



**Official Guide**



**GOLDCOAST™**





## For more information

**P** 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)

**W** [cityofgoldcoast.com.au/walkway](http://cityofgoldcoast.com.au/walkway)

All details in this guide were believed correct at the time of printing. First Edition, August 2017.

## Welcome

Since 1930 Commonwealth nations and territories have been coming together to spread the spirit of friendship and shared values and participate in the Commonwealth Games. The Gold Coast is honoured to host the XXI Games in 2018, a sporting and cultural event that will leave a lasting legacy and will be a key moment in the transformation of our city.

The Commonwealth Walkway is one of those legacies. Bronze markers indicate 37 points of significance along a 10-kilometre route, offering an insight into the history and heritage of the Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast has a unique and diverse cultural heritage, shaped by Indigenous ownership, European settlement, two World Wars and new arrivals from all parts of the world.

The Yugambah people have lived in and around the coast, rivers and hinterland for more than 23,000 years. The first Europeans to the area were timber cutters, looking for valuable cedar and large cattle stations were established in the river valleys. Eventually these properties were divided into smaller sugar and cotton farms, later dairy farms.

By the end of the 19th Century Brisbane people wanted to escape the summer heat, travel down the waterways of Moreton Bay by boat and spend time at the seaside. In 1885 the Governor of Queensland, Governor Musgrave, built a seaside home near Southport, setting a trend for the coast to become a fashionable resort for the wealthy and influential. In 1889, a train line was extended from Brisbane to Southport, later extending down to Coolangatta. A number of guesthouses and hotels were built at scenic spots along the beach.

The railway had brought many visitors to the region either to live permanently or as visitors, but motor cars and road access would change the pace of life here forever. A new coastal road, linking Brisbane to the beaches of the coast, was completed in 1925.

In the 1940s these seaside towns became a 'R&R' haven for thousands of Australian and Allied armed forces during World War II. In the late 1940s, Brisbane journalists called the coast, south of Brisbane, "the Gold Coast" – it was the place to buy and sell land in the post-war real estate boom and it also represented the golden sand, sunshine and the healthy living for which the area was famous. The local council thought that it was a good promotional name, and the Queensland State Government proclaimed the Local Authority of the City of the Gold Coast on 16 May 1959.

In the late 1950s and 60s, the development of the city's beach strip was rapid. From Southport to Coolangatta, holiday houses, serviced holiday apartments, motels and shopping arcades were built to secure the Gold Coast's place as a major holiday destination, becoming known for its relaxed, fun and glamorous lifestyle. By 1959, it boasted its first high rise apartment block.

The Coast's permanent population grew swiftly throughout the 1970s and 1980s, bolstered by retirees and increasingly, service workers catering to the construction and tourist industries or working in the retail sector. In recent times the Gold Coast's population has reached over half a million people, and the economy has grown and diversified with education, health and knowledge and marine industries joining tourism and construction as major employers.

Now welcoming more than 13 million visitors each year the Gold Coast boasts a robust economy, and offers an enviable lifestyle. With the added catalyst of the 2018 Commonwealth Games the city has a future full of promise.

## #ourgoldcoast

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## Message from the Mayor

With Australia being a leading member of the Commonwealth, and the Gold Coast proudly hosting the XXI Commonwealth Games in 2018, the Commonwealth Walkway will be another wonderful addition to our city, to be enjoyed by both locals and visitors alike.

The Walkway takes walkers on a fascinating tour of our beautiful city, beginning and ending at two of our important civic locations, and in between visiting both historic and scenic sites. The tour takes you past points of interest while enjoying some of our most spectacular scenery and waterside locations.

This project is a legacy of GC2018, so join in with thousands of people around the world who are walking their own city's unique Commonwealth Walkway. For many years to come people of all ages will enjoy the Commonwealth Walkway at their own pace, whilst experiencing some of the great sites, and iconic locations, throughout our coastal city. Enjoy!

*Tom Tate*

Tom Tate, Mayor



## Access the walk



[outdoortrust.com](http://outdoortrust.com)



Keep an eye out for these plaques along the walk, positioned near each of the locations.



Facebook:  
[facebook.com/outdoortrust](https://facebook.com/outdoortrust)



Instagram:  
[#outdoortrust](https://www.instagram.com/outdoortrust)



Twitter:  
[twitter.com/outdoortrust](https://twitter.com/outdoortrust)

Share your journey with us **#ourgoldcoast**

Make sure you capture the moments and share your stories with us along the way by using **#ourgoldcoast** when tagging your photos on social media. Keep an eye out online as your photo may be shared with the various City of Gold Coast social media channels.

## Public transport

Visit [translink.com.au](http://translink.com.au) to access Gold Coast's public transport options.

Use the journey planner to help you plan your trip and access fare and timetable information for the city's bus routes, G:link light rail system and regional rail.

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### Southport Chambers

The art deco former Southport Town Hall is the city's oldest continuously used municipal building. It was built by Southport Town Council in 1935, replacing a 19th century timber building. The Council became South Coast Town Council in 1949, Gold Coast Town Council in 1958, and then Gold Coast City Council in 1959. The building is still used by City of Gold Coast as an office for the Mayor and its Southport Customer Service Centre.

The building was designed by Brisbane architects Hall and Phillips, who also designed the Main Beach and Southport Bathing Pavilions and Southport Surf Life Saving Club. The Latin phrase 'Pro Bono Publico', meaning 'for the public good', is inscribed above the entrance.

Next to the Chambers is Southport's original ambulance station, built in 1922 as the region's first. After numerous alterations, the building was restored in 2002.

### Captain James Cook Memorial

The Captain James Cook (1728–1779) memorial stone was installed by the Rotary Club as part of Australia's bicentenary in 1988, celebrating the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney in 1788 which established the British colony. The stone commemorates Cook's journey of discovery along the east coast of Australia in 1770.

Captain Cook was the first recorded European to see the Gold Coast when he sailed HMS Endeavour north between Point Danger and Stradbroke Island's Point Lookout on 16 May 1770. Diary excerpts from Cook and his botanist Joseph Banks describe the inland peaks and hills of the hinterland, along with coastal lagoons surrounded by fires believed to be created by local Indigenous people gathering to celebrate the annual oyster harvest.

Diagonally opposite the memorial at the corner of Nerang and Scarborough Streets is the Hotel Cecil, one of many art deco style buildings constructed in the 1930s in Southport.

