

## BRISBANE IN THE 1970's

The 1970's began with the bicentennial of Captain Cook's first voyage sailing up the east coast of Australia (May 1770) where celebrations were held throughout the country including Brisbane. Much of Australia was still very pro-British except when they were playing England for the Ashes, of course. The bicentennial was the occasion for another royal tour by Queen Elizabeth II who was very warmly welcomed by the people of Brisbane when she arrived in the royal yacht Britannia.

Another vessel that sailed into Brisbane of a much more basic nature in the same year was La Balsa. La Balsa was one of the great adventure stories of the 1970's, similar to that of Kon Tiki. The crew of La Balsa sailed across the entire Pacific in their balsa wood vessels from South America to Australia. The first Boeing 747 jumbo jet also touched down at Eagle Farm airport in 1970. King George Square was completed and 5 years later in 1975 it was revamped as part of the City Council's 50 year celebrations with water features added on the Adelaide Street side. Roma Street no longer ran through it.

**Brisbane was marching into modernity in the 1970's as skyscrapers were beginning to fill the skies of the CBD. The SGIO (now Suncorp) building was completed in 1971 with a digital clock on the top and its top floor included a restaurant and night club called "Top of the State". The dance floor revolved which caused much confusion for many unsuspecting customers.**

**After the new Victoria Bridge was completed (1969) plans were in place for a Riverside Expressway and South East Freeway. Connecting the two was the Captain Cook Bridge. Construction began in 1968 and it was completed in 1972 at a cost of \$24 million.**

Starting in the same year as construction began on the Captain Cook Bridge, the Riverside Expressway was not completed until 1976. A wonderful view is had driving along the expressway, though it has been criticised as visually disruptive. Future "North Bank" plans are intended to address this. The Riverside Expressway led to some traffic changes in the City with one way traffic reversing direction on both Ann and Elizabeth Streets. The building at the end of Adelaide Street would be torn down and the street extended when the Court district would be redeveloped around 1975. Turbot Street was also extended though the City past Central Station in 1974. Buses took over the streets after the closure of the tram network in 1969.

**Brisbane experienced in 1973 what most people generally think of as an American Midwest phenomenon — a tornado. This extremely rare freak of nature for Australia travelled for 50 km across suburban Brisbane from Brookfield in the west, through Indorooilly and Moorooka, through McGregor, where it did the most damage flattening its high school near Garden City, before heading towards Cleveland. Some 1400 homes were affected and 500 houses lost their roofs.**

The Whiskey Au Go Go fire bombing occurred at 2.10 am on Thursday 8 March 1973, in the Whiskey Au Go Go nightclub in Fortitude Valley and killed 15 people. The building is at 356 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley on the corner of Amelia Street and St Paul's Terrace (now a Jetts fitness club). The fire began with the ignition of two 23-litre drums of diesel fuel in the building's foyer. The drums were thrown into the foyer, then ignited by a lit torch thrown through the open door. When ignited the burning diesel sent carbon monoxide up to the club's main room on the first floor. Large quantities of grease had been smeared over the stairs of the building's rear fire escape. The door of the fire escape had also been greased. The fifteen people killed had died of asphyxiation as they struggled to open the greased fire escape doors. About 100 patrons, bar staff and entertainers had been in the club at the time of ignition. Many escaped by jumping from broken windows onto an awning and dropping 15 feet to the ground. James Richard Finch, 29, and John Andrew Stuart, 33, were arrested 12 hours apart in suburban Jindalee on the weekend after the fire and were convicted afterwards. The Bellevue Hotel on George St was demolished in April 1973 under cloak of darkness causing a public outcry to protect our heritage buildings that gained momentum through the Bjelke-Petersen years of State government.

**The biggest flood in Brisbane since the 1893 flood devastated the city in January 1974. After the devastating floods of 1893, the river continued to experience occasional flooding. The Somerset Dam on the tributary Stanley River provided some flood mitigation after 1956, but it was not enough to stem the effects of cyclone Wanda dumping torrential rainfall on the catchment area in January 1974. In the early morning of 25 January heavy rain began to fall on Brisbane. During a 36 hour period 642 mm of rain fell on the city. These torrential rains were caused by Tropical Cyclone Wanda, a relatively weak cyclone which did not even rate as a category 1 cyclone.**

Continual, heavy rain had fallen for three weeks, leading up to the flood, which occurred on Sunday, 27 January 1974, during the Australia Day weekend. The floods peaked at 6.6 metres (22 ft) according to the Port Office gauge at high tide at 2:15 am on 29 January. The peak flooding in the location of the city gauge was approximately 5.5 metres (18 ft). Oxley Creek, flowing through a flat catchment area, experienced higher levels of flooding than in 1893. The flood-affected areas around Breakfast Creek, Norman Creek, Milton, South Brisbane, Yeronga and Cubberla Creek were much the same in both years. The botanic gardens were also inundated on both occasions. Lang Park and the Milton tennis courts were submerged and a house shifted by the floodwaters later was an obstacle at the Brisbane Golf Club at Yeerongpilly.

