CONCEPT DESIGN

Prominent views in the property.

Soil Sample

Water movement through the Property
South of Gatton is an area of rock carvings known as Chullawong Rock. These rock carvings are on the sandstone wall of a rock shelter, close to Black Duck Creek. Black Duck Creek was a pathway over the Dividing Range to the Darling Downs. This whole area is surrounded by steep gorges, creeks and gullies. Along this route, the country would have been plentiful with food and water. Aboriginal people found and adapted themselves to eating many different plants, animals, birds and insects - varying their diet considerably and ensuring that no one particular food type was eaten out of existence. They had this principle take some, leave some. The basic food included damper, made from various seeds, plus wild fruit, nuts, berries, honey, leaves, yams and other edible roots, kangaroos, possums and other mammals, birds and their eggs. All meat was cooked before it was eaten. Water, sometimes sweetened with honey, was their only cold beverage. Hot tea-like drinks were brewed by boiling the water with different kinds of leaves.

The Aboriginal people used every part of the trees available to them and they did it in a non-destructive and organised way. During the Aboriginal occupation of this land, the natural vegetation was, in the main, undisturbed. Trees also provided timber for the making of many weapons, tools and other possessions. Most shelters were meant to be temporary, but some groups in the tropical regions constructed semi-permanent dwellings. These were usually oval in shape and larger than the gunyah/wurley styles. Gathering and preparing food took up much of each day. Many of the religious beliefs and ritual ceremonies were also in some way connected with obtaining food. The need for food was a constant and ever-preserving priority. They are, or could be, connected in some way with the Dreamtime, or a pathway. They could represent tribal totems; perhaps animals, hunting and gathering scenes, combat and/or death scenes. Perhaps they are there as a warning sign, for travellers leaving or entering the tribal area. Traditional memories indicate that an important man for this area was King Billy Turner, of the Gatton area, who led 1000 warriors from the Lockyer Valley to the Upper Black Duck Creek. Another was Muluggerah (King Mopy Jo), who could raise 1200 fighting men. For special purposes, such as an inquest or a special ceremony, one of the elders would be chosen to act as the head man. While in this position, his authority was unquestioned. As white farmers introduced sheep to the district and began to displace native animals and other traditional food sources, trouble flared. In the mid-1840s, a fierce battle known as the Battle of One Tree Hill took place at Table Top Mount near Toowoomba. It was the last major conflict between the people led by Muluggerah, and the Europeans. After this battle, the European invaders began to take hold of the district, and the Aboriginal people were no longer able to live their traditional lifestyle. Unfortunately, modern cultivation practices have disarranged some of the ancient bora ring sites in this area. But the existing engravings on the rocks and sacred caves and crevasses remain for our understanding. Aboriginal Law has come down through these caves and been passed on through the generations. European settlement of the Gatton area began in the 1840s and it is believed that a village may have been established by 1846. The settlement initially developed as a service centre for the surrounding properties and a horse changing point for the Royal Mail coaches. In 1852 the gazettal of the village of Gatton took place, with an official town survey being carried out in 1859. The first town allotments were sold in the 1860s. The railway line from Ipswich reached the area in 1875 and Gatton grew with its arrival. The Queensland Agricultural College opened at Gatton in 1897. The College amalgamated with the University of Queensland in 1990. Despite being one of Queensland’s earliest settlements, Gatton, 90 kilometres west of Brisbane, retains few historic buildings. Vegetable growing and small crop farming today provide the main local industries.
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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES:
South-East Queensland: Rainfall for May was generally below average and
patchy in nature. Esk 31mm (59), Beaudesert n/a (n/a), Biggenden 13mm (52),
Nambour 51mm (n/a) Boonah n/a (67), Gatton 23mm (55), Male ry 64mm
(154), and Tewantin 115mm (n/a). (figure in brackets indicates average)
Southern Queensland: April and May have been generally dry months with
below average rainfall recorded. Clifton recorded 60mm (49), Dalby 51mm
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which has been favorable for stock and pastures.
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pasture production, however under normal winter management the need
to supplement stock will occur with protein loss in grass. Generally the eastern
parts of the region have stock and irrigation water concerns with the remainder
of the region having adequate supplies. Major storages reflect this situation
with Glen Lyon and Coolumba dams being low.
CROPPING ANDHORTICULTURE:
Southern Queensland: Good widespread summer rainfall resulted in signifi-
cant recharge of soil moisture profiles, however the lack of planting rain during April
and May has delayed wheat and chickpea planting in many areas. The eastern
Darling Downs area is generally seeking 25-35mm planting rain by mid June to
maximise production. However the prevailing dry conditions favoured harvest-
ing of sorghum, cotton and mung beans with reports of late sorghum and
mung bean crops producing good yields in the West M Downs Regional
Council area.
CLIMATE ZONES: Based on BOM maps the LOCKYER VALLEY falls
into an interesting climatic zone. It borders 4 classic climates and this in
its own right is a very interesting effect on the adaptability of plants
and styles of farming.
Standard 30 year climatology information shows that the orographi-
cal effects of the great dividing range at TOOOWOMBA to the west,
BLOCKING EFFECTS of the BORDER RANGERS NATIONAL PARK
at Toowoomba have a blocking effect on the southern half of the state. This the
pattern continued for several days, and produced a cold overnight
temperature of 1.3 °C at Amberley on the 14th and 2.3 °C on the 15th.
The coldest nights on average were 13.9 °C at Amberley.
The warmest nights on average were 17.9 °C at Redcliffe, and the
warmest night was 24 °C at Redcliffe on the 7th of March.
Wind
The strongest wind gust was 74 km/h at Redcliffe on the 12th of
March, 70 km/h on the 13th of March and 69 km/h on the 3rd of
March.

DEFINITION OF THE SITES CLIMATE IS (HOT HUMID SUMMER )
Within 50km to the east of the site the zone from Ipswich to The Bris-
bane bay consist of a (WARM SUMMER COOL WINTER) or a tem-
perate to cool climate with ( HOT DRY SUMMER)

LOCKYER VALLEY & S/E QLD CLIMATE OUTLOOK

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