

# Machattie Park Walk



*In the heart of Bathurst, Machattie Park is a peaceful and picturesque public space with a rich history. Originally reserved for public use, an inadequate gaol was erected on this site in 1844. Following community pressure, the gaol was demolished and the new gaol relocated in 1889. The park was named after Dr Richard Machattie, who played a key role in the creation of this public recreation area.*

*Designed in 1890 by local architect James Hine, the park's layout remains largely unchanged today. Hine also designed several of its features, including the Band Rotunda and Gardener's Cottage. Funded through a combination of government support and community fundraising, Machattie Park became a valued public space for people to enjoy.*

***Enter the park at the corner of William & Keppel Streets and follow the directions to take in the highlights. See over for map.***

1. Walk through the **Dr Hugh Busby Memorial Gates.**

These gates were officially opened in 1930 to honour well-known local doctor Hugh Busby's service to the community.

2. Directly ahead is the **Dr Brooke Moore Memorial.**

This commemorates John Brooke Moore Snr and his son, Brooke Moore Jr, who were both doctors in Bathurst. The building on the opposite corner of William Street was bought by Dr Brooke Moore Snr and is still known as the Brooke Moore Centre.

3. Follow the path to **The Grand Fountain.**

For many years the fountain was incorrectly known as the Crago Fountain because of the plaque on it that said, 'Erected 1891, F. Crago, Mayor'. Although Ald Crago was mayor of Bathurst at the time it was in fact installed by the 1891 Progress Association who had allocated funds to purchase it. The fountain underwent extensive maintenance and restoration work in June of 2025.

4. Walk along the path to the right towards the **Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.**

The **Samuel Lewins Memorial Gate** erected along this path was originally erected by Bathurst citizens to celebrate the Jubilee of the Bathurst District Band, 1885-1935 and to commemorate Samuel Lewins' 50 years as bandmaster. The gates were removed when Bathurst City Hall was built in the 1960s but were fully restored and rededicated in 2004.

5. Turn left and follow the path to the **Begonia House.**

Built in 1936, this was the last structure to be erected in the park. Council approached the Minister for Works, Mr E Spooner, for a £ 500 grant towards the building's cost and after receiving this, officially named the building the 'Eric Spooner Begonia House'. The flowering season occurs from mid-February to early May with mid-March being the best time to view the spectacular display.

6. Continue along this path to the **Fernery.**

This building was included in the original design for the park and was erected in 1890. Despite several changes being made over the years, the external appearance remains much the same as it was when built. Inside the building, marble statuary installed in 1901 was originally loaned by the National Art Gallery, Sydney. A plaque installed on the front of the Fernery marks Charles Darwin's visit to Bathurst in 1836.

7. From the Fernery, walk towards the **Band Rotunda**.  
The Band Rotunda, designed by Mr. James Hine, was erected in 1890. Very little has changed since that time apart from restoration of roof tiles and replacement of the timber floor with concrete. It has become a popular site for band concerts, civic events as well as wedding and graduation photos.
8. From the rotunda, take the path to the right.  
Note the elm hedges along the edge of the path that appear to be planted with the trunks growing along the ground. Further on the right is the **Lynch Deodar**, the oldest tree in the park. The Himalayan Cedar was raised from seeds brought from England and planted in 1890 by Henry Lynch, an assistant gardener who later became head gardener between 1907-25.
9. Continue along the path to the **Gardener's Cottage**.  
This cottage, also designed by James Hine, was part of the original plan and the first structure built in the park (1890). Head gardeners lived here until 1971 when it was handed to the Bathurst Society for Music & the Arts.
10. Take the path to the right just past the cottage and walk towards Russell Street.  
The **Glastonbury Thorn Tree**, enclosed by the fence, was grown from a cutting taken from Glastonbury Abbey in England and brought to Bathurst in 1935. The head gardener at the time, Walter Kefford, struck the cutting. In 1992 the tree was blown down but part of it survived, maintaining its history.
11. Walk across the grass, turning left onto the path beside **Court House Lane**.  
**These Chess Tables** mark the formation of the first Bathurst Chess Club in 1869. A plaque in the garden on the left commemorates the Country Chess Championships that were held in Bathurst in 1869 and 1969.
12. Continue along the lane to Russell Street.  
The **Cathedral Gates** that are installed on this corner of the park came from the old All Saints' Cathedral in Church Street.
13. Walk along Russell Street to the George Street corner.  
The **Martin Griffin Gates** on this corner were initially erected c1891 at the Police Barracks in Durham Street then re-built on this site in 1940. The name Machattie Park is engraved on the middle two pillars. Plaques have been added to honour Martin J Griffin, Mayor of Bathurst 1931-1941, and Dr Richard Machattie.
14. The gates at the George Street exit are known as the **Webb Gates**.  
These were erected in 1934 opposite the building that housed the Webb Emporium, a department store run by the Webb family. The two plaques honour the Webb father and son who served as mayor for five years each and, between them, were aldermen for 62 uninterrupted years.
15. Beside the Webb gate is the **Monro Memorial Drinking Fountain**.  
This fountain was erected in December 1891. Mr. Fredrick Monro and his wife Annie contributed greatly to the Bathurst community before leaving in April 1891. Mrs. Monro was secretary of the committee that raised funds to establish the park.
16. Walk straight ahead along this path to the **Duck Pond**.  
Dr W Spencer was one of the promoters of the establishment of the park. Perhaps the lake, in a reverse-S shape, was the reason Bathurstians called it Lake Spencer. It is a popular spot for young and old alike.
17. In the middle of Lake Spencer is **The Howard Fountain**.  
This fountain was donated by the Howard family in 1953 in memory of James & Lizzie Howard. James was a life member of the Bathurst AH&P Association recognising 70 years of involvement with the Bathurst Show. One of the original pavilions at the Showground built in 1879 was named in his honour. The fountain was formerly located on the Russell St side of the park but was relocated to its present position in 1987.
18. Follow the right-hand path along Lake Spencer to the **Queen Victoria**  
Originally erected in front of the courthouse in Russell Street in 1888, the upper trough served thirsty horses; the lower trough was for dogs and cats. (Note the horse hoofs as the legs.) Cups were provided for people. Over the

**Jubilee Drinking Fountain.**

years it became a traffic hazard and was moved to the park in 1954, prior to Queen Elizabeth II's visit.

19. The gates at this corner are known as **Patterson Gates.**

These gates were installed in the 1960s to recognise the park's first head gardener, Alfred A Patterson, and were made by the Laycock Foundry.

20. Walk along the Keppel Street footpath to the Maurice **Freeman Memorial Gates.**

These were relocated from the property 'Delaware' in Russell Street and dedicated to the memory of World War II pilot, Captain Maurice J Freeman who was killed in action in Germany in 1943.

21. Inside to the left of the path is a plaque commemorating the **Women's Land Army Memorial.**

The Women's Land Army members were based in Bathurst and district from 1942-1945 to cut asparagus for the Edgell factory and were housed at Mount Pleasant, later named Abercrombie House. The original Claret Ash tree was dedicated on 10 June 1973 but has since been replaced.

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