

What is a botanic garden?

For the purposes of the Botanic Gardens Conservation Strategy, published by WWF and IUCN in 1989, a botanic garden was defined as a 'garden containing scientifically ordered and maintained collections of plants, usually documented and labelled, and open to the public for the purposes of recreation, education and research'.

Huxley, A. (ed) 1992. *New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening*. London: Macmillan, pg.375.

Explaining HISTORY of the Old Brisbane Botanic Gardens ...

6 key themes about the place:

- Making
- Keeping
- Science
- Education
- Aesthetics
- Recreation

A thematic and chronological narrative...

Moments in Time ~ first 100 years

- 1825 British 'whitefellas' arrive at **Mianjin** to establish a penal settlement
- Government Garden laid out 1828
- 1842 end transportation of convicts
- 1853-56 Moreton Bay Horticultural Society lobbies for BG
- 1855 Reserve for Botanic Gardens
- 1859 Colony of Queensland separated from Colony of NSW
- 1925 Metropolitan Brisbane City Council established (London model)

Scrub near Brisbane 1895 (Source: Fryer Library, Hume Collection #100)

OBBG Significance

- Oldest place of European Horticulture & Agriculture in Qld since 1828 = 189years
- Continuously used as BG since 1855 = 162years
- Alice St fence/gates built 1865
- Drinking Fountain built 1867
- Oldest building in BG built in 1878 = 139years (rainforest shelter)
- Original site still largely intact
- Many trees planted before 1900

<https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=600067>
Qld HERITAGE REGISTER citation has more: significance, history & description

Moreton Bay Penal Settlement

1824-1842
Re-established at Brisbane Town 1825

1828 Charles Fraser & Alan Cunningham laid out the Government Garden & convicts dug a Lagoon. Vital food crops were planted.
Map 1840

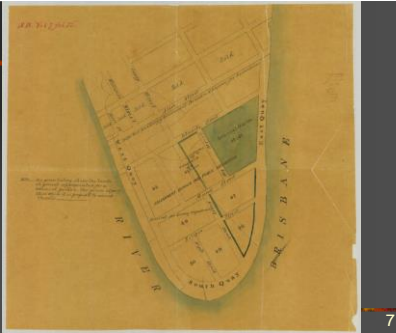
BRISBANE TOWN.

Government Garden fenced with Garden Cottage

1850...

About ownership...

Original indigenous custody
Then becomes crown land, public land administered by...
→ British Colonial
→ Queensland State
→ Brisbane Municipal



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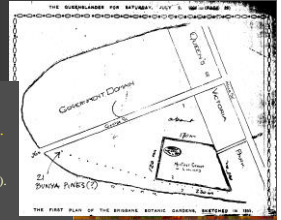
1855 Brisbane Botanic Gardens

- 1850 Gardens Point set aside as Park Reserve
- 1855 Walter Hill appointed as first Director (or Curator)
- Lobbied for more land & got it
- Before 1860 planted row of bunyas
- By 1862 created Fern Island within first Lagoon



WALTER HILL (1820-1904), Director 1855-81.
→ Deppeler-Hagen, Judith, in Aitken, R. and Looker, M. (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pp.302-303.

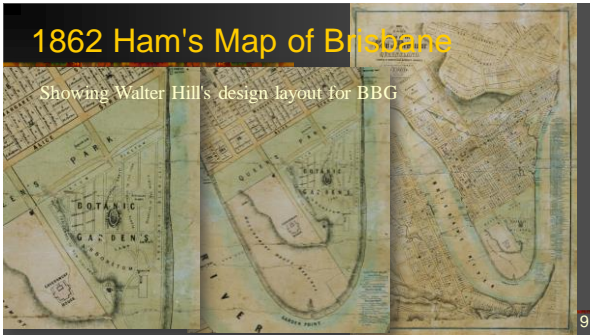
<http://bbgqs.slu.se/old/eng/eng/2012/06/20/walter-hill-the-protector-of-the-fern-island-gardens>



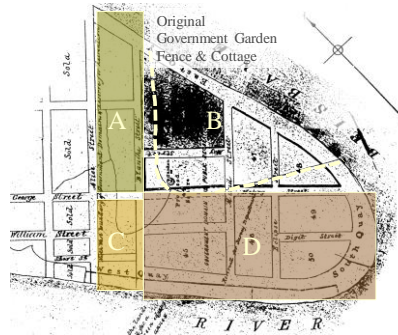
8

1862 Ham's Map of Brisbane

Showing Walter Hill's design layout for BBG



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Gardens Point Reserves:

