

Navigate through

# NEWSTEAD



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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Heritage site  
 Walking trail  
 Public toilets  
**Access for people with limited mobility:**  
 Gradient between: 1:20-1:14 (2.9-4.1 degrees)  
 Gradient in excess of: 1:14 (>4.1 degrees)

MAP LEGEND

- 1. Breakfast Creek Hotel
- 2. Holy Triad Temple
- 3. Breakfast Creek Bridge

- 4. Aboriginal history
- 5. Breakfast Creek
- 6. Newstead House
- 7. Goldsworthy and Perkins Boot and Shoe Factory

- 8. Booroodabin Bowls Club
- 9. Quick Service Station
- 10. Miegunyah
- 11. Jack Herbert's house
- 12. Loes Bonney

- 13. Cloudland
- 14. Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church
- 15. Cintra House
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# INTRODUCTION

The *Navigate through Newstead* heritage trail weaves through some of the streets of Newstead and Bowen Hills, and visits places that help to tell the rich history of the area.

Prior to European settlement, the area we know today as Newstead and Bowen Hills was a rich hunting and fishing area for the local Aboriginal people. With the establishment of the Moreton Bay penal settlement in the 1820s, the traditional owners' lands were increasingly encroached upon. In the convict era the road to the Eagle Farm women's prison became what is now Breakfast Creek Road.

The convict settlement was closed in 1839 and in 1842 Moreton Bay was officially opened for free settlement as part of the colony of New South Wales. Newstead House was built in the early 1840s and the area slowly began to be developed for housing and industry. The large hill, often called Montpellier Hill, within the suburb we know today as Bowen Hills, was settled and several large estates were established on it in the 1860s, including Cintra House and Montpellier. On the lower-lying land workers' cottages dotted the area, and by 1879 the Booroodabin Divisional Board had been established to help guide the district's progress. In 1885 a horse-drawn tram line carried passengers to the Breakfast Creek Bridge.



*Horse drawn tram to Breakfast Creek, 1886, Brisbane City Council, BCC-B54-11732*

Along Breakfast Creek and beside the river at Newstead, industrial and wharf activity began to define the area with large plants such as the Newstead Gasworks and J. Kitchen and Sons soap and candle works. The Newstead wharves were bustling with shipping activity by the 1930s.

Today, Newstead House is the oldest remaining house in Queensland and Montpellier Hill remains one of Brisbane's most sought-after addresses. Many of the industrial sites in the area have been redeveloped for fashionable residential apartments; restaurants, bars and shops have also reinvented this important part of Brisbane.



## BREAKFAST CREEK HOTEL

The Breakfast Creek Hotel is one of Brisbane's best-known landmarks. There has been a hotel in this vicinity since as early as the 1860s. It was in 1889, however, when William MacNaughton Galloway commissioned Brisbane architects Simkin and Ibler to design a grand hotel that was to be located at the northern end of the newly constructed Breakfast Creek Bridge.

At the time of its opening, the hotel was described as being "designed in the French renaissance style of architecture ... the effect is most satisfactory and pleasing to the eye, whether the building is approached from the city, the Albion, or the Hamilton" (*Brisbane Courier*, 21 May 1890).

The interior of the hotel was considered to be of a very high quality with stained glass windows, an elaborate timber staircase and "the bar fittings are of exceptionally good design and workmanship" (*Brisbane Courier*, 21 May 1890).

The hotel provided guest accommodation with 10 bedrooms and a drawing room on the first floor, and there were the stables, coach house, kitchen and servants quarters at the rear of the hotel.



*Flooding at the Breakfast Creek Hotel, 1893, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 99230*

Sadly, in 1895 Galloway fell from a first floor window and died. His wife Annie continued to run the hotel until 1901.

The hotel was mainly a 'working class' watering hole frequented by wharf workers, fishermen, railway workers and bookies. In the 1920s the Cavill family acquired the lease of the hotel and ran the hotel until 1998.

