the St Lucia site for the University and to therefore ask the Greater Brisbane Council to purchase the St Lucia land from its park funds, with the current site at

---

67 BCC Parks Committee minutes 2 July 1929, BCC Archives. The Brisbane Courier 3 July 1929 p16; 25 July 1931 p14.
68 The Brisbane Courier 22 October 1931 p 8.
69 The Brisbane Courier 14 July 1922 p 13.
70 The Brisbane Courier 15 March 1923 p 8.
71 The Brisbane Courier 1 August 1923 p 9; 18 July 1924 p 9; 13 November 1924 p 13.
72 The Brisbane Courier 2 December 1925 p 11.
73 The Brisbane Courier 4 June 1924 p 16. 26 November 1926 p26
74 The Brisbane Courier 1 July 1924 p.6.c.7
75 The Brisbane Courier 30 July 1925 p7.
76 The Brisbane Courier 8 October 1925 p 8.
77 The Brisbane Courier 23 November 1925 p 5.
78 The Brisbane Courier 29 June 1926 p 19.
79 The Brisbane Courier 3 September 1926 p 7; 26 July 1926 p 11.
80 The Brisbane Courier 21 July 1926 p 22.
Victoria Park to be returned to the Council by the Senate as parkland. It was then reported that:

Following upon an agitation for the securing of a site at St Lucia for the University, a deputation from the Grand Council of Progress Associations waited upon the Mayor [Alderman Jolly] on the 6th October 1926, and suggested that the City Council should acquire an area at St Lucia for University purposes… The deputation was informed that in view of the heavy cost involved in resuming the necessary land, the City Council could not comply with the request.

The Mayor [commented]…there might be another way out of the difficulty. A certain suggestion had been made, but it was not yet sufficiently developed for him to elaborate on it.

Immediately following this, Dr Mayne and his sister Mary Emelia made an anonymous offer to the Lord Mayor to donate £50,000 to buy the St Lucia site for the University, or if they didn’t want it, then for a public park. The Grand Council supported this offer. In the following months and years the offer was accepted, the land resumed, and accepted by The University as its new home.

The St Lucia Progress Association held its first horticultural and industrial show in June 1922 to raise funds for the baths and the provision of a Progress Hall. By 1923 a Church of England hall had been built on St Lucia Road and was used for church services, Sunday School and community events. The second Show was held there on the King’s Birthday weekend in June 1923 and the hall benefited from funds raised. The 1924 Refidex gives the name at that time as the ‘St Lucia Show Hall’.

Jim Mackenzie has provided the above photographs of a hot air balloon, taken by his parents at a fete around 1924 at Guyatt Park.

The Church hall was not sufficiently supported and in 1925 the St Lucia Improvement and Debating Society enquired if the hall was for sale. The probable initial trustees for the Society...
were James Morgan, Frederick Coomer and Innes Henderson. The following letterhead is dated April 1927.

In early 1926 the St Lucia Progress Association and Debating Society purchased the hall and two adjoining allotments for £500 cash, with the church permitted to hold services and Sunday School there. An application was made to Council for ‘enlarging and altering Hall’ at a cost of £600.

The extended church hall under the ownership of the Progress Association was formally opened by the Mayor Alderman Jolly on 15th July 1927 at a gala event. The Patron was Mr J F

---

90 BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre, letter dated 1927
91 Kerr J Christ Church St Lucia 40 Years 2002 p 12; The Brisbane Courier 4 June 1926 p 10.
92 Toowong-Indooroopilly Local Area Plan Heritage and Character Study op. cit.
93 The Brisbane Courier 4 June 1924 p 16; 4 October 1924 p 9; 4 June 1926 p 10; 7 June 1927 p 10.
Mitchell MLA, the President Mr I Henderson, Vice-President Mr J R Morgan, and Treasurer Mr J Higgins. An “enjoyable musical programme was rendered by (the Thistle Queen) Miss M Nesbit, Miss A Raven and Mr Cyril Barclay.”\(^94\)

Wise’s Post Office Directory for 1927 lists the building as ‘School of Arts’ as does the Brisbane and Suburbs street map of that date. However from 1931 until 1949 the building is listed as the St Lucia Hall. Government grants of £50 were available at this time for books for Schools of Art, but it is not known if St Lucia acquired one; the reference to the school did not continue in later years.\(^95\)

Shows were held regularly and in 1933 the Society ran it’s twelfth Annual Show and the categories judged were ‘Vegetables and farm produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants in receptacles, fancy work, cookery and children’s work’.\(^96\) 1934 and 1935 were successful years.\(^97\) However the Association became dormant until revived in 1937 with Mr Reg Brown as President.\(^98\) A successful show was held in 1938 and 1939.\(^99\) The 1940 and 1941 Shows dedicated half of the funds raised to the St Lucia branch of the Red Cross.\(^100\)

Local resident Joan Haig reports:

[The Progress Hall] was on higher stumps with a small veranda and a dozen or so steps. It had a stage with dressing rooms on either side. When not being used the seating was stored under the stage. At the front of the hall there were two rooms; one was used as a ticket office and the other for refreshments. Dances were held in the Progress Hall and during the war years they were held most Friday nights. The pianist was Mr Fred Smith; he was excellent and could play anything the dancers wanted

The hall also hosted the annual ‘Progress Association’s’ show, and on Show day the grounds were full of people. Lunch, tea and cakes were served underneath the hall. Around the grounds a chocolate wheel, a hoopla stand and a coconut shy were set up. We would pay 6d to enter the hall, and sometimes Sir John Chandler MLA [Brisbane Mayor 1940 -1952 and local resident] would open the Show and he would put on a display of his gardener’s orchids – they were really special. Cooked cakes sweets etc, fruit, vegies, flowers, wonderful needlework and other arts and crafts were displayed and judged. Certificates were awarded for 1\(^{st}\) 2\(^{nd}\) and 3\(^{rd}\) places with a cash prize for the winner. Plenty of wildflowers grew on the hillsides of St Lucia in those days and made first class displays. The display tables had a wire netting cage to protect the exhibits.\(^101\)

Local resident Mrs Cole reports: \(^102\)

..every year in June a local show was held there. I won quite a lot of prizes for cakes and jams. Exhibits came from everywhere…

The annual flower show recommenced in 1947, having not been held since 1941.\(^103\)

By December 1927 alterations to the hall were complete and the debt (of £250) almost paid off. The Association claimed responsibility for getting a night mail clearance, and the Fire


\(^{95}\) Ms H Gregory speaking at St Lucia History Group meeting 6 February 2010

\(^{96}\) The Brisbane Courier 4 June 1930 p13; 6 June 1933 p13, 4 June 1924 p 16; 4 June 1925 p10; 4 June 1926 p10; 7 June 1927 p10, 5 June 1928 p20.

\(^{97}\) The Courier-Mail 5 June 1934 p 21; 6 June 1934 p 7; 14 June 1938 p 11.

\(^{98}\) The Courier-Mail 12 June 1937 p 11.


\(^{100}\) The Courier-Mail 2 April 1940 p 8; 8 September 1941 p 7.

\(^{101}\) Joan Haig – notes recorded by Peter Brown 2003.

\(^{102}\) Mrs Coles Looking Back sourced by C Dyer.

\(^{103}\) The Sunday-Mail 14 September 1947 p 4 c 3.
Brigade area extended to St Lucia, and was campaigning for the gas main to be extended into the suburb.\textsuperscript{104} Mr Henderson was again President in 1933.\textsuperscript{105}

In 1928 Mr C W Wilson was issued with a Picture Theatre Licence for the hall. However by 1938 J C Millett Hon. Sec. of the ‘St Lucia Progress and Debating Society’ was granted exemption from the licensing fee for the ‘Amusement Hall’ on the basis that only not-for-profit entertainment was provided.\textsuperscript{106}

In 1929 the pupils of Ironside State School held a fundraising fancy dress.\textsuperscript{107}

Local resident Eric Hudd reports that his sister Ella went:

- to [Church of England] Sunday School in the Progress Hall…On May Day each year there was a Sunday School Picnic usually held, complete with tent, on the paddocks adjacent to the Robinson home in Brisbane St.\textsuperscript{108}

The Progress Association had its own letterhead at least by 1942.\textsuperscript{109}

Local resident Mr S E Cole reported in the \textit{St Lucia Gazette} of December 1976 that his father, Ray ‘used to make ice cream with a churn for school and church fetes during the 1930s’.

Local Resident Ms Janet Patterson nee McCulloch reports that a community kindergarten began in the Sunday School hall c.1940, and during the war the small chairs were stored under her house before eventually going to the new kindergarten at the Presbyterian church in 1946.\textsuperscript{110}

In 1946 the Progress Association considered a plan to build a community centre on land from Ironside State School down towards the ferry:

\textsuperscript{104} The Brisbane Courier 5 December 1927 p 21; Daily Mail 16 July 1927.
\textsuperscript{105} The Brisbane Courier 10 January 1933 p 7.
\textsuperscript{106} BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre.
\textsuperscript{107} The Brisbane Courier 24 June 1929 p 18.
\textsuperscript{108} Brown P. Record of interview with Eric Hudd 2004.
\textsuperscript{109} BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre, letter dated 1942
\textsuperscript{110} Email Janet Patterson May 2010.
The plan embraces a community hall, recreational oval, and playing fields, child welfare and kindergarten centres, a picture theatre, library and swimming baths.\textsuperscript{111}

In 1946 H G Rosin applied for a picture theatre licence for the Progress Hall, capable of seating 356 patrons.\textsuperscript{112} The BCC sent along an ‘inspecting architect’ who drew a free hand sketch of the hall and wrote a three page report and said initially “This is a well built substantial structure of wood…”\textsuperscript{113} From 1947 the hall was used as a picture theatre named the ‘Esquire Cinema’.

1946 floor plan, Brisbane City Council Archives File BCA 1761

…going to the pictures was a weekly event. Families had their reserved seats and they went on Saturday night, rain hail or shine, and it didn’t matter what they’d see. Families dressed up. It was also a social occasion, as people saw their neighbours and were able to catch up on what was happening in their community. You might have community singing with the lyrics showing on the screen, before the programme started and everyone stood for the anthem, \textit{God Save The King}. There’d be a newsreel, often a short, and then the supporting picture, interval and then the main picture.\textsuperscript{114}


In 1949 the licence was transferred to C W Peters, in 1951 to R M Vickary, in 1953 to H G Thorpe, and in 1955 to H W Endres.\textsuperscript{115}

The Progress Association ran a Horticultural and Industrial Show again in 1950.\textsuperscript{116}

\textit{The Courier-Mail} had Mr Ron Haig of the ‘St Lucia Progress Association’ commenting on the new Hawken Dr shops in 1953;\textsuperscript{117} Ron was Joan Haig’s brother and was the President for many years until the Association closed down.

