

# Goondiwindi Region

*history*



Goondiwindi  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



# GOONDIWINDI REGION HISTORY



Beyond and beneath what appears to be a region comprising primarily of pastoral properties, farms and a series of towns and settlements, lies an engaging and interesting history.

Who would be aware that within Goondiwindi region is the last functioning Rabbit Works in Australia, or that the first concrete water tower was built in Goondiwindi and that part of

the original Brisbane Breakfast Creek bridge makes up part of the Yelarbon rail bridge.

For more detailed information about the sites, search Goondiwindi Heritage Survey at [www.grc.qld.gov.au](http://www.grc.qld.gov.au)



# FEATURE ATTRACTIONS

## TEXAS RABBIT WORKS

Mingoola Road, Texas, Qld

<https://www.texas.org.au/texas-rabbit-works/>

Built in 1928 the Texas Rabbit Works is the last rabbit processing works remaining in Australia. The business ceased operation in 1992 but during the period between 1930 and 1960 this was a thriving industry when rabbits were in plague proportions throughout the district. Employing 33 people and processing 6,000 rabbits a day the rabbit works was a major business in the district. Like many communities in the southern parts of Australia, the Texas community survived the great depression by trapping and selling rabbits for export to America and England.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

40 Fleming Street, Texas

[www.texasheritagecentre.weebly.com](http://www.texasheritagecentre.weebly.com)

The Texas Historical Society Inc. has numerous buildings to explore from a mini Shearing Shed, Harness Shed, Gaol Stocks, Blacksmith's Shop, Post Office Store, Farm Shed, and a comprehensive Tobacco Museum and the Mission Hall. The complex contains over 2000 catalogue items, photographs and family histories.

## INGLEWOOD HERITAGE AND TOBACCO MUSEUM

Cnr Victoria and Albert Streets, Inglewood

[www.facebook.com/inglewoodheritagesociety](http://www.facebook.com/inglewoodheritagesociety)

The tobacco industry disappeared from Inglewood in the 1960's but had substantial influence on the development of the region. The museum offers a step into the past for their visitors with photographs and artefacts from a bygone era. Visit "The Golden Leaf" exhibition at the Inglewood Heritage Centre.

## GUNSYND MUSEUM & STATUE

Museum - 100 Marshall Street, Goondiwindi

Statue - Cnr Macintyre Street and Gunsynd Way, Goondiwindi

[www.grc.qld.gov.au/gunsynd](http://www.grc.qld.gov.au/gunsynd)

The memorial on the banks of the Macintyre River was erected in 1974 as a memorial to the racehorse Gunsynd. There have been many conversations over the years as to why the statue is flat and not a real life size horse. The reason given by stonemason Tom Farrell was that as Goondiwindi was a well known "Horsey" town there would always be problems with "Cowboys" crawling onto a life sized statue so that they could say they had ridden Gunsynd. Gunsynd was owned by a syndicate of four men from Goondiwindi and was bought for the modest sum of \$1300. Gunsynd had a very ordinary pedigree that did not indicate he would be a champion racehorse. Known as the 'Goondiwindi Grey', Gunsynd went on to win 29 major races on all 10 major eastern metropolitan tracks. Come along and see for yourself many of his trophies, rugs, photos and other memorabilia, as well as a DVD telling the Gunsynd story at the Goondiwindi Visitor Information Centre.

## CUSTOMS HOUSE

1 McLean Street, Goondiwindi

[www.facebook.com/CustomsHouseGoondiwindi/](http://www.facebook.com/CustomsHouseGoondiwindi/)

The main building of the museum is the Heritage Listed Customs House. The quality of materials, form of construction and craftsmanship suggest it was constructed in the 1870's - 1880's. Oral history records that the building was used, by the New South Wales Customs Department officers based in Goondiwindi, for the collection of duties on goods crossing into New South Wales. The museum takes a step back in time with histories, photographs, displays and artifacts used by the early pioneers of Goondiwindi.

## MACINTYRE BRIDGE, GOONDIWINDI

Gunsynd Way, Goondiwindi

The MacIntyre Bridge, built by the Queensland and New South Wales Governments, took 16 months to build during 1914-1915. It replaced an old wooden bridge built in 1879-1880. The bridge consists of two steel spans with hog backed lattice girders of 120ft. each.