- A Queen's Park (for recreation)
- B Brisbane Botanic Gardens
- C Parliament House
- D Government House Domain

Map 1850 QSA

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Acclimatising to Queensland

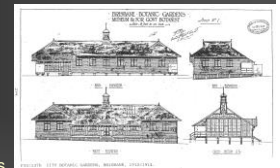
- VITAL Role of Botanic Gardens to understand:
 - New climates (coastal, inland, north, south)
 - Different soils
 - New plants & animals
- NEWCOMERS required:
 - Different lifestyles (work/play times, clothes, food, etc.) to suit



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Science in the Garden

- Acclimatising exotics plants and cultivating local plants
 - Horticultural trials and plant distributions (farmers, schools, etc.)
- Finding and naming native Queensland plants
 - Botanical expeditions+ recordings, keeping the Botanical Museum & Herbarium, corresponding with other BGs, RBG, Kew etc.



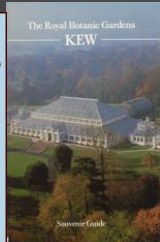
BOTANIC MUSEUM
1914-c.1972

12

NETWORKS: British Imperial + locally

Queen's Parks...

BRISBANE
Toowoomba
Warwick
Maryborough
Rockhampton
Mackay
Townsville
Cooktown

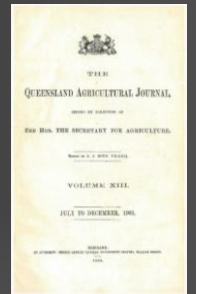


<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/maps/pacific/australia/queensland/>

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Education in the Garden

- Research and spreading the new understanding of plants in our climate through publications
 - Agriculture, Botany, Market Gardening, *Botany Bulletin*, *Queensland Agricultural Journal*, plant catalogues...
- Labelling of Plants
- International Exhibitions



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Plant Catalogues



15

Recreation ~ major uses

- Official celebrations
- Kiosks and cafés
- Promenading and sitting
- Visiting plant collections & greenhouses
- Music concerts
- Zoological collection
- Organised sport : croquet (near 1st Kiosk), tennis, football (in Queen's Park)
- Watching rivercraft
- Children's playground after 1910 (Domain)

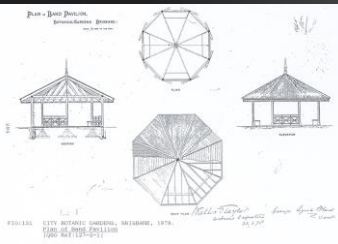
Strolling after church on Sundays in best clothes!

JOL143651 Beyond c1900s



16

Kiosks! Bandstands!



First KIOSK
JOL # 94128 (1898) b.1879



Second BANDSTAND
JOL #24279 (1910)

17

Water to drink

Walter Hill Fountain

Significant for historic interest associated with the Botanic Gardens. Named in honour of Walter Hill, first director of the gardens, built in 1867 to provide the first pure drinking water for visitors, sourced from new Enoggera Dam.

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=8415



http://monumentaustralia.org.au/australian_monument_display.9085
Photos by Noel Hall 2007

18

Zoological collection

Native black swans (1959)



http://onsearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO-SLQ_PCL_EBSCO.sq_digital/108817 19

Landscape Design: waves of change

- Innovations include:
 - Fern Island
 - Bush-houses (for shade loving plants, aka ferneries)
 - Bamboo around lagoons
 - Early xeriscape banks
 - Early Tropicalian character
 - Rustic fountains with giant clam shells and coralstone
- Latest Fashions include:
 - Gardenesque arrangements
 - Carpet bedding
 - Ribbon borders
 - Floral displays
 - Collections of Bromeliads & succulents
 - Modernism

Designing, making and keeping: all come in to play

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Hill's Fern Island

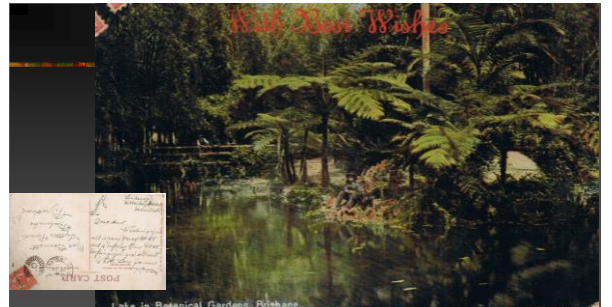


FRYER Hume #449 c.1880s

Lagoon drained and bamboos removed 1934

JOL Neg#100082 1876

21



Lake in Botanical Gardens, Brisbane. Date: c.1900s Fern Island. Paul Hayes Postcard Collection.

