

Toowoomba

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Toowoomba

[Queensland](#)



Toowoomba CBD and inner suburbs looking south



Toowoomba

Population: 128,600^[1] (15th)

• **Density:** 209.4/km² (542.3/sq mi)

Established: 1840s

Postcode: 4350

<u>Elevation:</u>	691 m (2,267 ft) ^[2]
<u>Time zone:</u>	<u>AEST (UTC+10)</u>
<u>Location:</u>	132 km (82 mi) from <u>Brisbane</u>
<u>LGA:</u>	<u>Toowoomba Region</u>
<u>County:</u>	<u>Aubigny</u>
<u>State District:</u>	<u>Toowoomba North</u> , <u>Toowoomba South</u> and <u>Condamine</u>
<u>Federal Division:</u>	<u>Groom</u>

Mean max temp	Mean min temp	Annual rainfall
22.6 °C 73 °F	11.4 °C 53 °F	944 mm 37.2 in

Toowoomba (nicknamed 'The Garden City') is a city in Southern [Queensland](#), Australia. It is located 127 km (79 mi) west of Queensland's capital city, [Brisbane](#).^[3] With an estimated district population of 128,600, Toowoomba is Australia's second largest inland city and its largest non-capital inland city.^[1] The [Toowoomba Region](#) population in 2009 was 159,000.

A university and cathedral city, Toowoomba hosts the Australian Carnival of Flowers each September, and [Easterfest](#) is held annually over the Easter weekend. There are more than 150 public parks and gardens in Toowoomba.^[4] It has developed into a regional centre for business and government services.^[4]

History

Main article: [History of Toowoomba, Queensland](#)



Main Street of Toowoomba in 1897.

Toowoomba's colonial history traces back to 1816 when English [botanist](#) and [explorer Allan Cunningham](#) arrived in Australia from [Brazil](#) and in June 1827 discovered 4 million acres (16,000

km²) of rich farming and grazing land, which became known as the [Darling Downs](#),^[5] bordered on the east by the [Great Dividing Range](#) and situated 100 miles (160 km) west of the settlement of [Moreton Bay](#). Thirteen years later when George and [Patrick Leslie](#) established Toolburra Station 56 miles (90 km) south-west of Toowoomba the first settlers arrived on the Downs and established a township of bark-slab shops called The Springs which was soon renamed [Drayton](#). Land for the town was first surveyed in 1849, then again in 1853.^[6]

Towards the end of the 1840s Drayton had grown to the point where it had its own newspaper, general store, trading post and the [Royal Bull's Head Inn](#), which was built by William Horton and still stands today. Horton is regarded as the true founder of Toowoomba, despite the fact that he was not the first man to live there. Drovers and wagon masters spread the news of the new settlement at Toowoomba. By 1858 Toowoomba was growing fast. It had a population of 700, three hotels and many stores. Land selling at £4 an acre (£988/km²) in 1850 was now £150 an acre (£37,000/km²). Governor Bowen granted the wish of locals and a new municipality was proclaimed on 24 November 1860.



A [NASA Landsat](#) montage of Toowoomba city

The first town council election took place on 4 January 1861 and [William Henry Groom](#) won. The railway from Ipswich was opened in 1867, bringing with it business development.^[4] In 1892, the Under Secretary of Public Land proclaimed Toowoomba and the surrounding areas as a township and in 1904 Toowoomba was declared a city. Pastoralism replaced agriculture and dairying by the 1900s.^[4]

Toowoomba was named as [Australia's Tidiest Town](#) in 2008.^[7]

Geography

Toowoomba is situated at a [latitude](#) and [longitude](#) of [27°33'S 151°57'E](#)[27.55°S 151.95°E](#). Toowoomba sits on the crest of the [Great Dividing Range](#), around 700 metres (2,300 ft) above sea level. A few streets are on the eastern side of the edge of the range, but most of the city is west of the divide.

The City occupies the edge of the range and the low ridges behind it. Two valleys run north from the southern boundary, each arising from springs either side of Middle Ridge near Spring Street at an altitude of around 680 m. These waterways, East Creek and West Creek flow together just north of the CBD to form Gowrie Creek.

Gowrie Creek drains to the west across the [Darling Downs](#) and is a tributary of the [Condamine River](#), part of the [Murray-Darling Basin](#). The water flowing down Gowrie Creek makes its way some 3,000 km (1,900 mi) to the mouth of the [Murray River](#) near [Adelaide](#) in South Australia. Rain which falls on the easternmost streets of Toowoomba flows east to [Moreton Bay](#) a distance of around 170 km (110 mi).