### Bert Pepper Memorial

The memorial at the western end of Southport Mall commemorates local businessman and former president of Southport Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bert Pepper (1922–1990). Billed in Southport at the beginning of World War II, Pepper permanently relocated to Southport from his home state of New South Wales with his wife and baby son in 1942.

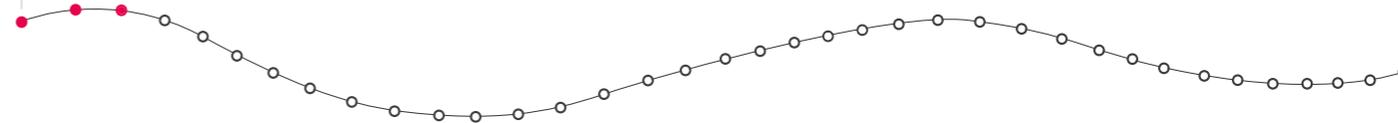
Pepper was instrumental in forming the Gold Coast Combined Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which brought together all nine Chambers on the Gold Coast. In 1980, he lobbied State Government to bring forward construction of the new District Court House in Southport, and began negotiating for the pedestrianised Southport Mall. Opened in 1988, the memorial plaque permanently commemorates his involvement in its creation as the 'Father of the Southport Mall.'

Next to the Bert Pepper memorial is a time capsule installed by local Councillor Dawn Crichlow OAM in 2000, to be opened by 2050.

1. Southport Chambers

2. Captain James Cook Memorial

3. Bert Pepper Memorial



4

### Yugambeh People

Broadwater Parklands links Southport to the Broadwater, an aquatic environment of international importance, covering a catchment area of 64 square kilometres.

The Broadwater and its wetlands are the ancestral home of the Yugambeh 'saltwater people', part of the traditional Yugambeh Language Region.

The saltwater people took care of their estuarine environment and depended on its once abundant food sources including kinyingarra (oyster), eugari (mussel), pingin (turtle), jubei (crab), yungunn (dugong), and a variety of jalumm (fish) species, bush foods, water fowl and marsupials.

As Southport grew as a resort town, many Indigenous families were displaced by European settlement. In November 1928, the site of the current parklands was first declared an official public space.

Today the Broadwater is an international Ramsar site recognised for its biodiversity.

5

### Pier Pavilion

The Pier Pavilion at the Broadwater Parklands was opened in 2009 as part of the first stage of the sustainable redevelopment of Southport's urban waterfront. The 33.5 hectare parklands provide a range of recreation and entertainment spaces, as well as hosting some of the city's flagship events.

As the parklands' highest point, the Pavilion's rooftop terraces and footbridge offer commanding views across the Broadwater and to the Surfers Paradise skyline. The building is home to a café and community facilities, while the rooftop is a popular venue for private and corporate events. The colour and materials used in the building were designed to reflect the white hulls and sails of the boats which moor in the adjacent Broadwater.

The footbridge links the rooftop to the nearby rock pools water playground. The coastal-themed rock pools offer water fountains, marine-themed play equipment, a creek bed and tidal pools for children to explore.

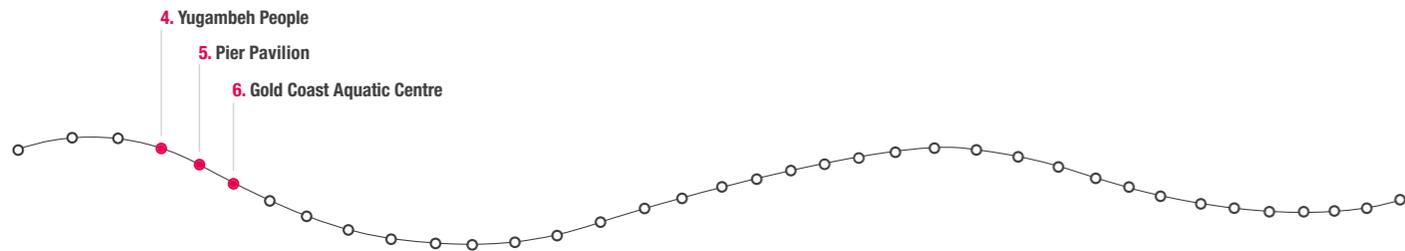
6

### Gold Coast Aquatic Centre

This area has always been a popular place for swimming, fishing and recreation. Aboriginal people have appreciated its mild climate and coastal resources since ancient times. In 1934 the early European settlers built the nearby Southport Bathing Pavilion, a private area for beachgoers to change into their swimming costumes.

The Southport Swimming Pool was built in 1969 on reclaimed land, effectively burying and conserving evidence of thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation. Archaeological excavations during construction of the existing state-of-the-art Gold Coast Aquatic Centre led to the discovery of Aboriginal artefacts, including tools and pigments used for ceremonial purposes. Further details of these discoveries can be found inside the Aquatic Centre.

The swimming and diving centre for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the Aquatic Centre has many pools, a dry land training facility, fitness centre, cafe and multi-function meeting rooms.





## 7

### Southport Pier

The first jetties at this location were private structures used by hotel guests during Southport's boom time as a holiday destination. In 1883 a 243 metre (800 feet) public jetty was constructed with a tramway on one side. In 1913 the Council began developing a concrete pier as part of a new public recreation area, including enclosed public baths at the pier's end which were equipped with lights for night swimming.

A cinema was built on the pier in 1926. Patrons would promenade along the foreshore before settling into canvas seats in the waterfront pavilion to watch 'the pictures'. After fire destroyed the theatre, a new one was built in 1932 to seat 1500 people. By 1959 the pier was in need of rebuilding, leading to a decision to demolish it in 1969.

The current pier was constructed as part of the Broadwater Parklands redevelopment which began in 2008.

## 8

### Q150 survey marker

The Q150 survey marker is located near the entrance to the Southport Pier and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the 1859 separation of Queensland from New South Wales, when it became the Colony of Queensland. The Colony became the State of Queensland in 1901, as part of the Federation of Australia.

The marker, providing latitude and longitude coordinates, is one of more than 60 created by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute, placed at significant historical survey points in Queensland to honour our early explorers who were often also surveyors.

It honours Oxford scholar Henry Shezelder who arrived in Queensland in 1866 and was one of the many surveyors who mapped the Gold Coast region. In 1883, he undertook the first survey of this part of the Broadwater. He was a magistrate for the Colony, a member of the Royal Society, and an early member of the Queensland Institute of Surveyors, forerunner to today's Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute.

## 9

### The Great Lawn

The Great Lawn at the centre of the Broadwater Parklands hosts live music, public speaking, corporate events and open air screenings.

