

Wandoan Heritage Trail



Content and history contributed by the Juandah Heritage Society Inc.

1. Wandoan Windmill & Visitor Information Centre

This iconic windmill marks the entrance to Wandoan from the Leichhardt Highway and stands next to the Visitor Information Centre. The mill has a 40-foot tower, a wheel diameter of 27-feet and would once have been able to pump between 5000 and 7000 gallons of water per day. The mill was originally erected to pump water from a bore on "Bungaban" station and was donated by the station's owner to the Wandoan & District Progress Association who arranged to have it relocated to its present position in O'Sullivan Park. The Visitor Information Centre is housed within the original Juandah Railway Station building which was relocated to this spot in 2008. The information centre houses vital information for visitors as well as a range of home-made and local crafts for purchase including rare pieces of petrified tree fern found locally.

2. Mick the Dog & O'Sullivan Park

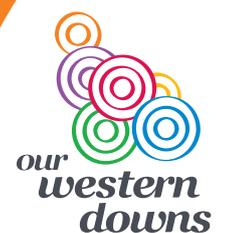
The family friendly O'Sullivan Park is home to the Visitor Information Centre, Wandoan Skate Park, excellent amenities, play equipment and our cherished statue of Mick the dog (learn about Mick's significance in section six). In December each year, the park comes to life as it hosts our Community Christmas Carnival with entertainment on the deck of the railway building that houses the Information Centre.

3. Town Bore & Water Tower

In 1965, reticulated water was made available to the residents of Wandoan. The beautiful mural painted on one of the storage tanks was a project of the Wandoan & District Progress Association and acknowledges the story of our early settlers, the people from our district who served in the Wars and our industries.

4. Community Cultural Centre & Wandoan Heritage Stone

This building was opened in December 1987 and has been a great benefit to this community ever since. With excellent acoustics, it has become known by visiting artists as one of the best venues outside of the major centres and can easily seat 500 people. The building also houses the Wandoan Library, a gallery space and the Customer Service Centre of Western Downs Regional Council. Located in the quiet courtyard of the Centre is a huge piece of local sandstone with the history of our district depicted on its face. The ceramic figures were crafted by local artists using local ochre to colour their clay. The story unfolds from the top left hand side with the arrival of Leichhardt, the settling of "Juandah Station" by the Roys family and the eventual appearance of mail and passenger coaches. Underneath one of the trees sits the heroic Mick the cattle dog. The Prickly Pear which took over the country for some years is also acknowledged.





5. Old Town Hall

This hall was built in 1939 by private subscription of local residents of the area. An official Opening Ball was held with local people providing the music. The hall continued to be an important social venue until 1987 when the Community Cultural Centre was built. It is now used as a gymnasium. Outside the hall, there are located bottle trees which were planted by the citizens of Wandoan and District to commemorate Victory in the Pacific (V.E.) Day, 7 May 1945.

6. Royds Street Mural

This mural depicts the true story of Mick, a blue cattle dog who saved his master's life after a bad fall from his horse during mustering on Juandah Station in 1901. Please make the worthwhile visit to the Juandah Historical Site for a more detailed telling of his heroic story.

7. Juandah Hotel

The original Juandah Hotel was established in 1900 on Juandah Station and was relocated to this position after the coming of the railway in 1914. This site is significant in that it marked the early beginnings of the Wandoan settlement.

8. Wandoan Post Office

The first Post Office in Wandoan was the railway station. After a few relocations, this Post Office building was erected in 1958. As well as being a depot for receiving and distributing mail, it also housed the Wandoan Telephone Exchange until STD came to Wandoan in 1982. Today, the proprietors of the Post Office also offer Government Agents Services.

9. Lawn Bowls Club

This club was formed in 1963 as a joint initiative of the local RSL branch and local citizens. Throughout the years the club has been an important focus for social and recreational activities.

10. Waterloo Plain Environmental Park

This man-made lake, with its central island, was originally constructed and maintained by the Wandoan & District Progress Association. It is an ideal recreational area for young and old. The Wandoan Lions Club has established exercise stations in the area for those interested in physical fitness, and the Progress Association has picnic tables and seats for those who just want to sit and admire the view.

11. Wandoan State School

Originally an "open air", one roomed building, a school was opened on this site in 1915 (prior to this a provisional school had operated at 'Juandah' from 1911). The walls were roll-up blinds which were rather inefficient; being cold in winter, dusty in summer and readily torn. The parent's committee lobbied for a better school. This was built in 1918, and the "open air school" became the new school for Guluguba. With the advent of the Soldier Settlement Scheme in 1952, the one-teacher school became a two-teacher school and quickly grew in pupil and teacher numbers, leading to more classrooms being built. At one stage, the enrolment exceeded 400 pupils. In 1961, the Secondary Department was officially opened with 17 students. An activity hall, library, tuckshop, extra classrooms and pre-school have since been added. The school acquired extra land and a new sports oval was constructed.