The rich [volcanic soil](#) in the region helps maintain the 150 public parks that are scattered across the city. [Jacaranda](#), [Camphor laurel](#) and [Plane](#) trees line many of the city streets. The city's reputation as 'The Garden City' is highlighted during the Australian Carnival of Flowers festival held in September each year. [Deciduous](#) trees from around the world line many of the parks, giving a display of autumn colour.^[8] This is particularly rare in Australia, as nearly the entire continent is forested with [evergreens](#).

Suburbs

- [Blue Mountain Heights](#)
- [Centenary Heights](#)
- [Cotswold Hills](#)
- [Cranley](#)
- [Darling Heights](#)
- [Drayton](#)
- [East Toowoomba](#)
- [Glenvale](#)
- [Harlaxton](#)
- [Harristown](#)
- [Kearneys Spring](#)
- [Middle Ridge](#)
- [Mount Kynoch](#)
- [Mount Lofty](#)
- [Newtown](#)
- [North Toowoomba](#)
- [Prince Henry Heights](#)
- [Rangeville](#)
- [Redwood](#)
- [Rockville](#)
- [South Toowoomba](#)
- [Toowoomba City](#)
- [Wilsonton](#)

Architecture and heritage



 St. James Church of England during construction in 1869



 View from Russell Street



 Toowoomba Town Hall

Toowoomba's history has been preserved in its buildings. Examples of architecture drawing from the city's wealthy beginnings include [Toowoomba City Hall](#) which was Queensland's first purpose-built

town hall,^[4] the National Trust [Royal Bull's Head Inn](#) and many examples in the heritage-listed Russell Street. Immediately to the east of the CBD is the Caledonian Estate, an area of turn of the 20th century housing, ranging from humble workers cottages to large stately homes, in the classic wooden [Queenslander](#) style.

Toowoomba is also home to [The Empire Theatre](#), which was originally opened in June 1911, as a silent [movie house](#). In February 1933, fire broke out, almost completely destroying the building.^[9] However, the Empire was rebuilt and reopened in November 1933. The architectural styling of the new Empire Theatre was [art deco](#), in keeping with the trend of the 1930s. After years of neglect, the Empire Theatre was extensively renovated in the late 1990s, but retains much of its art deco architecture and decorations,^[9] especially the [proscenium](#) arch. Able to seat approximately 1,500 people, the Empire Theatre is now the largest regional theatre in Australia.

The City also is home to the [Cobb & Co Museum](#), hailing to the famous mail company's beginnings as a small mail run in the 1800s to transport mail and passengers to [Brisbane](#) and beyond. It also houses Australia's largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles. The museum has undergone a A\$8 million redevelopment before reopening in September 2010.^[10]

Climate

Toowoomba has a [temperate climate](#) with warm summers and cool winters and it enjoys four distinct seasons.^[citation needed] Compared to most of Queensland, the town is cooler, mainly because of its high elevation.^[citation needed]

Daily maximum temperatures in Toowoomba average 27 °C (81 °F) in summer and 16 °C (61 °F) in winter.^[11] According to the [Bureau of Meteorology](#), the highest temperature ever recorded in Toowoomba was 39.3 °C (102.7 °F), while the lowest was −4.4 °C (24.1 °F). Winter temperatures seldom go below [freezing](#); however in a situation unique among Queensland cities, snow has been reported on the higher parts of the city on rare occasions. Light [frost](#) will be experienced several nights each winter in the city centre, more often in the western suburbs.

Average annual rainfall, according to the Bureau of Meteorology, is 944 millimetres (37.2 in) in Toowoomba City.^[11] Rainfall in the eastern suburbs along the Great Dividing Range nudges 1,000 mm (39 in) per year.

[hide]Climate data for Toowoomba

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	39.3 (102.7)	37.0 (98.6)	35.0 (95.0)	32.3 (90.1)	27.2 (81.0)	26.1 (79.0)	24.7 (76.5)	29.5 (85.1)	31.6 (88.9)	36.2 (97.2)	38.1 (100.6)	38.9 (102.0)	39.3 (102.7)
Average high °C (°F)	27.6 (81.7)	26.6 (79.9)	25.5 (77.9)	22.9 (73.2)	19.6 (67.3)	16.9 (62.4)	16.3 (61.3)	17.9 (64.2)	20.9 (69.6)	23.7 (74.7)	26.0 (78.8)	27.5 (81.5)	22.6 (72.7)
Average low °C (°F)	16.7 (62.1)	16.6 (61.9)	15.4 (59.7)	12.3 (54.1)	9.1 (48.4)	6.3 (43.3)	5.3 (41.5)	6.0 (42.8)	8.5 (47.3)	11.5 (52.7)	13.8 (56.8)	15.7 (60.3)	11.4 (52.5)
Record low °C (°F)	8.9 (48.0)	7.2 (45.0)	6.1 (43.0)	3.5 (38.3)	−1.8 (28.8)	−3.6 (25.5)	−4.4 (24.1)	−4.2 (24.4)	−0.4 (31.3)	1.9 (35.4)	3.8 (38.8)	7.4 (45.3)	−4.4 (24.1)
Precipitation mm (inches)	132.1 (5.201)	121.1 (4.768)	94.6 (3.724)	61.9 (2.437)	58.4 (2.299)	56.8 (2.236)	52.0 (2.047)	39.5 (1.555)	46.7 (1.839)	72.2 (2.843)	89.5 (3.524)	120.0 (4.724)	944.0 (37.165)
Avg. precipitation days	11.5	11.1	10.9	7.9	8.2	7.4	6.9	6.1	6.7	8.2	9.5	10.6	105.0

