

# Toomey Family Reunion Newsletter

*Published to inform family members of the reunion details*

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!*

With the end of 2009 upon us, all of us organising the Toomey reunion wish you and your family the compliments of the season.



*More about the Gatton Sports Centre...*

The photograph below shows another view of the Gatton Sports Centre taken by cousin Frank Toomey. It provides a different perspective of the reunion venue.



The photograph above shows the camping area at the rear of the Gatton Sports Centre. This is the place where you can park and if you have a caravan, setup it up for the night. The cost is \$15.00 per site and there are toilets and showers available.

## *Some History of Gatton...*

Major Edmund Lockyer explored the Gatton area around 1825 when he passed through the area (Lockyer Creek was named after him). His instructions were to explore the Brisbane River and, in a small boat, managed to reach the present site of Ipswich, where he discovered the Stanley River and found coal. In the 1840's, the area was taken up after land around Moreton Bay was opened up to free settlers. On 13<sup>th</sup> April 1855, the village of Gatton (probably named after Gatton in Roxburghshire, Scotland) was gazetted, and by 1858 it had become a major stopover point on the road from Brisbane to the Darling Downs. Gatton was also a changeover point for the horses on the Royal Mail. Town allotments went on sale in 1860's after the town had been officially surveyed in 1859. In 1875, the railway line from Ipswich had reached Gatton and the town expanded rapidly as a service centre for the surrounding farms. These days, Gatton lies in the heart of a rich farming area and renowned for its potatoes, onions, and vegetables because of the fertile black soil. This produce finds ready buyers in the Brisbane markets. The area is also well known for its beef and dairy industries.

(Abridged from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald, Travel Section, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2004)

## *Gatton Historical Village*

The Gatton Historical Village is keeping local history alive, preserving heritage buildings and memorabilia on the southern border of Lake Apex Park. A highlight for train enthusiasts is the Spring Bluff Railway, a heritage listed site where you can relax and picnic in the landscaped gardens and learn about its colourful history.

(Abridged from [www.totaltravel.com.au](http://www.totaltravel.com.au))



The above map shows the location of Gatton on the A2 west of Brisbane – cropped from *Google Maps*.

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