\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{111} \textit{The Courier-Mail} 8 November 1946 p 5.
\bibitem{112} \textit{The Sunday Mail} 27 April 1947 p4
\bibitem{113} BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre.
\bibitem{115} BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre.
\bibitem{116} \textit{The Courier Mail} 13 September 1950 p 10.
\end{thebibliography}
Ian and Denise Venables joined the square dance craze about 1952 in the Progress Hall, and it was still up on stilts at that time.\textsuperscript{118}

In 1953 the ‘Progress Association’ paid Brisbane City Council £150 for the purchase of playground equipment for the park at Carmody Rd and Baty St, which Council installed at its expense.\textsuperscript{119} This is presumably when the park got its name - St Lucia Playground.

Due to lack of patronage after the introduction of black and white television, the Progress Hall was sold in 1956 to Mr Endres who operated it possibly under the name ‘Avalon Theatre’.\textsuperscript{120} The word Avalon comes from Greek Mythology and is used in the name of several famous theatres around the world. Mr Endres made an application to Council to extend the building and relax the ordinance requiring the height of the new ceiling to be 20 feet (the theatre had 18 feet ceilings) which was approved.\textsuperscript{121} It was probably at this time that ground around the building was raised to improve fire egress.

The St Lucia Progress Association under the chairmanship of Mr R B Bolton looked for a suitable project to spend the proceeds of sale on. Perhaps remembering the earlier proposal for swimming baths at Guyatt Park, the Association decided to offer the money to the Ironside State School to encourage them to provide a swimming pool. The school took up the offer and the Association donated £3,500, one quarter of the cost.\textsuperscript{122}

The University of Queensland purchased the Avalon Theatre - land, buildings, seating and projection equipment – for $8,500 from Mr Endres in 1963. It initially spent a further $3,200 on new toilets, stage etc and later extended and modified the hall. The University used the theatre for more than forty years as a base for University Drama activities. In 1970 the

\begin{flushleft}
117 The Courier-Mail 3 March 1953 p 5 from B Brownings scrapbook.
119 Brisbane City Council Minutes 1952-53 p 830.
121 Toowong-Indooroopilly Local Area Plan Heritage and Character Study; BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre; BCC Council minutes 1958-59 p291
122 Kerr J Christ Church St Lucia 40 Years 2002 p.10.
\end{flushleft}
University also purchased the Anglican Church land behind the hall. In 1974 the hall became a relief centre following the January floods.

In 2004 the structure was deemed unsafe due to white ants and the sagging of the roof caused by the weight of stage lighting equipment. The hall closed and has not operated since. Further history of the University’s use of the hall is recorded in great detail in ‘A History of the Avalon Theatre 1921-2007’ by N Pearn and R Fotheringham of the University of Queensland, held at the University’s Fryer Library.

The following advertisement is for a production in 1964:

![Advertisement for Oklahoma!](image)

In 1962 it was reported in the press:

Out of a job: St Lucia has one unusual distinction – its progress association has worked itself out of jobs!

One of the stalwarts, Mr Keith Henzell explains: “we achieved most of our aims for the establishment of bowling clubs, parks and scout groups. Really there isn’t a great deal more that could be done”

Except of course for the decades old dream…the bridge that one day may span the Brisbane River and link Hawken Dr with Boundary St, West End.

According to the Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation 2001 the building is:

A place of local significance.. as a building that has undergone a variety of uses which reflect the changes that have occurred in the St Lucia area, it is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the… local areas history… and, as a remnant of a Brisbane suburban picture theatre; and… it has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The St Lucia Village Chamber of Commerce was in existence by 1969, centred mainly on the current shopping precincts at Ironside and Hawken Dr. Bob Browning, the supermarket owner was at one time chairman. The *St Lucia Village Express* was their free newspaper distributed to letter boxes from 1969 until at least 1972. Norm Chaveaux was the President during some of this period.

The St Lucia Community Association was formed in March 1974, following the Australia Day floods, and its inaugural President was Dick Webber. Together with the St Lucia Village Chamber of Commerce the association published the *St Lucia Gazette*, a free bi-monthly newspaper that at one stage had a circulation of 4,500. The paper was put together by

---

123 BCC Archives File Ref BCA 1761 Licenses and Permits Avalon Theatre.
124 Newspaper clipping source unknown, in B Browning’s scrapbook.
126 *St Lucia Gazette*, Vol. 3 No 6 September 1976 p 1 c 1 Fryer Library University of Queensland.
volunteers and struggled through its years, from 1975 until 1980, relying on advertising for income, and local news submissions for interest. Its biggest single revenue supporter was probably Errol Hanson’s SUPA-VALU supermarket on Hawken Dr.

3.2 Individuals

Bob Browning was a well known local community identity.129

From the September/October 1976 edition of the St Lucia Gazette:

Bob Browning- St Lucia Identity

Until he relinquished his business in 1973, Bob Browning was a driving force in the development and promotion of the St Lucia Village Shopping Centre, while conducting his own business, and a belief in the concept – ‘Customers are People, first and Customers, second’

During his years in retailing, he served continually with the Queensland Retail Traders Association Executive Committee [eventually as president], and was also the president of the National Association of Retail Grocers, and Chairman of the Queensland Food retailers Consultative Council.

Since 1973 he has been kept extremely busy with his involvement in the Food Industry Training Institute. He has more recently extended his training programme to include the teaching of working skills to young aboriginal people.

However, in all these busy years, Bob has found time to devote his energies to many other interests and activities in this district as well.

He was at one time, Chairman of the St Lucia Village Chamber of Commerce, and concerned with the publication of a local newspaper. He has, for over 20 years, been an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, Sunday School Superintendent and a Sunday school teacher.

During the 1974 floods, Bob was Chairman of ‘Operation Clean-up’, and was responsible in St Lucia for co-ordination of Army, City Council and sundry volunteers. He recalls that at the height of the emergency, he passed over 700 rostered volunteer workers through the Christ Church Emergency Centre in one day! [Bob says over three days]

Today [1976] he is also Chairman of the local ‘Meals on Wheels’ organisation, and is responsible for the roster system for collection and delivery of bulk foods to the ‘Meals’ kitchen.

With his wife, Helen, and son Rod, Bob still lives in St Lucia, in a new house next to his original home. He has a married daughter [Mrs Roslyn Treacher], and is a grandfather.

Bob was, at one time in his business career, Chairman of the ‘Supa Valu’ retail group, and it can safely be said, that though officially retired, Bob Browning is still very much a man of ‘Supa Valu’ to our community.

In 1988 Bob was awarded the British Empire Medal, an extract from the Citation follows:

For His Services to the Community.
Over many years Mr Browning has worked tirelessly in promoting small business as well as being an ardent worker in charitable organisations…

---

4. Churches

Brisbane was nominally a strongly religious society and 95% of the people listed themselves as Christians in 1891. The Church of England claimed one third of these, the Roman Catholics one fifth, and the Presbyterians and Methodists one eighth and one tenth respectively. The colonial chaplains saw their functions as very clearly outlined; to provide public worship, supervise the education of any children, and perform the occasional offices of baptising, marrying, and burying.

Religion was seen by the civil authorities and by most of the clergy too, as fostering restraint and good order.\textsuperscript{130}

The absence of churches in the St Lucia area in the early days did not stop the pioneer families from worshipping. William Cribb and his wife ran a Congregational Sunday school in their home at \textit{Lang Farm} between 1865 and 1870.\textsuperscript{131} In the 1870s William Dart, sugar farmer and miller, and a lay preacher with the Primitive Methodists, held prayer meetings at his home on Mill Rd.\textsuperscript{132}

Many of the early immigrants to Brisbane were active members of religious bodies, and from the mid 1870s their presence spread to Toowong. The Anglicans built their first church in Toowong in 1866, the Primitive Methodists in 1876, the Wesleyan Methodists in 1879, the Baptists in 1881, the Presbyterians in 1887 and the Catholics in 1893.\textsuperscript{133}

4.1 Bible Christian Chapel

With access to the Woolcock family history, Jean Stewart has researched and written extensively of the Reverend and several of the following notes are taken from her work.\textsuperscript{134}

The Bible Christian movement was founded in Devon and Cornwall England in 1815, by William O’Bryan who was originally a Methodist. The preachers did not have licences to perform marriages and funerals so the members had to maintain links with Conformist Churches. The Church ran schools to improve the educational standards of its members.

In Brisbane a group of English immigrants established the society in the early 1860s, and O’Bryan’s grand-daughter Serena Thorne became the local missionary and preacher.\textsuperscript{135} The Conference of the Church in England decided to send two paid missionaries to Australia, and Brother William Woolcock was chosen for Queensland, arriving in Moreton Bay with his wife Elizabeth and five children in June 1866.

He established a church and a parsonage at The Oval, now Woolcock St, Red Hill and also a Sunday School in South Brisbane. In the year following the Reverend established the movement at Indooroopilly Pocket, Moggill/Brookfield, and Oxley/Seventeen Mile Rocks.

\begin{flushright}
\textit{Rev. William Woolcock (1817-1889)}
\end{flushright}

\textsuperscript{130} \textit{The Uniting Church Toowong Parish Centenary}, Jensen D, circa 1979, The Uniting Church.
\textsuperscript{131} B Johnson, p 236.
\textsuperscript{132} Peter Vance in Judy Magub’s \textit{The History of St Lucia 1998} p 23.
\textsuperscript{133} Helen Gregory \textit{Toowong’s Churches in Toowong a Community’s History} (2003) West Toowong Community Assn.
\textsuperscript{134} Stewart J, \textit{Kenmore Park: The land, the house and the people}, 2003, J & D Stewart.
\textsuperscript{135} Wager Libby, ‘Different Tracks’, M England private papers.
A tea-meeting in aid of the erection of a new chapel, under the auspices of the “Bible Christians”, was held at 'Indooroopilly', (probably now the site of Ironside State School) on Thursday 26 instant (November 1868). A spacious booth had been erected for the occasion, in which from seventy to eighty persons took tea. After the tables had been cleared, the Rev. W. Woolcock, who presided, briefly explained the object of the meeting. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Raymont, Moore, Bedgood, Jarrott, and a minister of the “Society of Friends”. Taken altogether the proceedings were very satisfactory.136

The first ‘preaching station’ at Indooroopilly Pocket was the slab hut school building,137 and it was noted in September 1867 that the Queensland Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society had donated ten Testaments to the Indooroopilly Bible Christian Church.138

In 1868 Woolcock purchased a horse ‘Prince’ for £5 so that he could travel from place to place.