**In total, there were 14 fatalities, 300 people injured, 56 homes destroyed and an estimated A\$68 million in damages. The flood was a defining event for a generation of Brisbane residents with 8,500 homes flooded in Brisbane and Ipswich. The 67,320 tonne Robert Miller unmoored at Kangaroo Point and became adrift in the river. Two tugboats were needed to control the 15 m high and 239 m long oil tanker. The Robert Miller was the largest ship ever built in Australia at the time. A barge was sunk after becoming caught under and damaging the Centenary Bridge. The most flood affected suburb of Brisbane was Rocklea. The 1974 Flood hastened the construction of the Wivenhoe Dam (1985) on the Brisbane River. About three times the capacity of the Somerset, it is positioned to impound floodwaters from all the Brisbane River's tributaries upstream of Esk, as well as overflow from the Somerset.**

Lord Mayor Clem Jones made the brave call not to release water from the swollen Somerset Dam against the wishes of engineers to allow the floodwaters to drain as quick as possible and relieve suffering. His call paid off. Clem Jones was Lord Mayor between 1961 and 1975 and was enormously popular who helped bring Brisbane into the modern era with the infrastructure he put in place such as sewerage and road infrastructure. He had a genuine heart for serving the people never taking a salary. He was passionate about cricket and was briefly curator at the Gabba preparing a test wicket the year he retired as Lord Mayor. He later served in Darwin when asked to help with the reconstruction following Cyclone Tracy. His post mayoral philanthropy, particularly for the homeless, was highly regarded. He failed to win a bid for the 1978 Commonwealth Games but did succeed to win the 1982 Commonwealth Games for Brisbane.

The other political giant at the time was Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. He was the longest-serving Premier of Queensland, holding office from 1968 to 1987, during which time the state enjoyed considerable economic development. His uncompromising conservatism, authoritarian approach and political longevity made him one of the best-known and most controversial political figures of 20th century Australia. Bjelke-Petersen's Country (later National) Party controlled Queensland despite consistently receiving the smallest number of votes out of the state's leading three parties, achieving the result through coalition with the Liberal party and a system of electoral disproportionment (known as a gerrymander) that resulted in rural votes having a greater value than those cast in city electorates (changed by the ALP when the Goss government came to power). The premier was criticised for having little concern for heritage and environmental issues, attracting widespread public fury over the demolition of Brisbane's historic Bellevue Hotel. He did move the state forward with much economic progress.

**Expansion of the freeway network continued into the suburbs. The South East Freeway reached to Juliette Street, Annerley on 7 March 1973 and then to Marshall Road, Holland Park West on 27 July 1977. It would later be completed in 1985. The Western Freeway was constructed in two stages. The first stretched from Milton Road at Toowong south to Taringa Parade at Taringa, and was opened to traffic on 31 August 1970. Construction of the second stage (Taringa Parade to Moggill Road) commenced in 1975 and was opened on 24 May 1979. Later construction began on a direct link to the Centenary Highway, and this extension was opened to traffic on 19 December 1984. The western suburbs started to explode at this time and new estates also developed around Carindale.**

**Large shopping centres opened in the suburbs which included Indooroopilly (1970), Garden City (1970), Mt Ommaney (1979) and Carindale (1979). This drew much retail shopping focus from the City and the Valley. The City was able to recover later with the Queen Street Mall. Greater's Brisbane's population in the 1970's rose from 860 000 to 1 million though the growth was limited to the outer suburbs past the Brisbane City Council area such as Logan (split off from Albert Shire in 1979) and Pine Rivers. The Brisbane City Council population began and ended the 1970's around 700 000.**

Plans were in place to build a Northern Freeway from New Farm through Albion and connecting with Gympie Road at Kedron followed by a Central Freeway connecting the Northern Freeway to the South East Freeway at Woolloongabba via a bridge just east of Mowbray Park. This was met by great protests by some locals but ultimately it was the federal Whitlam government's anti-freeway stance that stemmed the flow of necessary funds to get the projects off the ground when it would have been far cheaper to build and toll free when built compared to today's Clem 7 and Airport link tunnels which cover some of the same ground. A bridge from New Farm to Mowbray Park would have been a picturesque drive, though probably seen by many as a visual disruption. The Queen visited Australia during her silver anniversary in 1977 during which the Silver Jubilee fountain was opened on the Brisbane River in front of where today's Art Gallery is. It lasted several years before river mud in its workings ceased it from functioning any longer.

The Port of Brisbane was originally mainly spread over three locations — South Brisbane (including the coal wharves near today's Captain Cook Bridge), Eagle Street and Newstead (wool a primary cargo here with the Wool Stores) for ships needing deeper water (including passenger ferries). Following the start of the age of shipping containerisation plans were put in place to consolidate the Port of Brisbane and move it towards the mouth of the Brisbane River. The new container ship port envisaged for Fisherman's Island began construction in 1977. Sand pumping reclaimed more land and continues to extend Fisherman's Island and expand the port. Bishop Island was later was swallowed up by the ongoing expansion of Fisherman's Island. The old port areas of South Brisbane and Eagle Street were closed and became derelict. By the late 70's most of the river area was converted to parkland at South Brisbane. The first step in the riverside transformation along Eagle Street was the construction of the golden AMP glass tower in 1977. The car parks in the disused wharves would not last much longer giving way to the Riverside Centre, Waterfront Place and many other towers.

The whole Cribb Island community was evicted in 1974/75 when plans were announced to relocate the Brisbane airport to a new airport facility to be constructed closer to Moreton Bay. It would take 10 years to complete after much drainage and sand reclamation of the wetland areas.

Disco was king around the world in the late 1970's and leading the charge were the Bee Gees. The Gibb family emigrated to Brisbane when they were boys and they started their singing careers in Brisbane before leaving for England to advance their career in the late 60's at the time they had their first number 1 hit "Spicks and Specks".

