

## Heritage Citation



### Anzac Park

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 100 Dean Street, Toowong, Queensland 4066
<b>Type of place</b>	Monument / memorial, Park
<b>Period</b>	World War I 1914-1918
<b>Lot plan</b>	L103_SP266260; L110_SP266265
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2002
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (G) Social

Associated with the early development of the district, Anzac Park is important as a place of recreation since the

late 19th century. The Park continues to be an important place for the local and wider community to meet and relax. In commemorating the fallen of the district in the Great War, Anzac Park has a sacred and special purpose. An area of undulating treed parkland at the edge of the suburb of Toowong and a buffer against the Western Freeway, Anzac Park is an important visual element in the streetscape.

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## History

The land on which Anzac Park now stands was gazetted as part of Toowong General Cemetery in 1861. By 1887 no internments had taken place in this portion and the 133 acre site was gazetted as a rifle range. The Queensland Rifle Association had been formed by enthusiasts within the Queensland Volunteers in 1877. The Association endeavoured to stimulate interest in the voluntary force and the government gave support by constructing rifle ranges in Victoria Park and at Toowong. Rifle clubs and the military used the Toowong range until 1918.

By September 1918 the rifle range had been decommissioned and the area became a memorial park to commemorate local men who had served in the Great War. The park was named Anzac Park and ornamental trees were planted in memory of the local men who fell in the offensives. Markers were located adjacent to each tree. The markers consisted of a map of Australia on which the soldier's name, rank, unit colours and number were recorded. The trees were planted in rows, some of the trees were macadamias. Walter C. Harding and J. Hiron, with assistance of the Toowong Council, were instrumental in commencing the beautification of Anzac Park.

By the 1930s/1940s the Park was neglected, the soldiers' markers were missing and the trees were in poor health. Reconstruction and replanting of the park began in 1947.

Tennis courts for the local Baptist and Methodist congregations and the Amicables' Tennis Club stood to the corner of the Park bounded by Mt-Coot-tha Road and Dean Street from around 1925 until they were demolished 1970-71. Brisbane City Council nursery facilities were housed within the Park from 1975 to 1991. It is thought that the site of the glasshouses was an early dump site. The Scout Association began an association with the Park in 1957 and removed their huts in 1972-73. The palm trees near Wool Street are thought to have been transplanted from King George Square during the 1967 redevelopment. A fifty-year-old bottle tree was transplanted to the park in July 1990. Five metres high and weighing 10 tonnes, it was moved from Manly to make way for a housing development.

Beautification of the grounds has been undertaken during the 1990s and play facilities and picnic areas have been improved. A dog off-leash area was constructed in 1997. An Arab-Israeli Peace Memorial was mooted for the Park in May 1998 but was not constructed due to objections from the local community.

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## Description

A triangular wedge of parkland in Toowong bounded by Mt Coot-tha Road, Wool and Dean Streets and the

Western Freeway, Anzac Park is an area of open eucalypt forest scattered across undulating land at the base of Mt Coot-tha. There are also plantings of pines, palms, grevilleas, jacarandas, box, Queensland nut, cedar, black bean and figs across the site.

There are entrances to the Park from Dean and Wool Streets and a vehicular drive circles through the Park.

There are a number of picnic areas scattered through the Park and the type and density of vegetation varies across the site. The Dean Street edge of the Park accommodates a play area, picnic area, two toilet blocks and a carpark. The area also contains two feature ponds covered with water lilies and reeds divided by a concrete and stone footbridge and weir. Clumps of dense vegetation form a backdrop to the ponds and screen this area of the Park from the busy traffic thoroughfare at the corner of Dean Street and the Freeway entry along Mt Coot-tha Road. The area is distinguished by a graceful stand of bamboo and a number of distinctive hoop pines. Ornamental shade trees stand along the boundary to Dean Street and the remnants of a palm avenue march up the slope along Wool Street. There are distinctive pines threaded through the middle of the Park climbing the slope from the Dean Street picnic area up to the summit at the top of Wool Street. A dog off-leash area stands to the far west corner.

A brief inspection reveals that Anzac Park generally is in a satisfactory condition.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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#### Historical

##### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history as a 19th century cemetery reserve, then early 20th century rifle range and, after the Great War, a memorial park.

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#### Aesthetic

##### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance as an extensive area of undulating parkland including open eucalypt forest, distinctive plantings of pines, palms and

ornamentals with a scatter of picnic areas and landscape features.

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## Social

### CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as a place of informal recreation since the early 20th century.

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## Social

### CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as a place for remembering the fallen from the district in the Great War.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council - City Assets Branch *Conservation Management Study* Stage 1 Report. November 2002
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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external

examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

**Citation prepared by** — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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