

THE DARLING DOWNS



THE DARLING DOWNS of southeast Queensland is a region of open rolling plains, interrupted by the western spurs of the Great Dividing Range. It is bounded in the west by the Condamine River and its tributaries, in the north by Cooranga Creek and in the east by the escarpments of the range. The Darling Downs proper, however, also includes the unique Granite Belt of the southwest, which stretches from **Stanthorpe** to the Macintyre River, and the Western Downs which encompasses all that area west of the Condamine to an indistinct line from **Miles** in the north to **Goondiwindi** in the south. Within each of these areas occur complex and distinct subregional variations of landscape, climate, soil and vegetation. The Downs, therefore, is not just the familiar settled area of green and gold crops on red and black soil, high grasses and brigalow and box scrubs, but also enfolded a series of complicated ecosystems whose nature and changing character still await detailed investigation.

Twelve thousand years ago the Darling Downs supported, in a temperate climate, prolific food chains based on rich vegetation and plentiful water. Unique and highly specialised animals such as the diprotodon evolved. Unfortunately for these marsupials and for the Aboriginal hunters and food gatherers who needed to make massive adjustments, the climate changed to a subtropical one. This produced the open woodlands and horse-belly-high grasslands that so excited and impressed Allan Cunningham, the first European explorer, in 1827, and the Leslies, the first pastoral settlers, in 1840.

The climate now is quite different from that of other grain-growing and intensive dairying and mixed farming areas of Australia. Rainfall, varying from 750 mm on the eastern Divide to slightly over 500 mm on the western margin, falls chiefly in summer, but there is still enough winter precipitation to sustain crops planted in the renowned, moisture-retaining deep black, red and brown soils. Temperatures fluctuate from a mean minimum of 3°C in July to maxima of over 30°C in January, with summer heatwaves and severe winter frosts. Moist easterly winds blow in summer and drying westerlies chill the winters.

In 1840 the blue and pitted, oat, Flinders and kangaroo grasslands of the Downs supported thousands of marsupials, birds, insects and reptiles. Lush rainforests grew on the eastern margin; ironbark, bluegum and other species covered the savannah-type woodlands and along the Condamine River was a vast plain covered with an open forest of poplar box. On the western fringes of the region the dominant vegetation was a thick brigalow-belah scrub.

The introduction of millions of sheep and cattle and the development of both intensive and extensive agriculture by pastoralists and farmers, combined with the recent introduction of wholesale machine-based land clearing and cultivation techniques, have transformed the landscape of the inner Downs to the familiar coloured checkerboard that exists today. Yet the very success of capital-intensive European farming, particularly agriculture, has not only changed the landscape, but has also resulted in serious soil erosion and deforestation.

On the eve of European settlement there were about three thousand permanent Aborigines on the Downs, roughly divided into four groups: the Barunggam (**Miles-Dalby**), the Jarowair (**Bell-Oakey**), the Giabal ('men of the Condamine') and the Keinjan (**Warwick** area). Other groups to the south were the Kambuwal (**Stanthorpe**) and Bigam-

bul (Tara and **Goondiwindi**). Between 1840 and 1854 a continuous and fierce guerrilla confrontation between blacks and whites took place on the Downs, often breaking into open warfare. By the 1870s, however, there were comparatively few Aborigines, and by 1911 most of the remaining blacks had been rounded up and placed on a reserve near **Taroom**. Recently **Toowoomba** and other Downs towns have attracted Aborigines who have moved from the southwest of the state.

After the arrival of the Leslies other pastoralists appeared, so that by 1860 there were 33 stations along the **Dalby–Warwick** axis and 100 pastoral leases on the Western Downs. By then the squatters — colloquially named ‘Pure Merinos’ — had established an elite oligarchy of aristocratic and would-be aristocratic pastoralists of considerable wealth and substantial estates. Dominating regional and Queensland politics, they attempted to recreate a way of life similar to that of the landed gentry of Britain. Some built magnificent homesteads, such as **Glengallan**, (see **Allora**), **Jimbour** and **Westbrook**. Many, including the **Bells** (see **Jimbour**), **Hodgsons** (see **Cambooya**), **Clarks**, **Wienholts**, **Kents**, **Taylors** (see **Cecil Plains**) and **Tysons**, succeeded in freeholding their vast estates, either by direct purchase or by subverting the land acts.

Between 1863 and 1893 the Darling Downs was the scene of political confrontation as successive Queensland governments attempted to place small selectors on the land; yet for a long time the expression ‘when wheat should be grown on the Darling Downs’ was a Queensland term for extreme improbability. The difficulties experienced by the selectors — climatic vagaries, inferior land, lack of capital, political powerlessness, family tensions, marketing problems and transport deficiencies — were described by the writer **Steele Rudd** (**A.H. Davis**), himself the son of an **Emu Creek** selector (see **Greenmount**). His descriptions of pioneering life are the quintessence of the Australian rural experience. After 1893



A western homestead. Woolshed Park station, near Chinchilla.

BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS

Weipa bauxite, and burns over 1m tonnes of coal each year. Consortium led by Comalco opened an aluminium smelter on Boyne Is in 1982. Coal from such fields as **Blackwater**, Callide (see Biloela), and **Moura** exported through port of Gladstone, as are large quantities of butter, meat and grain. Power station fully operational in 1982. Large cement and lime works estab in 1979. Rundle oil-shale deposit 10 km to north shown in 1980–81 to contain 225m cubic metres of oil but development will only occur when extraction becomes an economic proposition. Port further upgraded in the 1980s.

MORANBAH [21°59'S 148°03'E]

Popn: 1050 (1971), 4362 (1981). Estab in 1969 as residential and service town for coalmines at **Peak Downs** and Goonyella. Airport and explosives factory built in 1970s. Goonyella was first open cut estab by Central Qld Coal Associates in 1972, Peak Downs following later that year. Town expanded further in the 1980s with development of the Riverside coalmine to the north. Coal railed to Hay Point (see Mackay) for export.

