

INTRODUCTION TO BELMORE PARK

Belmore Park is situated in the centre of Goulburn's CBD skirted by Market, Auburn, Montague & Sloane Streets. From as early as 1833 it was the city's Market Square, where merchandise was exchanged, including livestock and garden produce. The Market Square was also a place for family picnics and entertainment, with carnivals and games like "foot races", "apple on a string" and "catching the greasy pig".

In 1869 Market Square was renamed Belmore Square, in honour of the Lord and Lady Belmore's visit to Goulburn for the opening of the railway between Goulburn and Sydney. Lady Belmore planted an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) in the centre of the Square, this tree is the central feature of the Park, now known as Belmore Park. Belmore Park remains a Crown Reserve dedicated for the purpose of "Botanic Gardens" on 13 September 1899, with Council as the Trustee.

From 1910 to 1926 Belmore Park was home to a miniature zoo with a large collection of native animals such as wallabies, kangaroos, emus and caged birds. The Park was listed on the Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1980. It is said to be "an exceptional example of a late 19th century town park", incorporating extensive lawns, planting beds, mature trees, sculptures, memorials and fountains.

1997 saw construction of the current Auburn Street frontage, with works including refacing and replacing the original sandstone kerb, brick and steel picket fence and the steps into the Park. A section of the original sandstone kerb, with curved wheel ruts from parked horse drawn vehicles, was retained and placed along the new fence at the corner of Auburn and Market Streets.

Belmore Park remains the heart and soul of Goulburn hosting monthly markets (most stalls now situated in Montague Street) as well as numerous community activities and celebrations such as the annual Multicultural Festival and Community Carols of Hope.

13. TREES

Major plantings include:

- a. **Elm Avenues** (*Ulmus procera*) planted c1880 by Council following petitions to the Sydney Botanic Gardens for plants.
- b. **Blue Spruce** originally planted by Sister A J Twynam, RRC, to mark the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Red Cross Goulburn Branch on 28 August 1964. Replanted in 2010.
- c. **Blue Spruce** originally planted by Lady Cutler to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the railway from Sydney to Goulburn on 24 May 1969. Replanted in 2009.
- d. **Claret Ash** originally planted by the Mayor Alderman F D Davies and Mrs Davies on 12 May 1937 to commemorate the coronation of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Other tree species in the Park include: Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*), Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica "glauca"*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Mexican Hawthorn (*Crataegus stipulaceae*), Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), Golden Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior "aurea"*), Claret Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa*), Golden Rain Tree (*Kolreutaria paniculata*), Goldenchain Tree (*Laburnum apinum*), Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Crab apple (*Malus floribunda*), Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), Chinese Photinia (*Photinia serrulata*), Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*), Chinese Pistachio (*Pistacia chinensis*), Blood Plum (*Prunus sp.*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*), American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*), English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Variegated Elm (*Ulmus sp.*), Bunya Pine, Golden Cypress, Hoop Pine and Lilac.

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC BELMORE PARK



For further information contact:

Goulburn Visitor Information Centre
201 Sloane Street (Locked Bag 22),
Goulburn NSW 2580

P: (02) 4823 4492 / 1800 353 646

E: info@goulburnaustralia.com.au

www.goulburnaustralia.com.au

 facebook.com/VisitGoulburn



Sources: Goulburn Mulwaree Council,
Ransome T. Wyatt's History of Goulburn,
N. Lamrock's Wandering with History.

Correct at time of print – June 2019.

1. TEMPERANCE FOUNTAIN

Built in 1886 as a gift from the Temperance Society at a time when Goulburn had some 74 hotels, inns and similar establishments. This unique sculpture is constructed of sandstone and was designed as a drinking fountain. It remains as a fine example of Victorian architecture and is flanked by two stone piers erected by Council to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII.

2. CORONATION PIERS

The piers were erected 9 August 1902 to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. It is believed the memorial included the gates and fence and may have once extended further along the street frontage.

3. QUOTA CLUB WISHING WELL

Constructed in 1959 to commemorate Goulburn City Council centenary (now Goulburn Mulwaree Council).

4. BAND ROTUNDA

This is a prominent structure in the Park and celebrates the record reign of Queen Victoria. It was constructed in 1897 at a cost of £80, and is evocative of the flamboyant High Victorian period and reflects popular entertainment and lifestyles of the period. The design is attributed to EC Manfred, a prominent local architect.

5. KNOWLMAN MEMORIAL

Erected in 1910 to commemorate John Knowlman, a former Mayor and prominent Goulburn citizen. The stone is believed to be Bowral "trachyte" (microsyneite). Originally there was a symbolic wreath on top made of brass that has been removed for safe keeping. Similar stone was used in the commencement column of the Federal Parliament House (Canberra), and the Railway Square Post Office. The lights are supported by masonry beams and are now disconnected from the power supply due to safety regulations. The style of this monument is very different to others within Belmore Park and appears to make a specific statement about John Knowlman's character.

6. HOLLIS FOUNTAIN

The Hollis Fountain was built in 1898–99 to commemorate Dr L.T. Hollis, a parliamentary representative for Goulburn and is a duplicate of the Diamond Jubilee Fountain at St. Leonards Park, Sydney. Sculptured by Grant and Locke, it is a significant example of concrete civic statuary in a highly decorative Victorian style. The Hollis Fountain was restored in 2009, some sections being rebuilt.



7. DAVIES MEMORIAL

This memorial commemorates the recommencement of local government in 1868. Alderman William Davies was the Mayor of Goulburn at that time and also a member of the Legislative Assembly. The original memorial was removed after being damaged by a bullock dray. It has since been located at St Clair Museum & Archives in Sloane Street. This replica of the memorial was installed in the Park in 2010.

8. LADY BELMORE OAK

Planted by Lady Belmore, wife of the Governor of NSW, in 1869 to celebrate the opening of the railway line between Sydney and Goulburn, this magnificent English Oak (*Quercus robur*) is the central feature of the Park. The planting also brought about the dedication of "Belmore Square", now known as Belmore Park.

9. GLASS HOSE (CONSERVATORIUM)

Constructed in 1998, the design being sympathetic with the heritage values of Belmore Park. The current glass house replaces the 1959 glass house constructed by the Council with contributory funding from Charles Rogers.

10. CENOTAPH (HONOUR ROLL)

Constructed in 2002 to commemorate over 3000 local men and women who served during WWII and other subsequent conflicts. ANZAC Day dawn services were held at the WWI memorial on Rocky Hill until 2009 when the venue was changed to this cenotaph. Large attendance numbers and lack of adequate space on the Hill resulted in this change.

11. BOER WAR MEMORIAL

Constructed in 1904 to observe the Boer War and is rare in the fact that memorials of this type are generally dedicated to the First World War. The tree stump at the Digger's side was a common device to support the top-heavy statues. The memorial consists of three sections: a wide base of three Bundanoon sandstone steps; a square die with the dedication and inscriptions on marble plaques flanked by corner pilasters with ionic capitals; and a statue of a mounted trooper with rifle and bandolier built of Carrara marble and carved in Italy. This memorial is listed on the Register of the National Estate.

12. MERIDIAN PLAQUE

The Transit of Venus was recorded in Belmore Park on 9 December 1874 by government astronomers Captain Onslow, Professor Tiveridge, Captain Hixon and photographer Mr Tornaghi. The longitude and latitude of Goulburn was calculated from the information gained. The transit of Venus occurs when Venus passes between earth and the sun. The last pass occurred in 2012, with the next pass not due until 2117! The original plaque was set in 1910 on an undistinguished concrete block approx. 3m to the west of its present location. It was moved to allow the construction of the playground in 1997.