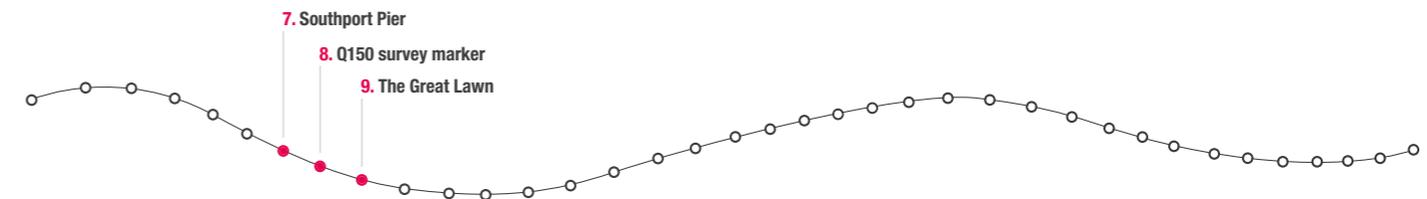
The Porch outdoor stage carries on the legacy of the old Southport Pier Theatre which was once the area's entertainment focal point. It has a full stage, with nearby changing rooms and a green room.

South of the Great Lawn, on the edge of the Broadwater, wooden shelters in the style of bathing boxes provide shaded seating. In the 19th and early 20th century bathing boxes were dotted along the foreshore and were the forerunners of the 1930s beach pavilions. Bathing box era-etiquette required neck-to-knee coverage in woollen costumes and were heavy, especially when wet. By the 1920s, like the dresses of the era, costumes had crept above the knee. Parasols protected the female complexion and made a fashion statement on the beach.

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### Washington Waters Park

Washington Waters (1856–1948) was Mayor of Southport from 1919 to 1921 and 1924 to 1927. He was an Alderman of the town council, and continued his involvement in local government as Chairman of Finance for Southport Town Council until he was 80.

Waters came from England to Queensland on the ship Clara, arriving in Brisbane in February 1875. He was first elected to Nerang Shire Council in 1899 and in addition to his career in local government, Waters also worked for pioneering coach owners Cobb and Co, was licensee for the first hotel in Burleigh Heads, and farmed at Tallebudgera Creek.

Washington Waters Park has a children’s playground with a variety of play equipment, as well as barbecues and picnic tables that overlook the Broadwater swimming enclosure and diving pontoon. The enclosure is patrolled by Surf Life Saving Queensland daily during the summer months.

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### ANZAC Park

ANZAC Park is a memorial to the Australians and New Zealanders who served and died, or otherwise contributed to wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

The statue near the water’s edge specifically commemorates those who served in World Wars I and II. Built of Helidon freestone, it is 5.5 metres high and inscribed with the names of men who enlisted from Southport and surrounding districts.

When the statue was originally unveiled at the Broadwater end of Nerang Street on 26 April 1922, the event was reportedly attended by the largest gathering ever held to that date in Southport. The cenotaph was installed at its current location as part of the Southport Broadwater Parklands redevelopment in 2010.

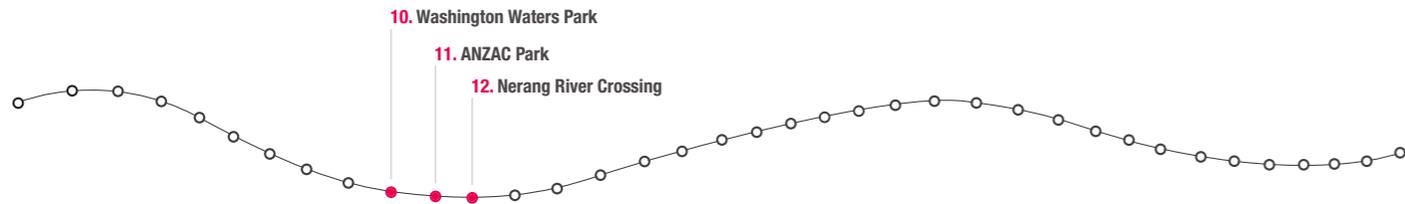
12

### Nerang River Crossing

Records indicate the river was named by Europeans after the local dialect word “neerang” meaning little or shovel nosed shark.

From the 1840s European settlers began to clear and settle its fertile plains for farming. In 1925 the Jubilee Bridge was built linking Southport to Main Beach at a point a little further downstream from the current crossing. The bridge played an integral part in the Gold Coast’s future as the access it provided soon shifted the focus from Southport to Surfers Paradise as the region’s premier tourist destination.

The Jubilee Bridge was demolished following the opening of the current Gold Coast Bridge (also known as Sundale Bridge) in December 1966. The cycle and pedestrian ‘green bridge’ was added in June 2014 as light rail services began.



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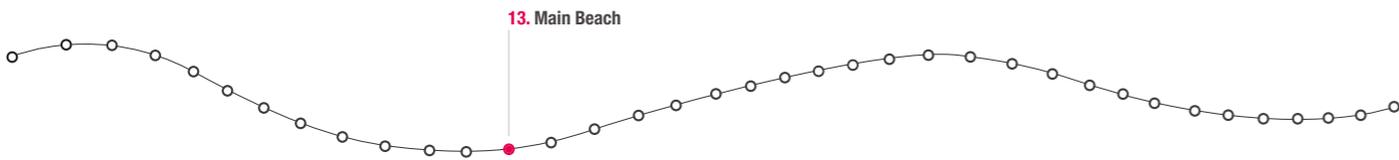
### Main Beach