The Indooroopilly Pocket families funded and built a new chapel which was opened on the 14th of October 1869:

On Thursday evening last, a congratulatory tea-meeting was held in Indooroopilly, on the occasion of the completion of a neat and convenient Bible Christian Chapel in that locality. The land, a quarter acre, on which the chapel is built, was cheerfully given by the Hon. T.L.M. Prior, and a large part of the labour of its erection and surroundings, such as fencing in &c., was performed by the farmers living about. It is a sawn timber building, 17 feet by 22 feet, and neatly painted and enclosed as it is, is a substantial testimony to the religious enterprise of the farmers living in the neighbourhood, who have also raised nearly the whole of the money required. The preparations for the tea spoke just as favourably for the heartiness and liberality with which the farmers’ wives and daughters entered into the spirit of the auspicious event. Clearly all concerned appreciated the advantage and value of having a place of worship and Sunday school within easy reach.

When about two hundred persons had taken tea, a public meeting was held...The Rev Wm. Woolcock, the Bible Christian minister of this district, and the Rev C Ogg [Presbyterian Church], with a long list of laymen friends, gave short and interesting addresses; and, after the doxology and benediction, the proceedings terminated about 10 o’clock.139

Some work was contracted out and accounts for ‘painting and glazing, window shutters, and work done’ were paid that year by the minister.140

This is not the Indooroopilly Chapel but the almost identical Brookfield Bible Christian Hall opened soon after. Photograph is a section of 24927p Picture Queensland.

136 The Brisbane Courier 28 November 1868, p.4.
137 Wager Libby, ‘Different Tracks’, M England private papers;
Ironside State School Diamond Jubilee 1870-1930 Fryer Library University of Queensland
138 The Brisbane Courier 20 September 1867, p.5.
139 The Brisbane Courier 16 October 1869 p.4.c.7.
The first anniversary was celebrated with a tea:

to which more than one hundred persons sat down. Several were kept away by the weather…It was shown that a debt of some £24 12s. 5d. remained…The net income of the anniversary will be rather more than £8.141

The second anniversary on the 26th October 1871 was celebrated by a tea meeting:

…which was well attended. The spread - an excellent one – was given by the members of the church…devotional exercises were engaged in, and Mr W Cribb, of Lang Farm [representing the Congregational Church], was called on to preside. A brief report was given by the Rev W Woolcock…and addresses of an interesting and highly appreciative character were delivered by the Revs W Moore [Baptist Church] and J Barton [Uniting Free Methodist Church]. Thanks to the ladies and the chairman, with the doxology and benediction, terminated a very interesting and financially successful meeting.142

At the third anniversary took place on a Tuesday evening in October 1872:

The church was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens. The spread was of first-rate quality, and very abundant, and was largely patronised by the farmers and their families residing in the neighbourhood. Various places further away in the bush – as Oxley Creek, Moggill, Seventeen-mile Rocks and Brookfield- were also very fairly represented…it appeared that the outstanding liabilities upon the neat little church would be nearly, if not quite, cleared off by the proceeds of this anniversary meeting; that there is a Sunday school of about forty children, and that the interests of the Church had been fairly sustained.143

The funds raised were to pay for the building, books, tracts, hymn books, reward books and cards, and by 1872 the Indooroopilly Chapel was the first one to be debt free.144

Where precisely was the Indooroopilly chapel? It was almost exactly where the forecourt is of today’s Ironside State School, between the flagpole and Swan Rd.145  The 40 perches (1011 m²), of land upon which the chapel sat, adjacent the site of the early slab school building, were formally donated by local land owner Thomas Lodge Murray Prior for a nominal amount of ten shillings ‘for erecting a place of worship…out of his desire to promote religion’, to The Corporation of Bible Christians.146 Rev Woolcock’s accounts record payments for a surveyor, stamp duty and registration of the Deeds.147

In 1879 after thirteen years in the Colony Woolcock retired, and although he was replaced the membership of the church declined. In 1896 the Bible Christians amalgamated with the Wesleyan Methodists and the land title transferred to the Toowong Wesleyan Methodists whose circuit covered St Lucia, Taringa Indooroopilly and Toowong.148 The Ironside chapel was at some point removed to Taringa and may have been the first Methodist Church there;149 The Bible Christian Church in England closed in 1907.

The chapel land was sold to a private individual in 1910, but it was noted later that:
There was a small church near the school and the site long remained as a reserve. It has now [c.1916] been built on.\textsuperscript{150} The Land eventually became part of the present Ironside State School grounds.\textsuperscript{151} Possibly the funds from the sale of the land were used when the Wesleyan Methodists acquired new land and built a new church in St Lucia in 1915.

One of Rev Woolcock's sons, John Laskey Woolcock became a barrister, and later an inaugural member of the Senate of the University of Queensland, thus continuing the association with St Lucia begun by his father some fifty years earlier.\textsuperscript{152}

4.2 Methodist Church

Peter Vance obtained the following formal history of the Methodists which was contributed by the Church.\textsuperscript{153}

**HISTORICAL DATA**

The first reference to the establishment of a Methodist church at St. Lucia is contained in the minutes of a Public Meeting held in the Ironside State School, on 6th July, 1914, for the purpose of considering "the work and purpose of building a Methodist Church at Ironside." The Rev. James H. Heaton, Minister of the Toowong Circuit, was the Chairman of the meeting and the following names were recorded in the minutes: Coombes, Guyatt, Wagner, Rolph, Watkins, West, Stock, Bennett, Hess, Borrowdale, Chapman and Graward.

A gift of land—the present site—then valued at £93, was made to the trustees by the Brisbane Newspaper Co., Ltd., in 1914, on condition that a church building costing at least £200 was erected thereon within a year.

The original trustees, appointed on 23rd September, 1914, were: David Guyatt, Joseph Wagner and George Watkins.

In March, 1915, tenders were called for the erection of a church building on the site, prepared by Mr. G. M. Collinge and the tender of Mr. E. J. Taylor, for £268, was accepted. Additional work brought the total cost to £327.

The new church building was officially opened and dedicated on Saturday, 29th May, 1915, by the President of the Conference, Rev. William Smith, who was assisted by Rev. Dr. Henry Youngmen, C. T. Palethorpe, J. H. Heaton, A. Hutchison and J. T. Jacob. The Rev. J. H. Heaton conducted three services on the following day.

The Church was originally known as the "Toowong Beach Methodist Church" and was within the Toowong circuit. In 1929 it was transferred to the Indocoopily circuit and, in 1950, the name was changed to the "St. Lucia Methodist Church". Alterations, additions and improvements to the building were made in 1921, 1939 and 1953.

Early in 1957, during the ministry of Rev. S. T. Vickery, the first plans were prepared and these were examined, altered and improved at trustees' meetings over the following four years. Tenders were called by architects, Messrs. Cook and Kerisson, towards the end of 1961 and the tender of Harberate Co. Pty. Ltd., for £31,367, was accepted. The contract was signed on 16th November, 1961, and the contractors commenced work four days later.

The Foundation Stone of the new church was set by the President of the Conference, Rev. N. H. Grimmett, on Sunday, 25th February, 1962.

This statement is issued on the occasion of the Opening and Dedication of the St. Lucia Methodist Church and the Leo Guyatt Memorial Hall on Sunday, 25th July, 1962, by the President of the Conference, Rev. Norman H. Grimmett, assisted by Revs. Joseph Tainton and Roy T. Nugent (Ministers of the Indocoopily Circuit), C. A. Reed (Connexional Secretary), and W. T. Phillips (representing past ministers) and Mr. E. J. Coulter (Secretary of the Church Trust) and Mr. G. H. Beer (Treasurer of the church trust).


\textsuperscript{150} Cumbrae-Stewart F, Letters to J O Brenan, 1916, A Darbyshire private papers
\textsuperscript{151} DNRW Certificate of Title 71559 Vol. 490 Folio 49 1884 to Bible Christian Church.
\textsuperscript{152} Wager Libby, ‘Different Tracks’, p.78, M England private papers.
\textsuperscript{153} Historical Data relating to the St Lucia Methodist Church sourced from the Church by P Vance.
(No mention is made in the above of the earlier Primitive Methodists or the Wesleyan Methodists referred to in 4.1 above, but there is a definite connection - J Wagner, one of the trustees, was also the long serving head teacher at the school which grew out of the bush school/chapel)

The Methodist church was the second purpose-built church in St Lucia, opening in June 1915 on Ryans Road.\textsuperscript{154} A Sunday School may have operated earlier than this.\textsuperscript{155} David Guyatt, the local shopkeeper and Sunday-School teacher, and Joseph Wagner the headmaster were two of the instigators of the church. It was named for many years the Toowong Reach Methodist Church at the request of Brisbane Newspaper Co Ltd who donated the land, and was the developer of the surrounding Toowong Reach Estate.\textsuperscript{156} The church cost £327 to build and the builder was E J Taylor.\textsuperscript{157} The Official Map of 1927 refers to it as ‘Methodist Church and Hall’.\textsuperscript{158}

The building had a church hall on the lower floor and the church on the first floor. The church was under the pastoral care of the Toowong minister until 1929 when it was transferred to the Indooroopilly Circuit.\textsuperscript{159}

The following photograph is from SLHG Paper 35 page 36 by A Darbyshire.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{church_photo}
\caption{The timber Methodist Church (Photograph courtesy Audrey Jones nee Wilson) served the local congregation until the early 1970s when a new brick church was constructed. The existing building, probably shuffled on the block, became the church hall and named ‘The Leo Guyatt Memorial Hall’. In the 1990s following the}
\end{figure}

The hall was renovated and extended in 1940:

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{154} The Brisbane Courier 3 June 1915 p.4.
\item \textsuperscript{155} The Brisbane Courier 14 April 1916 p.5.
\item \textsuperscript{156} Extract from Church Magazine circa 1980 provided by Joan Haig
\item \textsuperscript{157} History of Methodist Church provided by Ms J Patterson 2010
\item \textsuperscript{158} Brisbane and Suburbs St map 1927 State Library of Queensland Ref. 841.1.
\item \textsuperscript{159} The Uniting Church Toowong Parish Centenary, Jensen D, circa 1979, The Uniting Church.
\end{itemize}
The extensions consist of a kindergarten room measuring 35ft by 15ft. The church building has been extended 15ft, and a new vestry 12ft by 12ft has been added. The whole structure has been renovated. The total cost…was £550.\textsuperscript{160}

In July 1944 the local community organised a meeting at the Methodist Church Hall in Ryans Road to form a child-minding centre operating one day a week.\textsuperscript{161} The St Lucia Child Care Centre opened on September 6\textsuperscript{th} 1944 with Mrs F Bodman as president, operating each Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm.\textsuperscript{162}

The church was renamed the St Lucia Methodist Church in 1949.\textsuperscript{163}

The present brick church cost £35 000 and was dedicated on 27 July 1962 and is the most recent church built in St Lucia.\textsuperscript{164} The original church remains as the adjoining Leo Guyatt Memorial Hall. It used to stand where the brick church is today, but was relocated to one side and turned at right angles.

