

WOODRIDGE

Early settlement

Woodridge was initially a timber reserve, which was subdivided for settlement once the railway was built in 1885. The subdivisions were completed around 1888. Many early purchasers were speculators. The first commercial venture in the area was the firewood mill operated by Dugald Graham located in Railway Parade. He acquired the land in December 1912.

He immediately asked the Railway Department for a siding to enable him to transport the cut timber. The private siding was completed on the 4th April, 1913 at Mr Graham's expense. When it came to naming the siding he suggested Grahamvale and then later Craighburn, Loner and then Devar. Only Devar, (named after a lighthouse in the west of Scotland) was considered, but then someone realised that it was only a private siding and all proposals for naming it were forgotten. No-one however let the Lands Department know of the decision not to officially name the siding and the name Devar was used on some maps produced at the time.

Mr Octavius Stubbs bought Graham's property in July 1913. He built a sawmill and also used the siding to his advantage transporting timber for building purposes as well as firewood. He also controlled the industry locally and would not allow timber getters to use his siding to transport timber to other mills. Mr Stubbs named his property Woodridge in about 1915. 'Wood' because it was the most important industry in the district and 'ridge' because the property was situated on a ridge. When Mr Stubbs investigated the matter of the name for his siding he was told officially the name was '15 Miles Siding' as it was 15 miles from Brisbane.

In 1914 Mr O Stubbs advertised the subdivision and sale of his land - Woodridge Estate.

THE WOODRIDGE ESTATE **SEMI-SUBURBAN FRUIT AND POULTRY FARMS**

15 miles from Brisbane (Main South Coast Line) and half a mile from the siding. The LAND is highly recommended for Poultry, Vegetables, Pines, Strawberries, Pawpaws, Rosellas, Mangoes etc. and has a good rainfall, in addition to never-failing water-holes all over the property. Telephone and Postal facilities on the estate.

UNSURPASSABLE OFFER 10 Acres fenced, 1 acre cleared, new 4 roomed House, Stove, Tank (1000 gallons)

STARTLING PRICE - 170 pounds, Deposit 50 pounds, Balance 10 shillings per week. WITHOUT INTEREST.

Mr Stubbs at this time had four sawmills supplying timber for wood stoves in Brisbane. The Church of England in Railway Parade stands where one of the mills was located.

In 1916 the region was well established with an active Progress Association comprising 19 resident families. They erected a progress hall in 1917. Apart from timber and small crop farming, poultry was a key industry in Woodridge. The largest poultry farm was located on the position taken by the Woodridge North State School today. Dairying was also carried out with the cream sent down the railway line to the Kingston Butter Factory.

The railway line was re-aligned in 1917 and a new trestle bridge was opened on Wembley Road to replace the old level crossing. In November 1918, Arthur Blackwood subdivided the estate known as the Dorothy Park Estate. Part of this estate was essentially urban and comprised land between Ewing and North Roads, including Blackwood, Croydon and Defiance Roads. Small acreage lots were situated to the north up to Whitey and Orchid Streets. Many residents commuted to work in the city or the nearby industrial areas at Kuraby and Rocklea.

The Towning family were amongst the early residents of Woodridge. Mr John Towning received mail for people in the district via the railway in the early days. In 1923 on the 10th May, a Receiving Office (Post Office) was opened and Mrs Towning became the Receiving Officer. She was paid an allowance of 13 pounds 10 shillings for her position. "The office was located in a small tin building adjacent to a house owned by Mr Towning. The Building was situated at 34 Railway Parade. Telephone and telegraph facilities were introduced on August 9th 1923." (*Albert News* 31 August 1977)

The postal officials considered the name 'Woodridge' temporary at the time of the opening of the Receiving Office. 'Woodridge Park' was suggested but the Progress Association and the Railways Department objected strongly and finally the Postmaster Generals Department advised the Department of Public Lands on January 1st, 1924, that the Woodridge name would remain.

By 1930, Woodridge boasted a post, telegraph and telephone office, a store, newsagency and a hall which doubled as a church on Sundays for various visiting religious ministries. One local sawmill was owned by Mr Boyle and Stubbs old firewood depot was owned by Bill Seeleither and George Dellitt.

The Progress Hall was used by the Provisional School from 1924 to 1932. Dorothy Tuke was transferred from the Bahr's Scrub school to the new Woodridge Provisional School in May 1924. The school started with an enrolment of 21 children. Miss Annie Lloyd took over from Miss Tuke in 1925 and taught at the Hall until the new school opened. The new school building, on the corner of Wembley Road and Railway Parade, was opened by the Minister of Public Instruction on the 2nd of April, 1932. The first Head Teacher was Mr Frederick Perrett.

Growth of a suburb

Woodridge telephone services continued to expand. In October 1953, there were five telephone subscribers in Woodridge and by 1958 there were fifty-eight. From 8 June 1945 the post office was run by George Livingston from his home at 22 Railway Parade. The office remained in this locality until 1 July 1953 when it was relocated to Station Street in a new office run by Thomas Tonkin. By 1958 the township boasted a post office two grocers, and a butcher.

