

cook park -heritage walk



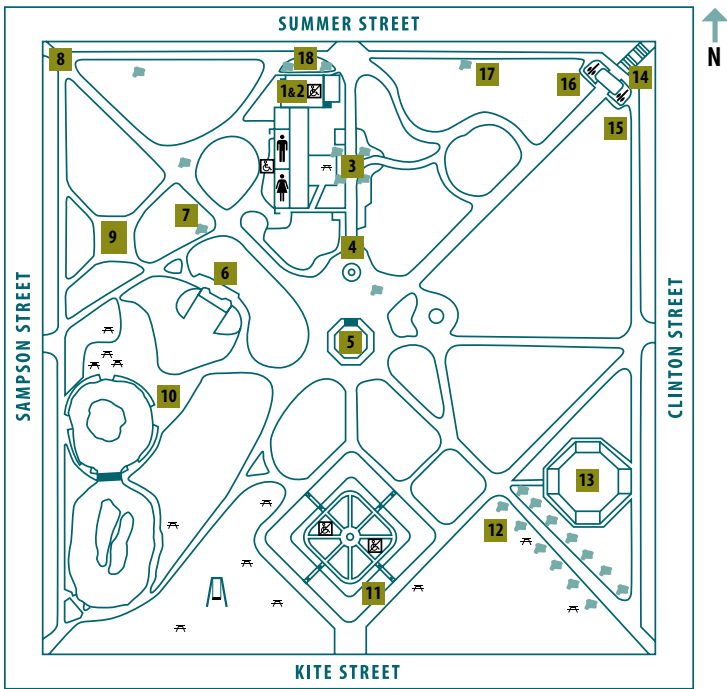
History of Cook Park

In 1873 the site of Cook Park was proclaimed as a park and in 1882 was officially named in honour of Captain James Cook.

From the 1870s onwards the first trees were planted resulting in today's mature specimens. Andrew Patterson was the first curator employed in 1887.

Cook Park was laid out with straight paths and rows of trees, with much of the original design still in place. There is a display of Tuberous Begonias in the Blowes Conservatory from February to April each year.





cook park heritage walk

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| 3 Deodar Cedars | 13 Fernery |
| 4 James Dalton Fountain | 14 Main Gates |
| 5 Bandstand | 15 German Gun |
| 6 Aviary | 16 Cannon |
| 7 "Big Tree" (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>) | 17 Bunya Bunya Pine |
| 8 Gates at Cnr Summer & Sampson Sts | 18 Weeping Scotch Elm |
| 9 Blowes Conservatory | |
| 10 Duck Pond | |

1 **BASTICK COTTAGE**

The Caretakers Cottage was built in 1887 at a cost of £185. It was named Bastick Cottage to honour two former Parks and Gardens Supervisors who, between father and son, gave 90 years of service to Orange. The cottage now houses the Park Guildry, which operates as an arts and crafts shop.

2 **ENDEAVOUR ROOM**

The Endeavour Interpretation Room is located within Bastick Cottage and features historic information about Cook Park, a variety of memorabilia, photographs and displays which change on a regular basis.

3 **DEODAR CEDARS**

The four Deodar Cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) planted in the early days of Cook Park, are over 120 years old. These trees form an impressive canopy.

4 **JAMES DALTON FOUNTAIN**

James Dalton donated this fountain to the people of Orange in 1891. Dalton was a wealthy merchant who was part owner of Dalton Bros Store in which Myer is now located.

5 **BANDSTAND**

In 1907 the Town Band decided to build bandstands in Cook and Robertson Parks. The bandstand in Cook Park was officially opened on 12 March 1908.

6 **AVIARY**

The original aviary was donated by Dr Wally Matthews, Mayor of Orange between 1936-44 and again 1948-50. In 1995 the aviary was enlarged to its present state.

7 **“BIG TREE”**

The *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, is also commonly known as “Big Tree” and native to California USA. It is closely related to the Redwoods, and has been known to live to 3000 years and grows up to 80m high. This tree is one of the earliest planted in Cook Park and is over 120 years old.

