

OPE HOUSE TOOWOOMBA

Sunday 22 May

2016

TOOWOOMBAOPENHOUSE.COM.AU

FREE ENTRY TO 7 BUILDINGS

Toowoomba Open House is changing seasons. Held annually in October since 2013 the event is moving to May. The 2016 mini event marks this change with 7 special places open for free on Sunday 22 May. Toowoomba open house will return with a full event on Sunday 28 May in 2017.

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Check the complete list of buildings and activities on the Toowoomba Open House website or Facebook page.

SAVE THE DATE

TOOWOOMBA OPEN HOUSE

2017

WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY MAY 28



1 Bendemere

Bendemere is a stately brick home (circa 1864) with generous verandahs set on leafy grounds within the historic Mort Estate. The house is located on Boulton Terrace, a street that dates back to 1862, and accommodates a number of Toowoomba's oldest residences.

Boulton Terrace was named after Martin Boulton who bought the land on the Mort Estate in 1862, created a private street and had a number of cottages built on the western side. These became known as the 'Boulton Houses' of which Bendemere is a magnificent example.

Although substantially altered over its life, Bendemere, alongside Tawa (No 9) and Boulton Villa (No. 1) allows the visitor to experience a rare example of early Toowoomba architecture. Built of solid brick on bluestone foundations and rendered in imitation ashlar stonework this private home has been lovingly restored. The interior of the house itself features beautiful cedar joinery and high pressed metal ceilings.

The history of the house and the Mort Estate as well as the gracious interiors and furnishings of Bendemere make this a special place to visit.

Rolling guided tours from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Where to go: 15 Boulton Terrace, corner of Campbell Street



2 Ellerslie House

This property located in a pocket of outstanding character houses on Taylor Street, was the home of the McKenzie family from the mid 1880's and was purchased by James Blackburn, a well-known local identity, who owned a saddlery business located in Russell Street.

Ellerslie was typical of many of Toowoomba's grand homes, with their owners falling on hard times as a consequence of the Great Depression and its aftermath. Consequently Ellerslie was sold and converted into six separate flats, and this began a slow decline into dereliction. Fortunately the house was purchased in the mid 1990's by owners committed to the restoration of this gracious residence. The current owners have continued this process with outstanding results.

The building is a wonderful example of a modern restoration maximising and preserving not only the features, but the intent of the original design. The interiors have been cleverly adapted for its current use as a Bed and Breakfast accommodation, while retaining many of the original features such as high arched doorways, deep timber skirtings and massive windows. The restoration highlights the wonderful possibilities that character homes can provide.

Rolling guided tours from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Where to go: 53 Taylor Street



3 Gladstone House

Beautiful heritage listed Gladstone House, also known as 'St Rest', was designed by prominent local architect HJ (Harry) Marks, as his own home around 1908. Harry Marks' was considered by his peers to be an outstanding Architect. An Associate of the Queensland Institute of Architects he was considered a creative designer well ahead of his time. Described as being "gifted with inventive genius", he devised and patented a number of architectural elements, including roof ventilators, windows and a method of stucco wall construction. Gladstone house reflects Marks innovative approach containing examples of many of his well-known inventions, such as his patented AUSTRAL window.

The original weatherboard house is cruciform and symmetrical in plan, with an unusual octagonal central living area and adjacent triangular infill rooms. The corners of these are squared off to create cupboards which are accessed from the adjoining rooms.

The central space features very high ceilings and hipped dormer skylights to three sides, making it a lovely naturally-lit room. There was once a stair to access a central lookout as well. A split-level rear extension was added in the 1970s, and the kitchen has undergone a number of alterations, but the original house, and many of the features which make it special, is very much intact.

A must for an Open House visitor Gladstone House is special not only because of its design but because of its relationship with an Architect so inextricably linked to the Darling Downs.

The Harry Marks Award for Sustainable Architecture is one of the prestigious named awards in the annual Australian Institute of Architects Award Queensland Chapter program.