The iconic hotel is famous for its continuing tradition of offering its patrons 'beer off the wood', rather than from steel casks. In the 1970s, uproar from patrons ensued when it was proposed that steel casks were to replace the wooden ones, and to this day the tradition of going to the 'Brekky Creek' for a beer off the wood continues.



## HOLY TRIAD TEMPLE

The Temple of the Holy Triad is one of only three surviving Chinese temples built in Queensland in the 19th Century (a smaller temple survives in Rockhampton and the other is found in Atherton).

In the 1880s, some of the land on the flats beside Breakfast Creek was home to Chinese immigrants who established market gardens on the rich land. Although the Chinese people in Brisbane made up only a very small portion of the population, they provided the town with the majority of their fresh fruit and vegetables. Many also established small businesses in Fortitude Valley and parts of the city.

The leaders of the Cantonese community realised the importance of establishing a temple. It would not only be a place of worship, but a community centre also. The funds for the construction of the temple were raised through voluntary donations from the Cantonese community.

Just after midnight on 21 January 1886 the newly completed temple was officially opened with fireworks displays and feasts, the celebrations carrying on right through the night:

“This morning the sight of the remains of fireworks was enough to make any youngster wish he had been there

*Joss House,  
Breakfast  
Creek, 1886,  
State Library of  
Queensland,  
Negative Number  
10124*



for a few hours while the display was going on. Great preparations for feasting have been made, and it is probable that the opening ceremony will last as long as the food holds out and visitors attend.” (*Telegraph*, 21 January 1886)

At the time, the temple was referred to by the wider community as the Joss-house.

The temple’s ornate figures, decorations and roof tiles were made by Chinese artisans in China and imported to Brisbane specifically for this temple:

“These ornamental roofs were imported from the Flowery Land by Quong Nam Tai and Co., and the whole triple roof was erected by Chinese artisans” (*Brisbane Courier*, 22 January 1886).

Today, the Temple of the Holy Triad remains an important place of worship for many of Brisbane’s Chinese community members.

## BREAKFAST CREEK BRIDGE

In 1829, Commandant Captain Patrick Logan established a farm at Eagle Farm in an attempt to achieve self-sufficiency for the fledgling convict settlement of Moreton Bay. Initially, female convicts were held in the Female Factory, on the site now occupied by the General Post Office in the city on Queen Street. High stone walls were erected around the factory to limit fraternisation with men, but this proved to be futile. Authorities decided to move the female convicts to Eagle Farm, away from the attentions of the male convicts and soldiers, who were prohibited from crossing Breakfast Creek. A pedestrian bridge crossed the creek and only those with permission could cross.

With the closure of the penal settlement in 1839, the area was opened for free settlement after 1842. By 1858 a permanent bridge had been built across the creek. As the district expanded and prospered, the old bridge could no longer cope with the traffic and a new bridge was proposed. The Breakfast Creek Bridge Board was formed to oversee the project and it was completed by May 1889, following several setbacks such as exceeding the initial budget.



*Old Breakfast Creek Bridge Queensland, ca. 1887, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 100721*

Brisbane City Council replaced the older bridge with the current one in 1958 because of safety concerns. Unlike the 1880s bridge which ended in a sharp right angle on the Albion side, the new bridge was built on a gentler north-east angle. The stone abutments of the 1889 bridge still remain beside the newer bridge today.

## ABORIGINAL HISTORY

The confluence of Breakfast Creek and the Brisbane River has long been an important area for Aboriginal people. Prior to European settlement and the subsequent dredging of the river, it was possible to cross the river to the Bulimba side by foot as the river was relatively shallow toward the Hamilton end of the reach. This may account for the Breakfast Creek area having a series of large Aboriginal campsites dotted along the creek and river as well as in the hills above. There was an abundance of fish in the river and plenty of game in the forests behind it.