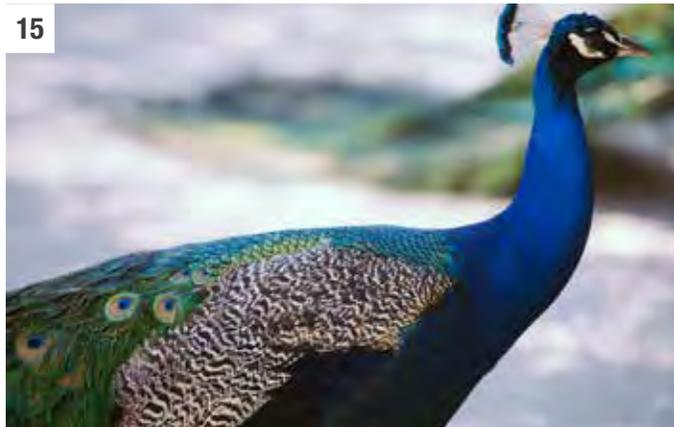
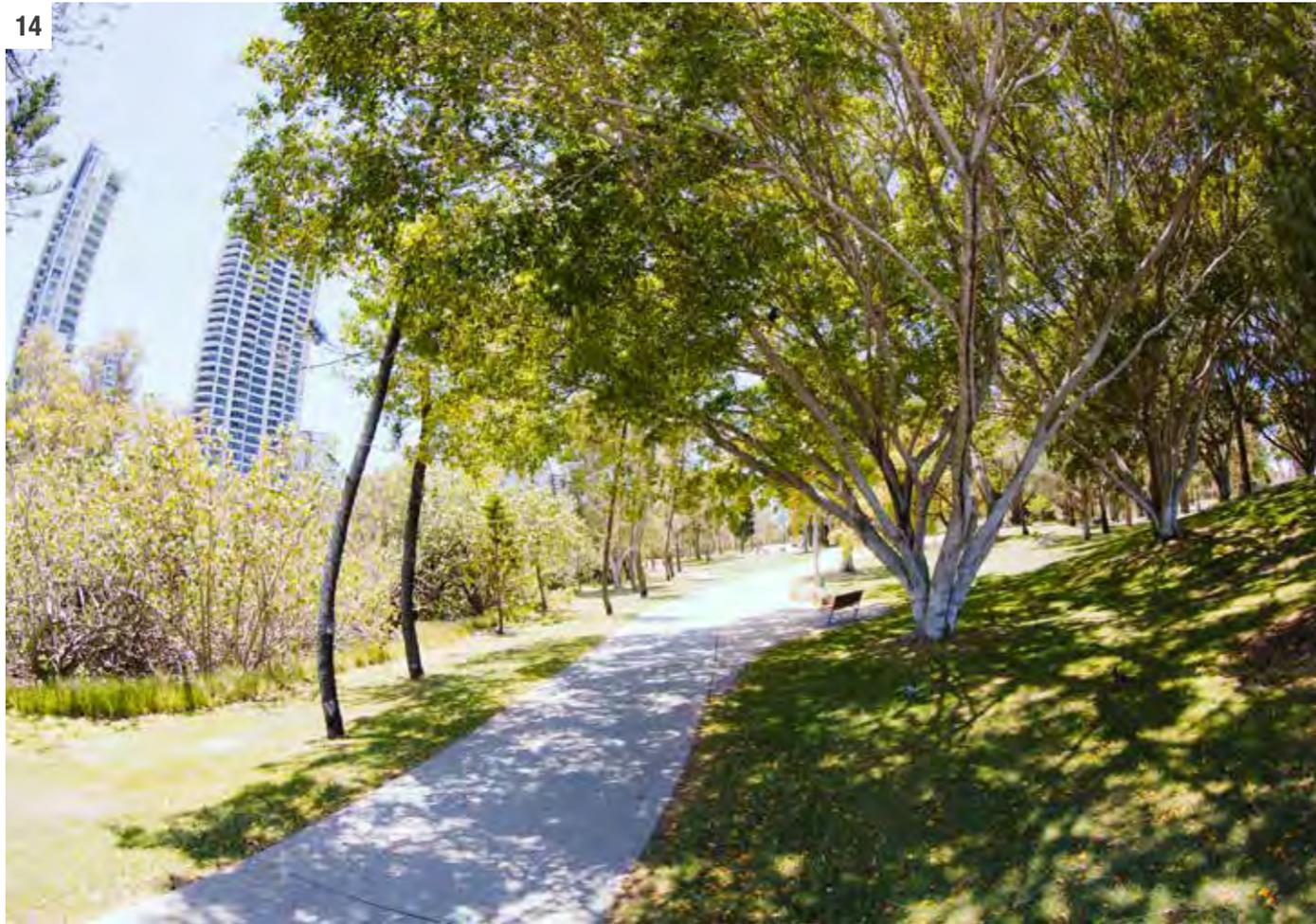
Tedder Avenue is the commercial heart of Main Beach, the suburb's name originating from its role as the primary surf beach accessible from Southport. Before the construction of the Jubilee Bridge in 1925, visitors were ferried to Main Beach across the Nerang River.

Following the bridge opening, visitors to Surfers Paradise increased and ultimately spilled over into Main Beach, leading to the opening of the Main Beach bathing pavilions, located near the current day Southport Surf Life Saving Club. The pavilions were designed by architects Hall and Phillips in the Spanish Mission style and opened together with similar style pavilions at Southport on 22 December 1934.

Tedder Avenue is wholly located on what was once a swamp, reclaimed by William Fox, also known as 'Lucky Bill Rankin, the Casket King', by pumping silt from the Nerang River onto the land. Today the area is home to a mixture of high rise accommodation buildings, residences, restaurants and shops.

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## 14

**Macintosh Island Park**

This park was named after Hugh Macintosh (1857–1932) who was a chief draftsman with the Queensland Lands Department in the early 1900s. Born in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, he migrated to Brisbane in 1865. In his Land's Department role, Macintosh was involved in surveying the Gold Coast and naming many of its places.

The name of the park is also linked to Robert McIntosh. According to family records, in 1860 Robert's father-in-law, George Alexander Hope selected this piece of land and named it after his son-in-law.

Coincidentally, both men who claim heritage to the island had a common love of sailing. Hugh was known to enjoy recreational sailing on the Gold Coast and Robert ran a boat service between the island and Brisbane.

Descendants of both men still visit the park to enjoy its hidden oasis of creeks, waterfalls, remnant rainforest and play areas.

## 15

**Les Rogers Memorial Sanctuary**

Les Rogers was a dedicated Council employee for 22 years, starting as a sign writer but finding his true calling as a landscape designer in the Council's Health Department.

Rogers designed and supervised many of the Gold Coast's most well-known and loved parks and gardens including Cascade Gardens, Macintosh Island Park, Mick Schamburg Park and Waterfall, ANZAC Park and Evandale Parklands. He also designed floral floats, which for many years were built by Council staff in their own time and exhibited throughout Australia at festivals including Moomba in Melbourne, Blue Gum in Hobart, Waratah in Sydney and at Newcastle, Grafton, Brisbane and Toowoomba.

Rogers was also instrumental in the introduction of various species of birds which now make their home around the Macintosh Island Lake including peacocks, ducks and other water fowl, many of which he hatched from eggs at his home.

