

Maryborough Portside



Maryborough's once drab riverside port area has undergone a magical makeover.

The multi-million dollar revamp is stage one of the city's urban renewal plan drawn up five years ago. This stage has drawn Maryborough's focus squarely back to the delightful Mary River flowing through the city.

The newly named Portside precinct encompasses the architecturally dramatic Brolga Theatre, 133-year-old Queens Park, and the new Mary River Parklands framed by the city's historic port buildings.

Maryborough was once Australia's second largest immigration port but in the latter half of last century the commercial centre of the city drifted away from the river and the wharves all but disappeared.

Under the guidance of renowned landscape architect Trevor Redacliff, two tired old riverside buildings and a bitumen street have vanished and delightful parklands have been established in their place adjoining Queens Park.

Maryborough Mayor Barbara Hovard said Portside was truly remarkable.

"This is now a beautiful area where people can go to enjoy the river, picnic on the lawns or take meandering riverside walks. It has added a whole new dimension to the city and will play a crucial role in attracting riverside living to the area," Mrs Hovard said.

Extensive artwork in the new parklands honours the city's pioneers and community spirit with tributes to the Chinese and European settlers, the South Sea Islanders who worked the fields in the early days and the Aboriginal community.

Other Portside features include a life-size statue of Mary Poppins outside the building where Mary Poppins' author P.L. Travers was born in 1899, museums, art galleries and Maryborough's much-loved massive banyan tree.

Portside is only a short walk from busy central Adelaide Street and well signposted. Information on Portside is available from the city's information centres on the Bruce Highway just south of Maryborough and at City Hall in Kent Street.