MOUNT LARCOM [23°48'S 150°59'E]

Popn: 215 (1911), 308 (1981). Mountain named by Matthew Flinders in 1802. William Young first pastoral settler in 1854–55: his homestead raided by 200 Aborigines in 1855, all but one European killed and reprisals followed. Land resumed for closer settlement in 1887. First school estab in 1885, but town not proclaimed until 1915. Limestone mining began in 1981.

MOUNT MORGAN [23°38'S 150°24'E]

Popn: 3514 (1891), 9772 (1911), 3262 (1933), 4152 (1954), 2974 (1981). Named after the three Morgan brothers who pegged mountain and estab mining company in 1882. Mountain earlier known as Ironstone Mt; settlement originally known as Calliungal, Aborig name for mountain. First European settlers in district in 1853. Stockman discov gold in the late 1860s but kept his find secret. Find revealed to Morgan brothers in 1882 when goldmine first worked; they sold to four partners who formed Mount Morgan Gold Mining Co in 1886. One of partners was Walter Hall who later endowed the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in **Melbourne**. Town formally estab in 1890, although existed for some years prior to that. Rlwy from **Rockhampton** opened in 1898: until 1952, an Abt rack mechanism, one of only two in Aust, helped trains climb Razorback Ra. Copper production began in 1902. Popn of approx 12 500 in 1908, peaked at 15–16 000 before declining. Operation in difficulty in the 1920s; company liquidated and new company, Mount Morgan Ltd, formed in 1929 and open-cut methods introduced. Smelter for copper built in 1939. Company and council together provided electricity in 1936 and water reticulation in 1952. Peko Wallsend took over mine in 1968, commissioned new smelter in 1972. In the 1970s, mine was Qld's largest producer of gold and second to **Mount Isa** in copper production: by the late 1970s, over 220 tonnes of gold, 320 000

tonnes of copper and considerable amounts of silver had been produced. Local production ceased in 1981 and ore from Mount Chalmers (see Mount Isa) no longer brought to concentrator mill after 1982. Mine complex, courthouse (built in 1899), rlwy station (built in 1898), and the two of the six suspension footbridges over the Dee R remaining are all RNE. Other buildings of note include the Queensland National Hotel (1890s), the Grand Hotel (1901) and a Chinese shrine (1890).

MOURA [24°33'S 149°58'E]

Popn: 116 (1947), 213 (1961), 2871 (1981). Town site laid out on Moura station in 1936. Large coal deposits exploited by open-cut methods since 1962, leading to rapid town growth. In 1967 then largest operating dragline in world commissioned here. Kiangra mine operated from 1961 to 1975: 13 miners killed in accident in 1975; 14 killed in mine accident, 1986.

PEAK DOWNS [22°14'S 148°11'E]

District explored and named by Ludwig Leichhardt in 1844–45. Archer family settled here in 1854. Copper and gold discov in 1862. Large-scale coalmining operations began in 1972 with open cuts at Peak Downs, Saraji and Norwich Park. **Moranbah** acts as residential and service centre. Rlwy opened in 1972.

ROCKHAMPTON [23°22'S 150°30'E]

Popn: 698 (1861), 6906 (1871), 15 461 (1901), 34 988 (1949), 48 213 (1971), 50 146 (1981). Name probably in part due to rocks in river above old bridge; given by W.H. Wiseman, commissioner of crown lands, in 1856.

Early days Fitzroy R discov and named after Gov Charles FitzRoy by Charles and William Archer in 1853 when they found the junction of the Dawson and Mackenzie rivers: Ludwig Leichhardt had explored the latter in 1844. Fitzroy R surveyed for 160 km upstream by S. Sutchbury in 1854, and explored in detail by Charles Birch in 1855. Archers took up Gracemere station in 1855, Gracemere homestead (RNE) built in 1858. Other settlers followed. Glenmore homestead (RNE) built in stages in 1859–62.

Town development Village founded on river in 1853, site surveyed in 1857–58; town and port proclaimed in 1858, though little more than a store and an inn then. Town developed on part of Gracemere station. Municipality proclaimed in 1860, one of first in Qld: became a borough in 1883, a city in 1902; North Rockhampton created a borough in 1883. City of Greater Rockhampton estab in 1909. First store estab in 1856, first inn in 1857. Exaggerated reports of gold find at **Canoona** drew diggers and canvas town grew on river banks: many of the unsuccessful remained and more permanent buildings followed. Wiseman's Cottage (RNE) built c1859. Gold and copper finds at **Peak Downs** in 1861 and beginnings of beef exports in 1868 led to further growth, as did development of **Mount Morgan** after 1882. Boiling-down works estab in 1869. Botanic Gardens begun in 1869. First housing scheme in town built for meat company workers in 1871 when first canned meat exported.



Bathers at Yeppoon, a popular resort for Rockhampton residents, c1980.

AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

Yaamba water supply scheme built 1924–26. A major army camp during World War II. Sewerage scheme completed in 1978. Japanese gardens created in 1982 as part of sister-city link with Ibusuki. More than 50 buildings have been classified by Nat T and many are on RNE: Quay St, adjacent to former river wharves (see below), contains many of them, largely built 1882–1903. Examples of surviving historic buildings remaining in the city include: Aust Estate Co offices (1861); Union Trustee building (1877); St Paul's Anglican cathedral (1879–83); supreme court building (1887); Schotia Place (1888, built as city markets); Royal Arcade (1889, originally a theatre); Criterion Hotel (1889, on site of 1857 Bush Inn); St Joseph's Roman Catholic cathedral (1889–90); post office (1892); Commercial Hotel (1898) and customs house (1901).

Transport First rlwy to Westwood opened in 1867, extended to Longreach by 1892. Linked to Brisbane by rail in 1903. Rlwy roundhouse (RNE), probably first in Qld and one of two remaining, built in 1913–14. Harbour Board formed in 1896. Rlwy built to wharves in 1898, to coastal Port Alma in 1912 after river siltation became a problem. Last cargo ship called at city wharves in 1965. Port Alma rehabilitated in 1960, new port complex opened there in 1969. Associated cool stores and meatworks. Salt from works on coast to south another important export from 1969 to 1972. Port declined in mid-1970s. Suburban tramways built from 1909. Twice-weekly air service to Brisbane estab in 1930. Largest continuous plate-web girder bridge in Aust built in 1952.