In rugby league 1970 marked the last year that Great Britain would win a test series against Australia though they failed to win the famous and violent Battle of Brisbane at Lang Park. The Brisbane Rugby League competition reached new heights with sell out crowds of 30 000 plus filling Lang Park for all the grand finals. Valleys won a thriller 13-11 against Norths in 1970 and won 3 of the next 4 grand finals. Easts won in 1972 against Valleys with a Jeff Fyfe field goal being the difference. Wests won a double followed by a double by Easts before Valleys, inspired by Wally Lewis and Ross Strudwick thrashed Souths in 1979. The 1970's were a terrible decade for interstate rugby league with NSW winning every series, often with many Queenslanders who moved to Sydney to play for the richer clubs that had poker machine revenue that was unavailable to Queensland clubs due to the stance of the Bjelke-Peterson government. This player drain and interstate inequality would soon see the birth of State of Origin football. In rugby union it was a different story as Queensland began to show sustained ascendancy from 1976 over NSW with many quality players.



## 1970 ROYAL TOUR AND COOK BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



**Above Left and Right:** The royal yacht Britannia makes its way down the Hamilton reach of the Brisbane River with lots of local vessels alongside to greet the Queen as Australia celebrates the bicentennial of the first voyage of Captain Cook to Australia. **Below Left :** The Britannia passes Newstead. **Below Right:** The Queen accompanied by popular Lord Mayor Clem Jones in full regalia.

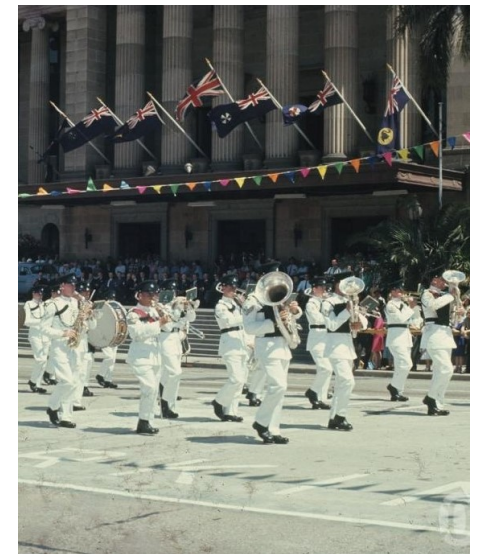






**Above Left and Right:** Floats celebrate the bicentenary of Captain Cook's first voyage in 1770 along Queen Street.

**Below Left:** A float celebrates Cook's landing on Possession Island in the Torres Strait. **Below Centre:** The Endeavour II moored on the Brisbane River. **Below Right:** Bands play in front of City Hall.







**Above :** The first Boeing 747 jumbo jet flew into Brisbane in 1970 where the public were invited to inspect the amazing new passenger plane. **Above Right and Below Right:** TAA (The former Trans Australia Airline) planes in front of Eagle Farm airport with its "igloos", a remnant of WWII. TAA had a memorable jingle "Up, Up and Away with TAA, the friendly, friendly way. **Below Left:** Families of passengers gather outside the TAA "igloo" terminal to see off passengers. The Eagle Farm airport was opened in 1925 but Archerfield was the main airport until 1945 after the WWII upgrade. In 1975 a new international terminal was created at the old Eagle Farm airport off Lamington/Terminal Drive. The new domestic airport was built in 1988 and new international airport in 1995.







**Above Left:** An aerial view of Eagle Farm airport. The Pikenba train line is on the left and international terminal at the bottom.

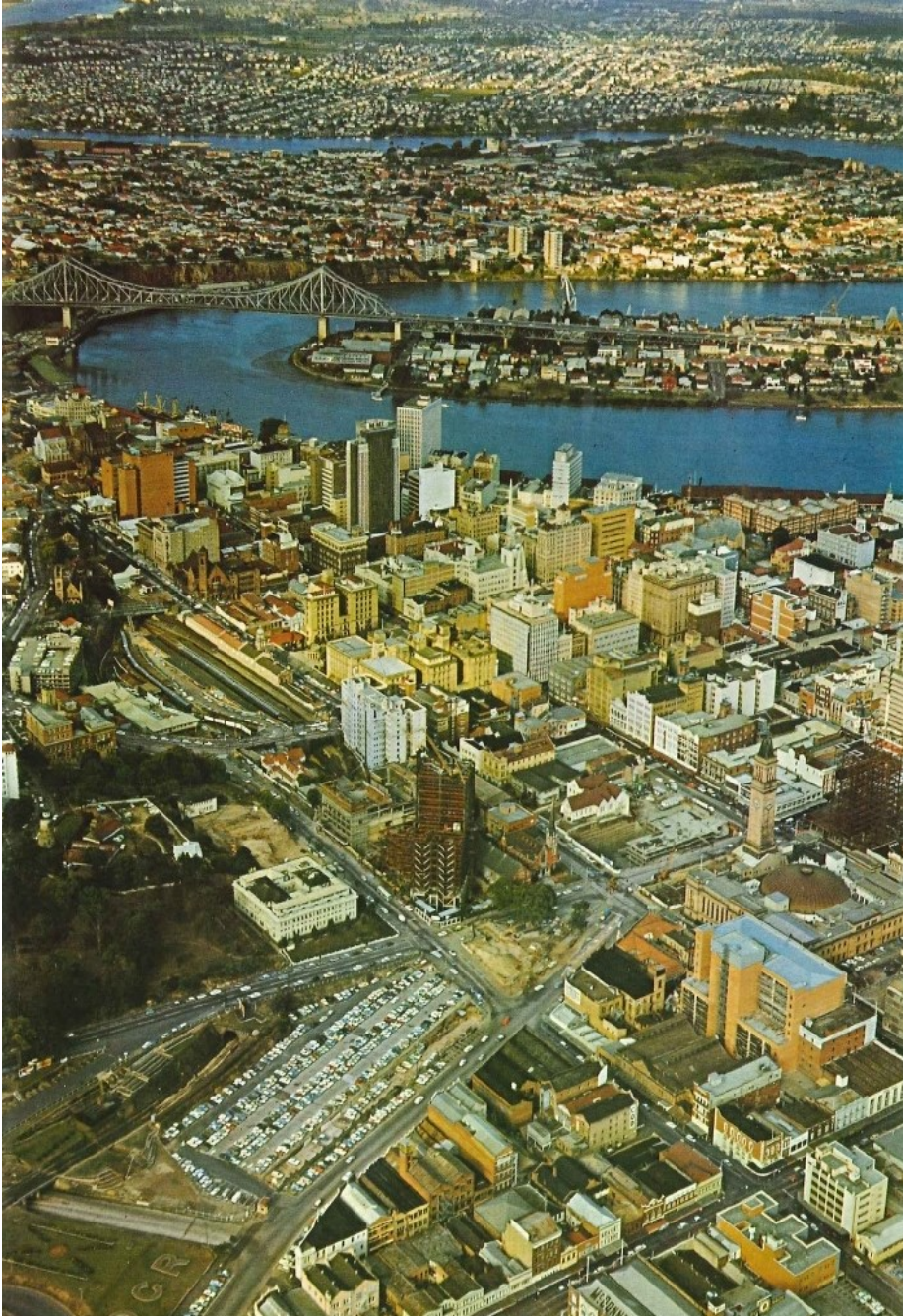
**Below Left:** The Airport train station on the Pikenba line.

