History

Although the town of Gladstone, named after one of the early Prime Ministers of Great Britain, W.E. Gladstone, was announced in 1853 by Governor Fitzroy, the harbour had been documented as early as August 1802 by Matthew Flinders when he was circumnavigating Australia. Noting a large harbour, which he named Port Curtis, Flinders also documented the presence of Aboriginals. The tribes were later identified as Bailai (Byellee), Gooreng Gooreng and Toolooa.

After a previous attempt to establish a settlement, Surveyor Francis MacCabe had chosen a site by June 1853. He surveyed streets in a grid pattern, and marked out allotments. By 1854, MacCabe had surveyed 35 hectares for the township and 7,000 square miles of the surrounding countryside. The first non-indigenous settlers arrived in March 1854 with one, Captain Maurice O'Connell, sworn in as Government Resident by Governor Fitzroy on 17 April 1854.

From that time, the town grew and although struggled with water, transport and communications, by 1860 Gladstone was proclaimed a town. By 1963 a major industrial boom occurred, creating the Gladstone of today and fulfilling its original expectations.

Today several of the early buildings can still be seen, such as part of the original town hall, and many of the streets still carry their original names drawn either from aboriginal words or significant persons within settlement history.

Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum

FREE ADMISSION

Open 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday, public holidays as advertised.
Corner Goondoon & Bramston Streets, Gladstone Qld 4680.

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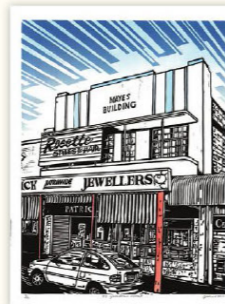## 79 Goondoon Street

#79 The Grand Hotel, Geoffrey Head, 2010.

The Grand Hotel was built in 1898 by Faircloth of Bundaberg, costing £2,500 ($5,000). At that time it contained seventeen bedrooms, one sitting room, one commercial room, two bathrooms, one bar and one bar parlour.

The hotel was built to accommodate the influx of passengers waiting for sea transport to and from North Queensland as the railway terminated at Gladstone. Two stern wheel paddle steamers, the Miner (a government vessel), and the Premier, transported railway passengers through 'The Narrows' to Rockhampton until the railway line connecting both towns was completed in December 1903.

The prominent high point of the hotel - the widow's walk - has sat on top of the hotel since the building's original construction. It was enclosed during World War II and used as the official Coast Watch Tower.

Extensively damaged by fire in 1993, the Hotel was restored to its former glory and reopened in 1995.

Roseberry Street was named after Lord Roseberry, a prominent English parliamentarian of the time.

98 Goondoon Street

#98 Patricks Jewellers, Geoffrey Head, 2010

In 1919 Colin Patrick purchased a jewellers shop in Goondoon Street previously owned by Mrs Hermes. The shop, which had living quarters at the rear, was destroyed by fire in late 1938. The family escaped with just their night attire.

New premises were built on the site, a two-storey building with tenants on the top floor and two shops at ground level. Colin Patrick reopened his business in one of the two shops.

After World War II, Noel and Doug joined their father in the shop and formed the partnership, C D Patrick and Sons. Noel served his apprenticeship under his father and was the only child, of the five sons, to become a watchmaker.

Noel's son, Ross, joined the firm and when Doug retired in 1980, Ross, in partnership with his father, Noel, became the third generation of Patrick's Jewellers to serve the people of Gladstone.

114 Goondoon Street

#114 Former Commonwealth Bank, Geoffrey Head, 2010.

In 1927 vacant land in Goondoon Street between William and Roseberry Streets was purchased for £700 ($1,400), to erect a purpose-designed building for the Commonwealth Bank, Gladstone Branch.

Plans were prepared by Commonwealth Department of Works and Railway for a substantial, two-storey 'Spanish style' brick building, with ground floor banking chamber and manager's residence upstairs.

Tenders were called and local contractor Mr F.F. Hill was awarded the contract. Costing £8,384 ($16,768) the bank was opened for business in September 1929. The building remained the Bank's principal Gladstone branch until February 1972.