\textsuperscript{160} The Courier-Mail 19 February 1940 p 14.
\textsuperscript{161} The Courier-Mail 18 July 1944 p 5.
\textsuperscript{162} The Courier-Mail 27 July 1944 p 4; 7 February 1945 p 5.
\textsuperscript{163} The Courier-Mail 28 October 1949 p 5.
\textsuperscript{164} The Riverside News 2 August 1962, 9 August 1962.
The front porch has been removed, glass doors installed on one side, and a new folding divider installed, however the remainder is original including the weatherboard siding and stained glass windows. The original pews are still in use in the newer church.

After the Methodists and Presbyterian Churches combined in 1967, the church stood empty for many years.

Brisbane's St Lucia Orchestra was founded in 1973 as a small group of string players and was known as the St Lucia Philharmonic Society Orchestra. Initially led by the late Ron Toussaint and conducted by Ralph Morton, Monday night rehearsals were arranged at the Ryans Road Uniting Church hall.\footnote{See later heading for St Lucia Orchestra}

The church hall was used as the Trinity Theological College for several years in the 1980s.\footnote{Extract from Church Magazine \textit{op cit.}} It was also used as an examination hall by the University.\footnote{R. Siemon pers. comm. 2006}

Local resident Joan Haig, reports that in the 1930s:

The Methodist Church which I attended had great children’s Sunday school and Youth Club (thanks to the enthusiasm of the Guyatts). It had a wonderful choir which performed at concerts and anniversaries.\footnote{Peter Brown \textit{St Lucia History Group Papers – Living in St Lucia – Joan Haig.}}

Mrs Pollard, nee Dolly Guyatt, held temperance meetings called ‘Band of Hope’ once a month in the church. The ‘Girls Comrades’ met on Monday nights and the boys ‘O.K.s’ on Friday nights.

In 1993 the Church was purchased by the Christian Community Church. (See later)

King’s College at the University was established as a Methodist College in 1911. It was one of the first three colleges for the new University and, like the others at that time was situated at Kangaroo Point, when the University was in the City.\footnote{Prof. Thomis \textit{A Pl of Light and Learning} p 50 1985 UQ Press.} It was relocated to St Lucia in 1955.

4.3 Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church Archivist, Ms Diane Parker, kindly provided access in 2015 to the church records, particularly the following published record of the early history at St Lucia.\footnote{The Presbyterian Outlook November 1 1953} Church member John Sinclair who lived at 17 Indooroopilly Rd is believed to have been the author.\footnote{Record of discussion Brown / Browning 2004.}
Further research follows.

In 1944 Presbyterian residents of St Lucia, including the Gresham, Finlayson, and Potter families, under the auspices of the Toowong Presbyterian Church established a Sunday School at St Lucia using this temporary classroom at Ironside State School.
In 1947 two allotments were purchased at 347-355 Swann Rd opposite Ironside State School for £562 as a site for the proposed St Lucia Presbyterian Church Hall. The location is shown on the following map.\footnote{Presbyterian Church Archives St Lucia Annual Reports; Set of drawings of proposed St Lucia trolleybus route, 1949, Brisbane Tramway Museum.}

In 1947 a temporary hall was erected having previously been the Presbyterian and Methodist Amenities Hut at Frazer’s Paddock, Enoggera Military Camp.\footnote{Souvenir Album of the Opening and Dedication of the St Lucia Presbyterian Church’ op cit;} The hall was formally opened at Swann Road in August 1947 by the Moderator Rt. Rev Webster.\footnote{Presbyterian Church Archives St Lucia File} \textit{The Courier-Mail} reported that the new minister would be the Rev. J.F MacKay and that plans had been drawn up for a £6 000 church to be built on two allotments near the present temporary church hall.\footnote{\textit{The Courier-Mail} 25 August 1947 p 3.}

The hall was made available to community groups such as the Girl Guides, free of charge. It continued to be used until the construction of a new church and hall was completed many years later.
The kindergarten section of the Sunday School moved to the new hall, with the older members continuing to use the classroom. The Courier-Mail reported that a new Sunday School hall was opened in 1951, but this is not understood.\footnote{178}{The Courier-Mail 1 September 1951 p 5.}

The Presbyterian St Lucia Pre-School was opened in the hall by Lord Mayor J B Chandler in March 1948 with 40 children, and operated with up to 60 children until it transferred to new premises in Baty Street near the State School in 1951, as the non-denominational St Lucia Pre-School (See Papers 19 and 28).\footnote{179}{‘The History of St Lucia Pre-School 1948 – 2000’ Isa Maynard, St Lucia Pre-School; Presbyterian Church Archives St Lucia Annual Reports.} It shared the space with the church and community activities.

In 1947 a site was purchased for £1100 on the corner of Swann Rd and Coronation Drive (now Hawken Drive) St Lucia, and plans prepared for a new church and a hall.\footnote{180}{Presbyterian Church Archives St Lucia Annual Report 1950

\textit{The Presbyterian Outlook} magazine of December 1949 notes that the Toowong ‘mother’ congregation had donated a pulpit bible to the St Lucia community at a recent Farewell
Service. A house and land alongside the new church land was purchased in 1950 for £1800 to become the manse.

A new church was designed by R Martin Wilson:

The foundation stone for the new church was laid in 1952 by the Moderator, and the church itself is described in the published record above. According to the Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation 2001 (part only) the Uniting Church is:

…a substantial brick and tile church of conservative 1940s or 50s design prominently sited on this busy street in St Lucia. The orange brick western front is orientated north-west, and terminates a vista along Swann Rd, seen by vehicle passengers travelling east along this road. Stylistically the church displays an interesting blend of traditional elements with a simplification of detail and line due probably to the influence of European Modernism prevalent in mid

---

181 The Presbyterian Outlook magazine of December 1949 researched by A Darbyshire.
182 Presbyterian Church Archives St Lucia File
183 Photos courtesy Fryer Library researched by A Darbyshire
184 Toowong-Indooroopilly Local Area Plan Heritage and Character Study op cit.
twentieth century architectural thought. The western front is strongly massed and boldly
presented to the street, and contrasts pleasingly with the well-protected side walls, with their
generous roof overhangs, buttresses and lancet windows.
The quality of brickwork and resolution of detail visible over all the building is very high.
.. Further applications were made during the 1950s and 1960s for additional buildings and
extensions to the structures ... The growth of the church parallels that of the development of the
St Lucia area in the post WW II period.

On 29 March 1953 the new church was dedicated and this internal photograph is from the
opening brochure which was sold to raise funds.  

For 18 years from 1952 the church prospered under the ministry of Rev. Robert Crowe. At
that time, coinciding with the considerable growth in the suburb generally, the Church

185 ‘Souvenir Album of the Opening and Dedication of the St Lucia Presbyterian Church’ op cit
enjoyed well-attended services, and provided a wide range of activities, especially in the field of youth welfare and development. The Church had active youth groups with Sunday School, Pathfinders, Boys Club and Girls Club. Church member John Sinclair notes that Mr W A Back was a member of the church and donated £2000 for the organ in 1954, and that Mr Bob Browning, local supermarket owner, was also an active contributor to the Church.  

A document was issued to church members in 1955 entitled ‘a plan to meet a need: St Lucia Presbyterian Church’. The objective of the document was to request members to make a weekly financial pledge to the church. There was a particular need for this as the Church was still paying interest on a loan that had been taken out to fund part of the cost of £27,812 of the new structures.  

The two-storey youth education centre was added in 1961 at a cost of some £17 000, and was able to accommodate 375 people. The congregation at that time was 350 families.

The church ran a pie and refreshment stall at the Brisbane Ekka beginning in 1948 and was the main fundraiser for the church for many years; the above photo courtesy Leigh Chamberlain from the collection of the late Roy Payne is of the sign board used at the Ekka.

---

186 Record of discussion Brown / Browning 2004.
187 ‘a plan to meet a need’, St Lucia Presbyterian Church, 1955, National Library, Ref MCL CHU 196, researched by J McCaffrey; Presbyterian Archives St Lucia files.
Part of the congregations of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches joined to form the St Lucia Joint Parish in 1967, and in 1977 became the Uniting Church in Australia.\textsuperscript{188}

In 1968 the Brisbane Independent School was started in the church hall and remained there until 1972 when it moved to Pullenvale.\textsuperscript{189}

In 1979 the church was contemplating setting up a Boys Brigade and a Girls Brigade. These were non-denominational organisations but had to be associated with a Christian church.\textsuperscript{190}

Subsequently the Girls Brigade commenced in March 1980, and met on Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm for girls from Grade 3 and over.\textsuperscript{191}

The Uniting Church is represented at the University by way of Cromwell (Congregational), Kings (Methodist), Grace and Emmanuel (Presbyterian and Uniting) Colleges.

4.4 ‘Christ Church’, Anglican Church of Australia.

The Church of England in Australia was renamed the Anglican Church of Australia in 1981;\textsuperscript{192} the modern term Anglican is used herein. Some of the Irish migrants gave their religion as Church of Ireland when entering Australia; the formal title of that Church was The Anglican Church in Ireland.\textsuperscript{193}

The church produced a booklet in 1987 recording some of the early history of the church in St Lucia.\textsuperscript{194} In 2002 a past member of the St Lucia History Group the late John Kerr, researched the history further and wrote a book, Christ Church St Lucia, 40 Years published by the Church in 2002.\textsuperscript{195} The following is a brief précis of that book, with additional material by Peter Brown where end-noted.