During the colonial era as European settlement began to encroach upon the Aboriginal people in the area, reports of violence and destruction in the camps at the hands of the police and white settlers increasingly appeared in the newspapers. Often the raids were in retaliation to an alleged offence committed or a disturbance caused by an Aboriginal person.

An example of this occurred in October 1860 when a party of five policemen and several volunteers carried out a violent raid on one of the large camps at Breakfast Creek, firing shots which caused the frightened people to flee the camp. The police then proceeded to throw the camp residents' belongings into the river and set fire to all of the gunyahs (Aboriginal shelters).



*Breakfast Creek after Newstead House grounds were cleared, undated, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 117016*

The *Moreton Bay Courier* was sympathetic toward the Aboriginal people in this instance and called the event a 'Wanton Outrage':

"having fired off their carbines to frighten women and children ... set fire to the bark gunyahs, destroyed all the blankets ... and pitched waddies, tomahawks ... tobacco ... into the river ... Their fathers lived and hunted where our city now stands long before a white man set foot upon the soil." (*Moreton Bay Courier*, 9 October 1860).

Sadly this was just one example of many of the raids inflicted on the Aboriginal inhabitants at Breakfast Creek in this era.



## BREAKFAST CREEK

In 1825, after a failed attempt at settlement at Redcliffe, the Moreton Bay convict colony was moved to the current site of Brisbane's CBD. Prior to this, in 1823, Surveyor-General John Oxley had been directed by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, to find suitable sites for a new settlement to send wayward convicts. Following advice about the location of a large river from John Finnegan, a ticket-of-leave man who had been stranded in the area, Oxley entered Moreton Bay on 29 November 1823. He named the river 'Brisbane' after the Governor.

The creek we know today as Breakfast Creek and the land surrounding it, particularly on the Newstead side, seemed to Oxley an ideal place to establish the fledgling European settlement. There was fresh water, high ground for security, and safe mooring for ships. Agreeing with Oxley, Chief Justice Forbes named the point 'Edenglassie'. In December 1824 the newspapers reported that "the river is half-a-mile wide in this eligible position for a settlement; having ten fathoms water, possesses good anchorage, and has, by nature, a wharf already complete" (*Hobart Town Gazette*, 31 December 1824).



*Sketch of first Breakfast Creek Bridge, 1840, Brisbane City Council, BCC-B54-8550*

It is believed that Oxley named the creek 'Breakfast Creek' after breakfasting on the shore a year later.

It is unclear why, when the final decision was made by Commandant Miller as to where the convict settlement was to be established, Oxley and Forbes' advice to settle at Breakfast Creek was ignored.

## NEWSTEAD HOUSE

“As a centre of hospitality and good cheer, every visitor of any consequence went away [from Newstead House] filled with pleasant memories of it, and it served as one of the early factors in establishing a good reputation for young Queensland” (*Brisbane Courier*, 29 September 1906).

Situated in extensive and pleasant grounds overlooking the Bulimba Reach of the river, Newstead House is Queensland’s oldest surviving residence. The stately home was built between 1845 and 1846 for important, early Darling Downs pioneer and grazier Patrick Leslie. By 1847 however, the house had been sold to Captain John Clements Wickham, Leslie’s brother-in-law.

Wickham played a major role in the establishment of law and order in the fledgling settlement of Moreton Bay as the first police magistrate. He was a highly respected figure in the Moreton Bay community and was appointed its Government Resident in 1853. At this time, Newstead House became Queensland’s first unofficial Government House, often hosting visiting dignitaries. Following Queensland’s separation from New South Wales in 1859, Wickham left Queensland and returned to his original home in Britain.