Source:^[12]

On 10 January 2011 the city was hit by a massive [flash flood](#) causing damage to properties, infrastructure and resulting in the deaths of two people in the CBD. The flash flood, which has been

called an "Inland Tsunami", has resulted in sixteen deaths in Toowoomba and the nearby [Lockyer Valley](#), with 14 people still missing.^{[13][14][15]}

Governance

Main article: [Politics of Toowoomba, Queensland](#)

Toowoomba is located in and is the seat of the [Toowoomba Region local government area](#). The city is represented in the [Parliament of Queensland](#) by three seats: [Toowoomba North](#), [Toowoomba South](#) and [Condamine](#). Toowoomba North is the only Labor held seat in Toowoomba. In the [Commonwealth Parliament](#), Toowoomba forms part of the [Division of Groom](#), which is held by [Ian MacFarlane](#) for the [Liberal Party of Australia](#). The current Mayor of Toowoomba is Mayor Peter Taylor.

See also: [List of Mayors of Toowoomba](#)

Economy

The largest industry employers in Toowoomba (2004) are retail trade (17.8%); health and community services (13.3%); manufacturing (12.2%); and education (11.1%). Professional employment was the most prominent occupation (18.2%) followed by clerical, sales and service workers (17.7%) and tradespersons and related workers (13.3%).^[*citation needed*] The [Australian Defence Force](#) is also present in the local community, with the city providing housing and amenities for many of the personnel based at the [Oakey Army Aviation Centre](#) (in Oakey, 29 km (18 mi) NW of Toowoomba) and Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah to the city's North.

Economic growth potential in the region has been identified through the development of energy resources found in the [Surat Basin](#) and in [food processing](#).^[16]

Education

Toowoomba is a major education centre.

Primary

There are numerous primary schools in Toowoomba. Among these are:

State

- [Darling Heights State School](#)
- [Drayton State School](#) is the oldest school in Toowoomba.
- Fairview Heights State School
- Gabbinbar State School
- Glenvale State School
- Harlaxton State School
- Harristown State Primary School
- Middle Ridge State School
- Newtown State School
- Rangeville State School
- Rockville State School
- Toowoomba East State School
- Toowoomba North State School
- [Toowoomba South State School](#) is the oldest school in Toowoomba proper.

Private/religious

- St Thomas More's School
- [Mater Dei](#)
- [Toowoomba Preparatory School](#)
- [Christian Outreach College Toowoomba](#)
- [Fairholme College](#)
- The Glennie School
- Glenvale Christian School
- Grammar Junior
- [Concordia Lutheran College](#) (2 campuses)
- St Anthony's Primary School Toowoomba
- [Sacred Heart School](#)
- [Our Lady of Lourdes School](#)

- Wilsonton State School
- Wyreema State School

- Toowoomba Christian College

Secondary

State high

- [Centenary Heights State High School](#)
- Clifford Park Special School
- [Harristown State High School](#)
- [Toowoomba State High School](#) (2 campuses)
- Toowoomba Flexi School (annexe of Centenary Heights State High School)

Private/Religious

- Christian Outreach College Christian co-educational school.
- [Concordia College'](#)

- Darling Downs Christian School
- [Downlands College](#) independent Catholic Co-educational Day and Boarding school
- [Fairholme College](#) a [Presbyterian Church of Queensland](#) school.
- The Glennie School- Anglican day and boarding school
- [St Joseph's College](#)
- [St Mary's College](#)
- St Saviour's, Toowoomba's oldest Catholic school
- [St Ursula's College](#) Independent Catholic day and boarding school for girls
- Toowoomba Christian College
- [Toowoomba Grammar School](#), independent grammar school (est.1875).


Tertiary

- [University of Southern Queensland](#)
- [Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE](#) (SQIT) has extensive campuses to the east of the CBD.
- [University of Queensland](#) has a small centre in Toowoomba.
- There are several private post-secondary colleges and training providers in Toowoomba.