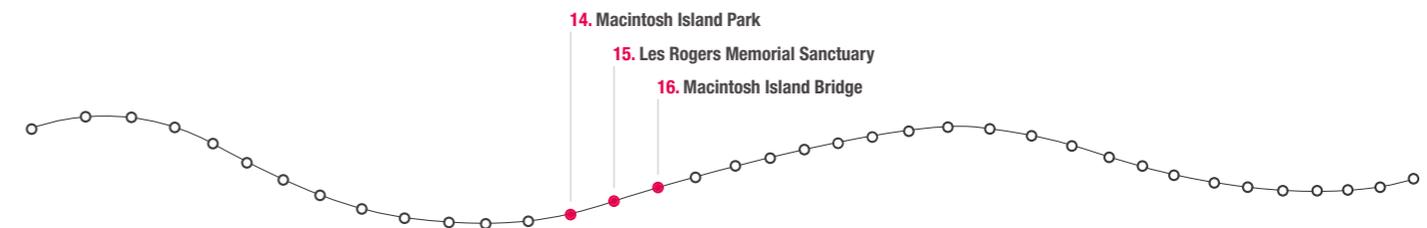
## 16

**Macintosh Island Bridge**

Constructed in 2007 Macintosh Island Bridge is a 110-metre cycle and pedestrian link across a branch of the Nerang River, connecting the park to the surfing beach at Narrowneck.

North from the bridge is a landmark in Australia's telecommunication history. Cable Street and Cable Park, established in 1888, mark the landfall in Australia of the Pacific Telegraph Cable, part of the All Red Line of electrical telegraphs that linked much of the British Empire. The cable route was Australia's main communication link with the world linking Southport (Australia), New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Fiji, Fanning Island and Canada. In Canada the cable met overland telegraph cables. Messages then travelled across Canada before reaching the submarine cable crossing to Britain, operating from 1902 until its closure in 1962, when it was superseded by modern technology.

From 1902 to 1923 Southport was the terminal for all telegraph calls from overseas, from where they were transmitted onwards throughout Australia.





17

### Street motor racing circuit

Macintosh Island Bridge connects with Main Beach Parade, part of the Gold Coast motor racing street circuit. Roads are transformed annually into a race track for one of Australia’s leading motor racing events. Some 200,000 spectators come to witness what is considered one of the toughest street races in the country.

The current Gold Coast 600 event of the V8 Supercars championship continues a motor racing tradition that began on Gold Coast streets in 1954 with the Australian Grand Prix, held on the roads of Southport. A forerunner of the current circuit was first used for the Gold Coast Indy 300 in 1991, with the current layout introduced in 2009. The 4.47 kilometre track has several fast sections and four chicanes.

For a typical event, seven pedestrian bridges, 2,500 concrete barriers, 11,500 grandstand seats, 140 corporate suites and 16 kilometres of fencing is installed, along with many temporary buildings and significant power and telecommunications systems.

18

### Narrowneck

At Narrowneck, you can appreciate how close the river came to breaking through to the ocean in the 1920s and the need for beach protection measures.

This narrow strip of land separates a branch of the Nerang River from the Pacific Ocean. The original Pacific Highway from Brisbane to Sydney was constructed at Narrowneck in the early 1920s and necessitated construction of the Gold Coast’s first ocean beach seawall at the site.

Coastal protection works undertaken at Narrowneck have contributed to the city’s world leading reputation in coastal management. These works protect both the beach and adjacent coastal development through a combination of seawalls hidden under the sand dunes, widening of beaches through ongoing sand replenishment and an artificial reef constructed 300 metres off shore in 1999.

The reef, constructed using a large barge to deposit huge sandbags has attracted marine life and is now a popular diving and fishing location.

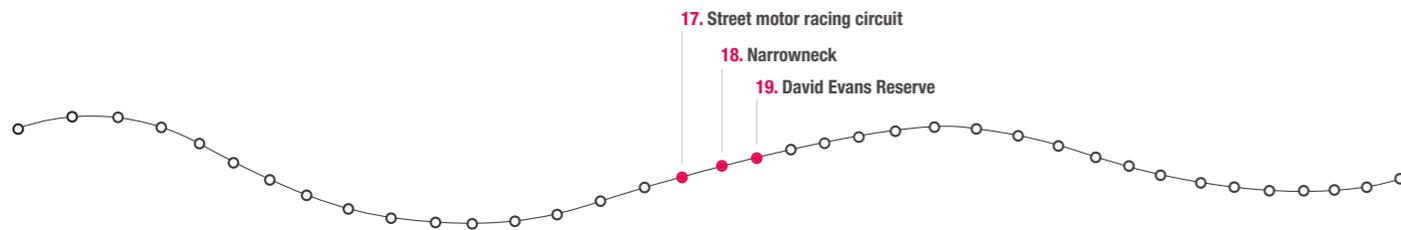
19

### David Evans Reserve

David Evans (1973–1995) was a young Gold Coaster who loved the city’s many lifestyle opportunities. His accidental death at 22 was recognised by the Council following a request from his family and friends to name the park in his honour. His family described David as ‘typifying the young Gold Coast man with his love of surfing, sports and the outdoor life, and obvious enjoyment of the lifestyle that our wonderful piece of Australia provides’.

The reserve is a fitting memorial to the young man’s life, providing a gateway to the beach and surf that he loved, and a green open space on Main Beach Parade.

The city’s 57 kilometres of coastline provide a stunning setting for surfing and watersports, swimming, walking and keeping fit, and beyond the beaches, vast sub-tropical rainforests provide endless opportunities to explore breathtaking scenery.



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**Surfers Paradise foreshore**

View Avenue is an excellent location to admire the white sandy beaches and sparkling blue breakers of Surfers Paradise. The foreshore was comprehensively redeveloped in 2011 as part of a \$25 million project, with new seating, viewing platforms and other amenities.

The heritage photographs on display here reveal the Surfers Paradise of the 1950s and 60s. Significant development began in the area after World War II, which brought many servicemen to our beaches for rest and relaxation. The city's first motel, the El Dorado, was built in 1954 on the site now occupied by the Crowne Plaza. Four years later the first high rise building, Kinkabool was built at Hanlan Street. From these small beginnings, the Gold Coast is now renowned for its many high rise buildings including Q1, one of the world's tallest residential towers.

21

**The Stafford Bikini sign**

Elkhorn Avenue marks the northern start of the shopping and entertainment hub of Surfers Paradise.

Heritage photographs at this location commemorate the work of Paula Stafford, a local fashion designer credited with bringing the bikini to Australia in the 1950s. Stafford originally trained in dress design at the Melbourne Technical College in the 1930s before moving to Surfers Paradise in 1942.

