



# PROSTON *Heritage Trail*

Take the time to relive a little of Proston's history by following the Heritage Trail and numbered plaques indicating sites of interest around town.



# HISTORY OF PROSTON TIMELINE

1846

Boondooma Station taken up.

1900

Land resumed from the large Boondooma run began to be thrown open to selectors.

1909

A large area of land was set aside for the settlement of a group of English immigrants. Some of the blocks were taken up by settlers who arrived on the SS Oswestry Grange. In the same general region, a vast area was also opened up for general competition for agricultural and grazing purposes.

1912

Most of the blocks throughout the Speedwell, Abbeywood, Stalworth, Kinleymore, Proston and Okeden areas were occupied by 1912.

1913

The settlers begin to agitate for a rail connection from Murgon to Proston.

1918

The first moves are made to have a Butter Factory erected at Proston.

1922

GTM (Tim) Boynton has a café built in readiness for the coming of the rail.

The Stationmaster's residence is built as well as railway employees' quarters, goods shed, and cattle trucking yards.

1923

The rail line to Proston is opened on 24th February. Final train in 1993.

The Terminus Hotel and the School of Arts are under construction.

1924

Proston State School is opened on 24th July.

1926

QCWA Rooms opened.

First Police Station opened.

1934

The Proston Butter Factory is opened on 20th December and closed in 1968.

1934

GTM (Tim) Boynton installs an electricity plant.

Methodist Church opened.

Boondooma Private Hospital opened. Closed in 1940.

1935

Catholic Church opened.

1935

New Police Station and Courthouse in operation.





1935

New Post Office opened in Collingwood Street.

1936

Golf Club formed.

1938

St Peter's Anglican Church dedicated.

1950

The Proston Railway Sleeper Mill is opened on 26th June and was closed by 1967.

Fire Station opened.

1951

Proston Ambulance sub-centre opened.

1954

RSL Club Rooms opened.

1958

First show held at Sportsground.

1962

New ambulance centre opened.  
First Golden Spurs Campdraft held.

1966

Terminus Hotel is destroyed by fire.

1973

Proston Playgroup formed.

1983

Boondooma Dam opened.

1985

Swimming Pool opened.

1994

Proston Library opened in new premises.

1999

Railway Station converted to a Cultural Centre.

2001

Lake Boondooma Caravan & Recreation Park opened.

2003

Plans drawn up for the creation of Railway Park.

2008

Proston Community Hall opened.

2012

Scout Shed built.

2013

Railway Park opened.

2014

New footpaths laid in Blake Street.

Beautification of Cemetery - Fence & Columbarium built.

2017

Community group formed to take ownership of strip of shops in Blake Street.

2021

Men's Shed built.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Proston is the gateway to beautiful Boondooma Dam - a popular destination for picnicking, fishing, camping and boating.



# PROSTON *Heritage Trail*

**FOLLOW THE TRAIL TO LEARN ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE AND HISTORY OF MANY LOCATIONS IN PROSTON**

The rich farming land of the Proston district attracted many settlers. The area was founded mainly on dairying, grazing and mixed farming, including pigs and cropping.

The need to get their produce to the butter factory and rail stations in Wondai and Murgon more quickly, was the impetus behind the settler's push for a rail line.

The town of Proston came into being when the branch line from Murgon to Proston was opened in February 1923.

Today, Proston is a well-serviced country town which prides itself on friendliness and community spirit.



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Proston was known as a major growing area for Duboisia, which is a native plant used in the pharmaceutical industry.

ma Rd



51

Proston  
Golf Course





Proston Boondooma Rd

Jellicoe St

Wondai Rd

Wondai St

50  
Bowling grounds

Caravan Park



Free 48hr Camping



Murphys



Bowls Club



Sheltered BBQ and Play Area

Walking Track (1km)



48 Proston State School

Swimming Pool

Shops

41

42

43

44

50

49

30

31

34

35

37

40

38

31-33

3-10

2-1

24-18

15-12

11

16

17

45

46

47

# PROSTON Heritage Trail

1



Proston Tea Rooms - Proston's first commercial building completed in 1922 for Tim Boynton. Beside it is Mrs Nairn's Drapery which acted as the first allowance post office.

2



Boynton's Buildings Estd 1936. Corner of Blake & Rodney St - location of several prominent grocers including Perren & Day (1946-1964).