Culture

Festivals



 The annual Flower Festival is a chance to show off Toowoomba's parks and gardens at their best

Toowoomba is nationally ^[17] renowned for the annual Carnival of Flowers, held each year in September. Many of the city's major parks and gardens are especially prepared for the Carnival,

which also includes a prominent Home Garden Competition, with persons able to visit participating homes and gardens for inspection, and a Parade with flower-themed floats. Buses bring people from around the nation,^[18] and a popular way to arrive at the Carnival from [Brisbane](#) is on specially chartered retired steam or diesel train,^[19] which captures the yesteryear aspect of travel to Toowoomba in 19th century wooden carriages.

In 1953 the Carnival of Flowers was the subject of a sponsored film produced by the Queensland Minister for Lands and Irrigation. The Carnival of Flowers depicts the floral parade, a home garden's competition and the crowning of the Floral Queen and is a wonderful portrait of life in 1950's Queensland.^[20]

Toowoomba is also home to Australia's largest Drug & Alcohol free festival, [Easterfest](#).

Food

Toowoomba is well served by a great selection of restaurants, cafe's and eateries throughout the city. Toowoomba also is home to the [Weis Bar](#) and the [Lamington](#). Favourite eating spots include La Pizzaiola, Veraisons, Encores, Picnic Point Cafe and Restaurant, Gips, The Olive Branch, Weis, and many other dining venues.

Sport

[Rugby league](#) is a popular sport in Toowoomba. A team representing Toowoomba used to compete in the [Bulimba Cup](#) tournament. Toowoomba currently does not host a team in any of the major national competitions but was home to the [Toowoomba Clydesdales](#) in the [Queensland Cup](#) state league. Toowoomba also have a team in the Daily Telegraph Supercoach competition, Toowoomba Locusts, and are coached by Jacob Dunstan. The Clydesdales were the feeder team for [Brisbane Broncos](#) in the [National Rugby League](#) (NRL) from 1999 to 2006.^[21] The Clydesdales dropped out of the Queensland Cup after the 2006 season due to financial difficulties and are no longer a feeder club for the Brisbane Broncos.^[22]

The city has a soccer club [Toowoomba Raiders FC](#) that plays in the [Brisbane Premier League Division 1](#). The Garden City Raiders are the junior soccer club.

[Australian rules football](#) is played by four senior teams in the [AFL Darling Downs](#) competition: Coolaroo, Toowoomba Tigers, University of Southern Queensland and South Toowoomba. The sport is not as popular as the Rugby codes, but is gaining in popularity amongst juniors. In 2006, [Brad Howard](#) became the first draftee from Toowoomba to the [Australian Football League](#).

Toowoomba has clubs for other sports including [cricket](#) (Toowoomba Cricket Inc), [archery](#), swimming, tennis, [softball](#), baseball, [netball](#) (Toowoomba Netball Association), [hockey](#) (Toowoomba Hockey Association), [gridiron](#) (Chargers) and basketball (Toowoomba Basketball Association). The city is also home of the [Toowoomba Mountaineers Basketball Team](#), which participates in the Queensland Basketball League (QBL).

Toowoomba is home to Clifford Park Racecourse, one of Australia's leading provincial race tracks. Clifford Park Racecourse was acquired as a 160-acre (0.65 km²) block in 1861. The first meeting on it was conducted by the Darling Downs Jockey Club at the course, then known as Drayton and Toowoomba Racecourse, on 6 March 1862.

In 1882, Toowoomba Turf Club was formed and conducted its first meetings on 3 & 4 June that year. The first recorded Toowoomba Cup as run in 1919. In 1992, the club made Australian racing history by staging the first race ever run under electric lights, the Fosters Toowoomba Cup, which was won by Waigani Drive. On 4 September 1996, the club staged the first ever night race meeting in

Australia. Known as the 'Home of twilight racing' Clifford Park continues to race under lights every Saturday night and hosts 57 TAB race meeting per year.

The Toowoomba Turf Club continued to make Australian racing history when on 16 February 2009 members voted in favour of the replacement of the grass course proper with a synthetic racing surface called Cushion Track. The completion of the project will take full effect on 11 July 2009 when the annual Weetwood Handicap and Toowoomba Cup meeting will be held for the first time on the cushion track surface.

Not to forget, of course Rugby Union. Toowoomba has a number of teams, including University of Southern Queensland Rugby Union Club, Toowoomba Rangers Rugby Union Club, Toowoomba City Rugby Club, which compete in the Regional Rugby Union competition, against such teams as, the Roma Echidnas, the Condamine Cods, the Dalby Wheatmen, the Goondiwindi Emus, the Warwick Water Rats and the University of Queensland Rugby Union Club (Gatton Campus).