*Newstead House  
Family gathered  
on the grass in  
front of Newstead  
House, Brisbane, ca.  
1890, State Library of  
Queensland, Negative  
Number 185565*



Newstead House was then bought by successful Brisbane merchant, George Harris. The Harris family became famous in the town for their lavish hospitality. They often hosted balls, dinners, weddings and boating events at the house. When Mrs Harris died in 1917, she was fondly remembered in the newspapers as taking “a very prominent part in society in the days when the Harris home at Newstead House was the scene of many brilliant assemblages” (*Telegraph*, 16 March 1917).



# GOLDSWORTHY AND PERKINS BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY

"Goldsworthy and Perkins, the well-known manufacturers at Newstead, enjoy a high reputation, and deservedly so, their special line of goods being fit for any showcase in the Australian colonies" (*Queenslander*, 28 July 1900).

In the late 19th Century, Newstead was increasingly transformed by industry. An example of this was the establishment of Goldsworthy and Perkins' Boot and Shoe Factory in 1889. This was a time when the boot-making industry was one of Brisbane's largest and fastest growing industries, with an expansion from 10 factories in 1885 to 21 in 1890.

It was, however, an industry plagued by industrial unrest. Conditions for both male and female employees at this time were so dire that the Royal Commission into Shops, Factories, and Workshops was undertaken in 1891.



*Goldsworthy and Perkins Boot and Shoe Factory, Queenslander, 28 July 1900*

Goldsworthy and Perkins' factory was by no means exempt from investigation: the conditions in the factory were described by the City Inspector as "grossly insufficient ... disgustingly filthy".

By 1895 conditions for boot factory workers had barely improved and strike action was taken by 400 workers over 14 weeks, which almost brought the industry in Brisbane to a standstill. The strike proved a failure for the workers as the employers remained unrelenting. Unable to feed their families, the boot factory workers were forced to return to their jobs but on a lesser wage.

In 1898 Goldsworthy sold his half of the business to Perkins, who subsequently was declared insolvent in 1902.



## BOOROODABIN BOWLS CLUB

The Breakfast Creek Bowling Club was formed in 1888 and is claimed to be the oldest bowls club still in existence in Queensland. Lawn bowls had been introduced to Queensland as early as the 1870s; the first club opened in Maryborough in the 1870s and other clubs such as the Brisbane Bowling Club were established late in the decade.

Initially, the Brisbane Bowling Club played on a green in the City Botanic Gardens and later at a green near the Roma Street markets. In 1893 the Booroodabin Bowling Club was formed and was an amalgamation of the Breakfast Creek Bowling Club and the Brisbane Bowling Club.

The Booroodabin Bowling Club had been given a grant of land and £50 from the Booroodabin Divisional Board in 1887 for the establishment of a bowling green. The official opening of the new club was attended by local dignitaries, including the mayor. The club's secretary, Mr Carey, stated:

“Now that the club could begin to play on their own ground they would stick together, and do their utmost to



*Clubhouse of the Booroodabin Bowling Green, Bowen Hills, Brisbane, 1907, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 48259*

advance its interests. If the green was well looked after it would in a couple of seasons be as good a turf as any in Australia, or anywhere else” (*Brisbane Courier*, 1 April 1889).

Today, the famous bowls club is known as ‘The Boo’, and continues to provide leisure and hospitality to locals and visitors to Newstead.

## QUICK SERVICE STATION

During World War I great advances in automobile technology were made. As a result of these improvements, by the early 1920s cars were being mass-produced, which meant greater affordability. The 1920s saw an increase in ownership of the motor car and the use of the horse-drawn carriage diminished.

This small service station was built in 1928 as one of a suite of 'Quick Service Stations' planned for key locations around the city. At the time the concept was innovative and other Australian cities such as Melbourne had embraced it. The station's primary focus was to provide swift drive-through service for motorists needing petrol. This was a step away from other garages, where the main focus was the sale and repair of vehicles, with the supply of petrol as a side-line.

