

A Walk around Historic Bathurst



Bathurst's heritage is reflected in the beautiful buildings and parks lining the streets of the CBD. Park your car along George Street between Russell Street and Keppel Street and take a walk around just a few blocks to see some of the delights of Australia's oldest inland settlement. (Be mindful of timed parking limit.)

1. Access **Machattie Park** via George St and walk through the park to the corner of William and Keppel Streets.

Located on the site of a former Bathurst gaol (built 1844, demolished 1889), Machattie Park was built in the 1890s. Many memorials in the park are dedicated to significant townspeople of the day, including Bathurst mayors Machattie, Griffin and Webb, and Doctors Busby, Bassett and Brooke Moore. A plaque at the entry to the Fernery commemorates the visit to Bathurst of Charles Darwin in 1836. The Begonia House is open in autumn when the flowers are in bloom.

2. Face the **Catholic Cathedral of St Michael and St John** across the street.

The site was granted to the Catholic Church in 1838, and a church (now demolished) was constructed in the 1840s. Ben Hall was married there in 1856. The foundation stone for the Cathedral was laid in 1857 and the first mass celebrated in 1861. It was extensively remodelled by J. J. Copeman in the 1890s, then altered and extended in 1962. Prime Minister Ben Chifley's State Funeral was held here in 1951. Extensive restorations were finished in 2021.

3. On the diagonal corner, you will see the **Brooke Moore Centre**.

The ground floor of the building was originally erected as the parsonage for the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1852. The upper storey was added in 1900 after it was purchased by prominent local Doctor John Brooke Moore.

4. Turn left on William St to the **Uniting Church Hall** and the **Uniting Church** (formerly the Methodist Church).

The Hall was built in 1837 and for several years in the 1860s, it served as a chapel and school. It is one of the oldest buildings in Bathurst and the oldest surviving Methodist Chapel in NSW. Construction of the church commenced in 1857, with the spire added in 1876 and renewed in 1912, while stained glass windows were added in 1922. The William Davidson pipe organ is of state heritage significance.

5. Continue along to the corner of William and Russell St to the **War Memorial Civic Centre**.

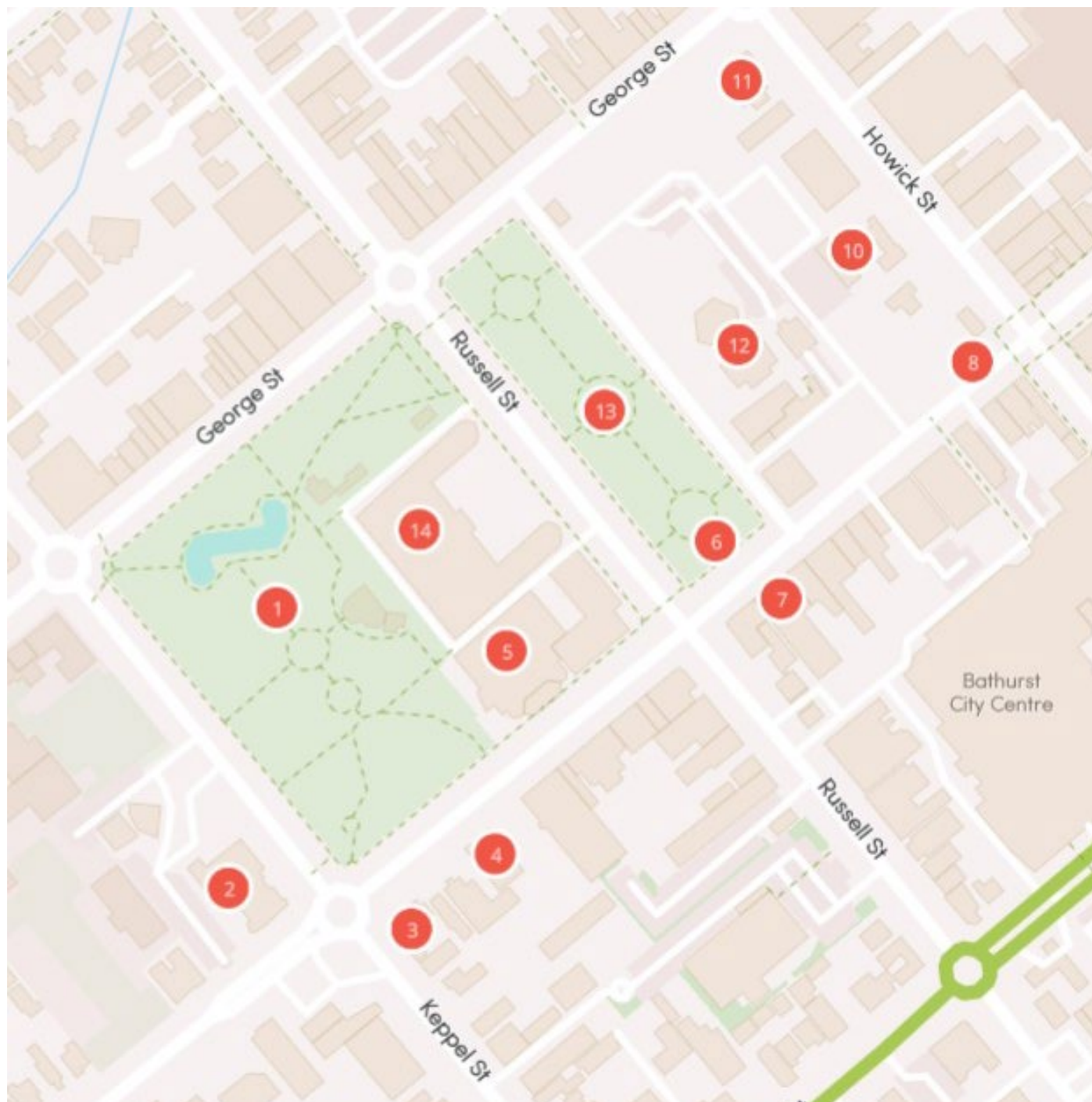
The first town hall was erected here in 1875, and the present building constructed in 1957-58. The sculpture in the fountain is a replica of the Holtermann Nugget, the largest gold specimen in the world, found at nearby Hill End. The plaques in the checkerboard footpath of Victors Walk honour the Mt Panorama race winners.