Miscellaneous First city to organise blood trans-

fusion club in 1939. Author Ernestine Hill born here in 1899; politician Vincent Gair (Qld premier 1952–57, senator 1964–1974) in 1902; tennis player Rod Laver in 1938.

SPRINGSURE

[24°06'S 148°05'E]

Popn: 34 (1864), 495 (1876), 264 (1891), 774 (1981). Ludwig Leichhardt explored Comet R in 1845; Thomas Mitchell explored and named Nogoia R in 1846. Archer family settled in district in 1855. Party of settlers from Vic attacked nearby by Aboriges in Cullinla-ringo massacre of 1861: 19 of 22 Europeans killed. Punitive slaughter of Aboriges followed and Old Rainworth Fort built in 1861 on Burnside station as protection against similar attacks by Aboriges. Opals discov in 1870s. Rlwy opened in 1877. Harry 'Breaker' Morant worked on district station in the 1890s.

YEPPOON

[23°08'S 150°44'E]

Popn: 147 (1891), 319 (1961), 3418 (1966), 6447 (1981). Formerly known as Bald Hills. First European settlers were Ross family in 1865; town surveyed as watering place in 1867. Road from Rockhampton built late 1870s, mail coach services from 1883. In 1883 R. Ross of Taranganba station placed all Aboriges from North Keppel Is in camp on Ross Creek and many died. Yeppoon Sugar Co estab in 1883. First store estab in 1885. Rlwy opened in 1910, now serves pineapple farms. Massive tourist development since early 1960s. Japanese magnate Mr Iwasaki chose site here for major complex and proposal made to Qld govt in 1972: heated debate and committee of inquiry followed. First sod turned in 1979, motel begun in 1980, complex still largely undeveloped in late 1985.

refrigeration and the development of a large railway network, the breaking up by the state and private owners of large freehold estates and the scientific solution of problems associated with grain growing and dairy farming led to great expansion of small-scale farming. This process continued until the mid-1950s and was supplemented by the development of fruit and vegetable growing around **Stanthorpe** by soldier settlers and then Italians, and by mixed grazing and large-scale cereal cultivation in the **Dalby**, Millmerran and **Jondaryan** areas. The Darling Downs, with its fine sheep, cattle and horse studs, still has 15 per cent of the sheep, 23 per cent of the dairy herds, 11 per cent of the cattle and 40 per cent of the pigs in Queensland. These animals are kept on over 8000 individual farms averaging 964 hectares and account for nearly one-quarter of all the rural holdings in Queensland.

During the last thirty years, the number of dairy holdings on the Downs has been halved and wheat production of over one million tonnes annually (70 per cent of Queensland production) has accelerated as large areas of the western and northern Downs have been cleared of brigalow for mixed farming. Sorghum, linseed, canary seeds, soybeans, sunflowers and safflowers have now been introduced to diversify an agricultural base traditionally founded on wheat, maize, barley, lucerne and hay. Small farming on the Downs has encouraged and stimulated the development of towns. **Drayton** has given way to **Toowoomba** which, under the political impetus of W.H. Groom, rose to be the 'capital' of the Downs, surpassing its rivals **Warwick** and **Dalby**. Through its strategic position at the head of the Main Range, it has attracted food processing (flour mills, dairy factories and the famous KR Darling Downs ham and bacon factory), servicing, manufacturing (the Toowoomba foundry has existed since 1871), and administrative, health, education (including the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education established in 1967) and communications (newspapers, radio and TV) facilities. By 1901 **Toowoomba** had 9137 people and 65 000 in 1983, making the 'Garden City' one of the largest, most prosperous and attractive inland cities in Australia. Other settlements such as **Pittsworth**, **Clifton**, **Allora**, Killarney, Crows Nest, **Inglewood** and **Texas** have emerged, but since the introduction of motor transport and sealed highways the smaller towns have declined while **Stanthorpe**, **Goondiwindi**, **Chinchilla** and **Oakey** have burgeoned.

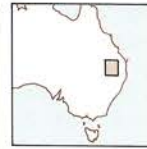
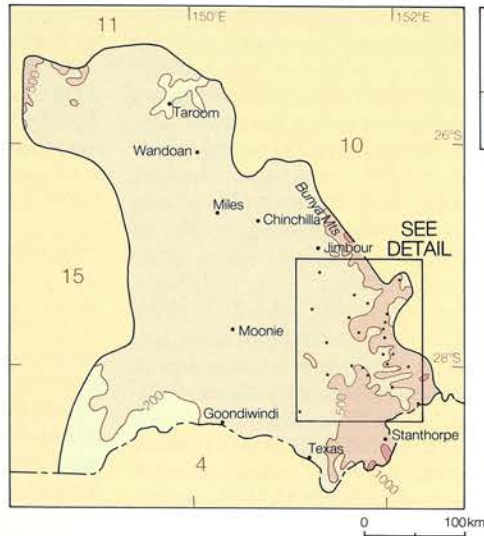
The population of the Downs reflects the Anglo-Saxon origins of the majority of its settlers. The Irish Roman Catholics, however, created the Diocese of Toowoomba in 1929 and have always maintained a strong presence on the Downs. So have those of German descent who first came as shearers and then became most successful small farmers in the Central Downs and Goombungee-Highlands areas. They established a strong community centred on the Lutheran Church, their farming and, initially, their language.

While the region witnessed powerful political antagonisms as the farmers, assisted by country town agrarians and urban labourers, wrested control of the landed resources from the 'Pure Merinos', the region since 1901 has become increasingly conservative. Now on both federal and state levels National Party politicians, of whom Littleton Groom and Arthur Fadden were most significant, have replaced a mixture of Liberal and Labor representatives. While the small farmers of the poorer areas and the workers of **Toowoomba** frequently supported the Labor Party in the past, the formation of the Queensland Country Party in Toowoomba on 4 March 1936 and the Labor split of the 1950s, which produced two Democratic Labor Party seats on the Downs, marked the beginnings of this area's emergence as one of the most conservative though prosperous areas in rural Australia.