12. Scout Den

This building has had an interesting life. It was originally the second Wandoan School and when it was out-grown here it was transported to Guluguba. When a new school was built at Guluguba in 1973, this building returned to Wandoan to its present site and was used as a Scout Den for some time.





13. Old Guide Hut (Meals-on-Wheels)

This building started life as a Bank of New South Wales building at Jackson. It was then owned by a local family who gave it to the Wandoan Guides for removal in the early 1970s. The verandah floors came from Gurulmundi forest cottage which was also given to the Guides for removal. Local families guaranteed a loan and local tradesmen gave their time and expertise to complete the building. Guides numbers declined and in 1996 the building was acquired by the Wandoan Meals-on-Wheels. This organisation's volunteers now use the building as a kitchen and respite centre as a service to our community.

14. Hamlyn Street Cemetery Reserve

Not easily seen from the road-side, this historic cemetery reserve contains the graves of some of our earlier pioneers. Dedicated research by interested locals has revealed three marked graves and three unmarked. Those that are marked date back to the early 1900s: a Mr John Walsh, died in 1920; the teenage son of Aboriginal Stockman, John Nipps, from Juandah Station; and one unnamed site believed to be that of a railway worker who was struck by lightning sometime between 1913 and 1914. Of the unmarked graves, local research suggests that one of these belongs to an adult while the other two belong to infants.

15. Golf Club

Owned and maintained by a team of volunteers from the community, the Wandoan Golf Club has recently reopened with renewed vigour. The once 18-hole sand green is now a 14-hole course.

16. Wandoan War Memorial Showgrounds

This area of 75 acres was originally a Racecourse and Recreation Reserve. After a public meeting in 1949/50, the Wandoan Branch of the R.S.L., with permission from

the Lands Department, named the grounds the Wandoan War Memorial Grounds in memory of the gallant local men and women who had served their country in the Wars. The horse-drawn field gun is quite rare, and is an important part of the memorial. Today the immaculate grounds are home to first-class, multi-use facilities which are extensively utilised by a range of community groups. The showgrounds have been known to host State Polocrosse Championships as well as the annual Wandoan Polocrosse Carnival, Wandoan Diggers Race Day, Bucking for Cancer Rodeo and Wandoan Show.

17. Old Dip Yards

The Wandoan District is currently a tick-free area thanks to the diligent dipping of cattle moving through our area in the past. The cattle tick is an external parasite that can significantly reduce the live-weight gain of cattle and has been known to seriously affect the economy of cattle production. These old dip yards are no longer used, but played a prominent role in protecting the high quality beef stock that is produced in our district.

18. Juandah Historical Site

This is the scene of the first European settlement here in the late 1840s. The site was purchased by the Juandah Heritage Society Inc. in February 1999, and the Society is committed to the preservation of this important part of Queensland's history. With some original buildings and structures still intact or carefully retained, and a Folk Museum capturing social history with beautifully displayed heritage items, it is well worth a look inside these grounds.

19. Parkside Timber Mill

Harvesting of local timber has been an important industry in Wandoan for many years, with mills in various parts of the district as well as in Wandoan. This complex was opened in 1987, and continues to be a strong employer in the community.





20. Windeyer Road Cemetery Reserve

Just south of the Juandah Stock Yards is another site of graves that date back to our early pioneers. To date, local research has revealed four grave sites in this location.

21. Old Sale Yards Site

The Wandoan district is well known as having some of the best cattle growing country in Queensland. This extensive complex was built in 1966 with capacity for 1000 head, and expanded in 1974. In 1970-71, 64,339 head of cattle passed through these yards. These facilities are now primarily used by breeders of stud cattle for their annual production sales of quality stock.

22. Grain Silos

The first group of silos was built in the early 1950s with additions in 1967. They hold 35,000 tonnes of wheat when full. Wandoan was known as an excellent wheat growing district and the Prime Hard quality wheat produced here was highly sought after for the export market.

23. Railway Station Site

The railway from Miles to Wandoan was completed in 1914. The opening of a rail line contributed significantly to the development of this rural community with increased accessibility to goods and services as well as exchange of produce from the area. The original railway station also served as a post office for the area. The building was relocated to O'Sullivan Park in recent years and currently operates as our Visitor Information Centre.