22

Bamboo Avenue



After 1998 replanting

1889



http://onsearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO-SLQ_PCL_EBSCO.sq_digital/106602/474

Hill's conifer collection...



Pine trees towering above scrubs Bunya Mountains ca. 1920 SLQ JOL #57614



National Library of Australia

nla.pic-an10638277-11.v

Late 19th C: Head Gardeners + Curator



JAMES PINK (c.1836-1923), **Head Gardener 1881-86.**
 → entry by Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002).
Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens. pg.475.



ALEXANDER COWAN (ff.1880s-90s), **Head Gardener 1886-89.**
 → entry by Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002).
Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens. pg.164.



PHILIP MACMAHON (1857-1911), **Curator 1886-1905.**
 → entry by Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002).
Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens. pp.392-393.

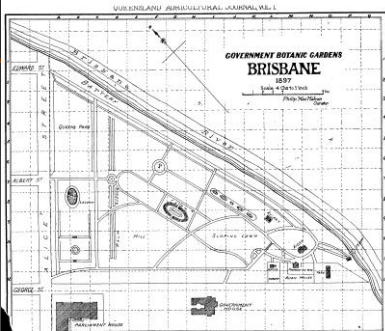
25



Queen's Park Lagoon ca1890s.JOL #24062

1890

MacMahon's Layout



1890 Flood



http://onsearch.slu.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCI_EBSCO.slu_digital0434316 28

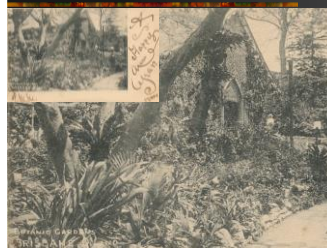
1893

FLOODS!
1890, 1893

<http://www.qhAtlas.com.au/content/cultivation>



MacMahon's bush-house



2 from Postcard Collection of J.Sim



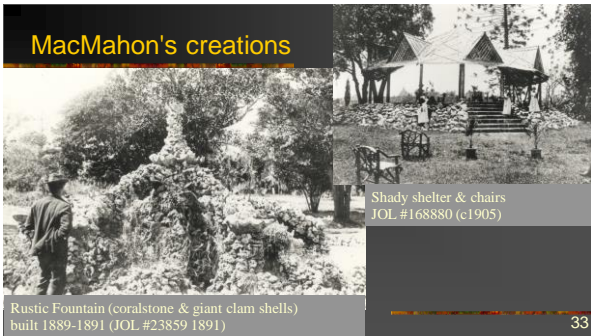
FERN HOUSE BOTANIC GARDENS, BRISBANE



1912: Giant Clam Shell fountain inside bush-house



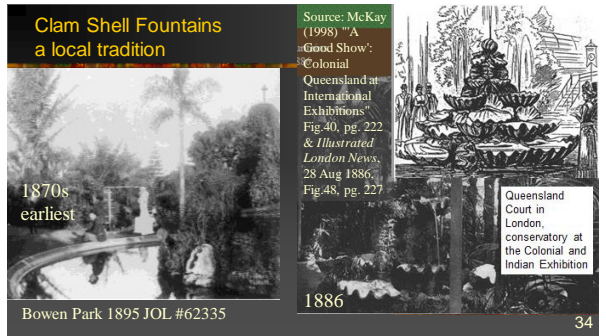
1912: adjacent bush-house (rustic rockwork)



MacMahon's creations

Shady shelter & chairs
JOL #168880 (c1905)

Rustic Fountain (coralstone & giant clam shells)
built 1889-1891 (JOL #23859 1891)



