

## Brisbane's German Links: history & cultural connections

- information kindly provided by [Brisbane Greeters](#) -

**Did you know that Germany is one of Brisbane's Top 5 international visitor markets?**

**Did you know that some of our Brisbane Greeters showcase Brisbane to German visitors ... in German?!**

**BRISBANE  
GREETERS**

**... so, what connections do Germans have with Brisbane and its history??**

**The German people have been arriving in Brisbane to visit and to live for some time ... it all began back in one of our earliest chapters ...**

As a penal colony, Brisbane did not permit the erection of private settlements nearby for many years. As the inflow of new convicts steadily declined, the population dropped. From the early 1830s the British government questioned the suitability of Brisbane as a penal colony.

Alan Cunningham's discovery of a route to the fertile Darling Downs in 1828, the commercial pressure to develop a pastoral industry, and increasing reliance on Australian wool, as well as the expense of transporting goods from Sydney, were the major factors contributing to the opening of the region to free settlement.

In 1838, the area was opened up for free settlers, as distinct from convicts. An early group of Lutheran missionaries from Germany were granted land in what is now the north side suburb of Nundah.

Nundah (previously called German Station) is an inner suburb in the city of Brisbane, Australia, approximately 8 kilometres north-east of the Brisbane central business district, in the local government area of the City of Brisbane.

Prior to European settlement, Nundah was inhabited by Aboriginal people from the Turrbul tribe. Nundah is primarily a residential suburb, which straddles Sandgate Road, one of the major arterial roads of Brisbane's north. It was first settled by Europeans in the mid-19th century, although the suburb remained primarily a rural area until it was connected to Brisbane via railway in the 1880s.

Originally considered a working-class suburb, the area has become gentrified in recent years, and today features a mix of traditional worker's cottages and modern high-density apartment blocks. It is close to the Centro Shopping Centre. The name "Nundah" means "chain of water holes" in the local Aboriginal dialect. This name is probably a reference to the nearby natural water sources at Kedron Brook and the marshy areas formerly to the east of the suburb.

The first permanent European settlement in the area was a mission built in 1838 by German Lutheran missionaries, under the guidance of Reverend Carl Wilhelm Schmidt and later Reverend Christoph Eipper with the aim of bringing Christianity to the local Aboriginal people. They first called the area "Zion", and the mission was located in the vicinity of the modern-day street "Walkers Way". It later became "German Station". The explorer Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt visited the area in 1843, and spoke very highly of the mission, but despite this the mission met with limited success and was closed at the behest of the colonial government in 1846.

This first settlement is nonetheless commemorated with a monument at the corner of Sandgate Road and Wood Street unveiled in 1938 by the then Premier of Queensland William Forgan Smith. The names of these German settlers can be seen in the names of streets in Nundah and surrounding suburbs such as Rode Road and Gerler Road.



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Information and image extracts from [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Brisbane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Brisbane) and [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nundah,\\_Queensland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nundah,_Queensland)