Guided tours every 30 minutes from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Where to go: 3 Gladstone Street



3a Gladstone Cottage

Constructed as a Gate-keeper's Cottage for the adjacent Gladstone House, this building is well worth a visit in its own right for its interesting detailing, ventilation and roof lights, all characteristics of Marks' architecture. Like neighbouring Gladstone House the building is heritage listed, testimony to the enduring legacy of the brilliant Harry Marks.

Like the house, Gladstone Cottage features a central living space with a tall clerestory skylight, flanked by the bedrooms, and with a kitchen and bedroom at the rear. Marks was well known for his use of natural light and ventilation. 100 years before the world became focused on energy efficient buildings Marks was designing them, and his use of the skylight in the cottage ensured a passive solar heating capability. Thus Gladstone Cottage, like the neighbouring Gladstone House is a precursor to the modern world.

Rolling guided tours from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Where to go: 1b Gladstone Street



4 Russell Street Men's Toilet

As the oldest known existing public urinal in Queensland, this Men's Urinal, constructed in 1919, offers evidence of the development of public health in early 20th century Queensland.

By the late nineteenth century, the lack of sanitation in Toowoomba had become a pressing local issue. Earth closets were in a disgraceful condition and typhoid fever was prevalent. The foremost mover in improving sanitary services in Toowoomba was Dr T A Price, public health advocate and mayor of Toowoomba in 1919. Dr Price wanted '... a healthy city, a convenient city - good roads, good footpaths, and an easy way of getting about, a beautiful city with trees and parks and gardens.' This linking of urban health to urban beauty fits the urinal neatly into a scheme for making the area around the railway station more attractive.

The facade provides evidence of early ideas about urban improvement, especially the links between urban design and urban health. The original plans are unsigned but were probably drawn by the Toowoomba City Engineer, Mr Creagh. The urinal stalls were originally connected to the nearby drain; the closet was cleaned by a pan changing service. The whole ensemble was only connected to the sewerage system in 1926.

The building was originally set in a 'rockery and garden' which may have been destroyed after the Second World War. The street facade of the urinal is certainly handsome enough to suit an urban beauty program and Toowoomba Open House and Toowoomba Regional Council have joined forces to allow access to both men and women for the day.

General access (self-guided tours) from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Where to park: At the Railway Station or nearby Streets

Where to meet: Russell Street opposite Chalk Drive and the Railway Station



5 Toowoomba Railway Station Platform and Honour Board

The oldest extant masonry railway station in Queensland, this building was designed by Colonial Architect FDG Stanley c1874 and represents an important site in the study of the railway network of Queensland. As the focal point of one of the major railway routes in Queensland the Toowoomba station has reflected the growth and decline of railway passenger traffic in Queensland.

The original station design featured a refreshment-dining room area but by the turn of the century it was apparent that larger facilities would be required. Construction of a new Railway Refreshment Room Wing began in 1901, and was completed in 1902. Two major extensions were added on to these facilities; the Tea Room in 1915 and two extensions in the Dining Room area in 1920 and 1926.

The two world wars are also reflected within the station environment. From 1914-19 a magnificent wooden Honour board at the north end of the station pays tribute to the role of Toowoomba railway workers. Of interest is the fact that it was crafted at the North Ipswich railway workshops, and unveiled by commissioner Charles Evans, a former Toowoomba railwayman himself.

The station also has two WWII bomb shelters: one near the Honour Board built as protection for railway employees; the second lies outside the main station entrance and was constructed to protect the general public from bomb splinters.

The extensive intact yard structures are also well worth viewing for the tales they tell of travel in a past era.