Duncan Waterson

SUGGESTED READING

- M. French and D.B. Waterson, *A pictorial history of the Darling Downs, 1850-1950*, Toowoomba 1982.
D.B. Waterson, *Squatter, selector and storekeeper: a history of the Darling Downs 1859-1893*, Sydney 1968.



ALLORA

[28°01'S 151°59'E]

Popn: 55 (1861), 1111 (1911), 161 (1981). Name: Aborig *gnallorah* = 'swampy place'. District explored by Patrick Leslie in 1840 when he estab Glengallan station: stud of NSW and German sheep set up in 1841. After 1859 Deuchar estab important Merino stud. Over 300 people on station at height of its prosperity. Dairying introduced in the 1880s–90s. Site for township selected at station outpost by NSW govt before separation of Qld in 1859; surveyed that year. Municipality from 1869. Black soil plains opened for selection in the 1860s. Coal worked 1869–99 and again 1923–29. Hopes of becoming major centre dashed when bypassed by new rlwy from **Toowoomba** to **Warwick**, although short spur line built in 1897. Darling Downs Farmers' Assoc formed here in 1885. Lucerne became important crop in the 1890s. Historical Museum now housed in courthouse (1860s).

CAMBOOYA

[27°43'S 151°52'E]

Name: Aborig = 'many winds'. Formerly known as Eton Vale. Eton Vale homestead (ruins RNE) built for Arthur Hodgson, one of first European settlers on Darling Downs. He began growing wheat successfully in 1846, estab noted sheep stud in 1850. In 1886 Lincoln rams were crossed with Merino ewes to breed for **Brisbane** and **Toowoomba** fat lamb markets. Early administrative headquarters for Downs grew up around station: commissioner for Darling Downs based here in the 1840s. Store, police station, courthouse and lands office later shifted to **Drayton** in the 1850s. The land acts of 1868 and 1872 encouraged selection of small blocks, although half the Eton Vale run was pre-empted by Hodgson and Watts. This section was cut up for closer settlement between 1900 and 1910. German farmers settled in district in the 1890s. Cambooya ceased to grow after 1920.

CECIL PLAINS

[27°32'S 151°13'E]

Popn: 88 (1911), 341 (1933), 249 (1981). Named after family name by Henry Russell who took up run in 1841–42. Ludwig Leichhardt's second journey began here in 1846; he returned in 1847 having achieved little. Early in 1848 he left again on his final, fatal journey. James Taylor, co-owner 1859–63, became lands minister and used that office to benefit himself and friends through land deals. Change from cattle to sheep c1865 reflected decline of meat market and opening of new cattle country further north and west. In 1881, 40 000 sheep lost in drought. Shearers' strike of 1891 followed squatters' repudiation of Pittsworth Agreement. Run remained in Taylor family until resumed in 1916; opened for closer settlement in 1919 with reservations for returned soldiers, 81 given land by 1928. Rlwy opened in 1919. Cotton from 1200 ha processed at ginnery in 1967.

CHINCHILLA

[26°44'S 150°39'E]

Popn: 272 (1891), 3336 (1966), 3092 (1981). Name: Aborig *jinchilla* = 'cypress pine'. Important place for



View from Bunya Mountains National Park. Once an important Aboriginal meeting place, the mountains combine rainforest, hardwood forest and scrub. Photograph by Stephen Dunbar, 1982.

Aborigs: approx 20 000 attended Binya corroboree in district in 1892. In 1893 group of co-operative (Mizpah) settlers moved here, but scheme failed after 2 years. Prickly pear well estab in district by 1864. Rlwy opened in 1878. Experimental station here bred *cactoblastis* caterpillar, first introduced in 1921: prickly pear virtually eradicated by 1935. Small-scale dairying important in district after 1910, though declined in the 1960s. Business centre moved to higher ground after severe flooding in 1942 and 1956.

CLIFTON [27°54'S 151°56'E]

Popn: 278 (1891), 1227 (1911), 659 (1981). Formerly known as King's Creek. Run estab by squatters in 1840, later owned by Francis Forbes, NSW chief justice. Cedar logs hauled from Cunningham's Gap for milling here. The 1868 Land Act opened area as selector zone. Rlwy opened in 1869. Town expanded 1890–1920 with growth of dairying. In 1891 twenty-five delegates, mainly prosperous farmers, formed the radical and populist Farmers' Alliance.

DALBY [27°10'S 151°16'E]

Popn: 109 (1856), 447 (1861), 369 (1864), 1416 (1901), 8997 (1976), 8784 (1981). Named after village on Isle of Man. Land taken up by Coxen in 1841 on Myall Creek station. Village from 1842, began as river crossing; township surveyed and proclaimed in 1854; municipality from 1863. First sod for rlwy turned here by Gov Cairns in 1868 — important railhead, eventually junction of five rlwy lines. For many yrs in the 1880s–90s Dalby was a 'pocket borough', an electorate with a small number of voters under patronage of the Bell family of **Jimbour**. District overrun by prickly pear. Growth through the 1890s restricted by dependence on large sheep runs, particularly those held by the Bells and James Taylor. Soldier settlement in district after World War II. From the 1950s dryland farming techniques, large-scale agric, machinery and new crops led to vast expansion of agric on black soils of the northern Downs and district produced one-third of Qld wheat crop.

