

Forgotten Local Quarry at Mount Ommaney

Many Mount Ommaney residents would be unaware that a quarry once operated close to their homes on the southern bank of the Brisbane River, north-west of what is now Coolaroo Crescent, Mount Ommaney (an outer western suburb of Brisbane). Garnet Rock Quarry Ltd, a publicly listed company, operated a quarry at Mount Ommaney between approximately 1924 and 1931. It was variously named Garnet Rock Quarry, Darra quarry, and Carr's Old Quarry. Stone for road making was taken out by punt to a receiving depot at South Brisbane. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the quarry was a useful source of employment during the Depression. George Maurer, a local resident and pioneer descendant, owned the land before, during and after the period that the quarry operated but he was not involved with the quarry operations.

Before the Centenary suburbs were developed and named after 1959, the quarry area was on the border of what was then shown on maps as Seventeen Mile Rocks and Darra. Minerals including recrystallised basic volcanics, greywacke and quartzite were extracted and transported from the site by punt. The land at one time was owned by George Maurer.

The land is now owned by the Brisbane City Council and forms part of Wilsons Walkway (formerly Mount Ommaney Walkway), a popular 1.2 kilometre bushwalk along the river, created by the Council in 1996. In 2000 the Council cleared the area, spreading mulch and Greening Australia planted native species. The remnants of the quarry's workings are still visible and accessed via the Walkway entrances at Mount Ommaney Drive, Jindalee and Summit Place, Westlake, or by river.

The Historical Society is seeking anyone with information about the quarry, so we can build on this aspect of our suburb's history. Please contact Claire Wilson email centenaryhistory2@hotmail.com



Photo caption - Quarry works on the Brisbane River at Darra, Brisbane, 1915 - Image Number: 151697, State Library of Queensland. Although photographs on Picture Queensland are dated 1915, no evidence has been

found of a quarry at Mount Ommaney at that time. The accounts of Garnet Rock Quarry indicate that the Company was establishing a new quarry, not taking over an existing quarry, in 1924.



Quarry site following January 2011 floods (photos taken November 2011 courtesy of Noel Wilson)

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