Bramston Street was named after Sir John Bramston, Member of the Legislative Council 1863-1869

144 Goondoon Street

#144 Former Gladstone Town Hall, Geoffrey Head, 2010.

The building was designed by Rockhampton architect Roy Chipps and built during the economic depression to generate employment. The Queensland Department of Labour granted Gladstone Town Council a subsidy of nearly £5,000 ($10,000) to employ labour under the Unemployed Worker's Scheme.

The Gladstone Town Hall and Municipal Chambers officially opened on 15 September 1934 by the Hon H.A. Bruce MLA, Minister for Public Works.

The council offices and meeting room fronted Goondoon Street. The town's World War I Honour Board was relocated from the Memorial building on the corner of Goondoon and Roseberry Streets to the new council board room.

The public hall behind the offices rapidly became the hub of community life, with a weekly baby clinic, picture shows 3 times a week, balls, stage shows, bingos, community group meetings, wedding receptions, and immunisation service. A children's library was opened in the basement in 1956 followed by small adult library in 1957.

The Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum was opened on 3 April 1985, and the building was registered on the State Heritage list in 1998.

Over the Hill
WALKING TOUR
OF THE GOONDOON STREET GLADSTONE

Introduction

Welcome to the *Over the Hill* pop-up public art heritage trail installation, featuring the exciting artwork of award-winning local artist, Geoffrey Head and highlighting some of the significant historical architecture of the Gladstone CBD.

"This series of prints are a visual record of the diversity of the architectural style represented in Goondoon Street. The structures represented have endured different owners and functions throughout their existence. The series pays homage to them and their significant place in the community."

Geoffrey Head, 2010

An initiative of the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum, this project brings art and heritage together in a modern blend, utilising the latest print technology.

Newprint HRG, a locally-owned family run business operating for over 35 years, have reproduced the artworks in *Alumigraphics*, a purposed material for the foot traffic expected in the city's busy main street.

We are also excited that local photographer William Debois from Photopia Studio has documented the installation for the Gallery & Museum, and his images are featured in this publication.

Local historical researcher and author of *What's in a Name? The Stories behind the Street Names of Gladstone Queensland*, Paulette Flint, working in conjunction with Gallery & Museum staff and volunteers, brings a further dimension to this 2016 project.

Mrs Flint's walking tours will lead curious and inquisitive folk on four fabulous adventures of the ten featured Goondoon Street locations. Don't miss your chance to join in an easy-going walking tour: 9 August 2016, 25 October 2016, 20 December 2016 or 4 January 2017. For further information please contact the Gallery & Museum.

Jo Duke,
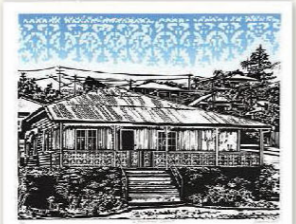Curator, Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum

1 Goondoon Street

#1 Gladstone Yacht Club,
Geoffrey Head, 2010.

The Port Curtis Aquatic Club was established in Gladstone in 1941 and by 1947 it was renamed the Port Curtis Sailing Club. In the same year the Club began fundraising to build a clubhouse for the development of sailing sport in Gladstone. Gladstone Harbour Board, now Gladstone Ports Corporation, allotted the area of land for the clubhouse. Timber for the floors and building frames were supplied by property owners in the Calliope River area whose gum trees were flattened by the 1949 cyclone. Willing Club members assisted in logging trees, cutting frames and assembling the building.

The facility, now listed on the Queensland Heritage Register, opened in March 1959. A new trading name, the Gladstone Yacht Club, was established in the mid-1970s when a liquor licence was granted. The building is culturally significant to Queensland in illustrating the development of the sport of sailing and is closely associated with the annual Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race which began in 1949.
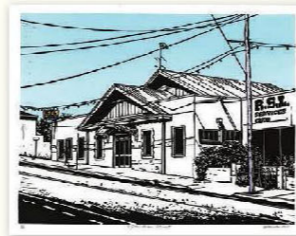
Lord Street is thought to be named after the ship, Lord Auckland, that Colonel Barney and settlers travelled in during the first failed settlement in 1847.