DRAYTON [27°36'S 151°55'E]

Popn: 200 (1851), 800 (1871), 731 (1911), 455 (1933), now part of **Toowoomba**. Named after one of numerous Draytons in England. Formerly known as the Springs. First town west of Great Dividing Range in Qld, estab in 1842. Township surveyed and land sales held in 1847–48. First Bull's Head Inn built 1847–48, first on Downs and one of state's oldest; present structure (RNE) built in 1859 and restored by Nat T. One of first two country areas to receive inland mail from **Brisbane**: in 1846–47 postal service between **Sydney** and **Armidale** extended to Drayton to give Sydney–Brisbane link. Second national school in Qld opened here in 1851. Lost business to Toowoomba in the 1850s largely because of water supply problems. First Anglican church on Downs estab here in 1851 after visit by Bishop of Newcastle in 1850. Proposals to join with Toowoomba in 1858, but violently opposed. *Darling Downs Gazette* first published in

1858. First steam sawmill on Downs here in 1858, provoked anger among sawyers. First circuit court and race meeting in 1859. Municipality estab in 1862. First Roman Catholic church estab in 1866. Steele Rudd (A.H. Davis) born here in 1868, author of *On our selection* (see also Greenmount). Drayton progressively overshadowed by Toowoomba and absorbed by it.

GOONDIWINDI [28°32'S 150°18'E]

Popn: 70 (1861), 732 (1901), 3741 (1976), 3576 (1981). Name: Aborig *goona winnah* = 'droppings of ducks or shags', referring to white rocks. Gunda-winda run on southern side of present state border held from 1838. By 1846 Callandoon run and others were occupied on northern side. Callandoon virtually a village: large number of Pacific Islanders brought in as labourers, many died of pneumonia. In 1864 floods killed 30 000 sheep. Customs house (RNE, now museum) estab when colonies separated in 1859: bridge over Macintyre R was chief border crossing for cattle moving from Qld to NSW. Occupied by border patrol 1872–94 to prevent illegal trading with NSW. Municipality from 1888. Rlwy opened in 1908 and led to renewed growth. Welltown poll Shorthorn cattle stud important in popularising breed in Qld. Expansion of mixed farming in district, especially to east, with new machinery and crop varieties since the the 1950s.

GREENMOUNT [27°47'S 151°57'E]

Popn: 109 (1891), 746 (1911), 131 (1966). Descriptive name for hill near town. Formerly known as Emu Creek. Earlier almost exclusively sheep grazing, later more intensive agric. Part of selector belt opened by 1868 Land Act: large runs subdivided to give properties from 260 ha to about 2000 ha. Steele Rudd (A.H. Davis) went to Emu Creek school until aged 12; later wrote novels, bred polo ponies and played polo at nearby Nobby. *On our selection* and other works based on his experiences on his father's selection here featured characters of Dad and Dave. First viable cheese factory on Downs estab here c1893, several in district by 1916. Sister Elizabeth Kenny, famous for a breakthrough in polio treatment in 1941, lived in Nobby and was buried there in 1952; but her later, most significant work was in USA after she moved in 1940.

HEADINGTON HILL [27°54'S 152°00'E]

Popn: 180 (1911), 106 (1961). In 1867 Davenport and Fisher, the latter a great Vic and SA pastoralist, formed Headington Hill run from a myriad of small selections belonging to absentee owners. During 1868–73, they introduced a new system of large-scale mixed farming, putting capital into improvements, more employees and new American implements. Sheep stud estab in 1871. By 1879, 600 ha under cultivation: lucerne, maize, wheat. Fisher lost his selection later as he was not a Qld resident. Estate resumed by govt for closer settlement in 1897.

INGLEWOOD [28°25'S 151°04'E]

Popn: 31 (1864), 1027 (1911), 800 (1947), 984 (1981). Named after forest in Cumbria, England, = 'English

wood'. Formerly known as Brown's Inn and Parriegana. District explored by Allan Cunningham in 1827 and by Patrick Leslie. Brown's Inn estab at stopping place on route to Goondiwindi and village grew around it. Surveyed and name changed in 1862. Pastoral area with many large stations; grazing selectors became prominent in the 1880s–90s. Rlwy opened in 1907: station named Parriegana, but locals objected and removed station sign on the day governor arrived to open station. More recently a centre of Qld tobacco industry.

JIMBOUR [26°57'S 151°13'E]

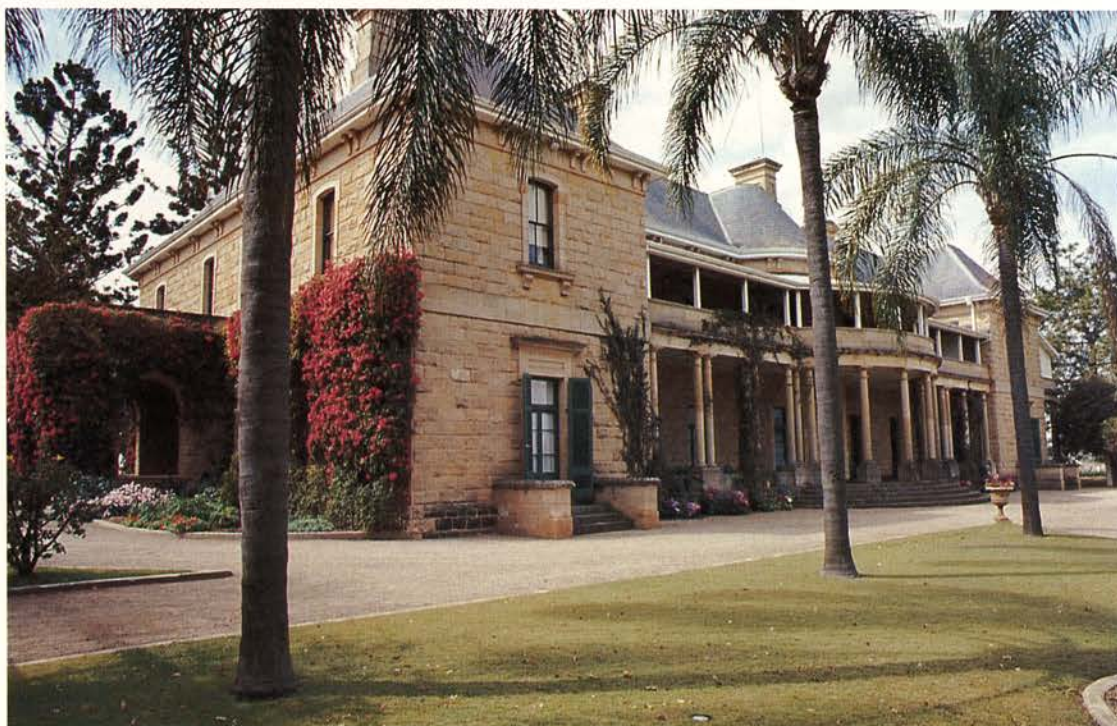
Popn: 188 (1911), 372 (1961), 114 (1966). Name: Aborig *jimba* or *gimba* = 'bush grass'. Station estab in 1842: Jimbour homestead (RNE) built in 1874 by Bell family, became centre of virtual village. Joshua Bell became Qld treasurer in the 1860s, president of legislative council and later minister for lands. In last role he received 2800 ha of land meant for others and was openly favoured by 1872 resumptions that were judiciously surveyed to preserve integrity of Jimbour station. Auction in 1881 in which the minister had an interest coincided with formation of Darling Downs Western Land Co. Sheep stud estab in 1864. In 1870 employed 54 shearers for 210 000 sheep, yielding 1409 bales of wool in 15 weeks. By 1884 had 22 dams, 26 reservoirs, 20 wells. Used first tractor (kerosene-powered) on Downs in 1912. Rlwy opened in 1914. Estate of 50 000 ha resumed and settled by 157 soldier settlers after World War I.