The bridge was one of the main crossing places for stock, wool and general loading between Queensland and New South Wales. It was replaced as the main access to New South Wales when a new concrete bridge was built upstream in 1992.

## GOONDIWINDI CIVIC CENTRE

100 Marshall Street, Goondiwindi

[www.grc.qld.gov.au/goondiwindi-cinema](http://www.grc.qld.gov.au/goondiwindi-cinema)

The Heritage Listed Goondiwindi Civic Centre was built in 1937 and replaced the existing timber Council Chambers and School of Arts Hall. It comprised the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall and a set of four shops which are linked by an Art Deco parapet street façade which has not been substantially altered since its construction.

Today the Civic Centre comprises the Council Customer Service, Library, Visitor Information Centre, Art Gallery, Cinema and shops.

## VICTORIA HOTEL

81 Marshall Street, Goondiwindi

[www.victoriahotelgoondiwindi.com.au](http://www.victoriahotelgoondiwindi.com.au)

The Victoria Hotel, built in 1880, was the 7th of 10 hotels built in Goondiwindi. The original building was a single-storey shingle roofed wooden building with hitching rails and horse troughs in front. The hotel had many additions and alterations until 1925 when the top storey was added. In 1936 extensive alterations were again made.

In 2005 the Vic closed until a new owner undertook extensive renovations to restore the building to its former glory.

The Victoria Hotel is a traditional Country Pub and an iconic feature of Goondiwindi.





## TEXAS

“Discover the origins of Texas as a commercial hub through the signs in High St that detail each buildings history.”

## INGLEWOOD

### FORMER COMMERCIAL BANKING

#### COMPANY OF SYDNEY BUILDING

34 George Street, Inglewood

The first bank building in Inglewood, erected in 1908, and relocated to Albert Street in 1939.

### INGLEWOOD WAR MEMORIAL

Elizabeth Street, Inglewood

This 1926 memorial, with its statue of obelisk with rifles, remembers those men from the district who served in World War I.

### INGLEWOOD RAILWAY STATION

Inglewood Texas Road, Inglewood

Erected in 1911, formed part of the 'Border Fence' railway line from Warwick to Dirranbandi.

### INGLEWOOD GOVERNMENT OFFICE

Cunningham Highway, Inglewood

Erected in 1908 as offices for the Department of Lands.

## YELARBON

### RAILWAY BRIDGE, MACINTYRE BROOK, WHETSTONE

Whetstone Access Road, Whetstone

Part of the western railway line from Warwick to Dirranbandi, the bridge was built in 1907; interestingly the lattice girders were originally part of the bridge over Brisbane's Breakfast Creek.

### YELARBON SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL

Cunningham Highway, Yelarbon

Erected in 1925, with a community facility preferred over a statue memorial.

## TOOBEAH

### TOOBEAH RAILWAY STATION

The Station comprises a standard small timber building which was relocated from Passmore near Stanthorpe in 1964 after the first station building was demolished.

\*Note Indigenous Culture is an important part of the history of this region. At the time of printing this brochure, there was limited information available to provide accurate and appropriate historical references for tourists.

# OTHER STOPS

## GOONDIWINDI

### TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

Cnr McLean and Macintyre Street, Goondiwindi

The old Carbeen Tree, situated inside the Memorial to the Levee could tell many a tale. Today it is a meeting place for the town when the river is in flood but many years ago it was used as a notice board.

The remains of a notice can still be seen embedded in the tree. Mrs. Harry Rackham, who objected to people keeping birds in cages, printed "Birds in cages are a disgrace to jailors eyes" on a piece of tin and nailed the sign to the tree. Many stories have been told of how she went around town letting birds out of cages.

### ST MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Callandoon Street, Goondiwindi

The first Catholic Church in Goondiwindi was a wooden structure built in 1885 by Mr. Franchi Baker, assisted by Mr. Roly Parish. It was situated directly behind the present St. Mary's Church on land donated by Jacob Lowe of "Welltown" and is believed to be the site of the original Callandoon stockyards. This church served until 1936.

In 1936 Mr. J P Donoghue was engaged to design the present church which was blessed and opened on 21st November, 1937. Donoghue's design classified as Simplified Romanesque was adapted to suit the Goondiwindi climate. Later on a false ceiling was installed over the original scissor timber building.

