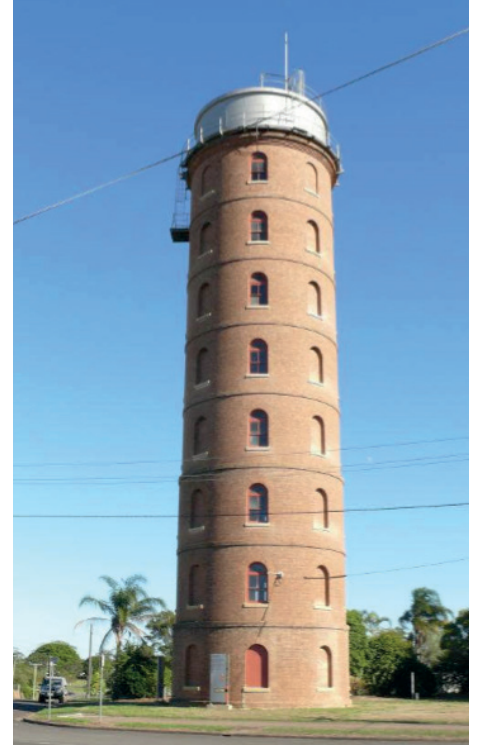




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East Water Tower

Establishment

- Bundaberg's first reticulated water supply was commissioned on 19 September 1902 by Queensland Government hydraulic engineer, J.B. Henderson.
- Council adopted the scheme design submitted by the Water Supply Department, estimated to cost £20,000 in 1898.
- Water supply was sourced from Baldwin Swamp via a deep waterhole on the upper reaches of Bundaberg Creek.
- Known officially as Bundaberg Waterworks, this scheme comprised three major elements, including:
 - Pumping station and intake;
 - Water Tower; and
 - Trunk delivery main and reticulation network.
- Initially, construction was delayed due to a shortage of suitable bricks, sourcing the supply from Virginia Brick Company in Brisbane to complete the work.

A good solution

- Completion of the scheme marked a significant stage in the development of the town's infrastructure during an important era in the growth of Bundaberg as a major regional city.
- It was a good solution to a growing community need, providing an adequate, reliable and safe water supply for many years.
- The tower is the only known cylindrical brick water tower in Queensland; its height and design a solution to overcome Bundaberg's flat terrain to supply water to the community.



Tower features

- Constructed by Bundaberg builder N.C. Steffensen, the tower has eight storeys which are marked externally by a band of projecting bricks.
- The tower is constructed of red-brown glazed "Virginia" bricks set on concrete footings.
- The tower has an external diameter of 8.76 metres and a height of 32.15 metres. The walls step internally at six points from 915 mm thick at the bottom to 356 mm at the top.
- The interior contains timber floors at each level, supported by timber frames and linked by timber staircases.
- The water tower comprises a 40,000-gallon mild steel tank, constructed by the Bundaberg Foundry Company.

Some alterations

- The timber framed, steel sheeted roof was added to the tank in the 1970s to inhibit algae growth.
- Galvanised sheeting was added to the ground floor windows and lighting was installed at this level as a solution to vandalism.
- The stairs do not follow the design as originally documented and are thought to have been erected between 1910-1920.

References

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