

A JOURNEY *Through Time*



EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE GAP

A Timeline Project of THE GAP HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

THE TIMELINE COMMITTEE

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~ 2023 ~

Foreword to *A Journey Through Time*

By George Stoddart, President of The Gap Historical Society Inc



I am delighted to have been asked by the Management Committee of The Gap Historical Society to provide a foreword to our most recent publication – “A Journey Through Time – Events that Shaped The Gap” from its inception in 1851 until the present day in 2023 – 172 years of unprecedented progress.

The actual publication was due to a desire on my part to provide a worthwhile program that the Society could tackle and to also provide a historical reference of lasting value to the suburb to bolster prior outstanding publications produced by previous committees and by first President Richard Speechley. Richard was the author of ‘Reflections’ – a series of booklets of Memories of The Gap showcasing photos of the suburb. Together with this new Timeline Journal, they provide a comprehensive account of a suburb that rose from small crop farms and dairying into a suburban retreat of major significance in a timeframe of residential growth beginning with the first suburban estate in 1952 – the Ber-ry Estate and in 1956 of Ashgrove Park whose original landowner was Moses Adsett.

In pace with its escalation as a suburban area of major growth we are fortunate to have educational facilities which keep up with the development. The suburb boasts a major high school and several state schools of high calibre.

I recommend this publication as a document of high quality as an important source of history and knowledge of the growth of one of Brisbane’s most populated and modern regions.

In conclusion I wish to pay top marks to my editorial committee of Assistant Editor and Advisor Elaine Zendler, Secretary/Treasurer Don Willsher and Jack and Maureen Proctor for their expertise and unfailing energy and enthusiasm from beginning to end of ‘The Journey’.

May they all, with other members of the Society, glean much satisfaction from the culmination of a job well done by very busy people. Apart from all the other obstacles they triumphed despite the nuisance of the Covid virus.

FOREWORD TO *“A Journey Through Time”*

By Councillor Steven Toomey—Councillor for The Gap Ward



As Councillor for The Gap Ward , I am pleased to provide a foreword to “A Journey Through Time”.

I congratulate The Gap Historical Society Inc for compiling this detailed account of the history of Brisbane’s most populated suburb.

The desire for semi-rural lifestyle, while remaining close to the main city, triggered a major change from the original Gap which consisted of small farms etc to a resi-dential suburb in a relatively short period of time. The Timeline produced by the Historical Society documents this change in great detail and is easy to read and to follow. All 680 entries relate directly or indirectly to events that made The Gap the suburb that it is today.

I commend this Timeline as a great resource for future historians or even present day residents who would simply like to know a little more about the suburb they call home.

DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this Timeline, some errors may have occurred. Some of the information supplied was dependent to some extent on people’s memories.

The Gap Historical Society Inc and its members do not accept responsibility or liability for any incorrect information contained in this Timeline, or for any subsequent use thereof.

A Journey Through Time

THE GAP HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LOCAL SOURCES

History and First Settlers' Details – Richard Speechley (Dec'd) – from the Reflections Booklets and articles in The Western Echo

Individual Contributors – Jack & Maureen Proctor, Elaine Zendler, Bob & Julie Rowe, Beryl Hogan (Dec'd), Maureen Hogan, Freda Wiseman and George Stoddart, with assistance from Don Willsher.

Local Newspapers including The Black Stump, The Grove News, The Gap News and the Western Echo

Published Histories of Schools, Churches, Service Clubs & Sporting Clubs etc

OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE

Brisbane City Archives

Brisbane Timeline (Produced by the Brisbane History group) – from Capt Cook to City Cat

Federal Parliament – On-line Parliamentary Handbook

Google

National Library of Australia - TROVE

Queensland Parliamentary Library & Research Service

Queensland State Archives

The Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Gap State High School – Our Journey – The Gap Years

The Gap State School Centenary Book

The Hilder Road State School – 25th Anniversary Book

Wikipedia

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

For many thousands of years before the arrival of white settlers, the Brisbane area, including The Gap, was inhabited by people from the Turrbal tribe. A few stories of contact with the early settlers have been passed down through pioneer families. These interactions seem to have been mostly peaceful. We have been told that the junction of Fish Creek and Enoggera creek was a meeting place for Turrbal people and that they sometimes slept on the hillside above Enoggera Creek near where the original state school was built. First, they would build fires closer to the creek so that smoke would drift up to give them relief from mosquitos. We have been unable to find written records of the life of the Turrbal people at The Gap.