Clam Shell Fountains
a local tradition

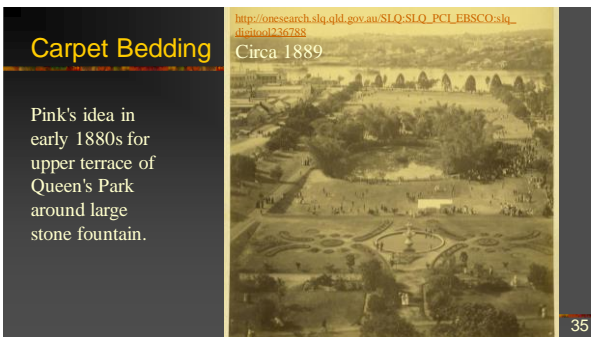
Source: McKay (1998) "A Good Show": Colonial Queensland at International Exhibitions" Fig.40, pg. 222 & Illustrated London News, 28 Aug 1886, Fig.48, pg. 227

1870s earliest

Bowen Park 1895 JOL #62335

1886

Queensland Court in London, conservatory at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition



Carpet Bedding

Pink's idea in early 1880s for upper terrace of Queen's Park around large stone fountain.

http://onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL/EBSCO:slq_digital/236788
Circa 1889



Bedding Out
[Floral] Displays

BCC A308

Botanic Gardens Brisbane

BCC A561

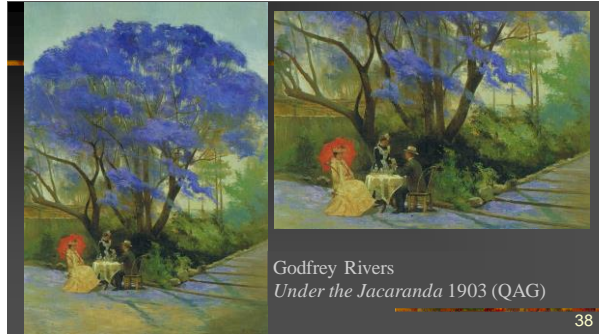
MacMahon's parallel paths...



c.1913

http://onesearch.sqld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sqld_digitool132123

37



Godfrey Rivers
Under the Jacaranda 1903 (QAG)

38

Moments in Time ~ early 20th century

- 1913 BCC appoints Harry Moore as first Parks Superintendent (he designs Newfarm Park, redesigns Bowen Park, Newstead Park and many others)
- 1914-1918 WW1
- 1909 Government House moves to Fernberg; University of Queensland in OGH from 1910
- 1917 Government Botanist separated from Curator role (Under Dept of Agriculture)
- 1925 BCC assume trusteeship of OBBG (separation of control)
- 1942 Royal Navy assumes control; creates major depot in Domain

City of Brisbane Act 1924



<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/file/267701>

39

Early 20th C: Curators + Superintendent



John Frederick BAILEY (1866-1938), **Curator 1905-1917.**
→ entry by Judith Deppeler-Hagen, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pg.68.



E.W. BICK (1870-1949), **Curator 1917-1940.**
→ entry by Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pg.88.

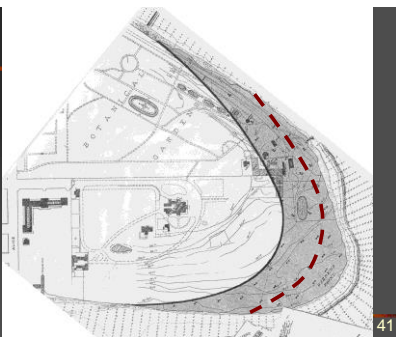


Henry MOORE (fl.1913-1942), **Interim Superintendent 1940-1942.**
→ entry by Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pg.416.

40

1898-1910s

Widening the river by dredging away Gardens Point!
Completed in 1910s along with riverbank stabilisation walls



41

New riverwall & lower path

http://onesearch.sqld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sqld_digitool180715



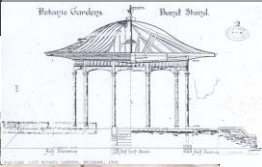

ca1912

http://onesearch.sqld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sqld_digitool511645


42

New buildings

Second Bandstand (b. 1900-1953)

Second KIOSK JOL #168878 1905 (b.1902-1910)



