

THE HISTORY OF YERONGA PART 3 EARLY LAND SALES

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The surveyor, Edmund Lockyer, in his report to Governor Brisbane on 16 October 1825 called the area covered by Yeronga “a pretty spot” and noted that the land was good and that there was spring water. When the penal colony was established, it was first called “*Edenglassie*” but this name soon disappeared as the settlement became known from the name given to the river, “*Brisbane*”.

The Yeronga area was utilised by the Europeans for tree felling and the opened up areas were soon turned to pasture for sheep that were imported to provide food rations for the colonial soldiers. A slab hut, roofed with bark, was built for a convict shepherd on land later used to construct the Yeronga Community Hall. This Hall was subsequently demolished and the now RSL Services Club on the corner of Kadumba Street and Fairfield Road put in its place.¹

The general neighborhood eventually became known as “Boggo” and this roughly covered the area between the river and the ridge now occupied by Annerley Road which became a bullock track in 1850s.² Originally Boggo Road started at the One-mile Waterhole, now Clarence Corner, and continued to a marker peg at Four-mile Post now in Moorooka.³

For a range of reasons, the penal colony did not last long with free settlement starting in 1842 and the first land sales in the CBD got underway. The first Yeronga Crown lands sales seem to have occurred on 17th February 1854 and included the sale of 92 acres to Edward Crooke and 62 acres 35 perches to T.L.M. Prior, the Postmaster-General at the time. Both sale lots were designated for farming.⁴

The next sale of land in Yeronga was not till after Queensland became a separate colony on 6th June 1859 with Queen Victoria signing the Letters Patent. Some 121 acres [just under 500,000 square metres] went for an average price of under £2 per acre.⁵ Brisbane became Queensland’s capital city and seat of its parliament. Governor Bowen recalled that the city was then “*little more than a village of wood, with scarcely five thousand inhabitants*” which a mere six years later had become “*a flourishing city of brick and stone with fully twenty thousand inhabitants*”.⁶

At that time, Yeronga was described as a “*busy farming population*” where the “*dense scrub bordering the river is fast disappearing beneath the sturdy stroke of the axe; and the patches of cleared grounds that meets the eye in this direction promise a speedy transformation in the hitherto monotonous aspect of our upriver scenery...many a toilsome hour has to be spent by the sturdy occupiers of this and neighboring localities in their praiseworthy determination to make for themselves and families a home, yet the good time is coming when they will in a correct feeling of pride look at their goodly possessions, and tell their children how the field was won from the bush, scrub-creepers, figtree fixings, gum-tree stickers, and other forest incumbrances.*”⁷

To be continued.

¹ The Yeronga Hall on 11th July 1916 held the first Queensland “Welcome Home” for WW1 wounded.

² For a comprehensive discussion on the name “Boggo” see Christopher Dawson. *What's in a Name?: The Rise, Fall and Comeback of Boggo* [online]. *Queensland History Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 4, Feb 2011, pp. 227-234.

³ The history of the origin of the name Annerley for the road and suburb is set out in detail in *Untangling*

"*Stories of Stephens' Place Names*"^[1] by Dr Neville Buch, Dr Ray Kerkhove, Dr Michael Macklin^[1] with assistance from Stephen Sheaffe, Chris Dawson, and Beryl Roberts. It can be downloaded from <http://uniqld.academia.edu/raykerkhove>

⁴ E.G.E. Scriven. "Yeronga: Early History", *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 29 June 1928 p.20

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ "Bowen to Cardwell", 2 July 1865, quoted in J. Laverty, 'History of Municipal Government in Brisbane, 1859-1925 •••', Ph.D. thesis (University of Queensland, 1968), p.77 also see (esp. pp.21-38 and 50-126) for the response to Brisbane's early sanitary problems. *The Organization of Municipal Government, 1859-1879*, *ibid.*, pp.127-81.

⁷ *The Moreton Bay Courier*, 5 March 1859 p.3. The online introduction points out that in 1859, "the *Moreton Bay Courier* published a series of seven articles titled '*Random Sketches of a Traveller through the district of East Moreton*', penned by an author identified only as the "Traveller'." See more at: <http://boggoroad.blogspot.com.au/2015/09/travels-in-east-moreton-1859-6-south.html#sthash.FDp8nNkL.dpuf>