In 1866 the early Anglican settlers of the Toowong area built St Thomas the Apostle church at Curlew St at the top of Burns Rd and the St Lucia Anglicans formed part of this congregation if they could travel that far. Certainly when the church was rebuilt on its present site in Jephson St in 1876 and roads had improved, the St Lucia members travelled there including Mr Arthy, the head teacher of Toowong School (now Ironside State School) who was the organist.\textsuperscript{196}

In 1921 Sunday School began in St Lucia for the first time, on the veranda of a parishioner’s house in Sir Fred Schonell Dr. In the same year the Toowong Parish Council purchased land in St Lucia for the purpose of building a combined Sunday School Hall and community facility. The cost of the land was £131 and comprised the land on which the Avalon Theatre now stands on Sir Fred Schonell Dr, and all the vacant land beside and behind it (Lots 34, 35, 94-97). This first hall, known as the St Lucia Hall, was built at a cost of £561 in 1923 and was used for church services as well as for Sunday School. Funds were raised with the help of the St Lucia Progress Association by holding fetes and concerts. (see earlier)

\textsuperscript{188} St Lucia Gazette 1976 Fryer Library
\textsuperscript{189} Refer Paper 19 Education
\textsuperscript{190} Uniting Church Network newsletter June 1979, The John Oxley Library S 287 93 040.
\textsuperscript{191} St Lucia Gazette April 1980, p 11, Fryer Library University of Queensland.
\textsuperscript{192} Verbal advice from St John’s cathedral tour guide 2004.
\textsuperscript{193} Reakes J, Help! My Ancestors Irish and I’m Stuck!!!, 1997, Australia’s Immigration and Family History Centre.
\textsuperscript{194} Christ Church Anglican Parish of St Lucia The first 25 years 1962 -1987. Copy held by UQFL
\textsuperscript{195} Christ Church St Lucia, 40 Years John Kerr.
\textsuperscript{196} H Gregory Arcadian Simplicity Boolarong Publications 1990 p. 34.
In 1922 the Diocesan Council purchased several Lots in Tenth Ave, part of the new St Lucia Heights Estate, but not the current church site. In 1925 St Lucia came under the control of the newly formed Parish of Taringa.

Lack of patronage and funds during the depression forced the Church to sell the hall in 1926 to the St Lucia Progress Association and the St Lucia Improvement and Debating Society for £500, with the proviso that it could still be used for services. The church retained the adjacent land.

In 1930 new fund raising efforts, including a flower show, resulted in a new timber church being built adjacent to the earlier hall on what is now the elevated car park beside the Avalon Theatre.\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 13 November 1930 p 21.} Tenders were called in April 1930,\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 3 April 1930 p 10.} the cost of this second hall was £410, the builder was J A Jones, and the hall was designed so that it could be cut and moved in two pieces to St Lucia Heights. For the first time it was named Christ Church St Lucia, but was still in the Parish of Taringa (Page 13).

In March 1940 the St Lucia Nursery School had its gala opening at the Christ Church Hall, beside the Progress Hall.\footnote{The Courier-Mail 2 March 1940 p 9; 1 April 1940 p 13; 8 April 1940 p 13.} In 1935 a new brick building was built at Ironside School and Christ Church purchased the old timber building for £80, (Page 16) and moved it to Macquarie St behind the church, down on the lower ground running at right angles to the other halls.\footnote{The Courier-Mail, 25 January 1936 p 10.} The building was cut up into two sections and carted by truck to its new location.\footnote{Record of discussion Brown / Hudd March 2004.} This became the third hall. A fete was held to raise money to alter and equip the hall.\footnote{The Courier-Mail, 15 February 1936 p 8.}

![Photograph by Stan Hurle kindly provided by Marilyn England.](image-url)
The hall was used for Sunday School and community events until the mid 1950s. In the 1960s it was used by the Order of St Luke as a chapel and meeting room, before being sold in 1970 to the University of Queensland who by then owned the Progress Hall known from the 1950s as the Avalon Theatre. It was possibly finally demolished after being damaged in the 1974 flood.

The adjacent aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows the original church hall (Avalon Theatre) bottom right, the new hall to the left, and the relocated T-shaped school building behind.

In 1947 the site of the present church on the corner of 9th Ave and Central Ave was purchased, and the previously purchased land sold off. In 1951 four Lots adjacent the church site were purchased from the Salvation Army. Unable at that time to afford to build a new brick church, the timber (second) hall was moved up from Macquarie St. The Sunday School Hall (old school building, third hall) stayed where it was.

St Lucia was declared a parochial district in 1956 and an experienced priest, Rev John Rouse, was appointed the first vicar. To raise funds to build a permanent church, in 1957 Christ Church sold the Macquarie St land and the third hall to the Diocese for £4000, with the expectation they would sell it on at an opportune time. The church was allowed to continue to

205 History of Methodist Church provided b Ms J Patterson 2010.
206 Certificate of Title 72628 Vol 497 Folio 118 1884 p4 Lots 437,438.
use the (third) hall for Sunday School, but it became dilapidated very quickly. (Page 29) Possibly the land was sold to the University in 1963 when they purchased the (first) hall.

A member of the present St Lucia History Group, Lenore Jensen (née Bentley), was very active in fundraising, particularly the church’s involvement in running the Dining Hall at the ‘Ekka’

After years of fundraising, the new church designed by Architect Ron Voller, and built by Hutchinson, had both its foundation stone laying and its dedication in October 1962. The total cost was in excess of £50,000. An Education Centre beneath the church was completed in 1969. The architectural firm of Bligh Voller Neil have the original drawings of the church.

The earlier timber church was moved to one side and became the Church Hall. Extended in later years it maintains that role today.

According to the Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation 2001 the church is:

A good example of a progressive late 50s / early 60s church. Externally tall red brick walls support a thin, almost flat gable roof, defining a simple but richly detailed internal volume. A very tall, finely structured bell tower attached to the western front balances the architectural mass of the church.

The side walls of the church are a concertina form, blades of brick along the line of the building with short window walls across the line of the building, the glass facing the western front. The window walls are trimmed in light coloured bricks and provide light and ventilation to the interior, as well as accentuating the external wall geometry and providing a rich variety of surface texture. The very tall bell tower outside the front door completes the architectural composition while supporting the entrance canopy.

---

208 Refer A Darbyshire
209 Toowong-Indooroopilly Local Area Plan Heritage and Character Study op cit.
Internally the church impresses with its generous volume, well lit with natural light through a rich variety of glazing elements, and focuses attention on the altar in a theatrical but dignified setting.

Alice Hampson says: ‘the ‘50s churches were designed to embrace the congregation into a communal act of worship and tried to diminish the segregation of priest and public. The emphasis on ornate decoration was abandoned; instead the ‘50s church relied on material finish and its construction as its decoration’.

This is a place of local heritage significance as a landmark in St Lucia and an excellent example of mid century modernism.

The new Christ Church St Lucia was dedicated in September 1962 but the undercroft remained unfinished until July 1969. A range of community groups used the facilities including, in 1976, the temporarily homeless St Lucia Pre-school and between 1977 and 1979 the Glenleighden School. 210

The history of the church pipe organ and its later relocation to the opposite end of the church was written in 1994. 211 A book of photographs of the church, its fittings and furniture, its stained glass windows etc was produced by C Andrews in 1981. 212

Eric Hudd has spent his whole lifetime involved with the church and for twenty years was a leader of the Church of England Boys Society, CEBS. Activities at meetings included prayers, gymnastics, and games, leading to teaching social and religious responsibilities. Eric’s mother and sister Ella organised the CEBS Christmas break-ups. Eric also comments that the clergy and the servers came from Taringa, sometimes on foot. 213

During the floods of Australia Day 1974, the Parish Hall was a centre for providing refuge and support for the many made homeless.

---

211 McKinley Ian, ‘An organ transplant: the story of the organ at Christ Church St Lucia,’ 1994. JOL.
212 ‘Christchurch: St Lucia a photographic record’ Andrews C J, 1981. JOL
213 Record of discussion Brown / Hudd March 2004.
Noted historian and local resident Rev. Canon Dr John Steele, was Honary Assistant Priest at the church from 1967 to 1974.\textsuperscript{214}

*St Clare’s Home of Rest* was an Anglican nursing home on Gailey Rd,\textsuperscript{215} demolished in the early 1990s after a fire, to make way for the current privately owned Forest Pl Retirement Village.

The Anglican Church is also represented at the University of Queensland with St John’s College.

### 4.5 ‘St Thomas Aquinas’, Catholic Church (Peter Vance)

It was reported in 1873 that the Roman Catholic residents of Indooroopilly (Toowong/Taringa/St Lucia/Long Pocket/Indooroopilly) were ‘building themselves a very neat chapel, in size 40 x 20 feet, and all of Queensland hardwood’.\textsuperscript{216} However this chapel was located in Fig Tree Pocket.\textsuperscript{217}

Generally Catholics had to worship outside St Lucia until 1946. They could worship at St Michael and Holy Souls’ Toowong, later St Ignatius Loyola from 1893, or by rowing across the river to St Ita’s at Dutton Park from 1917 or to St Francis’ at West End from 1923. A special 6.30 am cross-river ferry service ran to take worshipers to St Francis of Assisi Church on Dornoch Tce.\textsuperscript{218}

Mass was celebrated in St Lucia at least for a time by the Jesuit Fathers from Toowong:

- 1920 Sept 5\textsuperscript{th} Mass celebrated at McCaffreys, St Lucia, 5 Sons, 4 Daughters + 15 others
- 1920 Dec. 19\textsuperscript{th} Mass at St Lucia 40 present
- 1923 Sept. 16\textsuperscript{th} Mass at St Lucia 50 present.\textsuperscript{219}

The McCaffreys had a long association with the Toowong Church and donated stained glass windows and the St Ignatius Shrine when the church opened in 1930. J A Carmody donated the furnishings to the Baptistry.\textsuperscript{220}

In 1923 Archbishop Duhig had acquired a large piece of land on a commanding site bounded by Central, Seventh and Eight Avenues. In the 1930s he had been obliged to sell some of the allotments and later three houses had been built on the Seventh Ave / Central Ave corner. No 87 Central Ave is now the presbytery.

In June 1946, Father Alfred Hogan, an RAAF Chaplain, said Mass in the St Lucia Progress Association Hall. Ian Venables says:

> I can remember using the cinema chairs. They were canvas single director type chairs and I can still remember the smell of very new canvas.\textsuperscript{221}

Also in 1946 a site was chosen by the Parish for a temporary church on Eighth Ave, about a hundred metres to the south of the permanent church, on what is now called Aquinas Court. The Avenues were unsealed bush tracks running through open timbered country in the 1940s.
The 1946 temporary church comprised two RAAF huts, the top one being the church, the underneath one a living area and then a school. The Catholic Archives Office record that one Army hut was purchased initially for the church and the parish priest lived with parishioners until a further hut was purchased also in 1946. The Rev Alfred Hogan was appointed Parish priest in 1946 and the temporary church operated from then until the new one was blessed in 1960. Ian and Denise Venables were probably one of the last couples to be married in the old church in 1959. The adjoining photograph of the old and the new church was kindly provided by Ms Liz Little.

In 1954 the church was in discussion with the City Council concerning the purchase of adjacent land owned by Council.

The present brick church of St Thomas Aquinas on Central Ave was blessed by His Grace Archbishop Duhig in August 1960 as a war memorial for the RAAF.

The Archbishop said that the name was appropriate, possibly because Thomas was a well known church scholar.

Rev Hogan remained parish priest until his death in 1976. From 2000 the parish has shared a pastor with Indooroopilly Parish.