43

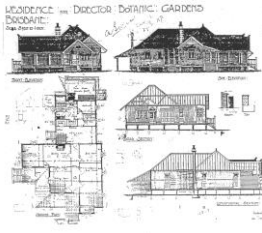

Sunday strolling ca. 1913



http://onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO:slq_digito042050

More new buildings

Residence for the Director Botanic Gardens

Third Residence b.1909/1917 remodelled to CAFE in 1987

Third KIOSK JOL #61288 b.1911-1973

45

Early xerophytic garden on steep banks (Queens Pk)

Keeping Botanic Gardens' Lawns Tidy



1938




SLV a11144 dated c1908

http://onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO:slq_digito0420740

46

1937



http://onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO:slq_digito0420730

47

1942

Before Royal Australian Navy invades!



http://onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO:slq_digito065845

48

1942



Measuring for construction of slit air raid trenches (SLQ JOL #34283)

http://onsearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLQ:SLQ_PCL_FBSCO:slq_digital068279

49

HMAS Moreton in Domain

From 1943 to 1946, the former City Botanic Gardens' Curator's Residence, was used by the Royal Australian Navy. The Navy enlarged the residence so that it could be used as the Wardroom and Officers' Mess for HMAS Moreton. This was the name given to the shore establishment operated by the Navy in Brisbane. Members of the Women's Royal Australian Navy service were permanently stationed at the HMAS Moreton Wardroom and Officers' Mess. WRAN personnel were housed in Botanic Museum.



BCC-B120-30623

<http://www.wv2phces.qld.gov.au/phces?d=181>

50

HMAS Moreton in Domain Training Naval Reserves

<http://www.ozatwar.com/ran/hmasmoreton.htm>



1946

Moments in Time ~ post WW2

- 1947 BCC appoints new Director of Parks (Harry Oakman, landscape architect)
- 1976 new BG opens at Mt Coot-tha Rd, Toowong
- 1984-5 QIT's Gardens Point Study
- 1994 Conservation Study
- 2005 Review of Conservation Study
- 2005 150th anniversary (sesquicentenary)
- 2015 Masterplan (and Conservation Management Plan)



52

Post war: Curators + Landscape Designer



John (Jack) Rayer BAILEY (1914-1956), **Curator 1946-56.**
→ entry by Judith Deppeler-Hagen, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pg.68.



HARRY CAULFIELD (1918-1994), **Curator 1956-1982.**
→ entry by Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pg.131.



HARRY OAKMAN (1906-2002),
Landscape Architect & BCC Director of Parks 1947-63.
→ entry by Jan Seto and Jeannie Sim, in Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (2002). *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. pg.449.

Strolling & Snoozing



http://onsearch.siq.qld.gov.au/SLQ:SLQ_PCL_FBSCO:slq_digital0420744
1950.

54

Before changes

c. Early 1950s
Animal enclosure visible
Stone fountain still there
Bamboo around Lagoon



http://onesearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sq_digital/108848 55

1961

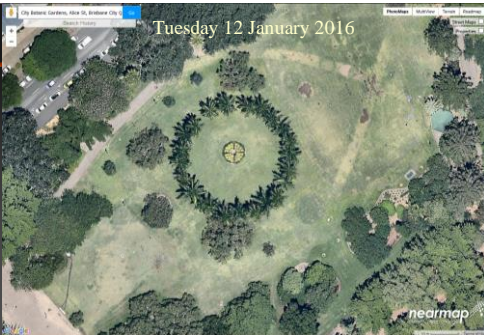
Harry Oakman's Proposed Design of Improvements

Note:
curvaceous path layout,
(10) new pond
(3) new rockery
(11) new soundshell
(4) ornamental section
& (1) Formal Garden
+ New Zentries off
Edward St & George St



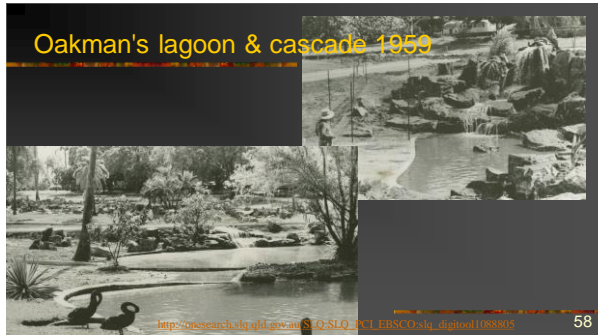
[oai:digitalcollections.qut.edu.au:3562](http://onesearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sq_digital/108848) 56

Oakman's curved
crossing
paths revealed in
drought
affected
grass!



