

# Historical snapshot: Darra

Characterised by a diverse community, industry, good transport links and its close proximity to Brisbane, Darra today is a reflection of a history steeped in hard work and an acceptance of newcomers.

The first known traditional owners of areas in and around Darra were the Yerongpan clan of Oxley Creek who spoke the Turrbal language. It is possible the name of Darra came from the indigenous name Derra or Durra meaning thigh or Dharau meaning stones.

## Early white settlement

Until migration after World War II, Darra was mainly settled by Australians with Anglo-Celtic roots. Some early settlement historical facts include:

- » During the 1850's James Wood of Oxley established the first coach service to pass through (or near) Darra
- » In 1851 the first parcel of land was bought by Dr Stephan Simpson who built Wolston House
- » The railway was constructed through Darra in 1874
- » The area around the railway was first settled in 1915.



Darra Cement Works photographed about 1936.

## Migration to Darra

From 1949 until 1987 many migrants started their new life in Australia living at the Wacol East Dependents Holding Camp (Wacol Migrant Hostel).

- » People migrated to the area from many countries around the world.

- » Children in the community attended Darra State School or Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church School.



# Ipswich Motorway Upgrade Wacol to Darra

## Schools, churches and places of worship

- » 1916 – Darra State School was opened
- » 1924 – The Uniting Church in Lee Road was built
- » 1937 – Darra Church (Catholic) School opened
- » 1934 – The Darra Holy Trinity Anglican Church was dedicated
- » 1983 – Islamic Society of Darra was formed - Darra Mosque originally located at Darra, was relocated to Oxley
- » 1994 – Linh Son Buddhist Temple was built.

## Industry

After discovering large clay deposits, William Brittain established a brickworks company in Harcourt Road, Darra in 1889. The availability of raw materials also attracted the Queensland Cement and Lime Co. (QCL) which dominated the Darra landscape from 1914 to 1998. During this time QCL:

- » provided employment for locals at Darra
- » became the largest cement supplier in Queensland
- » produced 650 000 tonnes of cement per annum at peak production
- » was unique in the utilisation of dead coral dredged from Moreton Bay
- » closed down in 1998 due to limitations to dredging and expanding residential areas.



State Library of Queensland, image 167707

Queensland Cement and Lime Co. factory at Darra in 1939.

## Contact us

Community Engagement Team

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\*Higher rates apply from mobile phones and pay phones.  
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