

Ruth Faulkner Library and Belmont Museum

Fact Sheet



Colour me in

Belmont Landmark: Tomato Lake

- The Beeloo People used Tomato Lake as a hunting ground for over 50,000 years.
- In the early 1900s (over 100 years ago) it was called Craig's Swamp and looked more like a pond surrounded by bushland.
- Stephen Craig farmed chickens in Belmont and thought the swamp would be a great place to grow chicken food. In 1913 he planted tomatoes on the swamp thinking his chickens would love them.
- He was so successful in growing tomatoes that he had enough to sell to his neighbours and a local sauce factory. His tomatoes became so famous in the area that people started calling the swamp Tomato Lake.
- As the lake got deeper, Stephen Craig had to stop planting tomatoes and the lake became a popular place for people to come for a picnic and to play in the water.
- In the 1970s the lake got covered in a slimy aquatic weed that started killing plants and animals. The people of Belmont came together as a community to save the lake and it remains a popular iconic Belmont location.



The local community cleaning up Tomato Lake after it became infested in weeds.