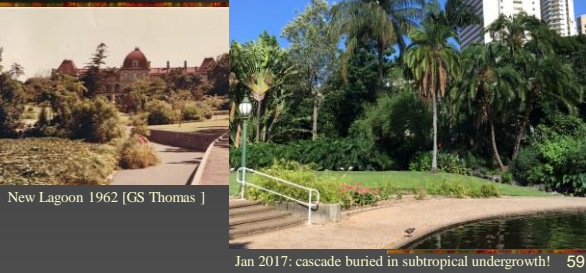
[nearmap](http://onesearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sq_digital/108848)

Oakman's lagoon & cascade 1959



http://onesearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sq_digital/108848 58

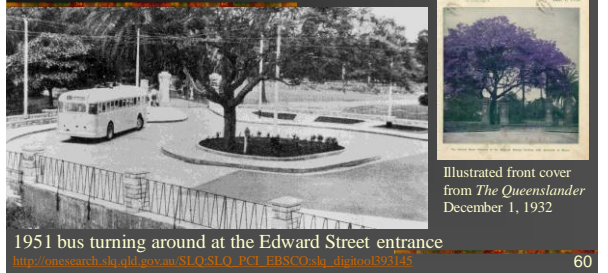
Oakman's water feature



New Lagoon 1962 [GS Thomas]

Jan 2017: cascade buried in subtropical undergrowth! 59

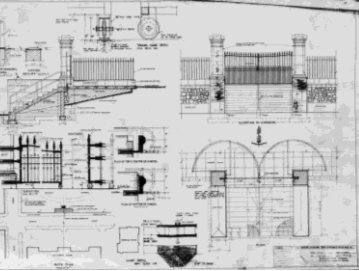
Repositioned Edward St entry



1951 bus turning around at the Edward Street entrance

http://onesearch.sq.qld.gov.au/SLO/SLO_PCL_EBSCO/sq_digital/393145 60

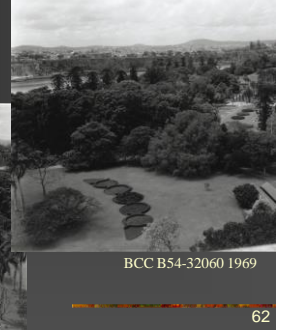
New George St entry (1960)



Closed of old Alice St Entry near George St corner

Oakman's additions ornamental section

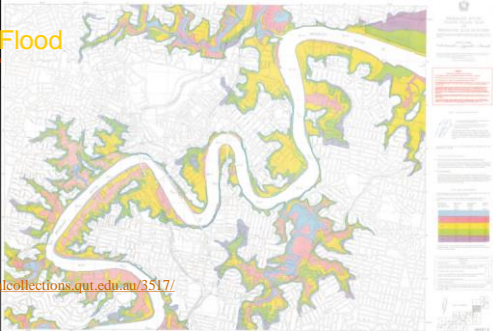
BCC B54-32059 1969



BCC B54-32060 1969

62

1974 Flood



<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/3517/>

Moving to Mt. Coot-tha from 1970...

Making a garden in a former quarry with atrocious soils, insufficient water for irrigation and non-existent public transport... but it won't be flooded by the Brisbane River!
Opened officially 1976



1977 (BCC-S35-9311294)



5637924



5637936

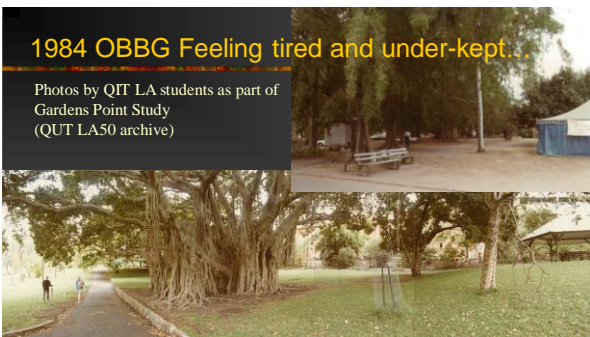


1977 (BCC-S35-9311297)

64

1984 OBBG Feeling tired and under-kept...

Photos by QIT LA students as part of Gardens Point Study (QUT LA50 archive)



1984-5 GPS

<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/2226/>

<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/2229/>



<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/2226/>

GARDENS POINT BRISBANE

GARDENS POINT... A NEW SCENARIO

The whole of the Gardens Point peninsula is historically, horticulturally and culturally an important part of Brisbane life, a legacy of history and tradition for the whole of the city.