8 GATES AT CNR SUMMER & SAMPSON STS

These gates were once the entrance to Robertson Park and in 1927 were relocated to Cook Park. They were made by Dick Venables of Parkes and were paid for by funds raised by holding a sham fight and military display at the Gosling Creek Water Reserve.

9 BLOWES CONSERVATORY

This glasshouse was built at Cook Park for the growing of Tuberous Begonias. C W Curran, a local storekeeper was the first in the town to introduce Begonias. Mayor A Blowes became interested in them and donated the glasshouse in 1934 to grow Begonias. The central lantern has Blowes Conservatory in leadlight across the side of the lantern. The first Begonias in Cook Park were donated by the City of Ballarat.

10 DUCK POND

The duck pond area provides an ideal site for a picnic. Many ducks live on the islands and the duck pond is home to gold fish and tortoises. Picnic tables and swings are located nearby.

11 THE FRANK MULHOLLAND MEMORIAL GARDEN

The garden was built in memory of Frank J Mulholland, Town Clerk from 1895 to 1935. The sunken garden and sundial were dedicated on 14 February 1938 by the Hon E S Spooner.

12 AVENUE OF ELM TREES

The 60 year old avenue of Elm Trees (*Ulmus procera*) provides a cool shady area in the summer and a blaze of gold in the autumn period.

13 FERNERY

The fernery was built in 1937-38, and was later restored as a bicentennial project in 1988. The fernery contains many tree ferns and other shade loving plants.

The John Gale Memorial Fountain is now located inside the fernery. This fountain was originally located on an island in the centre of a small lake which was later remodelled into The Frank Mulholland Memorial Garden (see No. 11).

14 MAIN GATES

The impressive iron gates at the Summer and Clinton Streets entrance to the Park were funded via entertainment organised by J H Kerr of Wellwood.



I 5 GERMAN FIELD GUN

This was amongst many hundreds of similar guns which were captured in World War 1. This particular gun was captured on the Somme in France by the 33rd Battalion of the 9th Brigade 3rd Australian Division. This Brigade consisted of New South Wales soldiers, many of them from Orange and district.

It was allocated to the Memorial Hall Trustees and stood in Robertson Park for many years. During the 1940s, Orange Municipal Council had it moved to Cook Park.

I 6 24 POUND CANNON

The cannon was obtained from a collection that was distributed throughout New South Wales after the cannons became obsolete for the defence of Sydney Harbour. Our cannon, obtained in 1904 from the Sydney City Council bears the initial G3R, indicating that it was made in the reign of George III (1751-1820). It has been identified as a 24 pound smooth bore, cast about 1806 at the Carron Iron Foundry in Scotland.

I 7 BUNYA BUNYA PINE

The Bunya Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) originates from Queensland. Huge cones resembling large pineapples form around the canopy of the tree every few years. The large seeds were highly prized as food by aborigines.

I 8 WEEPING SCOTCH ELM

These two Weeping Elms (*Ulmus glabra* 'Pendula') are highly ornamental, with their "cubby house" effect of branches reaching to the ground.



COOK PARK

- Cook Park is open every day of the year, from 7.30am till dusk.
- The Park Guildry is open 7 days, 10.00am to 4.00pm, closed on Christmas Day and Good Friday.
- Picnic tables and toilet facilities are provided.
- Dogs are permitted in the park if on leads.
- Please leave bicycles outside the park, as these are not permitted.
- Bookings are welcome for weddings or other group functions.
- Guided tours are available for large groups on request.

During your visit to Cook Park do not miss the **Park Guildry**. This group of local craftspeople is located in the '**Bastick Cottage**', a Victorian style, heritage building. This group offer a wide range of **unique handcrafted goods from pottery, knitting, woodwork to homemade jams and fresh baked goods.**

The Guildry is open 7 days a week from 10am - 4pm.

Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Explore Orange's history further by taking a self guided walk of Orange, Lucknow or Spring Hill.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



Orange Visitor Information Centre
FREE CALL 1800 069 466
www.orange.nsw.gov.au