Stafford's designs were an instant hit, and her reputation grew quickly after infamous Sydney model Anne Ferguson received a reprimand from the local beach inspector for her skimpy Stafford bikini. She originally sold direct from her own store, the Stafford Tog Shop in Cavill Avenue, where the bikinis were cut to order on the beach, taken to Cavill Avenue for stitching, and delivered to customers the next day. Stafford went on to employ 65 staff at two factories, supplying stores across Australia and worldwide.

22

**Cavill Avenue**

Cavill Avenue is named after Jim Cavill (1862–1952) a Brisbane hotelier who acquired 25 acres of land in the area which was previously known as Elston – the place we know now as Surfers Paradise.

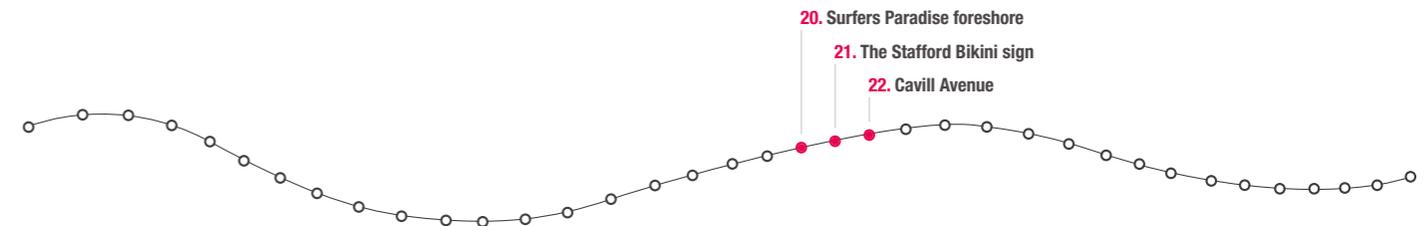
In 1925 Cavill opened one of the first hotels in the area which featured private gardens and even a zoo. He had a keen eye for promotion and with the support of locals he lobbied hard for Elston to be renamed Surfers Paradise, in which he succeeded in 1933. The runner up name was Sea Glint.

The eastern end of Cavill Avenue is known as Cavill Mall and is the commercial centre of Surfers Paradise. Near the beach is a memorial to Al Baldwin, the 'suntan man', a local identity renowned for spraying sunscreen lotion on beachgoers for more than 30 years. It is estimated he sprayed about three million bodies over the years.

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23

### Peter Lacey statue

Peter Lacey (1947–1996) was one of the greatest surf lifesaving competitors of all time. In 22 successive years of competition from 1963 to 1984, he won 18 gold, 19 silver and 10 bronze medals at the Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships and also won four World Surf Lifesaving Championships.

From 1983 to 1985 he was the Australian representative team coach of an undefeated Australian Surf Lifesaving Team. From 1991 to 1994 Lacey competed internationally in the World Masters Surf Lifesaving and Games event, winning a further 16 gold and six silver medals.

Lacey was also employed as a City of Gold Coast lifeguard from 1975 to 1976, part of the largest professional lifeguard service in Australia. The City employs 37 permanent staff and 140 seasonal staff to patrol 26 beaches for 52 weeks per year and 42 beaches during school holiday periods along its 57 kilometre coastline.

Surf lifesaving began in Queensland in 1908. Surf Life Saving Queensland was established as the governing body for surf lifesaving in Queensland in 1930.

24

### Gold Coast Meter Maid sign

The heritage images at this location tell the story of the Gold Coast Meter Maids, introduced to the Gold Coast in the 1960s by Bernie Elsey (1906–1986), a renowned Gold Coast property developer and entrepreneur. In response to fears that recently installed parking meters would drive tourists away, the Meter Maids topped up expired parking meters, saving beach visitors from a parking fine.

In 1967 the Meter Maids became famous across Australia and New Zealand as they spearheaded a campaign to get tourists back to the Gold Coast after devastating cyclonic weather. They remain one of the Gold Coast's most well-known and controversial sights.

25

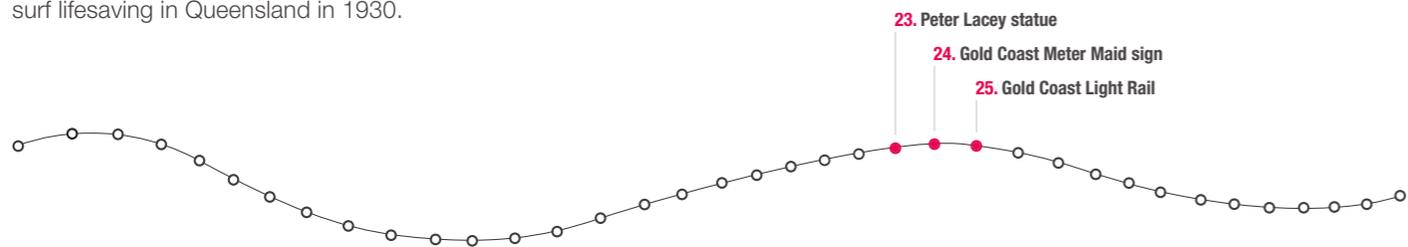
### Gold Coast Light Rail

The intersection of Cavill Avenue and Surfers Paradise Boulevard marks a tourist hotspot. It was once home to Jim Cavill's original Surfers Paradise Hotel which also boasted the famous Birdwatcher's Bar, Paradise Room (dining and dance floor), beergarden, private gardens and a zoo.

The bar, with its glass windows overlooking Cavill Avenue, was popular with locals who would watch people walk by on their way to the beach. When the Surfers Paradise Hotel was demolished for construction of the Paradise Centre in 1983, part of the bar was retained.

Across the road is Cavill Mall light rail station, part of Queensland's first light rail system (opened 2014) and the most significant transport infrastructure project ever undertaken on the Gold Coast.

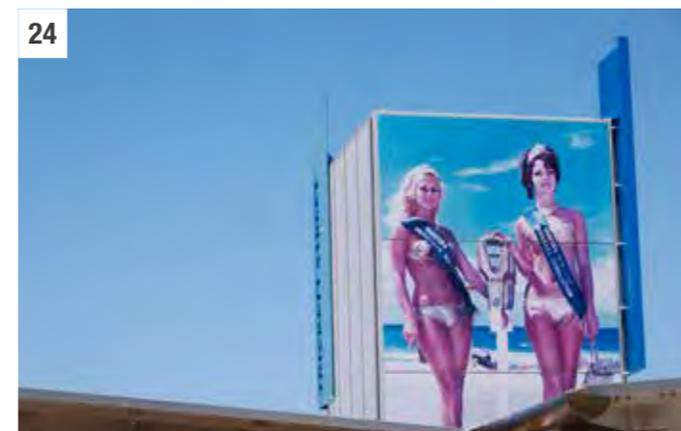
Fast, frequent trams connect 16 stations along a 13 kilometre route from Broadbeach to Gold Coast University Hospital. Stage two connects to Helensvale.