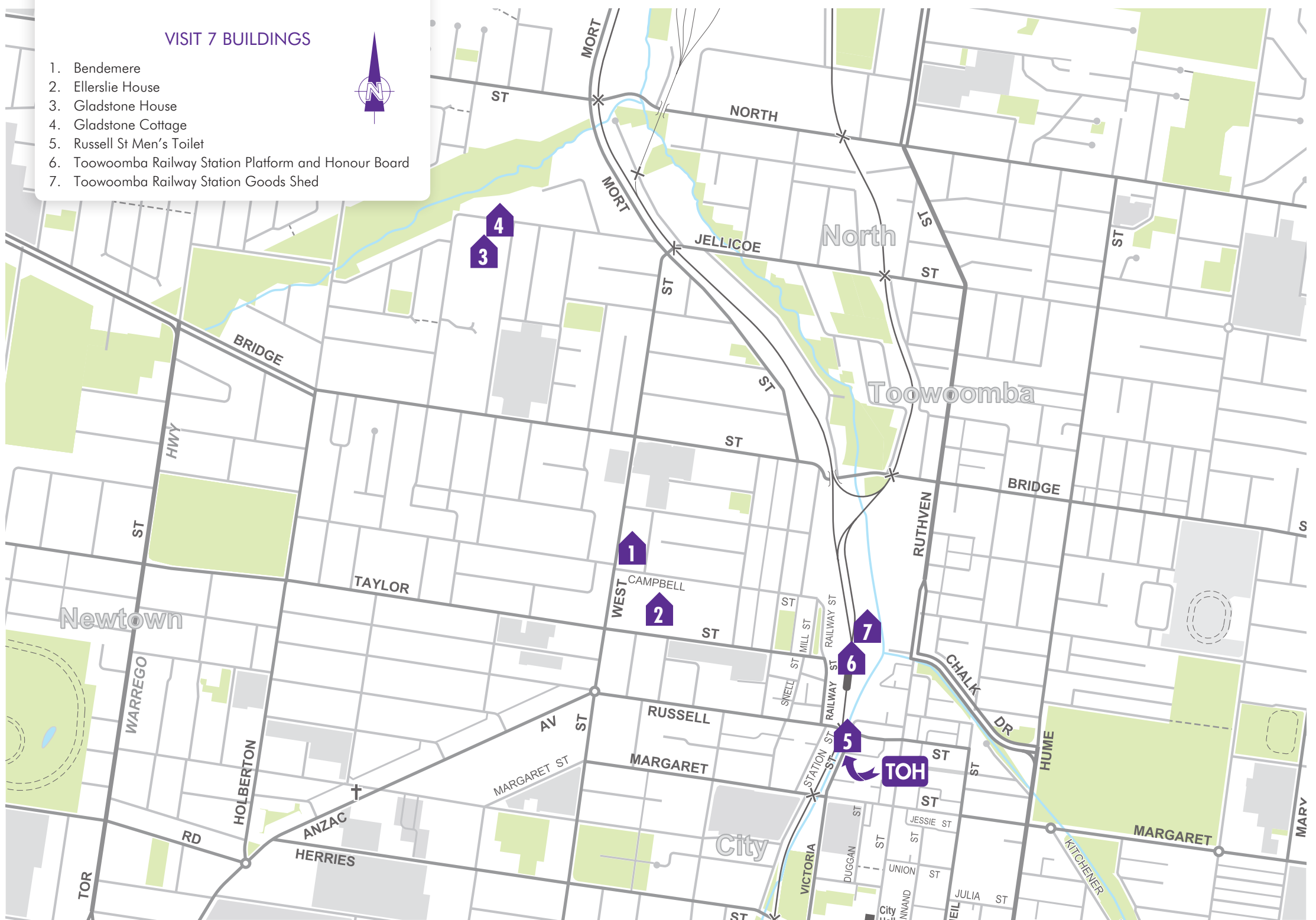
General access (self-guided tours) from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Where to go: Railway Street

SEE WALKING TOUR DETAILS OVER THE PAGE

VISIT 7 BUILDINGS

1. Bendemere
2. Ellerslie House
3. Gladstone House
4. Gladstone Cottage
5. Russell St Men's Toilet
6. Toowoomba Railway Station Platform and Honour Board
7. Toowoomba Railway Station Goods Shed



6 Toowoomba Railway Station Goods Shed

Located within the railway yard, The Goods Shed (1896) is a long rectangular building with substantial timber trusses and bracketed central columns. It is clad in corrugated iron, and has a pitched roof with bracketed eaves and a raised central roof light. It also has timber platforms supported on large cut logs.

