

Belz Park



In 2008, the Centenary Suburbs Historical Society supported a request from Belz descendants to have a local park named in honour of the Belz family. Following representations to Brisbane City Council, the proposal was approved and a site selected on riverside land on the upriver (western) side of the Centenary Bridge.

Councillor Matthew Bourke of Jamboree Ward formally opened the Park on July 20, 2008. Belz descendants Deirdre Farbotko

and the late Gaylene Bourgignon participated in the formal proceedings. Many descendants of Belz and other pioneer families attended the opening, along with local residents.

The creation of the park commemorates the enterprising activities of pioneer Peter Belz and also the activities of his sons Francis Peter, Ben and Barney, in the surrounding area, the former Seventeen Mile Rocks farming district. Peter Belz built up the family landholdings and farming enterprise in the 19th century to become, by the early 20th century, one of the largest landholders in the area. His eldest son, Francis Peter, proprietor of Round Hill Dairy, eventually owned and worked much more land than his father had (see 'Long-staying Pioneers' for more details).

Belz family members lived and worked land in Seventeen Mile Rocks between 1865 and 1945. The family is linked through marital connections to other pioneer families of the area: Littman, Magee, Morrison, Salm, Walz, Wolf and Ziegenfusz families.



The particular land which the park occupies was in Belz family hands between 1889 and 1916. Members of two generations of the family, firstly Peter Belz and later sons Ben and Barney Belz each owned and/or occupied the land and that in the immediate vicinity. The land portion was pioneered by William Cahill, an Irish settler, between 1865 and 1876. It was then owned and worked by another Irish pioneer settler, George Morrison, prior to acquisition by Peter Belz in 1889.

Photos courtesy of Jamboree Ward, Brisbane City Council