The post war growth in Woodridge saw four churches built in Railway Parade. The Methodist Church operated from 1951. St Catherine's Catholic Church opened in August 1954 followed by St James' Anglican Church in October 1955. In 1959, the Trinder family donated 230 acres to the Lutheran Church and ten years later the Trinder Park home for the aged opened. A Lutheran Sunday School operated in the Progress Hall from 1961 and an Air Force Hut was later erected on the Railway Parade site donated by Pop Trinder. The Sunday School Hall was dedicated in March 1964.

Reticulated water was installed in Woodridge in 1963. Much of the development in the 1960s was the result of the developers buying up large parcels of land in the area. The Queensland Housing Commission began building homes in Woodridge once the water had been connected. Eight homes were constructed in Woodridge between June 1963 and June 1964, making a total of thirteen constructed in the area since 1945. The housing boom continued and by the end of the 1968-9 financial year, four hundred and seventy-two Housing Commission houses had been built in Woodridge, since 1945, with that number rising to one thousand five hundred and forty-seven by mid 1977.

In 1963 a new railway station was built, with a second one completed in mid 1968, known as Trinder Park. A new automatic telephone exchange opened in Kingston Road, opposite Paradise Road in April 1961. It superseded manual services in Woodridge, Slacks Creek and Kingston. During 1967, demand for telephone services in the Woodridge/Kingston area led to calls for an upgrade to the exchange.

The Woodridge post office changed hands in March 1968, with Mrs Ngaire Horner purchasing the post office and residence from Mrs Truran. In 1969, Mrs Horner, built a block of twelve shops in Station Road, which were known as Horner's Court. An unofficial post office was located in the Argonaut Shopping Centre from 1970. The Woodridge post office then relocated to Shop 41 in Horner's Court and a TAB was built on the old post office site. The post office remained at that locality until a new building was constructed at 36 Blackwood Road. It opened for business on 2 August 1976, with Woodridge now the district mail centre.

The Ambulance service began in 1964 in Railway Parade with the building completed in 1967. A fire station opened in Garfield Road in 1965. A new Ambulance station was opened near the Parklands Shopping Centre in 1970, and a library was established in the old Ambulance Station at that time. It was relocated to the Parklands Shopping Centre in 1972. A temporary Police office was established in a relocated home in Station Street in 1971, with a permanent site procured in Railway Parade later that year. The new station opened in 1972, and is now the home of Radio FM101. In 1975 the Woodridge Civic Centre opened with a shire office, community hall and Library. The shire office and library are now occupied by the Logan Art Gallery.

In 1969 a new Catholic School, St Paul's, opened in Woodridge and a state school was established in Woodridge North. Woodridge State High School opened in January 1972 and the Woodridge Opportunity School opened in November 1972. Enrolments at Woodridge State School continued to rise rapidly in the early 1970s and by January 1974, it was the largest in Queensland at that time. Other schools were quickly built to take the pressure off Woodridge, including Mabel Park State School in 1974, Harris Fields School in Smith Road in 1975, and Berrinba East School in 1977. Woodridge High School built its community hall

in 1976. A new Catholic Church was under construction at St Pauls in Woodridge during 1980-81. It was formally opened in October 1981. Mabel Park State High School opened in January 1984.

The Woodridge Tavern opened in 1973 followed by the K-Mart shopping centre in 1978. Woodridge Centrepoint shopping centre was under construction in 1981.

The new Logan Shire Council began operations in July 1979, with some officers based in the Woodridge office of Albert Shire. Logan was declared a city on 1 January 1981. The new administration centre was almost complete at the time and was formally opened by the Governor of Queensland, Sir James Ramsay on 21 February 1981.

A new police station was built off Jacaranda Avenue in 1992. A revision of the structure of the organisation also led to the new building becoming the head office of the Logan Police District. The official opening occurred on 10 October 1992.

The Booran Park Neighbourhood Centre was formally opened in October 1995. In 2004, Community Renewal funding provided a new multi-purpose community hall located on the site which was completed in November 2004 at a cost of \$340,000.

IMPORTANT YEARS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOODRIDGE

- 1958 ♦ The town had a Post Office, 2 grocers and a butcher.
- 1959 ♦ 230 acres (approx.) were donated to the Lutheran Church by Mr & Mrs Trinder.
- 1969 ♦ The Trinder Park home for the aged was opened in 1969.
- 1970 ♦ The first public library in Woodridge was in Railway Parade and opened 20th April, 1970.

In May the ambulance sub-centre for the district was opened by Sir Douglas Fraser.
- 1973 ♦ The Woodridge Tavern built by Castlemaine Perkins Ltd., cost \$700,000.00 and opened February 1973.
The Woodridge Civic Centre was in the initial stages of construction.
- 1974 The Woodridge Drive-In opened in December 1974.
- 1975 The Woodridge Library shared its accommodation with the Albert Shire's Sub Office in a new building.
- 1977 On August 29th the Woodridge Maternal, Child and Community Health Centre opened on the corner of Wembley and Ewing Road.
- 1978 ♦ A Bill to provide for the creation of the Shire of Logan was passed through State Parliament. The Bill was initiated in committee on May 31st by the Hon. R.J. Hinze, Minister for Local Government.
♦ The AMP Society \$9 Million regional Shopping Complex at Woodridge opened August, 1978. (K-Mart).
- 1981 ♦ Logan Shire was declared a City on 1 January 1981. The administrative centre of Logan City Council on Wembley Road was officially opened on 21 February 1981.
- 1986 ♦ Logan Central was gazetted as a suburb to mark the administrative centre of Logan City.