4 Goondoon Street

#4 Goondoon St,
Geoffrey Head, 2010.

Originally a private home, the house was converted into the Metropolitan Hotel in 1865. The first licensee, Samuel Evans, advertised it as: "a quiet retreat and moderate charges. A luxury not to be procured with safety in any other part of town".

The Metropolitan Hotel was one of the most popular hotels and the oldest building in Gladstone. In September 1910 the hotel was destroyed by fire. Mr W.R. Golding, a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and first on the scene, noted there was little they could do because of the age of the building and the lack of suitable firefighting water supply.

Temporary premises were erected adjacent to the burnt hotel, but the licence for it was revoked in 1912. Mr Golding purchased the land on which the Metropolitan Hotel had once stood and built five houses. The current house is now a business premises.

7 Goondoon Street

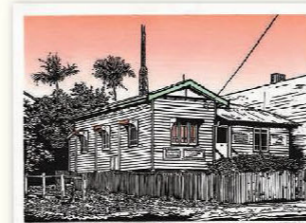#7 RSL Clubhouse,
Geoffrey Head, 2010.

One of Gladstone's oldest buildings, part of the former Returned and Services League (RSL) Clubhouse, was originally the first Gladstone Town Hall. The foundation stone for it was laid on 28 November 1868.

Various items were placed in a stone recess in the foundation of this building: some coins of the realm, a copy of the Gladstone Observer and a parchment document noting the names of Governor Sir Samuel Blackall, members of the ministry, the Town Clerk and Alderman responsible for this first municipal building. These items have never been recovered.

The building served as Gladstone's civic chamber for 64 years. When the Council Administration moved into the new Town Hall, which was built in 1934, the old municipal building was first leased and later transferred to the RSL Club. Unfortunately, the Club was forced to close in 2003. Part of the original façade was retained during various renovations between 1936 and 2003.

Goondoon Street is thought to be of Aboriginal origin, meaning 'waterbag'. It was first named Gondoon in the original survey carried out by MacCabe in 1853.

14 Goondoon Street

#14 Goondoon St,
Geoffrey Head, 2010.

The house has been lovingly renovated by the current owner close to its original appearance, and has received an affectionate nickname, 'Grandma's House' from the staff at the private enterprise currently occupying the building. Research is continued on the history of the house.

33 Goondoon Street

#33 Former Gladstone Post Office,
Geoffrey Head, 2010.

The town's first post office was officially gazetted on 1 July 1854 and opened at the present site of the Reef Hotel on the north east corner of Goondoon and Yarroon Streets.

Over the years it occupied a number of premises before moving to this site where a large wooden post office building was erected.

In 1932 a purpose-designed post office for the Commonwealth Postmaster General replaced the original wooden building.

Only seven of this 'twin porch' type masonry post offices were erected in Queensland during 1923-1932, with Gladstone Post Office as the only to include a clock tower. The existing clock mechanism originated in Maryborough in about 1900. It was overhauled and reinstalled to fit the new building. The Post Office was officially opened on 23 July 1932. By the mid-1990s, changes in postal handling techniques made the building redundant to Australia Post and it was sold to a private enterprise in 1997.

40 Goondoon Street

#40 Kullaroo House,
Geoffrey Head, 2010.

Constructed in 1910-11 for the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd, the building has a long and interesting history. After many years of business the bank made the decision to invest in a new, purpose-built banking premises and sold the building to Gladstone businessman Mr M.A. Busteed.

In the early 1960s the building was used as flats and was given the name Kullaroo House. The word 'Kullaroo' is believed to be an Aboriginal word meaning 'road that leads to water'. In the 1970s new owners, lawyers Goodwin, McKenzie, Forbes and Partners, refurbished the building as law offices, retaining much of the original detailing. In the late 1980s Kullaroo House was used as a restaurant.

In 1993 it was purchased by the Gladstone Port Authority, now Gladstone Ports Corporation. Extensions designed in the style of the 1911 bank, including a cupola, were added in 1996.