**Above Right:** A family at the viewing area in front of an Ansett plane.

**Below Right:** An early morning view of Eagle Farm airport.







**Left:** The City skyline around 1970.

**Above:** Clem Jones was Lord Mayor between 1961 and 1975 and was enormously popular who helped bring Brisbane into the modern era with the infrastructure he put in place such as sewerage and road infrastructure getting rid of the old thunderboxes seen in the top right photo from the 1950's. He had a genuine heart for serving the people never taking a salary. He later served in Darwin reconstructing the city following Cyclone Tracy. He was also a cricket tragic and was a curator at the Gabba at one time. His post mayoral philanthropy is also well known.

**Below:** One of the great adventure stories of the 1970's was the voyage of La Balsa, similar to that of Kon Tiki. They sailed across the Pacific in their balsa wood vessels from South America to Australia. We see them here arriving in Brisbane near Breakfast Creek.







**Above:** The view of the city and Eagle St wharves from the Story Bridge about 1970. After building height restrictions were lifted in the early 1960's the earliest skyscrapers went up near the Eagle St end of the City with the Sun Alliance, Pearl and MMI Insurance towers, each between 15 and 20 stories high.

**Below Left:** King George Square was created around 1970 as it looks below. Initially Roma Street appears to have still ran through it for a few years before it became a part of the square in 1975 like Albert Street did before it.



**Above and Below:** The SGIO (now Suncorp) building was completed in 1971 with a digital clock on the top and its top floor included a restaurant and night club called "Top of the State". The dance floor revolved which caused much confusion for many unsuspecting customers.







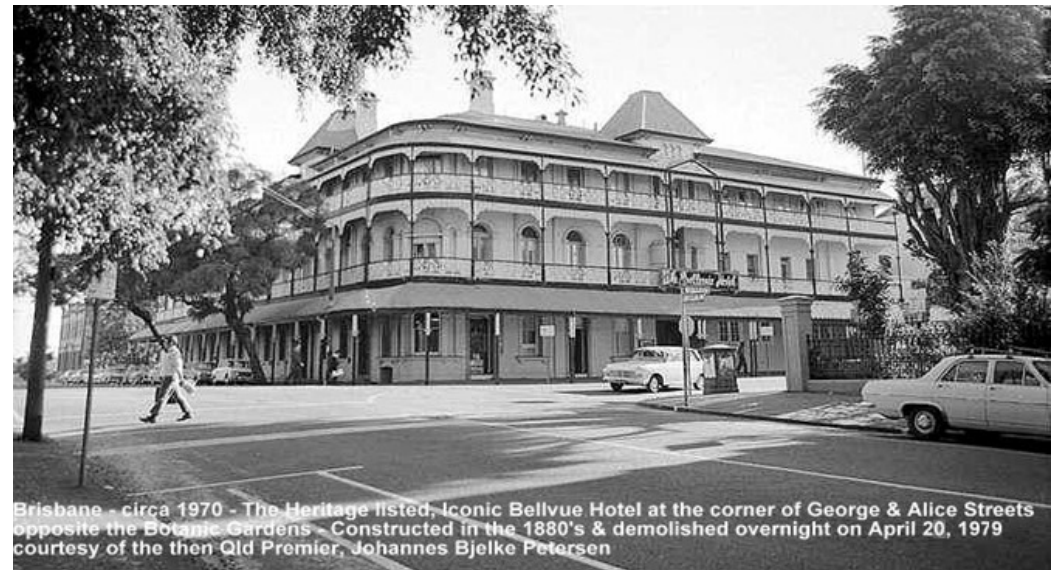
Two major shopping centres were opened in 1970—Indooroopilly Shoppingtown (Above Left) and Garden City (Above Right and Below Left and Right) at Upper Mt Gravatt







**Left:** In 1970 the Victoria Bridge was replaced with a more modern bridge that wasn't designed to accommodate trams which hastened their replacement with buses in 1969. It's interesting to see the alignment of the bridges with Melbourne Street behind it. **Above and Below:** The Bellevue Hotel on George St that was demolished in 1979 causing a public outcry to protect our heritage buildings.