JONDARYAN [27°21'S 151°37'E]

Popn: 176 (1891), 630 (1911), 167 (1966). Name: from Joondooyan, Aborig name for large lagoon on Oakey Creek. Station settled and named in 1842, one of first free selections taken up in district. By the 1860s, largest freehold station in state with 150 000 sheep. St Anne's Church (RNE) built c1859, one of oldest surviving in Qld, moved and renovated after huge floods of 1893. Famous 120-yr old woolshed (RNE): built in 1858–59 for £3300; 91 m long, cover for 3000 sheep, 88 blade shearers; 100 000 sheep shorn in a season; and tramway for fleeces and bales. Now restored as working museum. Rlwy opened in 1867. In 1870 election, Ipswich supporters of one candidate arrived by special train, cut telegraph wires and swamped polling booth, voting illegally. Grain increased in importance with closer settlement after the 1860s. Station was first scene of confrontation between pastoralists and shearers in 1888–89: the Jondaryan strike over employment of coloured labour on wool ships and later over closed-shop principle for shearers very important. Soldier settlement after World War II.

KOOROONGARRA [28°06'S 151°15'E]

Popn: 188 (1911), 164 (1961). By 1913 the only surviving village among a number estab by Qld govt as village centres or embryo townships to serve smallholding areas created for poorer families to set themselves up in agric. Each settlement was to be self-contained with diverse employment. Scheme failed.



*Jimbour homestead, Jimbour. The homestead was built in 1874 by the Bell family.
Photograph by Douglass Baglin.*

WELDON TRANNIES

LEYBURN [28°00'S 151°35'E]

Popn: 84 (1861), 302 (1911), 149 (1966). Named after town in Yorkshire, England. Alluvial and quartz gold area from the mid-1860s. Fossickers spread there from Thanos Creek and Darkey Flat (see Talgai). Camps dotted the creek banks. Royal Hotel dates from that period. Many miners left for rich **Gympie** fields: some returned in the 1870s and had some success, but deeper leads expensive to mine and had flooding problems. Quartz crushing machine estab in 1876. Lady Caroline was only digging in Qld worked through from the 1860s to end of century. Township surveyed in 1850. Once main centre for southwest Qld with courthouse and miners' and licensing courts. Stopping place for teamsters between **Ipswich** and **Goondiwindi**. Steam sawmill estab in 1875. Failure to attract rlwy hastened decline.

MILES [26°39'S 150°13'E]

Popn: 170 (1891), 1485 (1966), 1262 (1981). Named after William Miles, Qld colonial secretary, in 1877. Formerly named Dogwood Creek by Ludwig Leichhardt who passed through on three expeditions. Rlwy opened in 1878, station known as Dogwood Crossing: Cobb & Co continued from this terminus to **Roma**. Township grew with rlwy construction, lost impetus after contractors moved on when next stage finished in 1882. An 1884 act led to grazing selection around township.

MOONIE [27°42'S 150°23'E]

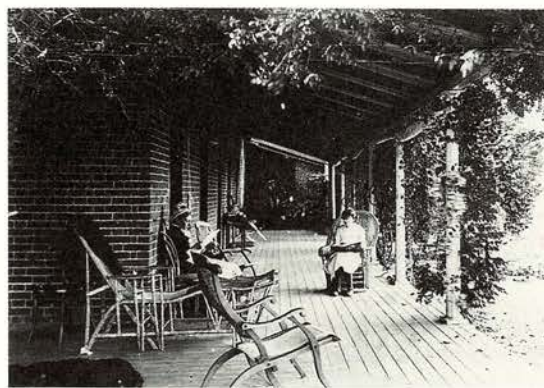
Popn: 61 (1911), 50 (1933). District on Moonie R settled by Europeans in 1845. Aust's first commercially exploited oilfield discov in 1961 and operative by 1964. Joined to **Brisbane** refineries by pipeline. Alton field discov in 1964: joined to Moonie by pipeline and producing by 1966. In 1970 two fields together produced 5000 barrels daily.

Oakey [27°26'S 151°44'E]

Popn: 91 (1891), 1119 (1933), 2857 (1981). Named for river oaks on creek. District settled by Europeans in the 1840s, but township only developed after rlwy opened in 1867. First (and last) meatworks on Darling Downs estab here in 1871 — marketed a 'tinned extract of wallaby' in England under trade name 'Australian Game', but unsuccessful. Meat preserving factory estab in 1876; meatworks employed Polynesian labour. Freezing works at **Brisbane** and **Tenterfield** replaced Oakey works. Famous racehorse 'Bernborough' bred nearby in 1939. Army aviation centre and airport for **Toowoomba**: a large Air Force training base during World War II.