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**Matey the dog statue**

Cavill Park is home to a statue of Matey the dog, a homeless kelpie cross which first appeared on Cavill Avenue in 1945 after the end of World War II. He was befriended by the locals and soon took up residence outside Jim Cavill's Surfers Paradise Hotel where he would greet patrons each day.

Matey also took it upon himself to accompany patrons as they walked home after a long night at the hotel. He would then return to the hotel ready to get his next charge home safely.

When Matey died in 1957, his statue was erected by residents and features a plaque which declares Matey to be friend to thousands of tourists of Surfers Paradise for 12 years. He continues to stand watch over Surfers Paradise revellers more than 50 years after his death.

27

**Lionel Perry Park**

It is currently hard to imagine now but cows once grazed on the banks of the Nerang River where Lionel Perry Park currently stands. After European settlement, the riverside and surrounding land was used for dairy farming. Development restrictions were lifted in 1954 and brought huge changes to the area.

As the Gold Coast developed, one of the key figures who ensured the preservation of green spaces was Lionel Perry (1913-1988). Perry moved to Southport with his family in 1946 and became the Council's chief inspector. He helped to shape the Gold Coast's urban landscape and, along with Mick Schamburg, the Council's Parks and Gardens superintendent, is credited for developing many of the Gold Coast's parks and reserves.

The riverside park which takes his name was dedicated to Perry by Councillors in recognition of his role in developing the city's parks and gardens.

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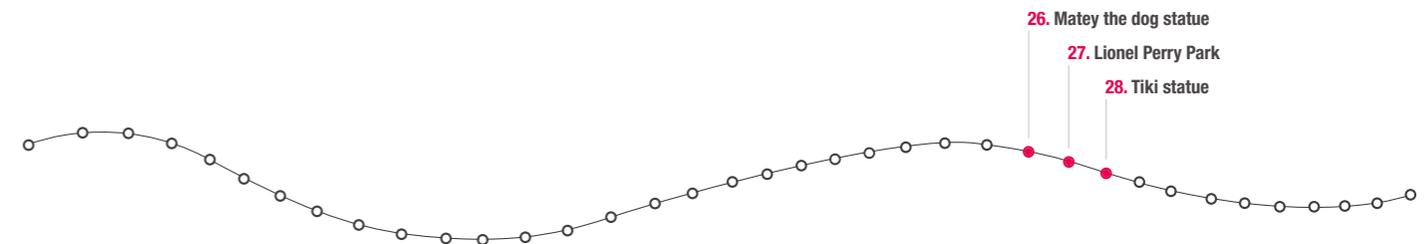
**Tiki statue**

The impressive Tiki statue provides a landmark in this popular riverside meeting place. The statue features a pattern based on a Pacific Island wood carving that was found in nearby sand dunes in the early 1970s.

The nearby Tiki Village Resort was built by Gold Coast entrepreneur Bernie Eley. Eley was renowned for his notorious pyjama parties, held at his Beachcomber Hotels in Surfers Paradise and Coolangatta in the 1950s and 60s.

Eley held his first pyjama party in March 1957. Revellers turned up in their sleepwear but the party would inevitably end up in the hotel pool.

Eley was also known for bringing famous acts to the Gold Coast including 'The Wild One' Johnny O'Keefe, Marlene Dietrich and the Gibb brothers who later went on to take the world by storm as the Bee Gees.



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### Appel Park

The Hon. John George Appel MLA (1859–1929) was a former Nerang Shire Councillor who went on to become State Member for Albert in 1908 and retained his seat until his death at the age of 70.

Appel was a solicitor who moved into dairying and pastoral pursuits for a short time before finally settling on politics. As the Member for Albert, Appel acted as Secretary for the Ministry of Mines and Public Works in 1908 and was then appointed Home Secretary in 1909, holding both positions until 1915. His most commended work during this time was in health legislation and codifying the Local Authorities Act.

Appel was a supporter of The Southport School and prizes for dux of the school are still given in his honour today. He also built a country home called 'Sea Glint' on the southern bank of the Nerang River opposite the Surfers Paradise Hotel.

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### Chevron Island Bridge

Chevron Island Bridge east was opened on 12 March 1960 by then Queensland Premier Frank Nicklin. Mr Nicklin also unveiled the foundation stone for the new Chevron Hotel as part of the ceremony and remarked that the opening was a 'notable day in the history of Queensland'. The bridge was constructed by private developer Stan Korman and handed to the Gold Coast City Council 'without any strings'. At the time it was reported as the largest bridge of its kind ever constructed in Queensland.

The bridge, connecting central Surfers Paradise with Chevron Island, was one of the first major infrastructure developments of the booming Surfers Paradise and catered for the growing need to link new canal estate developments with the beach.

The bridge opening attracted a colourful gathering, with some people travelling up to 4000 miles for the occasion and the chance to inspect the recently developed island.

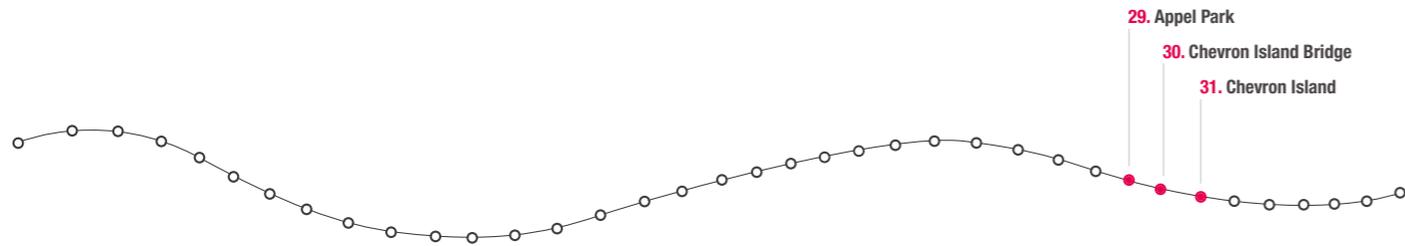
31

### Chevron Island

Once a land-linked sand mass known as Goat Island, Chevron Island was reshaped by sand pumping and developed into a residential estate in the 1950s. At the time, it was claimed to be the largest land reclamation scheme ever undertaken by a private developer in Queensland.