In January 1984 Brisbane City Council commissioned GPS with a request that they investigate the viability of the site and recommend possible solutions.

The client requested a solution which offers many exciting possibilities for Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government.



PREFERRED STRATEGY

GARDENS POINT

<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/collections/landscape-architecture/>

66

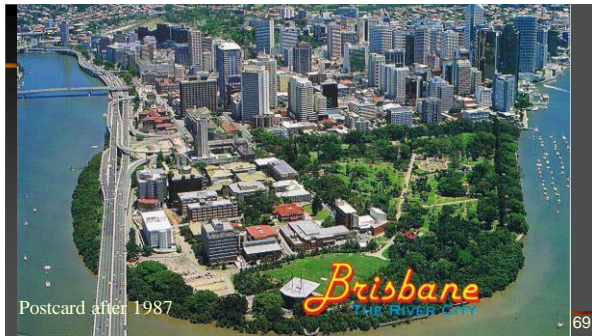
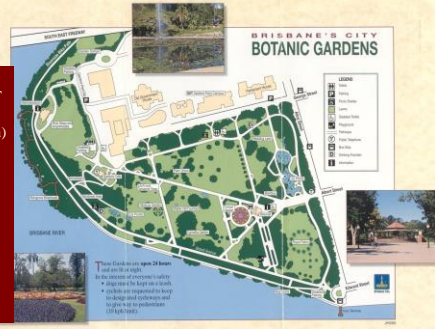
1986-7 Redevelopment by BCC



67

After 1987

- 24-hour access
- 4 new entries off QUT
- New Riverstage & amphitheatre (Domain)
- Loss of maintenance infrastructure
- Straightening paths and segmented pavers instead of asphalt
- Information Rotunda & toilet facilities
- New Formal Floral Display Garden
- Café in Cottage



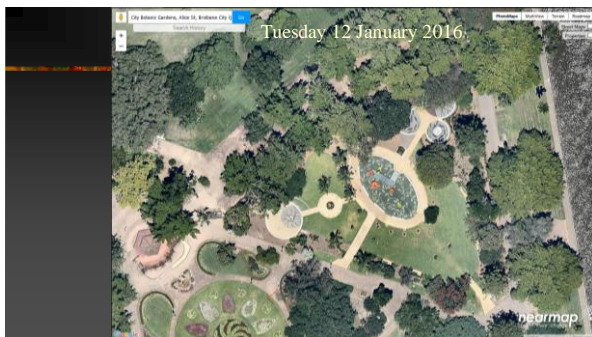
Postcard after 1987

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Playgrounds

Picture to be found!

1988 playground



150th

In 2005, MOB display and more...

your city botanic gardens

The City Botanic Gardens is of historical, botanical and cultural significance to Brisbane. A beautiful green space retreat situated along the Brisbane River, it provides a relaxing escape from the bustle of our vibrant city.

Did you know?

- The City Botanic Gardens is the site of the first public garden and the origin of European horticulture in Queensland.
- Queensland's first ever mangoes, pineapples, sugar, ginger, grapes and many other important economic crops were first introduced to Queensland in the City Botanic Gardens in the 19th century.
- The first carter of the City Botanic Gardens was the inspirational Scottish immigrant Walter Hill, who nurtured and shaped its development from 1855 to 1861.
- The City Botanic Gardens' attractions have varied from fairs in Queens Park during World War I, supporting our 'fighting' forces, to housing a zoo. It was in the hope that Harriet, a Galapagos tortoise (now residing in Australia Zoo), first lived in Australia. She was captured from the Galapagos in the 1820s.

Join us to celebrate your City Botanic Gardens and its history.



72

Maps and no maps... wayfinding denied.

79

Access NEARMAP through Library Catalogue:
<https://secure.dlib.ql.edu.au/library/external/current/addresses/passwords/central.php>

15 December 2016

nearmap

Challenge: find this shelter in Rainforest Garden!

nla.obj-153364321-1 c.1916

The end

Tuesday 12 January 2016

nearmap