3



Newsagency - Bill Whitehead - 1955, followed by Lu Krause 1959. Eric Newson Stock & Station Agents.

4



Central Café - Mrs Elliott - followed by Dorrie Hedges. Shop partitioned in 1970's and drapery put in by Mrs Krause.

5

Duck Season is now open.  
Moesberg Repeater Rifle  
with Scope.  
S.P.E.R.M.:- £25. Cash.  
Sportco Automatic Rifle £24-10-0  
Ammunition all Calibres.  
Sold at:- F.H. & O.W. Wieden  
Sports Store.



Barbers & Sports Store - C Laird, Joe Kluck, Oscar Wieden & Charlie Harwood. Followed by hardware stores and cafés.

6



Mrs Milham's Drapery, followed by L & EM Krause Newsagency and Drapery. Other newsagents included Vonarx, Nott & Rowberry.



Take the time to relive a little of Proston's history by following the Heritage Trail and numbered plaques indicating sites of interest around town.

7



Boynton and Seng Central Motors, followed by Tryhorn Accounting and then the TAB in 1977. Has also been a computer shop, bakery and hairdressers.

8

Hall built by Tim Boynton 1926, later became Kewpie Theatre and then a garage. New building erected in 1967 as the Commercial Bank (Westpac). Converted by Wondai Shire Council to a Public Library in 1994.



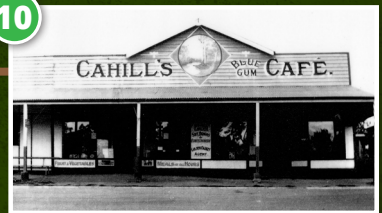
9



Butchers, Levitt & Smith, J.A. Smith, Hec Coulson. Later became Barry's Sweet Shop. Now a private residence.

10

Blue Gum Café, built 1934 by Bert Cahill. Olympia Café, proprietors include, George Pavouris, Mrs Carsburg, Angelo Kyprios & Peter Souris. Other notable café owners included Davenport and Kilgour. Later divisions included draper Jack Azar followed by Kopps Drapery run by Mr & Mrs Harvie in one side, and the location of a Chemist outlet. Chemists included Nichol, Nash, O'Rourke, Bebbington and Phillips.



# PROSTON Heritage Trail

11



Post Office - 1935, followed with the exchange in 1936. Now a private residence.

12

Fuel storage until 1948 when M.J. Houston (staff pictured) converted it to a garage. Bartlett & Slinger Garage in 1958, then Thompson & Turner, followed by others. Now a private residence.



13



Believed to be the first school residence - 1934. Now a private residence.

14



RSL Club Rooms, opened March 1954.

15



Methodist Church, built 1934, first Church built in Proston. Now a private residence.

16

Corner of Collingwood and Nelson Streets. Fire Station built circa 1950.





Take the time to relive a little of Proston's history by following the Heritage Trail and numbered plaques indicating sites of interest around town.

17



Current Police Station & Court House operational 1935. First Police station built at 28 Nelson Street.

18



Bakery, built for S. Nielsen in 1922.

19



Beside the bakery was Mrs Gibson's Café which operated for about 4 years. Beside the Café was Gibson's Hairdresser. Mrs Gibson's Café later became a Butcher Shop.

20



Location of E.D. Smith grocery shop, then William Bell Bootmaker and Fred Doessel's Fix-It Shop. Destroyed by fire in 1971.

21



Originally a Café owned by Thorne and Walker (1930s). Post Office relocated to this location in July 2017.

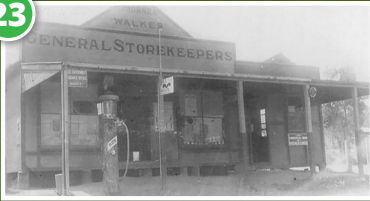
22



Commercial Bank officially opened in 1928, after several years of operating a receiving office.

# PROSTON Heritage Trail

23



Location of Thorne and Walker General Store 1926, then followed by Smith and Duffey, before being used as a storage facility by South Burnett Dairy Co-Op when they purchased both Smith & Duffey and Perren and Day and amalgamated the businesses in 1964. Now the location of the South Burnett Ministries.



School of Arts Hall, opened in 1923. Relocated to a farm for use as a barn in the late 1960s.