The opening and the design of the church were detailed in The Courier-Mail in 1960:

It is of commanding grace, outside and within and total cost will exceed £60,000...The church abounds in unusual features, Italian mosaic panels in brilliant colours...installed in the sanctuary, chapels and outside...The main façade is in Helidon sandstone...

According to the Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation 2001 the church is:

A good example of a progressive 1950s church. The church as expressed externally, consists a greatly simplified traditional plan, east-west nave with a slender roof spire over the altar and a spectacular western front. The front boasts twin entrances with stone panels over, a central window surmounted by a cross and sculptural figure, all within a glazed surround. A boldly modelled, fortress-like bell tower is linked to the western front with a narrow section of glazed curtain walling.

222 Record of discussion with Ian and Denise Venables.
225 St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Liz Little, 2008.
228 Toowong-Indooroopilly Local Area Plan Heritage and Character Study op cit.
The arcaded side elevation to the street is understated but well considered and finely detailed.

The associated church residence appears to have been designed at the same time as the church, probably by the same architect, and is an interesting if conservative design for this period.

This is a place of local heritage significance as a landmark in St Lucia and an excellent example of mid century modernism.

The Catholic Church is also represented at the University of Queensland with St Leo’s College for men (started by the Jesuit Fathers but now administered by the Christian Brothers), and Duchesne College for women (Sisters of the Sacred Heart).

For information on the Catholic Primary School and the Kindergarten, see Paper 19 Education.

4.6 Baptist Church Sunday School

Members of the Taringa Baptist Church considered the idea of starting services in St Lucia in 1940, but it was not until a block of land on Highland Terrace was donated to the Baptist Union in 1948, that a joint Toowong and Taringa committee took action to establish a Sunday School. Eleven scholars were on the role in 1949, but it is uncertain where they met as in 1955 Toowong Baptist Church received Council approval to re-erect a hut from the Holland Park Housing Camp on a site in Carmody Road for use as a temporary Sunday School for a period of five years. In 1959 Council only agreed to a one-year extension on the basis that they felt a more suitable type of permanent structure should be erected.229

Rev J W Cook from Taringa took over the administration and by 1960 there were 45 children on the role. However the wood and fibro hall was in a state of disrepair and needed £400 spent on it; the following year the decision was made to amalgamate with Taringa and put the property on the market.230

In 1962 BCC refused approval for the hut to be relocated to Bulimba on the grounds that it was too dilapidated.231

4.7 Chinese Christian Church

A small group of Christians of Chinese ethnic origins met in Toowong in 1976 for Bible study and fellowship. In 1987 the Church Council commenced an evening worship in the Methodist Church in Ryans Rd for those living in the proximity of the University. When the Methodists moved worship to the Uniting Church at Swann Rd, they sold their church in 1993 to the Chinese Christian Community. Services are conducted in English and Chinese.

5.0 Clubs and groups

5.1 Indooroopilly Golf Club at St Lucia Links

The oldest Golf Club in Brisbane is the Brisbane Golf Club established at Chelmer in 1896, and relocated to Yeerongpilly in 1904. The Royal Queensland Golf Club started in 1920.232

229 BCC Council minutes 1959-60 p 1265
231 BCC Council minutes 1962-63 minute 1165
232 The Courier-Mail 8 October 2015 letters to editor.
What is now the St Lucia Golf Links, a Brisbane City Council owned Public course, was until 1985 the home of the private Indooroopilly Golf Club.

Of the land eventually occupied by the Club, on the St Lucia side of Sandy Creek, Portions 23 and 25 were surveyed and sold by auction in 1859 to T L Murray-Prior who paid the reserve price of just £1 per acre for each of the combined 95 acres. The land was probably purchased for speculative purposes as it contained mainly land too steep for farming, and flood prone creek edge.

About the same time Portion 31 was sold to James Henderson, another land speculator, probably paying a similar price for each of its 56 acres. This Portion was sold again in 1876 to local farmer and businessman William Dart who in 1886 built the mansion Hillstone, parts of which are incorporated within the existing Golf Links main building.

Dart went on to develop Hillstone Crescent Estate (Orchard Tce / Raglan St only) in 1890, before the financial crisis of the early 1890s forced him to sell up and move away.

Portions 23 and 25 eventually in 1922 became part of the residential subdivision known as Coronation Park Estate (Coronation Dr / Esplanade), with streets running down to and across Sandy Creek.

The adjacent street map is from the Refidex of 1926 showing the proposed streets on both sides of Sandy Creek.

On the Long Pocket side of Sandy Creek, adjoining Portions 26, 27, 28 and 32 were also sold in 1859, again to speculators.

Colin Dyer obtained a copy of the book *A Half Century of Golf 1926-1976*, from the Indooroopilly Golf Club.\(^{233}\) The following notes are taken from that book and Colin’s notes, together with added comments by this author:

Impetus for the formation of the Golf Club came from Mr Bernard Boultbee, a Brisbane Accountant who, in August of 1924 had inspected the Taringa Shire Council area to find a suitable place for a golf course. An advertisement had appeared in The Brisbane Courier in March 1925, for the sale by auction of 18 acres of land, a large house and other improvements, alongside Sandy Creek – the Hillstone mansion and surrounding land, part of Portion 31.\(^{234}\)

---


\(^{234}\) The Brisbane Courier 28 February 1925 p 12 c 4.
meeting of thirty-five enthusiasts was held on 1 July 1925 and together with Mr Boultebee they purchased the land and house for a Golf Club.

A newspaper report of the first formal meeting that was held on 27 July 1925 says that a committee was formally elected, and that an option had already been taken over 94 ½ acres (38 ha); the necessary funds of about £12 000 would be raised by subscriptions and debentures.\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 28 July 1925 p13; 8 July 1926 p 15.}

A December 1925 meeting noted that 116 acres (47 ha) had been purchased at a cost of £7 717, an average of £66/10/6 per acre. The land purchased included portions of Coronation Park Estate, part of Mr Munro’s Ross Roy estate, several other smaller properties; two local residents had offered to donate part of their properties.\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 26 December 1925 p 13; 31 December 1925 p13; 16 January 1926 p 11}

The Club obtained a loan in excess of £4 000 from the Queensland National Bank, and obtained deferred payment agreements from other land sellers, all of which were still listed as liabilities in 1931.\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 23 March 1931 p 6.} The Title Deeds for Portions 23 and 25 show that the Golf Club actually didn’t complete the purchase of seventeen acres (7 ha) between Hillside Tce and Sandy Creek from Coronation Park Estate until 1932 – staged payments perhaps having been agreed upon earlier.\footnote{Certificate of Title 1894 for Portions 19-25 part Coronation Park Estate}

Work proceeded on preparation of the course by volunteers, and some play was possibly within months;\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 26 May 1926 p12; 19 June 1926 p 11; 26 June 1926 p 11; 2 July 1926 p13.} a contract was let for the upgrading of \textit{Hillstone} as the club house.\footnote{The Brisbane Courier 13 March 1926 p11; 28 April 1926 p15; 12 June 1926 p11; 17 June 1926 p 15.}

From the A Half Century of Golf book again:

Over the years an area of 124 acres was purchased from 13 different owners at a cost of approximately £8,500. Mr D Carr, a dairy farmer, donated four acres of land, probably part of Portion 28, but retained dusk to dawn grazing rights, meaning some of the greens had to be fenced each night.

Working bees were held to get the course in playing condition and plant couch grass. Early equipment comprised horse drawn drays and mower. The course was laid out by Sydney golf professional D G Souter. \textit{Hillstone} was adapted as a club house.

The course was formally opened by the Premier Mr W McCormick at a gala day in July [3rd] 1926. Members were requested to bring lamps to provide lighting in the clubhouse after dark.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{image}
\caption{The photograph here was probably taken about 1926, and is reproduced courtesy Michael Yeates.}
\end{figure}
Another photograph of Hillstone in its new role appeared in The Queenslander newspaper on 5 May 1926, and The Brisbane Courier 1 January 1927 p 5.

A photograph and a full article describing the course also appeared in The Brisbane Courier on Saturday 3 July 1926.

The following Monday 5 July 1926 two articles appeared reporting on the success of the formal opening and reporting that Lord Mayor Alderman Jolly was present.241

At the end of 1926 membership stood at 319, with an annual fee of £4. 4s.0d for members and half of that for associates.

The flood of 1931 was estimated to have covered nearly half the course, with parts under 14 feet of water. The floods didn’t reach Hillstone and in years soon after new extensions were added. Some modifications to the course layout were made in 1933 by English expert Dr Mackenzie, who described the course as ‘a beautiful place, it is well wooded and has very fine features.’242

Ron Haig, a resident of West End at the time reports:243

My schoolmate and I went across the ferry and walked to the Indooroopilly [now St Lucia] Golf Course to caddy for one shilling and sixpence a round. We also found lost balls in the pond and sold them to the professional. These things happened in the 1930s.

During World War II there was a shortage of golf balls and water hazards were protected by wire screens. The club rationed golf balls depending on the number of games played per month.

After the war the club sold 21 acres (8.5 ha) of land on the opposite side of Indooroopilly Road for residential purposes,244 and built the memorial terrace at a cost of £941 and it and some of the original mango trees remain to this day.

By 1950 the club had become very popular and the waiting list for membership kept growing. Two of the reasons given for this were the way the Committee members ran the Club, and the joy it was to play with some of the ‘character’ members.

---

241 The Brisbane Courier 5 July 1926 p 17 c 1; 5 July 1926 p18.
242 The Brisbane Courier 6 September 1933 p 9.
243 Joan Haig – notes recorded by Peter Brown 2003.
As the club expanded it looked for alternative or additional courses, and in 1962 in conjunction with Brisbane City Council land in Long Pocket was leased. An eighteen-hole course was developed there and opened in 1964 by Lord Mayor Clem Jones.

In 1973 the Indooroopilly Club (at St Lucia) reached an agreement with the Brisbane City Council to give the Council its St Lucia facility in exchange for freehold land for a further 18 hole course and clubhouse at Long Pocket.245

St Lucia History Group member Marilyn England has written up an interview she had, together with other Group members, with Jack Surman in 2004. Jack was Green keeper at both the original St Lucia Club and the later Indooroopilly Club from the 1930s until his retirement in 1985.246 The following additional information is extracted from that Paper:

…house which was moved intact to become an [southern] extension to “Hillstone”…used by the caterers as their living accommodation. After the house became part of the clubhouse an area underneath was made available for the Pro’s shop.

In the 1960s extensive alterations were made to “Hillstone”. All the open verandas were built in, making a much bigger function area.

A very sad tragedy occurred in 1933, when another caddie, Stanley Rogers, was killed by being hit by a golf ball on the original 18th fairway.