6. Cross Russell St at the lights to **King's Parade**.

The Market Building was on this site from 1859 – 1909. After its demolition, three significant memorials were erected. The South African (Boer War) Memorial was dedicated by Lord Kitchener in 1910. The name of Peter John Hancock of Bathurst, who was executed by firing squad with 'Breaker' Morant, was added in 1964. In 1913, King's Parade was officially opened. The Evans Memorial (1920) depicts the surveyor George Evans and an Aboriginal man looking westward. Unique in the southern hemisphere, the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon was erected between 1930 – 1933 in remembrance of local citizens who served in WWI but is now a memorial to all locals who died in war and peacekeeping services. The 47 bells – 35 original and 12 additional bells installed in 2018 – play at noon and 1pm daily and chime on the quarter hour. A carillonist plays the clavier on special occasions.

7. Walk back to William St. On the opposite side of the street is the **Royal Hotel**.
Built in the late 1830s or early 1840s as a single storey inn, it had many additions before reaching the three floors you see today. By the 1870s, the Royal Hotel was regarded as Bathurst's leading inn and the fashionable place to stay. Dame Nellie Melba stayed here before singing at the Bathurst School of Arts. The rich lace detailing and cast-iron balustrade was added in the 1890s.
8. Cross Church Street and continue along William St to the **former Technical College**.
The foundation stone for this magnificent brick and tiled façade building was laid in 1896. The nearby **Ribbon Gang Lane** is believed to be the site of the public hanging of the Ribbon Gang. The ten bushrangers had to build their own scaffolding before they were hanged.
9. Continue to the corner of William St and Howick St. Turn left and continue to the site of the **School of the Arts**.
James Rutherford, General Manager of Cobb & Co, was heavily involved in the Bathurst School of the Arts from 1865 to 1910. On this site he laid the foundation stone in 1874 for this building, which also housed the general office of Cobb & Co from 1876 to 1911. Only a section of the original building remains today.
10. Walk along Howick St to the former **Bathurst Public School**.
Now home of the Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum, the main building was opened in 1876 as Bathurst's first purpose-built public school. For many years it was part of the Technical College but underwent extensive refurbishment and is now home to the Somerville Collection, the lifetime work of Warren Somerville.
11. Continue to the corner of Howick and George Streets to the **Bathurst Presbyterian Church**.
Completed and dedicated in 1872 as St Stephens, it includes a bell in its tower dating from 1820. This is the oldest continuously used Presbyterian church in Australia. The hall beside the church was funded by James Horne Stewart in 1908. The first Presbyterian church in Bathurst was built in William Street where the Armada Shopping Centre is now located. Some bricks from the church have been incorporated into the façade of the shopping centre. The pre-school next to the church was named for Elizabeth Chifley, the wife of the former prime minister Ben Chifley. She bequeathed their house and its contents to this church.
12. Continue along George St. Turn left into Church St to the **All Saints' Anglican Cathedral**.
The first All Saints' church was built in 1849, but most of it was rebuilt in 1971 when the original building became structurally unsound. Only the Warriors' Chapel remains. A plaque in memory of James Rutherford is located inside the building. The construction of the new bell tower was completed in July 2009 with the five historic Warner bells from the first church reinstalled along with 3 new Taylor bells to complete the musical octave of 8. Windows in the bell tower allow people to see the bellringers and the bells.
13. **Lamp Standards**
An important feature of the Bathurst streetscape are the 105 lamp standards in the parks and main streets. The ornate streetlamps, an interesting mix of Victorian and Art Deco, were installed from 1872 to 1924, when the electricity supply was connected. Many of the lamps in the parks are original structures that were once lit by gas.
14. Cross Church St and King's Parade to the **Bathurst Courthouse** on Russell Street.
Designed by Government architect James Barnett, the Courthouse was opened in 1880 and the old courthouse in front of the current main building was then demolished. Court sessions are still conducted in the main building while the left wing, once the Post Office, now houses the Bathurst District Historical Society's museum and archives. The right wing, was originally the Telegraph Office.

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Bathurst Visitor Information Centre

1 Kendall Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795

Phone	1800 681 000
Website	Bathurstregion.com.au
Opening Hours	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm Saturday – Sunday and P/H 10am – 3pm