### WAR MEMORIAL

Cnr Marshall and Moffatt Streets, Goondiwindi

The World War I Memorial was unveiled on the 21st September 1922 by Sir Mathew Nathan, Governor of Queensland. Originally situated at the intersection of Herbert, Callandoon and Russell Streets the memorial was built by a group of public spirited citizens of Goondiwindi at a cost of £1,800 (\$3600).

In 1949 the memorial was moved to the entrance of the Town Park when Memorial Gates were erected to honor those who served in World War II. This was again done by subscription from the people of Goondiwindi and District.

On the 29th April, 1949 the 34th Anzac Service was held and Sir Thomas Glasgow K.C.B. unveiled the Memorial Gates and entrusted their keeping to the then Goondiwindi Town Council to maintain.

The Goondiwindi War Memorial is permanently entered in the Queensland Heritage Register.

### WATER TOWER

McLean Street, Goondiwindi

The concrete water tower was erected in 1925 as part of a reticulated water scheme for Goondiwindi. The contractor was Mr. Hornibrook who was responsible for major civil projects in Queensland during the 1920's and 1930's. The scheme was the first in Queensland constructed entirely of reinforced concrete. The reinforced concrete water tower with its columns rising 26m was the first such tower built in Queensland. The reticulation piping was also of reinforced concrete. A second enclosed tower was built in 1938 as part of the expansion of Goondiwindi's water supply.

## STREET LIGHTS AND MEDIAN STRIP

Marshall Street, Goondiwindi

The lights and median strip in Marshall Street are the original lights installed in 1937. The form work, for the light poles and bollards, was made by local carpenter J.L. Lambert who ran his Joinery Business from the back of the Gundy Café in Marshall Street.

## COURT HOUSE & GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Cnr Herbert and Callandoon Street, Goondiwindi

Goondiwindi's first court house, with lock-up attached, was built in 1861 in Marshall Street on the western side of the current Civic Centre. Built of wood, it was by far the best building in Goondiwindi at the time.

In the 1880's a more substantial wooden and decorative court house and lock-up were built in Herbert Street. This eventually became inadequate and new brick premises were built in 1956 on the corner of Herbert and Russell Streets. A single storied court house faces Russell Street and a two storied block comprising various government departments faces Herbert Street. Stylistically the complex was described as "Modern Georgian" and marked a transition in design for Queensland court houses from classical approaches to the much plainer approach of the 1960's.

## CEMETERY (OLD SECTION)

Cemetery Road, Goondiwindi

The Goondiwindi Cemetery consisting of 8 acres was gazetted in 1872 but the earliest recorded burial was in 1864. Many records of burials for Sections A & B were lost in early floods and a fire in 1921.

The Pioneer Wall was built in 2006 to commemorate the names of approximately 700 people buried in unmarked graves in the old sections A & B. Names on the wall are from the remaining council records.

## CALLANDOON PIONEER CEMETERY

Barwon Highway

Callandoon, with the head station a few miles down- stream from Goondiwindi, was selected by Thomas DeLacy Moffatt in 1846 and became a well established holding.

A Post Office was opened there and a pack horse mail service came from Drayton once a week. A Police Station and Jail was established and in 1859 Callandoon was appointed as a place to hold Courts of Petty Sessions.

However, by 1862 Callandoon had lost its importance and Goondiwindi had grown and had its own Jail and Police Station. There are many people buried in Callandoon Cemetery but only six marked graves, two with headstones, remain.

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

37-43 Bowen Street, Goondiwindi

The first Holy Trinity Church built on this site was a timber building completed in 1882 after 11 years of planning, fund raising and public subscription. The timber church remained in use until the current brick church was completed in 1939.

A beautiful feature of the church are the 26 stained glass windows. The first 2 windows were installed at the east and west ends of the church in 1944 with the remaining 24 installed over many years, the last in 2010. The windows which follow a narrative plan are dedicated to past members of the faith community who have gathered at Holy Trinity since 1882.

*rich in history*



GOONDIWINDI REGIONAL VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
OPEN WEEKDAYS & SATURDAY MORNINGS  
P: 07 4671 7474  
45 BOWEN STREET, GOONDIWINDI  
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