The Goods Shed dates from 1896, replacing a smaller goods shed which was constructed in 1867. Plans had been prepared for this replacement shed as early as 1884, with the new plans calling for a shed 250 by 75 feet. Built of timber and galvanised iron on pile foundations with two 150 by 15 foot platforms and two 5 ton cranes it is an impressive structure and witness to the importance of Toowoomba as transport hub in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Goods Shed is now owned by the Toowoomba Regional Council and forms part of the Toowoomba Railway Parklands Priority Development Area (PDA) Development Scheme. TRC describes the PDA as representing "a bold strategic vision that invites the rediscovery of opportunity and potential, right in the centre of Toowoomba city."...and "The Shed represents the greatest investment for the community, in delivering the Parklands. It will be an invaluable asset for Council and the public, central to the new Parklands and the PDA and easily accessed from the CBD. The Shed will be a community facility and event space, festival and market ready and surrounded by multi-use plaza spaces connected to the broader PDA open space and movement networks.

The refurbishment of the Shed will exemplify the rich railway history of the site and surrounds, and will be a critical piece in interfacing the Parklands with infrastructure corridors."

Please note that access to the building will be with a guide only. The tour of the building requires quite some walking on uneven ground both inside and outside. Only a limited area of the interior can be accessed and be aware that it is a large semi-dark space, with the only lighting from the open doors.

Guided tours every 30 minutes from 10.00am to 3.30pm

Bookings to reserve your place are recommended. Available online on Eventbrite (search Railway Goods Shed) or call 0402 138 751

Where to park: At the Railway Station or nearby Streets

Where to meet: Walk along the Chalk Drive footpath to the gates located on the bend at the northern end of Chalk Drive beside the creek. Look for the guide in the high visibility vest who will provide directions

What to wear: Closed shoes are essential



WALKING TOUR – EXPERIENCE TOOWOOMBA'S FIRST TRANSPORT REVOLUTION

Toowoomba Open House invites you to take part in a wonderful journey of exploration, with this tour providing unparalleled access to the precinct and the distribution and storage focus of early Toowoomba, the Railway Goods Shed.

Each tour runs for between 90 -120 minutes commencing at 10.30am and 2.00pm. Bookings are essential, as are sturdy walking shoes. A small donation towards the Open House is appreciated.

Enjoy an informative guided tour with a focus on the significance of the railway in shaping the development of Toowoomba. Visitors can also learn about the future plans for this precinct as they journey through the history of Toowoomba as a transportation hub.

Book online at Eventbrite - search for Walking Tour - Experience Toowoomba's First Transport Revolution or call 0402 138 751 to reserve a place.

TOOWOOMBA OPEN HOUSE TOH INFORMATION HUBS

Drop into the TOH information hub at the historic Russell Street Men's Toilet building, opposite Chalk Drive. Parking is available at the Toowoomba Railway Station or in surrounding streets. TOH will be on hand to answer your questions, provide you with a free guide and map and point you in the right direction.

VOLUNTEER

Become a part of this great community event, and support the Toowoomba Open House today by signing up as a volunteer. volunteer@toowoombaopenhouse.com.au

QUEENSLAND OPEN HOUSE - SAVE THE DATES

If you love exploring great buildings and interesting spaces, and learning more about our cities and regions, save the dates for the following Queensland Open House events.

OPEN HOUSE
24 & 25 SEP 2016 MARYBOROUGH

MARYBOROUGH OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27

September 2016

maryboroughopenhouse.com.au

OPEN HOUSE
8 & 9 OCTOBER 2016

BRISBANE OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9

October 2016

brisbaneopenhouse.com.au

GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE
5 NOV 2016

GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 5 November 2016

goldcoastopenhouse.com.au

OPEN HOUSE
CAIRNS

CAIRNS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 9 October 2016

facebook.com/FNQarchitects/

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