We acknowledge and respect the long custodianship of The Gap by the Turrbal people.

THE PROJECT

Research on the Timeline began in April 2019 as a result of a suggestion by me that it was a project suitable for Historical Society members to undertake.

Although a great deal of the information in this Timeline has been researched from original sources, much work included in the Timeline had been undertaken and recorded over the past years by a number of Gap residents, including our inaugural President Richard Speechley (Dec'd). We are very grateful for this input and the variety and volume of subjects Richard covered in his three booklets – Reflections, and his monthly articles published by Philippa Wightman OAM in The Western Echo. Other members of The Gap Historical Society have also supported and provided information for this project.

The Western Echo provided valuable information on current affairs in the neighbourhood as well as the important events – celebrations, highlights and anniversaries of the various schools, churches, sporting clubs and service clubs.

We are also indebted to Mr David Magee for his assistance in the provision of a wealth of Real Estate Statistics and Beryl Hogan's (Dec'd) input into the history of The Gap Garden Club is acknowledged.

The Timeline is not confined solely to happenings in The Gap but is inclusive of major events elsewhere such as the World Wars and any consequences from them such as rationing etc which had an influence on our growth and lifestyle. The introduction of rabbits, foxes, deer and other animals and birds plus sheep, cattle, poultry etc provided avenues for growth and prosperity.

We are mindful of the fact that the information on Real Estate Development is incomplete, but we will continuously update our web pages as and when further details are to hand.

We trust that the finished product will be a path for students, researchers and the general public to enjoy freely through our website and other avenues such as libraries and schools.

In this respect may I extend my personal thanks to Advisor and Assistant Editor Elaine Zendler for the vast knowledge she has imparted on various subjects on schools and clubs and general aspects of the development of The Gap from a farming community to its standing today as a major residential suburb and a top educational facility. As well, we are fortunate to have Don Willsher as our Secretary/Treasurer for his expertise in his field and the very solid support he has provided as this project has progressed. Don has designed the layout of this publication and has assisted with research into political representation.

The collation of the information contained in this publication has been extensive and time-consuming, but it has been overall an enjoyable experience. We trust that you will gain knowledge and enjoyment from its contents.

Sincerely,

George Stoddart – President and Editor

A Journey Through Time

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT IN THE GAP

Following the passing of a 'Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act' in 1917, the Queensland Government made a decision to purchase land in The Gap and made an area comprising 43 blocks available to returned servicemen as **poultry farms**.

The land of 375 acres was situated on both sides of Fish Creek (20 of the 43 blocks backed onto the creek) and varied in size from 6 to 10 acres. The area of land comprised 13 blocks on the Waterworks Road side bounded by Petmar Street, Settlement Road, Hilder Road and Fish Creek. The balance of 23 blocks was on the west side of Fish Creek contained by Hilder Road, Kaloma Road, Settlement Road and Woorama Street.

Rental varied from the cheapest £3-6-8 (approx. \$7.00) to the dearest £5-18-6 (approx. \$12.00) annually for the first 15 years.

This venture did not have a lasting economic influence on the development of The Gap, as most of the farms had closed by 1930. However, it did have a significant effect on the growth of the state primary school which in the first instance increased in size on its original site and eventually in 1960 moved to its present site on the corner of Waterworks Road and Settlement Road, where 2 farm blocks were originally sited.