Brisbane - circa 1970 - The Heritage listed, Iconic Bellvue Hotel at the corner of George & Alice Streets opposite the Botanic Gardens - Constructed in the 1880's & demolished overnight on April 20, 1979 courtesy of the then Qld Premier, Johannes Bjelke Petersen





**Above:** Ann Street outside Central Station. Traffic was later reversed on Ann and Elizabeth Streets following the construction of the Riverside Expressway. **Below:** Looking down George Street. **Right:** The New York Hotel on Queen Street.







**Above Left and Right:** Anti-Vietnam war demonstrations at King George Square and Albert Streets. **Below Left:** Parliament House looking like a circus Big Top as it undergoes fumigation. **Below Centre:** The Evans Deakins shipbuilding yard at Kangaroo Point. **Below Right:** Fords and Holdens from the 70's driving along Wharf Street.







**Above Left:** The Captain Cook Bridge under construction. It was completed in 1972. **Above Right:** The South East Freeway under construction.  
**Below Left:** Passengers enjoying a river cruise near West End. **Below Right:** Passengers enjoying a river cruise near the Botanic Gardens.



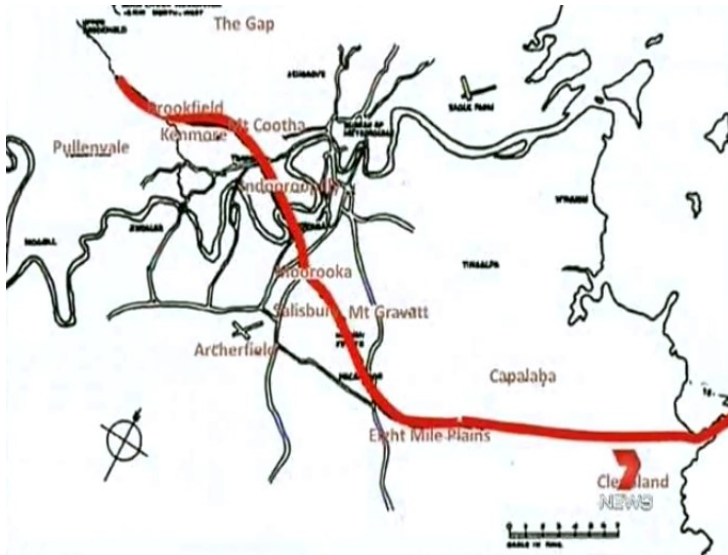


## BRISBANE'S 1973 TORNADO

Brisbane experienced in 1973 what most people generally think of as an American Midwest phenomenon—a tornado.

This extremely rare freak of nature in Australia travelled for 50 km across suburban Brisbane from Brookfield in the west, through Indorooilly and Moorooka, through McGregor where it did the most damage flattening its high school (bottom right) near Garden City before heading towards Cleveland.

Around 1400 were damaged and 500 roofs came off houses.





## 1974 AUSTRALIA DAY FLOOD



AERIAL VIEW OF BRISBANE CITY on Monday, January 28, 1974. This view shows the extent of flooding in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens (bottom left) with the red-roofed Port Office to its right in Edward St., the Park Royal Motor Inn and Albert St. to its left, where water extended into the city as far up as Elizabeth St. Victoria Bridge and South Brisbane are in the top left hand corner.



**Above:** Mineral House on the corner of Elizabeth and Alice Streets is surrounded by several feet of floodwater.



**Below:** Floodwaters surge much of the way up the new Victoria Bridge which fared much better than an earlier predecessor in the 1893 Flood. The Riverside Expressway was still being built.





**Below:** The lower streets of the City near the Botanic al Gardens all went several feet under water.





**Below:** This photo shows how much the water came up the Victoria Bridge which was most threatened by large debris and objects coming down the River.





**Below:** South Brisbane really felt the full brunt of the flood as can be seen in this photo.





**Below:** An amazing colour photo of people wading chest high in floodwaters near the Port Office Hotel on Margaret Street with a boat cruising the street that has turned into a canal.







**Above :** Two more photos of the Port Office Hotel on the corner of Edward and Margaret Streets under flood water.

**Below:** The view of Edward Street looking up from the Botanical Gardens. **Below Right:** The view of the River from Mineral House .







**Above:** The view from Mineral House looking up Edward Street. **Above Right:** The view in front of Mineral House.

**Below Left:** St Lucia under water. **Below Centre:** Oxley Road in Oxley during the flood. **Below Right:** Business as usual in the Regatta Hotel despite being nearly knee deep in flood water.



Brisbane St., St. Lucia. 30.1.1974



Oxley Rd., OXLEY, 30.1.1974.







**Above:** Few photos (actually a stitch of stills from a video) capture the Aussie “She’ll Be Right Mate” attitude like this one. The beer service has moved up to a window off the pub’s awning as the entire lower level is flooded in the Plough Inn where Southbank is today. As long as we have our beers “She’ll be right mate!”



**Above Left:** The Regatta Hotel. **Above Centre:** A whole house becomes a hazard on the fairway of the Brisbane Golf Club. **Above Right:** A man catches a fish in the street water. Lang Park was many feet under water (**Below Left**). One fellow was reported to have swum across the field and was quite sick afterwards with the runs. A boat cruised through the Milton Tennis Centre (**Below Centre**) while a boat sails past racing legend Gregg Hansford’s Yamaha shop under water.