In 1927 it was reported in the *Brisbane Courier* that "the whole layout of the station will suggest this reliability to the mind of the car owner ... Car washing, greasing, vulcanising, and battery charging will be done with better results by modern appliance with such dispatch as will make the car owner prefer to entrust this work to the station at the moderate charges which will be made" (*Brisbane Courier*, 23 March 1927).



*P. G. Fegan's Service Station in Newstead, ca. 1935, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 122945*

As the Great Depression took hold of the economy from 1929, only three of the Quick Service Stations were ever built in Brisbane. This is the only left remaining.

## MIEGUNYAH

This graceful home was built around 1885 for the Perry family who were successful Brisbane merchants.

During World War II, Miegunyah was requisitioned by the Australian Government. It became the secret staging camp and recovery home for the men of Z Special Unit, the elite commando unit consisting of four British soldiers, 11 Australian Infantry Force and Royal Australian Navy personnel, and commanded by Major Ivan Lyon, British officer.

In early September 1943 the unit left Western Australia disguised as Malay fishermen in a captured Japanese sampan which they renamed 'MV Krait'. The mission was named 'Operation Jaywick'. Their destination was Japanese-occupied Singapore Harbour. After sailing through enemy seas for several weeks in the slow-moving timber vessel, the unit finally reached their clandestine destination. Three two-man collapsible canoes were launched and then paddled into the harbour at night. Slipping from ship to ship, they attached limpet mines to the Japanese vessels and then snuck out of the harbour to meet up with the Krait six days later.

The mines caused immense destruction to the Japanese vessels with seven either sunk or damaged badly. The unit recovered at Miegunyah when eventually arriving back in Australia.



*Z Special Unit outside Miegunyah, 1943, Australian War Memorial*

About one year later, Major Ivan Lyon led another planned clandestine attack on the Japanese in Singapore. Known as 'Operation Rimau', six of the men who had been involved in Jaywick formed part of the party. The dangerous mission ended in tragedy, with all participants killed or captured and executed by the Japanese.

## JACK HERBERT'S HOUSE

"Herbert had made a silly mistake, buying the house ... from Gerry Bellino and his partner Vic Conte. Greed had overwhelmed caution. Herbert took possession of the property at a knock-down rate in part compensation for bribes owed. The Jordan Terrace house was important evidence which linked police to the underworld"

(Quote from Chris Masters, 'Moonlight Reflections', *Griffith Review*, August 2008).

In 1986 this property was sold by two of Brisbane's most notorious underworld figures of the time to Jack Herbert, self-confessed 'bagman' and a leading figure in an important part of Queensland's history, the Fitzgerald Inquiry. It exposed long-suspected and deeply embedded corruption in parts of the Queensland Police Force.

In 1987 a series of newspaper articles in *The Courier-Mail* and a *Four Corners* report on the ABC titled 'The Moonlight State' exposed Brisbane's darker side, which included such activities as prostitution, illegal casinos, alleged drug trafficking and possible police corruption. The allegations triggered a reaction from the Acting Premier, Bill Gunn, who set up an inquiry headed by Mr Tony Fitzgerald QC.

The inquiry uncovered deep corruption in the Queensland Police Force. Herbert, a retired police officer, played an

integral role in the collecting and distributing of bribes given to police by illegal brothel and casino owners and bookmakers. According to Herbert, at the time he and his wife were residing in Jordan Terrace, there was so much illegal cash being collected and distributed he had installed several secret cupboards to store bundles of it in the house.

As the corruption became exposed, Herbert and his wife fled to Britain. They were soon extradited back to Brisbane where Herbert was to appear before the inquiry. He was given indemnity in exchange for his evidence.

Police Commissioner Terrence (Terry) Lewis was stood down and jailed for corruption. The inquiry also revealed that corruption reached high into the state government when two former state ministers were jailed and other ministers were investigated.

Among the findings of the inquiry was a culture of police bribery initiated by illegal casino and brothel owners in Queensland. The inquiry was critical in the subsequent demise of the National Party government under Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, who had held power for 19 years.