The St Lucia Gazette often reported on the Golf Clubs activities during the 1970s.247

St Lucia Public Golf Course continues to this day and some of the old homestead remains, possibly the oldest building remaining in St Lucia, dating from 1886.

The Indooroopilly Golf Club continues today at its 36-hole course at Long Pocket, with a modern clubhouse and facilities; its history is covered in a later Research Paper on Long Pocket.

5.2 Cricket Clubs

Cricket was played in St Lucia in the 1890s with the ‘Glenolive Cricket Club’ playing on the mansion’s sports grounds.248

According to the St Lucia Gazette the St Lucia Cricket Association was formed in 1918.249 In 1923 it was holding matches at the new St Lucia Sportsground, previously Carmody’s Paddock near Keith Street.250

Local resident since around 1900, Mrs Coles tells of her recollections of the Cricket Club:

The land which is now Baty Park [St Lucia Playground] was a scene of great activity at the weekends fifty years ago [written approximately 1970, thus circa 1920]. Men gathered there for their weekly game of cricket – women and children came along too and there was often a keg of beer at the end of the field to reward the winners and console the losers.251

Local resident Joan Haig recalls the following and has provided the photograph:

The St Lucia Cricket Club used the St Lucia Playground Park opposite the Haigs, and the Macquarie St flats, for many years. They ceased to function in the late 1930’s

245 Chamberlain L, Down the River Road, 2006, Toowong & District History Society Inc. p.43
247 St Lucia Gazette 1970 various editions Fryer Library University of Queensland.
248 The Brisbane Courier, 11 November 1895, p.2.c.6.
249 St Lucia Gazette December 1978 Fryer Library University of Queensland.
250 The Brisbane Courier 27 September 1923 p 15.
251 Mrs Coles Looking Back sourced by C Dyer.
5.3 St Lucia Bowling Club

The land on which the Bowls club now sits was originally part of Portion 12, 78 acres (31.6 ha) of farmland sold to John Toppin and James Mooney in 1858 for £198.18.0. The land may have been used at one stage for growing sugar cane but was described in 1883 as having ‘splendid market gardens’.

William Dart purchased the western part from Mooney probably before March 1883. Within six months the land was subdivided and put on the market as 115 housing blocks. The land was advertised as the St Lucia Estate, the first use of the name St Lucia for a residential estate. The land did not sell well, and in 1885 most of it was re-auctioned under the new name of Princess Bridge Estate.

Lots 13 to 17 and Lots 28 to 24 were back to back, making a two acre rectangular block, about one hundred metres by 80 with two road frontages. William Wilson purchased this block in January 1884 and resold it to J Potts in 1886. John Potts went into liquidation in December 1890 and the mortgagee held the block for nine years before selling to Elisabeth Mitchell, wife of John Mitchell, well known fencing manufacturer who lived at Cairngorm, now the Alumni Centre on the University.

In 1947 the St Lucia Bowling Club was granted a 20 year lease on land on the corner of Mill Road and St Lucia Road. However the location seems to have changed when the land described above was resumed by the Brisbane City Council for Park purposes, and one complete block of ten Lots between Carr St and Keith Street was leased to the Club.

Two histories have been published by the Bowls Club: History of St Lucia Bowling Club 1947 – 1988 and History of St Lucia Bowling Club 1988 – 1997. Colin Dyer obtained copies of these from the club and wrote a chapter in The History of St Lucia extracts from which follow:

The St Lucia Bowling Club was brought into existence in 1947 at a meeting in the Progress Association Hall. The first annual report shows a contract for the first green was let for £1595 and an ex-army hut was purchased for £75 as a club house.

The Club’s official opening by Lord Mayor John Chandler took place on 5 November 1949 at which time the club had 93 members.

253 Brisbane City Council Minutes 1948-49 p 874.
In 1950 members voted that a Ladies Club be formed. In 1951 a second green was put down and by the end of 1952 membership had grown to 138. The club was flourishing in every way and in 1954 the Club received approval from BCC to build a new clubhouse, by which time the membership had reached 190. Further improvements were made in 1962. By 1965 it was claimed the St Lucia greens were ‘the equal of any in the State’.

In 1967, however, tragedy struck when on Saturday 21 October, a bolt of lightning killed one member, Tom Deverell, and flattened twelve others during a sudden storm.

January 1974 saw the Brisbane flood and the Club’s green covered in four feet of water.

In 1997, the golden jubilee year, a membership drive increased numbers significantly. The essence of the Club remains today what it has been since its beginning; a wonderful Club spirit and ‘friendship, whether it be found in our very comfortable club house or on our magnificent greens and surrounds’

In the St Lucia Gazette of December 1978 it was noted that the first clubhouse was an old army hut. In September 1976 it was noted that the Club had arranged card nights together with a cent auction.

---

257 St Lucia Gazette December 1978 p 5 c 5.
258 St Lucia Gazette September 1976 p3 c 4.
5.4 St Lucia Scouts

The following information has been obtained from discussions held in April 2004 with the late Mr Tom Roberts of The Scout Association of Australia, Queensland Branch. Tom had been a life-long member of the Scouts, and was the Camp Chief for the World Jamboree held at Centenary Park; he was the guardian of the Scouts Archives in Auchenflower. Pat Dryden, historian and author of a book on the history of the Brisbane Gang Show provided additional information.  

In 1998, long time local Scout leader Bryan Brown put together a file to recognise the Fifty Years of Scouting in St Lucia. Bryan began as a Senior Scout in 1957 at the Ironside Park Den, then became a Queen Scout, a Rover Scout, Assistant Scoutmaster and in 1962, Scoutmaster. Bryan went on to become a Scout Commissioner, and has assisted with the editing of these notes.

Boy Scouts were active in St Lucia in 1942 but possibly these were local boys who were members of the Toowong Group. 

Scouting formally commenced in St Lucia when the 1st St Lucia Scout Group was registered in 1946; the first meetings were held at the Progress Hall. Prior to this the nearest Scout Troop was at St Thomas Church of England at the top of High St Toowong; Jim Mackenzie and his neighbour James Gurton was a scout here in the 1920s and 30s.

The St Lucia Group obtained a lease from the Brisbane City Council for a block of land off Guilfoyle St in Ironside Park, and built the existing Scout Den. They also built a Cub Scout Den which was taken over by, and replaced in later years by the current Meals-on-Wheels building. (Lots 88 and 125-128 Portion 24, Guilfoyle St)

The Group was successful with a Cub Pack, Scout Troop, Venturers, and Rover Scouts.

After nearly ten years, a new Group was started in 1957 and named Ironside. It obtained a lease from Council and built a Den off Dell Rd, in Acacia Park despite community opposition. (Lot 897 Portion 20, 35 Dell Rd.) This lead to the confusing situation where the St Lucia Group met in the locality of Ironside and the Ironside Group met at St Lucia! It took nearly ten more years to straighten this out, with Ironside Group being renamed, logically, St Lucia Central in 1965.

One of the two halls was named the ‘L W Gould Memorial Scout Den’.

---

261 Discussion with Wolf Cub 1946 Roger Harding at St Lucia History Group meeting 6th April 2010.
262 Brisbane City Council Meeting Minutes 1952/53 p.688.
263 Brisbane City Council Meeting Minutes 1957.
In 1962 the Scouts and Cubs formed a guard of honour for the wedding of their former scout master David Rich and Cub Mistress Jennifer Ward.265

In 1972 the two Cub Scout Packs met on Saturday mornings or afternoons, the two Scout Troops on Thursday or Friday evenings, and the Senior Scouts on Friday evenings.

After thirty years of great success, the numbers dwindled and the two Groups were amalgamated in 1976. The St Lucia Central Scouts joined the St Lucia Group and adopted the St Lucia home at Ironside Park in Guilfoyle St.

In 1992 a new group was started in the area and is called the Emmanuel Group; it has a close affinity with Nudgee Junior College, and hence its members are drawn from all Brisbane suburbs. It originally shared accommodation variously with the Indooroopilly Scouts and the St Lucia Central Scouts.

In 2001 the St Lucia Central Group moved back to the Scout Den in Acacia Park, and Emmanuel took over the very first Scout Den in Ironside Park. The St Lucia Group assisted the St Lucia History Group on one occasion in 2004 by cooking breakfast for a conducted Walk.

The newsletter Totem noted in 1948 that the ‘den should be erected soon’. On 29th October 1949 the Lord Mayor John Chandler opened the new den. In 1959 the annual Bob-a-Job raised £39. SLHG member Percy Hanlon was the Group Treasurer for several years in the 1980s when his two sons were Scouts.

Another edition of Totem reported on an outing of the St Lucia Cubs in 1968:

[St Lucia being] an area not served by trams, a ride in one of these vehicles is quite a novelty – some of our Cubs may have had only one tram ride in their lives – others never!

265 Riverside News 1962.
… boarded the tram at West End and went via Victoria Bridge to Fortitude Valley and Ascot, for lunch in a park… the return trip was via New Farm and back to West End.

John Briggs is another long time St Lucia Scout leader who still resides in the suburb. John started as Assistant Scoutmaster in 1955 and Seniors Scoutmaster in 1956 when he had Bryan Brown as one of his Troop. John played a key role in the formation of the second (Ironside) Scout Group in 1957 and in the building of the den in Acacia Park. John also went on to become a Scout Commissioner.

The St Lucia Gazette of 1976 records the results of the St Lucia Boy Scouts Art Union, and that six scouts and three leaders will be attending the Jamboree at the Dandenongs, Victoria. The Scout Group’s annual BBQ was planned for the Guilfoyle St den. The Gazette also noted ‘All your used bottles and glass jars are welcome at the Scout Den bottle collection area in Guilfoyle St. But no cans please.’

Throughout the seventies, the St Lucia Gazette carried many news items on the Scouts and Cubs.

The Brisbane Gang Show commenced its annual productions in 1951 at the All Saints Hall in Ann St, City; the show was not presented at its current home of the Sir Fred Schonell Theatre, University of Queensland until 1971. Despite occasional relocations due to other bookings, the show has been performed at the University ever since and is still running (60th anniversary show in 2011).

When the two local Scout Groups amalgamated in 1976, the Den at Acacia Park was used by the Gang Show for the preparation and storage of props. In 2001, when St Lucia again had two Groups, the Gang Show withdrew and the building reverted to a Scout Den.

In 2006 the St Lucia Central Group merged with the Taringa Group.

5.5 St Lucia Girl Guides

According to a local resident, a Miss Kate Stanford came to St Lucia from England in 1913, and in 1920 she started the Guides and Brownies at an unknown location but later at the Progress Hall. Mary Sandford Jackson, youngest daughter of Dr Ernest Sandford Jackson lived at Glenolive House from her birth in 1907 until probably 1924 and was a Girl Guide who remained active in the Movement for many years. It is not known if she participated in the St Lucia Guides.