**Above:** Lord Mayor Clem Jones made the brave call not to release water from the swollen Somerset Dam against the wishes of engineers to allow the waters to drain as quick as possible and relieve suffering. His call paid off. **Below Left:** A vessel strikes the Centenary Bridge and was blasted apart before damaging the bridge. **Below Right:** The view of the flood waters from Kangaroo Point.







FLOODED PARK ROYAL MOTOR INN, BRISBANE, JANUARY, 1974.

B54



FLOODED LANG PARK, BRISBANE, JANUARY, 1974.

B56



JANUARY, 1974. BRISBANE RIVER IN FLOOD - SOUTH BRISBANE AND WEST END.

B63



JANUARY, 1974. BRISBANE RIVER IN FLOOD - TOOWONG, ST. LUCIA.

B53





JINDALEE, BRISBANE. FLOODED BY THE BRISBANE RIVER, JANUARY, 1974.

B59



AERIAL VIEW OF FLOODED CHELMER, BRISBANE. JANUARY, 1974.

B60

**Below:** Another view of the Centenary Bridge under water.



THE ROBERT MILLER IN FLOODED BRISBANE RIVER, JANUARY, 1974.

B57





**Above Left:** A great example of irony as floodwaters flood where the word flooding would be visible. **Above Right:** Jindalee under water. **Below Left:** The University of Queensland under flood water. **Below Right:** One of the truly iconic photos taken during the 1974 Flood where a guy is at full stretch diving into the flood waters outside Festival Hall.







**Above:** These guys really know what's important. A pallet loaded with beer becomes a raft as brewery workers ensure the beer gets through.

**Below:** Beer drinkers look on as a guy on a kayak floats past the Regatta Hotel.



**Above:** A group of willing hands (except the guy on top) help guide a stranded car along Margaret St.

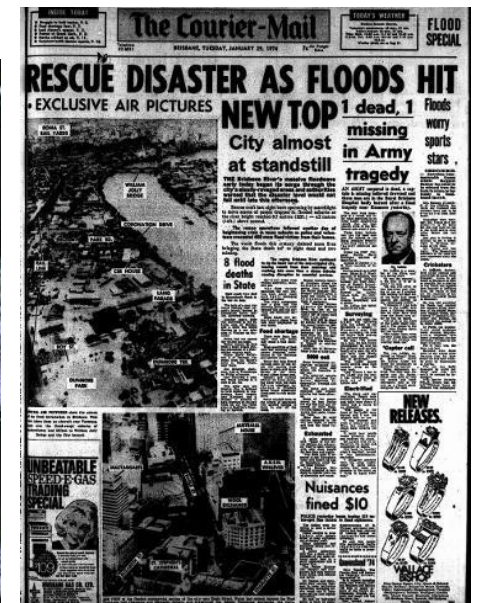
**Below:** The view along Edward Street as people and motorists look on.







**Above Left:** The view of Victoria Bridge and South Brisbane from the City. **Above Right:** Auchenflower and West End seen from the air. Flooded Davies Park is seen on the right. **Below Left:** Alice Street and the Park Royal Hotel. **Below Right:** The Courier Mail front page as the floods ravage the City.







**Above Left:** The view from the corner of Elizabeth and Albert Streets with the old Fourm cinema on the right.

**Above Right:** The floods as seen from on high looking towards the Park Royal Hotel.

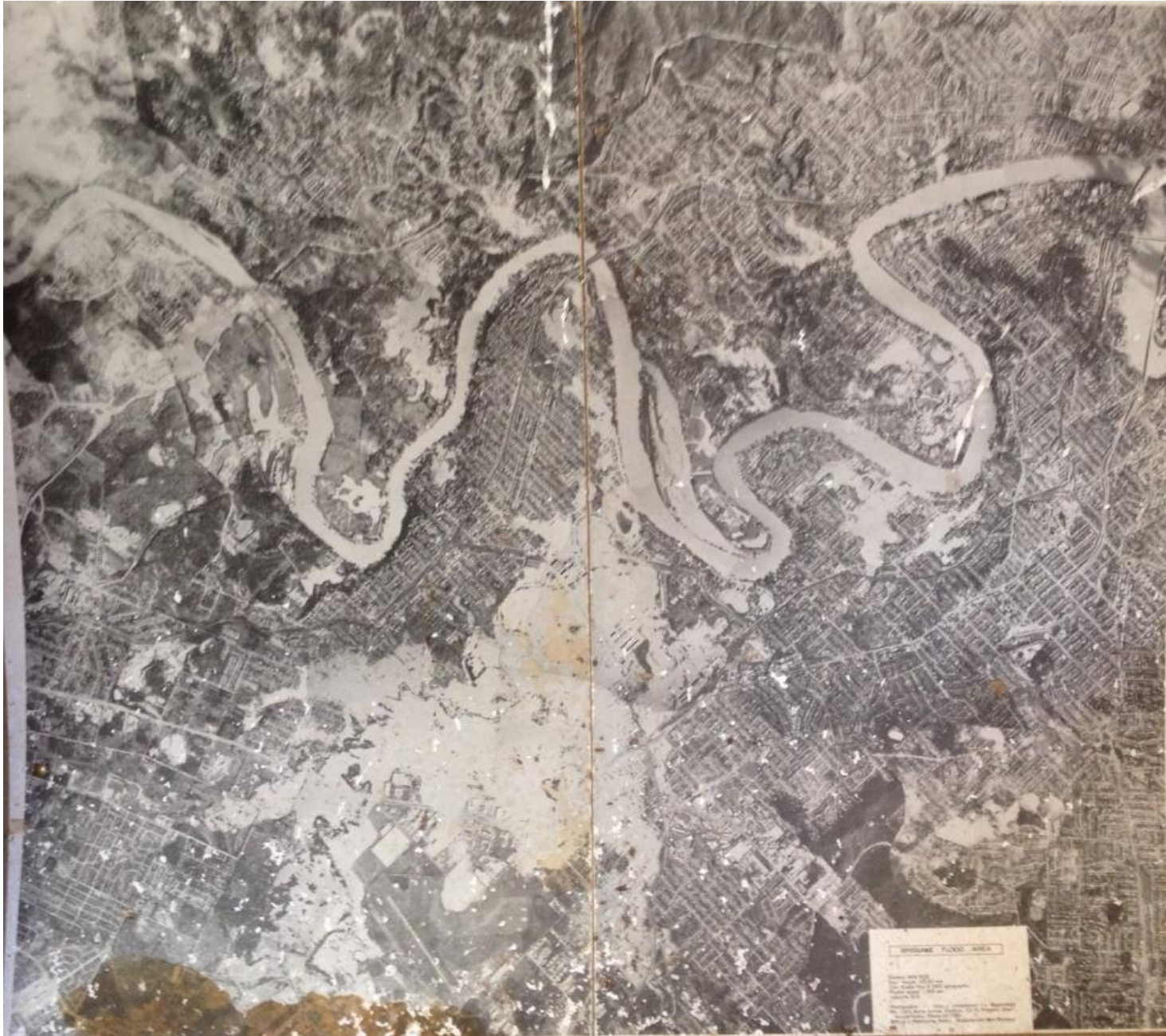
**Below Left:** The view looking down Albert Street.

