

# As we were: Bathurst 1930's



Mayor Martin Griffin (centre, dark suit) pictured here at a spot which would be later known as Reid Park

## The Legion that was built on a con!

Bathurst like so many rural towns in the 1930's was struggling, the depression had only just finished, employment was scarce and Bathurst needed an edge. Enter Mayor Martin Griffin, he'd already seen the benefits that local motor sport had been bringing to the area since 1911 but he needed a new venue and the council couldn't afford to finance it. Mayor Griffin approached the Federal government with the idea that the area known as Bald Hill just outside of the city could be turned into a tourist attraction but it would need federal funding, because it would require a road being built, this would help with the local employment problems.

Any idea that the transformation of Bald Hill into a simple "scenic drive" dissolved straight after approval, when prior to work commencing the above photo was taken. In it of course are local council authorities but of special interest are two individuals, Don Bain, who had won a local 1931 race and Stanley Woods who was a UK/European grand prix racer who just happened to be passing!

Mount Panorama first race was Easter week-end 1938, catering for both 2 and 4 wheel competitors, the rest as they say is history.

Bathurst however is more than a race track. Education is Bathurst's largest industry with 60 education facilities, five major places of worship, home to several museums, The region has a growing reputation as a producer of gourmet food and drink, with a monthly Farmers Market held at the Bathurst Showground as well as the *Bre&d Under the Stars* and *Bre&d On the Bridge* annual events that showcase the regions chefs and local produce and it is the only place in Australia where you can see a complete Tyrannosaurus Rex Skeleton.

Most of us are interested in our family tree and our place in it. Even more general interest is shown when it comes to how our parents and grandparents lived, worked and survived in their personal environment and what that environment looked like. Over the next few months The Digger will reproduce city scenes from around the country in a "As we were" series, that we hope you will enjoy.

If you have any memories and photo's of your city that you'd like to share please send to:

**Editor The Digger**  
**505/35 Lime Street**  
**Sydney**  
**NSW 2000**

Please do not send originals. If you would like photos returned include self addressed envelope.

Or email PDF copy to:

richard.hayles@breakawayinvestmentgroup.com,  
with short description of the location.