

How did Toowoomba develop from Swamp to City?

- Who were the Traditional Owners of the local area?
- Why was Toowoomba originally called 'The Swamp'?
- Who was William Henry Groom?
- What building replaced the Perkins Brewery?

Have you ever wondered what Toowoomba looked like 150 years ago and even 50 years ago? Students will take a step back in time to explore the Toowoomba Gallery to discover how Toowoomba developed from Swamp to City, listen to William Henry Groom's story and interpret images of Toowoomba's historical landmarks and buildings past and present to find out what was here before.

Program Details

Year levels	Years 2 - 10
Group size	30 students – two groups can run concurrently
Duration of Visit	90 minutes
Cost	Free for schools in the TRC area; \$6.00 per student for all other schools
Availability	Monday – Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm
Curriculum links	See Australian History Curriculum Links to Cobb+Co Museum Programs

Aims

Swamp to City gives students the opportunity to:

- learn about local stories from pre- European settlement to 21st Century stories of Toowoomba's development;
- develop historical skills through the interpretation of a timeline to understand how significant events in the history of the local area led to change and development as they occurred in chronological order;
- develop a sense of continuity and change through comparing photographs from the past and present to identify similarities and differences in the historical landmarks and buildings in the local area;
- develop students' curiosity about historical discoveries by introducing them to stories, maps and objects which tell the story of the Toowoomba Region;
- identify key people and cultural groups to examine their influence on the development of the local area;
- interpret historical evidence in the form of stories, photographs and objects to see how evidence can be used to provide historical explanations.

Program Overview

• Introductory Activity

A Cobb+Co staff member will provide an introduction for students to introduce them to the concept of change over time using stories and photographs to explore the history of Toowoomba as it developed from Swamp to City. The history of European settlement in the region will be explored through the story of William Henry Groom, Toowoomba's first mayor.

• Gallery Activity

Students will explore the Binangar and Toowoomba galleries to investigate how the Toowoomba Region has changed over time. They will interpret a timeline, objects and photographs and complete hands-on activities to identify how Toowoomba has changed over time. **Teachers will be required to direct this activity.**

• Reflection

Students share their stories about how Toowoomba has changed over time and compare what life would have been like in Toowoomba with their lives today.