24



Max Burns Auctioneer. Built 1935 for Max Burns, later modernised and occupied by DJ Barton and Eric Newson. Also the residence of JW McIndoe at one time. Unfinished building pictured next door was ED Smith's oil shed.

25



QCWA Rooms  
Officially opened 13th June 1926.

26



Freney's Garage  
Built in 1933 for Bennett & Carter. Other owners included Rattray, McKenzie, Codd & May, Freney and Litfin.

27





Take the time to relive a little of Proston's history by following the Heritage Trail and numbered plaques indicating sites of interest around town.

28



Railway Station.  
Built 1922 in readiness for the arrival of the train. First train arrived 24th February 1923.

29



Station Masters residence and Fettler's Cottage. Master's residence built 1922. Cottage built circa 1925.

30



Proston Butter Factory  
Built and opened in 1934. First day made 3.5 tonne of butter. Closed in 1968 and converted to stock-feed mill.

31



Harry Duffey & Sons - plumber and plumbing supplies. Building is now the Poultry Pavilion at the Show Grounds.  
To the left across the gully: Bob Burns Soft Drink and Cordial Factory & Saddlery.

32



Doctor's residence and surgery.  
Dr Reeve Palmerston Rundle – one of Proston's early doctors.

33



Terminus Hotel  
Built 1923. The nursing clinic, dentist and Bank of New South Wales operated from rooms under this building. Destroyed by fire 1966. Replaced by current brick building, renamed The Golden Spurs Hotel.

# PROSTON Heritage Trail

34



1937 - Mrs Audrey Postlethwaite, Dressmaker. Later Steve Gomm the dentist and then the National Bank, with McFarlane & Cowan and later JW McIndoe Auctioneer beside. Now demolished.

35

Proston Public Hall  
Initially Arthur Dauth Blacksmith.  
1937 Albert Reinke - Revue Theatre.  
1939 Proston Picture Theatre.  
Retail shop fronts - Hardware,  
Billiard Saloon and a Sports Shop.  
1965 - 2008 Proston Public Hall.



36



Tennis Courts/Playgroup  
Tennis Courts built in 1930's.  
Speedwell School built 1912, relocated to this site  
1962 to be used as the Girl Guide Hut.  
Later became a Kindy and then a Playgroup.

37

Baptist Church & Hall  
Originally the Speedwell Church, built early 1916  
before being relocated to Proston in 1967. The hall is  
the old Merlwood School relocated about 1968.



38



Outpatients Clinic.  
Initially the site of John Ciezaolka Blacksmith.  
Clinic built 1959/60 - clinic relocated to  
Wondai Road in the 1990's. Now a private  
residence.

39

ED Smith Grocer - Fred Cotterell Accountant.  
Beside this was the original Perren and Day  
store, which later became  
Ditchmen's Garage.





Take the time to relive a little of Proston's history by following the Heritage Trail and numbered plaques indicating sites of interest around town.

40



Ditchmen's Garage  
Opened circa 1946 as a mechanic and car dealership.

McGovern Bros. Bakery then became the BP Garage.

41

Other Notable Sites (41 - 52) :



42



Boondooma Private Hospital 1934 – 1940.  
Dr Reeve Palmerston Rundle & Dr Elcoate.  
Later a boy's home, guest house and now a private residence.

Heritage listed. St Peter's Anglican Church was built 1936 with a generous bequest by Mr Charles Shepherd. Dedicated 1938. Closed 2015. Now a private residence.

43



44



Sidcup Castle built by Harold Douglass.

Catholic Church (Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Proston) opened by Archbishop Duhig in 1935.

45



# PROSTON Heritage Trail

46



Cattle/pig rail loading yards.

47



Railway Sleeper Mill operated from 1950 until approximately 1967.

48



Proston State School opened July 1924.

49



Proston Bowls Club was formed and operating by 1946.

50



Proston Sports Reserve Grounds. First show held in 1958.

51



Proston Golf Course. Originally the site of a racecourse and a campdraft ground. The Proston Golf Club was formed in 1936.

52



First Ambulance Sub-Centre opened 1951 at 22 Wondai Road.







Scan the QR code for  
more Proston history  
**[prostonheritage.org.au](http://prostonheritage.org.au)**

*We gratefully acknowledge the contributors of the photographs. Many of these photographs can be found publicly on the Proston Heritage Collection. We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Kaiabara and Wakka Wakka people.*