Prior to its transformation into Chevron Island, Goat Island was uninhabited and used mainly for grazing cattle and market garden farmlets. From the late 1880s to 1925 the Meyer Ferry provided the only access for vehicles to Surfers Paradise and the southern beaches from just south of the island. It was even used by the famous Cobb and Co. coaches which crossed on the ferry and drove along the beach at low tide as part of the journey from Nerang to Coolangatta.

The ferry was started by German immigrant Johann Meyer when he discovered that transporting tourists across the river was more lucrative than his short-lived sugar plantation nearby.



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Photo by Dean Johnson @deanjohnson 15th January 2017



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**Korman Family Park**

Korman Family Park was named after Stanley Korman (1904–1988) and his niece Geulah Korman (circa 1919–2015) to honour their contributions to the Gold Coast community.

Stanley Korman was a visionary and entrepreneur who is credited with putting the Gold Coast on the map in the 1950s thanks to his innovative high rise and canal estate developments, inspired by his time spent in Miami, Florida. Stanley built the first high rise building in Surfers Paradise, the Kinkabool Hotel as well as developing Paradise and Chevron Islands.

Geulah Korman opened one of the original boutique dress shops at Surfers Paradise called Riviera Casuals. Her ensembles won the Gold Coast’s Concours d’Elegance competition five times between 1969 and 1972. This upmarket event would marry the best cars of the day with the most stylish fashions. Geulah Korman was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 1992 in recognition of her charity work.

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**Arts and Cultural Gateway**

Chevron Island’s western bridge is the gateway to the Evandale precinct, the city’s civic, cultural and artistic heart, and Bundall, one of the city’s major business districts.

The 16.9 hectare riverside Evandale site is home to the Council Chambers and The Arts Centre Gold Coast, and is being transformed into a striking new Cultural Precinct. When complete, it will include visual and performing arts facilities and a programmed outdoor artscape supporting the city’s thriving cultural evolution. A planned pedestrian and cycle bridge and Cultural Corridor will link Evandale to Chevron Island’s commercial hub and Surfers Paradise in the future.

To the west of Evandale is the Gold Coast Turf Club, one of the country’s busiest racecourses, hosting about 60 race meetings annually. This includes Australia’s richest equine event, the Magic Millions carnival. It is also the home to the Gold Coast Show, an annual celebration now more than a century old.

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**Surfers Paradise Rowing Club**

Next to the Southport-Burleigh Road bridge is the Surfers Paradise Rowing Club, formed in 1989. The Gold Coast has a long history and fascination with rowing. The Southport School began holding regattas on the Nerang River in 1910 and many streets in Surfers Paradise are named after world famous rowers.

The current club maintains a local rowing legacy founded in a boating shed on nearby Isle of Capri which was washed away during the Boxing Day floods of 1974.

The club secured the current site in 1993. The club’s patron Mick Veivers MLA, attended the sod-turning ceremony. Work on the boatshed was completed in 1996.

The rowing club won its first Rowing Queensland Premiership in 2012.

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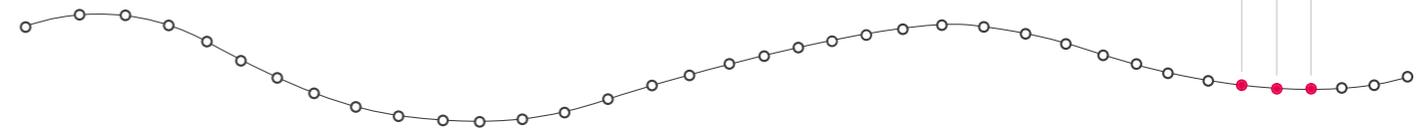


ARM Architecture, Versatile Outdoor Space (concert mode), Stage 1, Gold Coast Cultural Precinct (concept image).

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- 34. Surfers Paradise Rowing Club
- 33. Arts and Cultural Gateway
- 32. Korman Family Park





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### Saint Margaret's Chapel

Built in 1877, St Margaret's Chapel is a heritage-listed timber chapel nestled among the spreading fig trees along the banks of the Nerang River. The chapel, a popular wedding destination, was moved from its original home in Nerang in 1992.

Its original location was at Nerang Street, Nerang on a hill overlooking the river. The building was funded by donations from church members and was constructed from local pit-sawn timber and handmade nails. The cedar altar, rails, seats and prayer desk were a gift from friends of the church in England. To make way for a bigger church, the building was sold to Alan and Lorraine Slade who donated it to the Council in 1993.

As part of the evolution of the new Gold Coast Cultural Precinct, St Margaret's Chapel will be relocated to the precinct's south-eastern peninsula, with views across wide water to the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach skyline.

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### The Arts Centre Gold Coast

Evandale was first identified as a preferred location for an arts and cultural centre in the late 1960s. The resulting facility was opened more than 20 years later by then Governor of Queensland, Sir Walter Campbell on 6 December 1986 and named after previous Gold Coast Mayor Keith Hunt. The building has seen a number of additions including cinema, café, function and administration facilities.

The Arts Centre Gold Coast is the city's premier cultural facility, bringing visual and performing arts to the region. More than 700,000 people attend 6000 events annually including theatrical productions, exhibitions, film screenings, education programs and workshops.

Part of the Cultural Precinct, the Gold Coast City Gallery is one of Australia's most prominent regional public galleries and serves a population of approximately 500,000. Opened in 1986 the gallery houses the renowned City Collection of contemporary and historical artworks documenting the character of the Gold Coast as well as the development of Australian art practice.

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### Evandale Council Chambers

Early historical and archaeological records show the existence of a thriving Indigenous community in the vicinity of Evandale. The land was selected in 1860 as farmland for cotton and then sugar cane, but later converted to dairying and other agricultural uses.

In the 1960s the Gold Coast City Council purchased the farmland for the development of an arts and civic centre. Administration buildings opened in 1976 and the new Council Chambers was opened in 2004.

The origins of the current local government can be traced back to the 1870s and by 1948 two Councils ran the area that has become today's city. South Coast Town Council became Gold Coast City Council in 1959, amalgamating with Albert Shire to form the single Gold Coast City Council in 1995.

Now known as the City of Gold Coast, it is the second largest Council in Australia administering the nation's sixth largest city.

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37. Evandale Council Chambers  
36. The Arts Centre Gold Coast  
35. Saint Margaret's Chapel