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## LORES BONNEY

“You have distinguished yourself by being the first woman to have undertaken the flight from Australia to England, and by sheer doggedness and pluck you succeeded against great odds”

*(The Courier-Mail, 21 October 1933).*

From 1918, Bowen Hills was home to famous Australian aviatrix Lores Bonney.

Born in South Africa in 1897, Lores Bonney immigrated to Melbourne with her family as a child. In 1917 she married Brisbane businessman Harry Bonney. Inspired by her husband's cousin, Bert Hinkler, Bonney began taking flying lessons and became determined to make a name for herself in aviation history.

Among her accomplishments, she became the first woman to make a round Australia flight in 1932. A year later Bonney set off from Archerfield Aerodrome in her plane she named 'My Little Ship', with England as her destination – a feat not before achieved by a woman.



Aviatrix Lores Bonney boarding her Gypsy Moth at Charleville, ca. 1933, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 49962

It was reported at the time that Bonney “had to face the full force of a tropical monsoon, terrific dust storms, fierce heat, intense cold, and heavy rain storms” (*The Courier-Mail*, 19 October 1933). On her arrival back in Australia her achievements were widely celebrated throughout the country, and in 1934 she was awarded an MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

Lores Bonney lived in Bowen Hills well into the 1960s, after which she moved to the Gold Coast.



## CLOUDLAND

"Novel entertainment devices now are in full swing in the amusement section of Luna Park. The slippery dip is popular, dodgems dodge, scoota-boats scoot across a man-made lake, the arms of the octopus never seem to tire in catering to the requirements of the public"

*(The Courier-Mail, 29 August 1940).*

This was the site of the once-famous Cloudland Ballroom, which had been built as part of a larger amusement park called Luna Park. It was the idea of Mr TH Eslick who was responsible for establishing Melbourne's Luna Park years earlier, as well as others in the United States and Canada.

The ballroom was officially opened in early August 1940 and was heralded at the time as the best ballroom in Australia: "Externally its deck-line promenades and big expanse of plateglass are prominent. These, however, are merely adjuncts to the dance-room proper, which has been constructed on ultra-modern lines ... the architecture, design, and general layout are the work of Mr. Eslick, who said yesterday that the ballroom was the equal of any in the United States"

*(The Courier-Mail, 31 July 1940).*

Unfortunately, the amusement park was not a financial success and by 1942 had ceased operations. From about 1947 however,



*Cloudland Interior view of Cloudland Ballroom, Bowen Hills, ca. 1950, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 71096*

Cloudland Ballroom had re-opened, becoming one of Brisbane's favourite social venues; many Brisbane residents fondly remember wonderful nights at Cloudland. A funicular railway carried ball-goers from the tram stop below on Breakfast Creek Road directly up to the ballroom.

Sadly, in November 1982 Cloudland was demolished in the middle of the night by the Deen Brothers. The outrage at the demolition was felt throughout the Brisbane community and to this day is still viewed by many as a tragedy for the city.

## OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CATHOLIC CHURCH

This is one of Brisbane's finest and earliest examples of interwar Spanish Mission architecture. The church was blessed and opened by Archbishop Duhig on 26 April 1925 as a war memorial commemorating 1889 Queensland Catholic soldiers, sailors and nurses who had died in World War I. It was designed by prominent Brisbane architects Hall and Prentice, who were also responsible for designing Brisbane City Hall.

"Nothing could be more appropriate than the noble façade and tower, with aspect towards the widest reach of the river, out through which the troopships passed into the grey dawn of so many mornings during a period fraught with terrible anxiety" (Quote from Archbishop Duhig, *Brisbane Courier*, 27 April 1925).

The cross above the tower was intended to be perpetually lit as a commemoration of the armed forces during World War I. Within the church the Australian Imperial Force symbol of the rising sun is depicted in glass panels.



*Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church at Bowen Hills, 1928, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 71096*

Following World War II, Brisbane became home to a large number of Polish refugees fleeing war-torn Europe. At the end of the war there were 6572 Poland-born living in Australia and by 1952 this had risen to 56,594. In 1955 Archbishop Duhig handed the church to Brisbane's Polish Community. With the arrival of the Franciscan Brothers of the Capuchin Order, services were held in both English and Polish. This tradition continues today.

## CINTRA HOUSE

Cintra House is one of Brisbane's most beautiful homes. It was built in the early 1860s for Captain George Webb. The original house was smaller than the one today and did not have the first floor verandah.

In 1877, Boyd Dunlop Morehead bought the property where he and his family resided until 1905. Morehead played an important role in Queensland politics and became Premier between 1888 and 1890. To accommodate his growing family, Morehead had the original house extended in the 1890s with the faceted bay on the eastern part of the house and the addition of the elaborately decorated wrap-around verandahs on both storeys.

In 1927 the Catholic Church purchased Cintra House and it became the convent for Our Lady of Victories church across the road until the 1960s. Today the home is once again a well-loved private residence.

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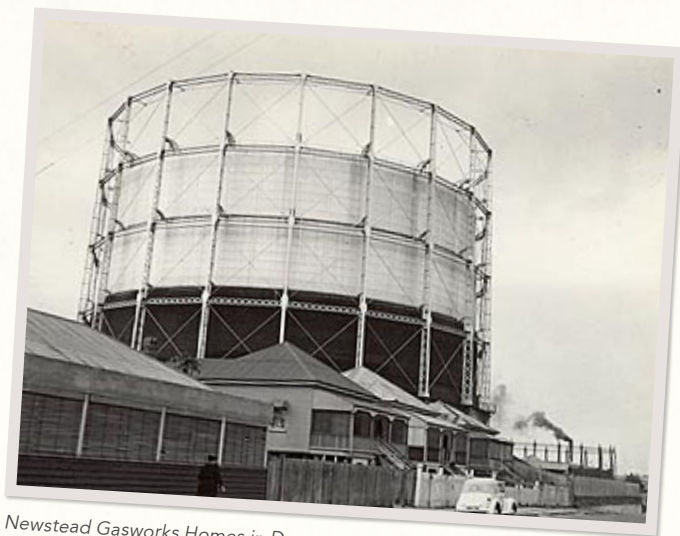
*Bowen Hills from Breakfast Creek Road, 1882 (Cintra House at the far left of the photo at the top of the hill), State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 78892*

## NEWSTEAD GASWORKS

This impressive remnant of Newstead's industrial past was part of the Newstead Gasworks, the second gasworks in Brisbane. The first gasworks was established in the 1860s at Petrie Bight in the city. As Brisbane grew in this era, the Brisbane Municipal Council sought to provide street lighting throughout the town. Gas lighting was thought to be the only feasible means of achieving this with Sydney and Melbourne installing gas lighting in 1841 and 1856, respectively. The Brisbane Gas Company began production in 1865.

In 1883, as Brisbane's demand for gas greatly increased, the company bought a large amount of land at Newstead on which to expand. The gasometer was shifted from the Petrie Bight plant to Newstead at this time.

'Town' gas was produced on the site initially. As early as the late 19th Century it had been discovered that flammable gas was produced when coal was burnt, and once an effective means of trapping the gas had been invented large European cities including London and Paris adopted what was then a new technology – gas lighting.



*Newstead Gasworks Homes in Doggett Street, Newstead (Gasometer No. 2 in rear of photograph), 1950, Brisbane City Council, BCC-B54-1048*

The purpose of the steel frame such as the one at Newstead was to hold a large tank that sat inside it and held the newly produced gas. The tank would raise and lower depending on the amount of gas held within.

The gasworks site was dismantled by 1999, and since then new commercial and residential development has reinvigorated this part of Newstead.



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