PITTSWORTH [27°42'S 151°39'E]

Popn: 231 (1891), 1684 (1911), 1113 (1933), 1817 (1981). Named after Pitt family who held Goombungee station. Known as Buaraba to 1915. Goombungee station occupied in 1854. Town began as hotel opened by a local squatter and developed as centre for landowners in the 1880s. Branch rlwy opened in 1887. Pittsworth Co-op Dairy Co estab in 1896. Wheat and barley increasingly important c1894–1915. Cheese making



The front verandah of a homestead at Yandillah, near Pittsworth, typical of the dwellings built by landowners as Pittsworth developed its agricultural resources in the 1880s. Photograph 1885.

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began in 1906, became a co-operative in 1932: two other cheese factories in immediate area. District produced 80 per cent of Downs' cheese in 1914. In 1923 made the 'big cheese' for World Dairy Show in London — 1.5 tonnes of cheddar, largest ever made in Aust. Pittsworth Agreement between Qld Shearers' Union and Darling Downs Pastoralists' Assoc reluctantly endorsed by Labor Assoc as temporary truce; breaking of it by pastoralists led to 1891 shearers' strike.

PRATTEN [28°05'S 151°47'E]

Popn: 137 (1901), 302 (1911), 106 (1961). Named after George Pratten, surveyor. Known as Darkey Flat until 1913. Site of Goomginal massacre of Aborigines in 1840. Gold found soon after **Talgai** discovery of 1864. Pratten or Darkey Flat was one of highest yielding diggings on **Talgai** fields. Populous township then: now almost deserted, but the only remaining township on the 200 sq km **Talgai** goldfields. Still some mining as late as the 1930s.

STANTHORPE [28°39'S 151°56'E]

Popn: 735 (1891), 2158 (1933), 3966 (1981). First inn built in 1857 as isolated coaching station. District opened under 1868 land act. Tin discov on Quart Pot Creek and nearby streams in 1871–72. Alluvial mining followed with some very rich claims. Peak output was in 1873, mining lasted many yrs and recently revived on mechanised scale. In the 1870s there was a daily Cobb & Co service between town and diggings. In 1873 'Indignation' meeting held to protest at arrival of 100 Chinese on diggings. Fruit growing and market gardening developed in the 1870s; apples and pears most important fruit. Silver and lead mined c1880, but venture short lived. Rlwy opened in 1881: many employed on further track construction in district 1891–93. German farmers settled in district in the 1890s. Diamond find at Spring Creek in 1872. The prime minister W.M. (Billy) Hughes attempted to speak on conscription issue at rlwy station in 1917, but station master of opposing views started train and

Hughes had to run to catch it. Soldier settlement from 1919. Large Italian population from the 1930s including Italian POWs: set up a few wineries in area, became involved in fruit industry. District stimulated by soldier settlement schemes in 1918. Girraween Nat Pk to southeast created in 1965 to include two smaller nat pks proclaimed in 1932.

TALGAI [28°00'S 151°46'E]

Popn: 317 (1911), 72 (1947). Old Talgai run taken up by George Dalrymple in 1840, including Goomburra and part of Clifton stations. Property divided 1862–65. High-grade Merino stud on East Talgai from 1867. Part of original Old Talgai run later subdivided into dairy sharefarms. Toolburra station founded in 1840 as headstation for the Leslies who took up large tracts reaching to headwaters of Condamine R and tributaries. In early yrs 22 ticket-of-leave men worked on property. Gradually divided and sold: western section opened for selection by 1876 land act. Talgai goldfield one of oldest in Qld. Small nuggets found along creeks in the 1850s; first payable find on Friday Creek in 1864. Talgai and Canal Creek fields had 850 diggers in 1865–66. Rich working in following years, but largely alluvial gold, so soon became unpayable. Gold first discov on Thaness Creek to southwest in 1868, first reef discov in 1879 with about 11 others to follow, but all abandoned by 1899. Goldfields created demand for local foodstuffs. The 'Talgai skull', that of a 14–16 yr old boy, found on station in 1886, but its significance not appreciated until 1914 when seen as definite evidence of human presence in Aust in Pleistocene times (12 000 to 16 000 yrs ago).

TAROOM [25°38'S 149°47'E]

Popn: 63 (1861), 438 (1933), 688 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'lime tree'. Formerly known as Bonner's Nob. The 'Leichhardt tree' was carved by explorer in 1844. Originally encampment at river crossing, small township with post office by 1856. First surveyed in 1860. Influx of Irish settlers under Qld Immigration Soc 1861–65. Chinese also settled here in the 1860s. Fraser family and servants (10 people in all) massacred at Hornet Bank station in 1857 — led to policy of shooting on sight members of Jiman Aborig group. William Yaldwyn of Taroom station made first attempt at framing Qld's constitution. First president of legislative council, Charles Nicholson, and first Qld premier, Robert Herbert, came from district. In 1911 all remaining western Qld Aborigs were placed on a reserve here. District part of Fitzroy Basin Land Development Scheme begun to improve heavy clay soils of brigalow country: 110 000 ha cleared for cattle and winter crops by 1963. Coal deposits in area: 1970 company estimate of 38m tonnes of non-coking coal under and near Taroom.

TEXAS [28°50'S 151°11'E]

Popn: 123 (1891), 1266 (1961), 807 (1981). Named after US state. Settled by Europeans in 1842. Headquarters of border customs officer who doubled as sheep and lands inspector for Goondiwindi and Warwick districts in the 1870s. In the 1880s tobacco indus-

try developed, most landholders employing Chinese labourers. Tobacco was cured and taken by teams to Brisbane and other large towns for processing. Stemming factory and small tobacco plug factory estab, but latter put out of action by 1890 flood. Town, originally on river, was moved 2 km north after that flood. W.D. and H.O. Wills set up plantation at Raleigh in district in 1908, also brought out US advisers and set up flue-curing experiment on Texas station. Their operation abandoned in 1913. Small farms and tobacco companies set up by unemployed in depression. Industry revived in the mid-1930s using mainly Italian labour.