In 1928 the St Lucia Girl Guides and Brownies were reported as holding a coin garden party in Miss Stanford’s garden, and a concert at the YWCA in the City.

A source reports that the 1st St Lucia Girl Guides was one of the first Companies in Brisbane and began in 1919. A newspaper reported that the Company went into recess at the start of World War II, however it may have been earlier as in 1937 when Guides throughout Queensland planted trees to commemorate the Coronation of George VI, and St Lucia was not one of the many suburbs listed as having been planted.

---

266 St Lucia Gazette, 1976.
268 Record of interview with E A Jones 1970, held at Ironside School sourced by C Dyer.
270 The Brisbane Courier 14 February 1928, p16; 24 March 1928 p 28.
Efforts began to re-form the Company in 1948. Miss June Murdock was a Lieutenant of the Company and the Guides and Brownies formed a guard of honour at her wedding in 1951.

Local resident and historian Rosamond Siemon reports in a letter to Councillor Judy Magub in 2002:

Circa 1949 a flourishing Girl Guide Unit and Boy Scout Troop was begun by Commissioner Dorothy Mills with headquarters and the hut in a park just off Guilfoyle St, [Lots 129-130 Portion 24]. Florence Dickenson and I ran the Brownies on Friday afternoon in the Ironside School Grounds.

Mrs Mills in fact ran the Guides for 40 years:

On many a Friday night her Guides had great fun setting out on a trail following coded messages and hidden clues which she had spent much of the day preparing.

Guides Australia Queensland do not have complete records for St Lucia Guides in their archives, in fact their records don’t start until about 1966. They advise that the Company re-started in 1948, and the Guide Hut in Ironside St was opened in 1956. From 1948 they met at the temporary Presbyterian Church Hall in Swan n Road. By 1966 it would appear that there was a Brownie Pack that met at the Guide Hut on Friday afternoons, 3.30 – 5.00pm. There seems to have been two Girl Guide Companies, one meeting at the Guide Hut on Mondays and the other on Fridays, both from 7.00 to 9.00pm. Another source says that there were two Guide Companies and two Brownie Packs in the 1970s.

Mrs Janette Lockhart Gibson was the District Commissioner for St Lucia 1973-1978 and went on to become Chief Commissioner for Australia. Now retired, she still lives in the area. Throughout the 1960s the Riverside News and in the 1970s the St Lucia Gazette, carried a number of news items about the Guides and Brownies.

In 1984 the Brownies received a letter from Buckingham Palace thanking them for their birthday wishes. Also in 1984 Guides Valerie Benson and Penelope Mainstone received their Baden-Powell awards.

A fifty year reunion was held in 1999 and the opportunity was taken to donate some of the Groups records and photographs to the John Oxley Library. The reunion is recorded in a poster size collage with the names of most of the participants on the reverse. The files contain the program for the reunion and many photographs, a few samples of which follow from 1955, 1961 and 1968.
5.6 St Lucia Garden Club

The early club records are held by the John Oxley Library and the following are extracted from there: 281

The Club held its inaugural meeting on 13 July 1959 with Mrs A Steller as the convenor and founding President; meetings were held at the Presbyterian [Uniting Church] hall. The first Annual Report indicates that membership had reached 123 at the end of the year.

In 1963 the Club won this certificate at the ‘Ekka’; the Club had certificates of its own to present at competitions, and had its own letterhead on green paper.

---

281 JOL St Lucia Garden Club File Ref. R1738 Box 9529 OMR 2 Items 1-12.
In September 1976 the *St Lucia Gazette* reported that the club met monthly at the St Thomas Aquinas Church hall. In the July issue of the newspaper it was noted that the club had a membership of sixty.\footnote{282}

### 5.7 St Lucia Red Cross

The St Lucia branch of the Red Cross was established in 1939 at the beginning of WWII; the inaugural President was Mrs Bolton of Ryans Road, the Secretary was Mrs R M Wilson from Hiron Street and they were supported by over sixty local ladies including Mrs Sinnamon also from Ryans Road.\footnote{285} The Progress Hall was used by the ladies during the war where amongst other work they knitted socks for the troops.\footnote{284} The group also benefited from funds raised by the Progress Association Show of 1940, and fund raising continued very successfully until 1945.\footnote{283}

The branch may have faded after the war effort but was resurrected in 1950, meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall and within a year had sixty members.\footnote{286} The *St Lucia Gazette* reported on Red Cross meetings being held at the St Lucia Bowls Club during the papers period of publication 1975 – 1980.\footnote{287}

The Brisbane headquarters of the Red Cross attempted to establish a branch of the Red Cross League in St Lucia in 1952 by holding a meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Swann Road; the aim of the League was to raise funds for the continued operation of the Queensland Red Cross generally.\footnote{288}

### 5.8 St Lucia Orchestra

The St Lucia Philharmonic Society Orchestra, Brian Stevenson conductor, was formed in June 1973 and reported on in the *St Lucia Gazette* in July 1976 and the *Sunday Mail* 29 August 1977.

The website slo.org.au at 23/03/2015 gives the following snapshot of the Orchestra’s history:

Brisbane’s St Lucia Orchestra was founded in 1973 as a small group of string players and was known as the St Lucia Philharmonic Society Orchestra.
Initially led by the late Ron Toussaint and conducted by Ralph Morton, Monday night rehearsals were arranged at the Ryans Road Uniting Church hall. In 1976, Ronald Hanmer took over as conductor, a Constitution was adopted and office bearers elected. The Orchestra's name was changed to the St Lucia Orchestra.

March 1978 saw SLO present the first Sunday evening Serenade at the Arts Theatre, Petrie Terrace. These concerts were presented five times a year until 1981. Favourite guest artists as Carole Ruddy, Les Black, Chas Bromley and Bill Milligan were the centrepieces of the Sunday evening Serenades.

In March 1982 the Orchestra moved venues to perform at the then newly-opened Queensland Cultural Centre Auditorium. By 1984, each concert was performed 3 times in a single day to accommodate all our patrons who numbered approximately 1200. World Expo 88 forced the orchestra to move their concert series to Mayne Hall at The University of Queensland. In May 1994, the sudden death of Ronald Hanmer left a void in the orchestra. Ron had been musical director for 18 years and in that time had penned over 300 arrangements for the Orchestra. Bernie Hoesman took over as conductor in 1995 and introduced a small section of brass players. In 2004, Derek Taylor held the position of Conductor from 2004 to 2007. In April 2008, Andrew Robinson took over the position of conductor with SLO.

In 2009, the St Lucia Orchestra comprises approximately 50 members. Several of our members have served for over 20 years.

The orchestra's success can be attributed to the enthusiasm of the President, Musical Director, the office bearers, committee members and players. A spirit of friendship and goodwill is part of the Orchestra's philosophy - striving to entertain whilst enjoying the performance ourselves.

Patron’s newsletters gave information on regular upcoming concerts at the Cultural Centre and at Mayne Hall. The orchestra celebrated its 40th anniversary with a performance at the Sir Fred Schonell Theatre in 2013.

The Orchestra in 2015 also uses the name Brisbane City Pops Orchestra.

5.9 Other Clubs and Groups

The St Lucia Gazette provides a wonderful snapshot of the life of the suburb through the mid to late 1970s, and much of the following is sourced from editions of that newspaper.
Bob Browning served twelve years on the Board of Meals-on-Wheels and five years as chairman. The original Cub Scout Den at Ironside Park was taken over by, and replaced in later years, by the current Meals-on-Wheels building. The Gazette carried many news items about the organisation during the 1970s, mainly requests for helpers. The Meals-on-Wheels programme began in Queensland after the Commonwealth Delivered Meals Subsidy Act was introduced in 1970, and it possibly began in St Lucia soon after that.

The Oxley Sailing Club held its regattas in the Six Mile Rocks Reach.

The St Lucia Branch of the Save the Children Fund reported on its activities in the Gazette in September 1976. Events included a sweet stall at the Ironside shopping centre.

The St Lucia State Emergency Services is mentioned in the Gazette in July 1975.

The International Friendship Club was mentioned in the Gazette in April 1975.

The Indooroopilly Lions Club was mentioned in the Gazette in November 1975; it met at University Union building on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

The Lucian Singers were active in the 1970s and reported on in the Gazette in July 1977 and others.

The St Lucia Forum Club was club number 11 and formed in 1961 or earlier according to the Gazette in November 1976, and the paper reported on its activities from time to time.

The Toowong Harriers Association was responsible in the 1970s for constructing the athletic track at Jack Cook Park.

The Toowong Rowing Club was formed in 1889 and had its boat shed on Coronation Dr, near the Regatta Hotel. The club facilities were often damaged by floods, and after loosing everything in the 1974 flood, the club re-established itself at its current base off Keith St, St Lucia in 1976.

The Rotary Club of St Lucia was involved with all the Brisbane Clubs in the establishment of the International House residential college on the University. The project was intended to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Rotary in 1905, and Bert Martin, District Governor in 1955 was the instigator. The building took ten years of hard work by many people to reach fruition, and was opened in 1965.

The University of Queensland ‘Margaret Cribb Child Care Centre’ on Coldridge St is named after the wife of Ivor Cribb, who was in charge of International House at UQ from...
1982. Ivor is a descendent of Benjamin Cribb (brother of Robert and one time owner of Lang Farm and all the land up to Fiveways.)

A plaque at the Rotary Park in Keith St reads:

In 1935 Paul Harris the founder of Rotary International planted a tree in Taringa to commemorate the opening of Montrose Home for crippled children. Several Presidents of Rotary International have followed the tradition by each planting a tree in this park as a memento of their visit to Brisbane.

Keith Haig says that a gliding club used the University site in the early 1930s, before it became the Farm School; men would run down the hill pulling a rope to launch the glider, which would soar over the river and Dutton Park before returning to land on the flats where the tennis courts are today.

The Avalon Marching Girls were reported in Riverside News 15 November 1962:

![Avalon Marching Girls](image)

The Brisbane water-ski club operated at St Lucia during the 1950s from the river edge near the end of Tarcoola St; the first carnival was in September 1952. The remains of a timber jetty can still be seen from the first loop off the Tarcoola track.

---

298 Note from Ms Beth Johnson 2005
300 The Courier-Mail 8 December 1952 p 3 and 7; 6 March 1952 p8.
301 Pers.comm Trevor Nichols
The St Lucia Country Club was trying to get going in 1970 and a Dr W E Orford applied to Council for a lease on a riverside part of Guyatt Park. It was rejected on the basis that the club would be an exclusive social one not a sporting organisation.\(^\text{302}\)

\(^{302}\) Brisbane City Council meeting minute 1,879/1970-71 research by A Derbyshire.