**Below Right:** The river looks swollen looking across the City to Kangaroo Point.





**Below:** A high altitude view of the Brisbane River showing the areas affected by the flood waters.





## BRISBANE IN THE 1970's



**Left:** The infamous Whisky Au Go Go nightclub bombing in 1974.

**Right:** The old Windmill on the left and the Tower Mill Hotel on the right.

**Below:** An aerial view of Brisbane in the early-mid 1970's. Skyscrapers have sprung up along Queen, Adelaide and Ann Streets along with the new State Executive Building on George Street in the top left. The Eagle Street wharves have been mostly abandoned and the empty areas used as car parks. The Kemp Street interchange near the Story Bridge is well defined as well as the Ivory Street tunnel completed a few years earlier.







**Above:** The Queenslander Club building on the corner of George and Alice Streets.

**Below:** The view towards Roma Street from City Hall with the Crest Hotel on the left.



**Above:** Terrace suites along George Street.

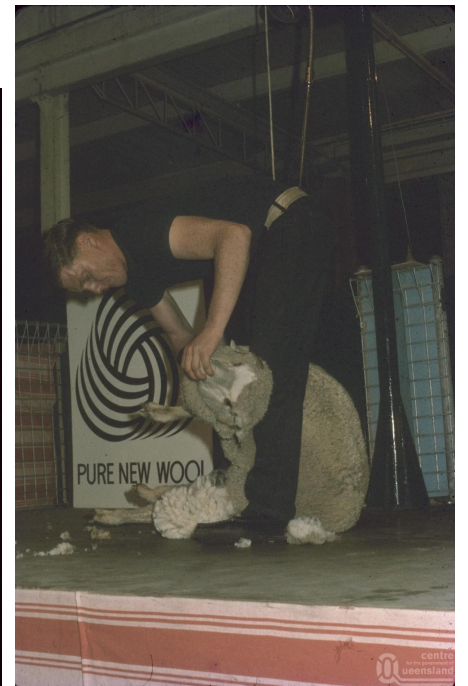
**Below:** The Roma Street fountain created near the old Roma Street Markets site.







**Above Left:** A hang glider puts on a show at the Exhibition Ground during the Ekka. **Above Right:** Ekka patrons enjoying the chairlift over the grounds. **Below Left and Centre:** Fruit from different agricultural areas of Queensland on display at the Ekka. **Below Right:** A wool shearer shearing a sheep for its wool at the Ekka.







**Above:** The view towards South Brisbane from City Hall. Adelaide Street still ends at George Street. The building at the end of the street would be torn down and the street extended in 1975 when the Court district was redeveloped.

**Below:** The view looking south towards City Hall.



**Above:** Looking down Queen Street.

**Below:** Brisbane Arcade between Queen and Adelaide Streets.





## BRISBANE IN THE 1970's



**Above:** Looking back from the Valley to the junction of Boundary and Wickham Streets.

**Below Left:** Turbot St after being extended past Central Station. **Below Centre:** The new City Council administration building and City Plaza.