TOOWOOMBA [27°34'S 151°58'E]

Popn: 1183 (1861), 7007 (1891), 26 423 (1933), 63 401 (1981). Name: Aborig *tchwampa* = 'the swamp', or *choowoom* = 'native melon'. Formerly known as the Swamp; present name first publicly used in 1858.

Early and district history In 1849 the Drayton Swamp Agric Area was surveyed; T.S. Mort, well-known woolbroker was one of purchasers. Intended originally as agric area to supply Drayton. Thomas Alford settled in district and named his house Toowoomba in 1852. Gowrie run innovative: wool scouring works in the late 1870s, first shearing machines on Downs there in 1887. Estate of 17 000 ha resumed in 1901 for 148 settlers.

Municipal history Began as suburb of Drayton, but soon outgrew it. Survey and land sales of the Swamp in 1853. Municipality from 1860; town from 1887; city from 1904. Greater Toowoomba scheme to plan city's development in 1917 included parts of adjacent shires.

Services and industry Aerated water and cordial factory and tannery estab in 1860. In 1861 Qld's first telegraph service linked Toowoomba with Ipswich and Brisbane. Town hall, said to be first in Qld, built in 1862. Cobb & Co services, among earliest, began in 1865, gained mail contracts in 1866. Rlwy opened in 1867. *Toowoomba Chronicle* estab in the 1860s; also boiling-down plants for tallow. Trial of T.S. Mort's method of freezing meat for export in 1868. Qld's first brewery and first malthouse (Perkins) estab in 1869 — brewery now closed, but malt still produced. Large foundry estab in 1871, its main success being with Southern Cross and Simplex windmills, but rlwy rolling stock also important product. Synagogue estab in 1875. Typhoid deaths in 1874–78 with severe epidemic in 1878 — attributed to cesspits draining into wells of Toowoomba brewery. Gas lighting introduced in 1878. Confectionery works set up 1873–79; tobacco works 1881–86; boot and shoe factory 1887–91; cold storage and ice works in 1889. Proposal to bypass Toowoomba and link Warwick directly to Brisbane by rail caused 5 yr controversy 1884–89. Electricity supply from 1906. Roman Catholic diocese of Toowoomba estab in 1929. First Qantas airmail service from London to Brisbane called here in 1934. ABC's first Qld regional station estab here in 1939. Armaments factory here 1939–45. Lionel Lindsay Art Gallery and Library estab in 1959.



Wheat harvesting, Green Hills farm near Warwick, 1894.

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Qld Wheat Research Inst estab in 1962; Darling Downs Inst of Advanced Education in 1971.

Miscellaneous James Taylor of Cecil Plains and William Groom, member of the legislative assembly for Drayton and Toowoomba 1863–1901 and first federal member for the Darling Downs, are considered ‘fathers’ of Toowoomba. Serious navy strike in 1865, riots in 1867. Darling Downs Pastoralists’ Assoc formed in 1890, forerunner of Australian Assoc that challenged and defeated shearers in industrial turmoil of 1894. First meeting of Workers’ Political Assoc on Downs held in 1891. Aust’s first recorded appendectomy performed here in 1893. Poet George Essex Evans spent much of his life here, helped ‘Banjo’ Paterson found the *Antipodean*. Camp for unemployed estab at Eagles Nest by city council during depression of the 1930s. Qld Country (National) Party founded here in 1936.

WANDOAN [26°07’S 149°58’E]

Popn: 86 (1911), 530 (1981). Known as Juandah until 1927. District explored by Ludwig Leichhardt in 1844. Juandah station was original run: raided by Aborigines after Hornet Bank massacre (see Taroom), 150 Aborigines killed and buried nearby. Town surveyed in 1902, subdivisions 1902–10, first land sale in 1913. Rlwy opened in 1914. Prickly pear first appeared in the 1880s: originally used as paddock ‘fencing’ in district, but grew out of control to become ‘jungle’. Eradicated by *cactoblastis* caterpillars c1930. Over 100 soldier settlement blocks occupied after World War II.

WARWICK [28°13’S 152°02’E]

Popn: 267 (1851), 3836 (1901), 10 065 (1966), 8853 (1981). District explored by Allan Cunningham in

1827. Settled in 1840 by Leslie brothers who took up Canning Downs run: original house (RNE) built c1846, stables in the 1850s. A small village grew up on station. Important as site of beginning of pastoral industries of southeast Qld. Sheep stud estab in 1867 — first cross-breeding in Qld sheep industry when pure Leicester ram introduced into merino flock in 1869. Experiments in running Peruvian llamas for mohair in the 1850s were unsuccessful. In 1847 Patrick Leslie was authorised by NSW govt to select site for town on part of Canning Downs station. First store estab in 1848. Survey and town plan produced in 1849, first allotments sold in 1850. Municipality from 1861, city from 1936. Warwick Agric Reserve proclaimed in 1860 and adjacent pastoralists used their children to take up the 130 ha lots. Soon after, much of choice land near Toowoomba rlwy route taken up by scores of dummies and agents for local pastoralists. Warwick East state school (RNE) built 1862–64: one of first national schools in Qld. Many other early buildings survive. First settlement on Downs to grow wheat on large scale. Cordial factory estab in 1860. Cobb & Co estab service in 1865; rlwy from Ipswich opened in 1871, terminated here for a time. Brewery estab in 1873, but closed in 1895. In 1873–74 one of earliest co-operatives in Qld formed to build and operate modern flour mill. Brick and tile works estab in 1874, bacon factory in 1890. Gas lighting from 1889. Dairy factory estab on Canning Downs in the 1890s, later closed and moved to Toowoomba. Tannymorell colliery opened in 1896. First motor ambulance in Qld here in 1912. In 1917 the prime minister W. M. (Billy) Hughes spoke on conscription and was hit by an egg: refusal of local police to arrest person responsible resulted in formation of a Commonwealth Police Force.