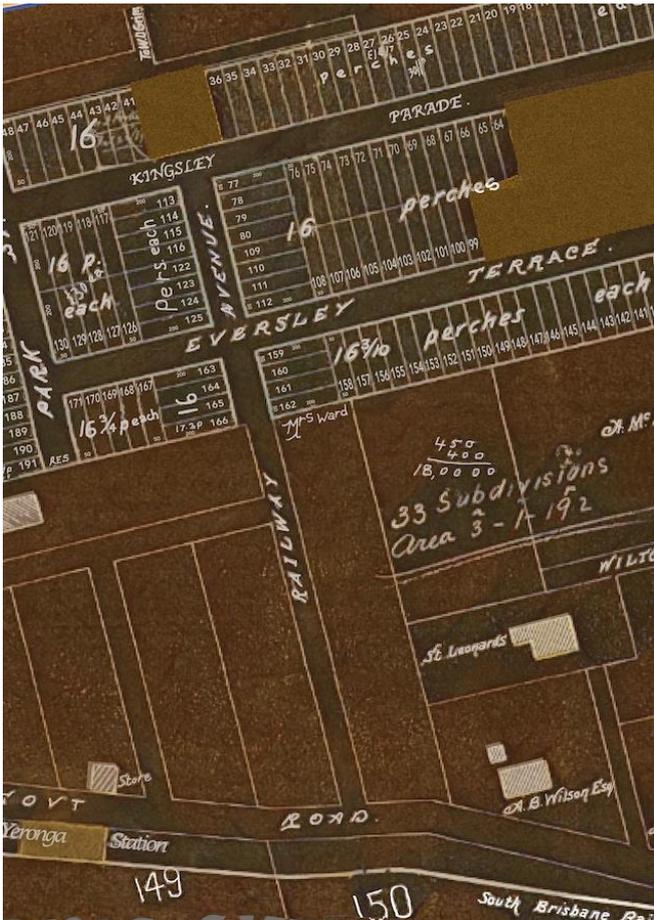


History of Yeronga Kadumba Street

Dr Michael Macklin

The major roads in Yeronga originated either from dirt tracks in rural properties leading to the main house or tracks between these properties. It seems that many of these tracks followed the previous Indigenous walkways as was common in other parts of Brisbane. Over time, these tracks became formalised but remained dirt roads well into the mid-1900s.



Kadumba Street, which is one of the main thoroughfares through Yeronga from the train line almost to the river, illustrates well this development.

In 1825, after Edmund Lockyer identified Yeronga as good for farming, the then heavily wooded area was extensively logged and provided the first Queensland exports - timber sent to Sydney and then loaded on a number of ships returning to England.

The new open pastures thus created were used to produce food for the colonial soldiers and convicts - initially sheep. The convict shepherd built a slab bark roofed hut on the site which was subsequently housed the Yeronga Community Hall and then RSL Club. This site was on the corner of Government Road (now Fairfield Road) and Railway Avenue (now Kadumba Street) - named after the railway arrived in 1884. It ran up to Kingsley Parade as a sale brochure for the Eversley Park subdivision in 1884 clearly shows.

The next sections of what became Kadumba Street were then called Dunn, Rome and finally Kadumba. Dunn Street went from Corevale Lane to form a T-intersection with Rome Street. The last piece of the current street was called Kadumba because that was the name of Grimes's home. 'Kadumba House' was built in 1886 and designed by architect Richard Gailey. The home became part of the church-school of St Sebastian in 1937 and was subsequently demolished.

The building of Kadumba House led to a number of other major homes starting with Rhyndarra in 1888 and then three other now heritage listed homes Como (1889), Astolat (c.1890) and the Mills house (c1914).

This jumble of roads remained until 1938 when the *Courier Mail* carried a short article worth quoting in full:

ENOUGH GEORGE STREETS NOW

Council Objects to One More

The City Council does not intend to add to the 24 George Streets already in the metropolis. Recently the Yeronga Progress Association asked that portion of Rome Street, Yeronga, should be renamed George Street, and objection to the change was lodged by two residents of the street.

The proposal was not recommended by the city engineer, who recommended instead that portions of Rome Street should be renamed Rome Street North and Rome Street South. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the street running from Fairfield Road to Rhyndarra Road at present bears four names — Railway Avenue, Dunn Street, Rome Street, and Kadumba Street. It was recommended that it should be renamed Kadumba Street throughout. This recommendation has been adopted.¹

Thus it was that a small section of land was compulsory acquired between Feez Street and Kingsley Parade and the four roads linked. Since Railway Avenue and Dunn Street were not aligned, the new street had to have a slight curve. The resulting street was named "Kadumba" and became one of the major roads in Yeronga.

¹ *Courier Mail* Saturday 8th January, 1938, page 17