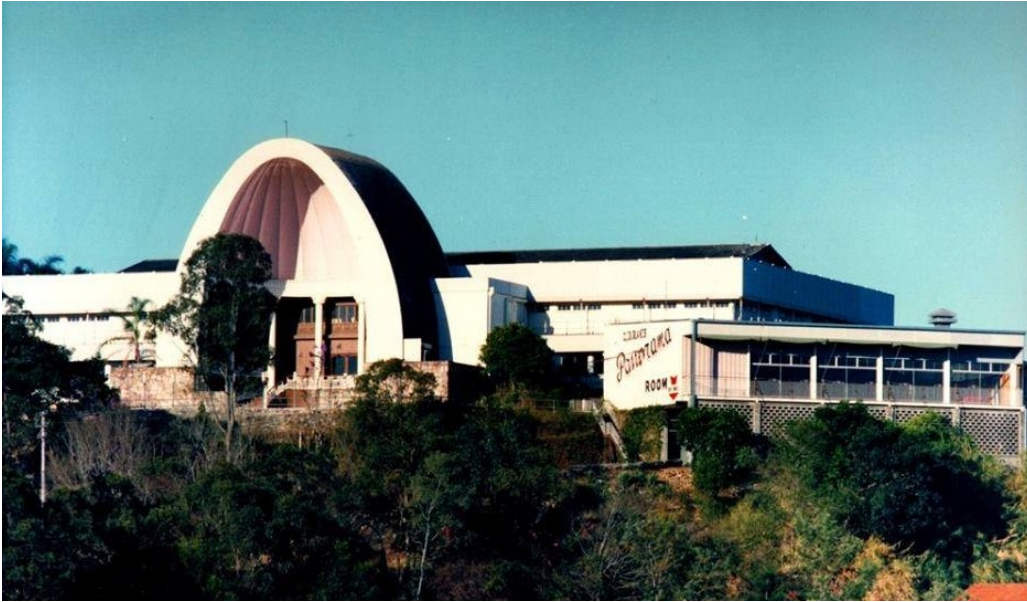


**Above :** Turbot Street was extended through the City past Central Station.

**Below:** King George Square as it was until 2009 was fully completed in 1975. Roma Street no longer went through past the front of City Hall and water features were added on the Adelaide Street side.







**Above:** Cloudland was a popular dance and music hall located on a Montpelier hill at Bowen Hills.  
**Below:** Elizabeth Street in the 1970's.



**Above:** A ferry makes its way across the Brisbane River from the City across to Kangaroo Point.  
**Below:** Tritton's store on George and Adelaide St on the site where Brisbane Square is today. The new Supreme Court building is just visible on the right. Adelaide Street was extended in 1975 to North Quay after the old Supreme Court building was replaced.





# THE MLC WEATHER BEACON



## WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE

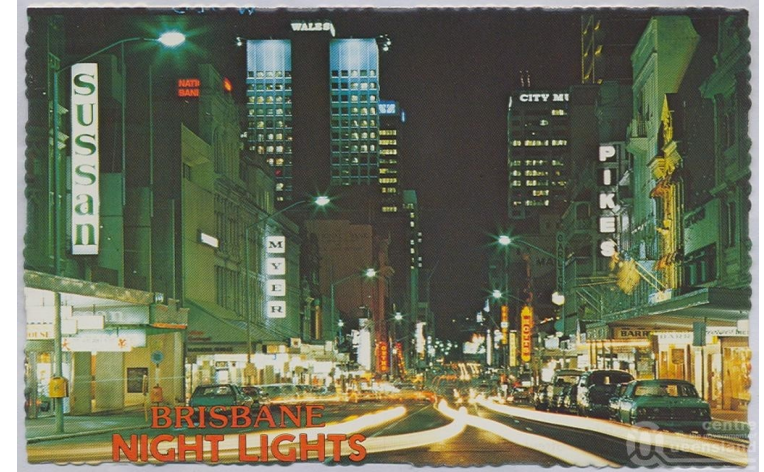
Steady	No Change
Falling	Cooler
Rising	Warmer

## WHITE LIGHTS

Steady	Fine
1/2 Sec. Flashes	Windy
2 Sec. Flashes	Clearing

## RED LIGHTS

Steady	Rain
1/2 Sec. Flashes	Strong Winds and Rain
2 Sec. Flashes	Showers



**Above Left:** The MLC building with its beacon was built in 1976. The beacon was shut down in 2006. **Below Left and Centre:** The Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens were opened in 1976 and the Planetarium in 1978. **Right Centre:** The old Queensland Museum at Bowen Hills. **Below Right:** The City at night from South Brisbane.





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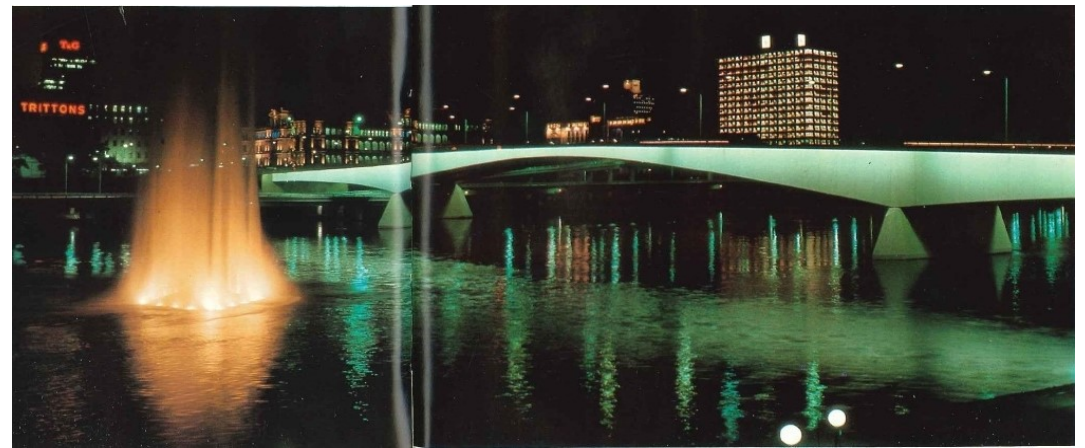
**BRISBANE IN THE 1970's**

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## **QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S 1977 ROYAL TOUR**

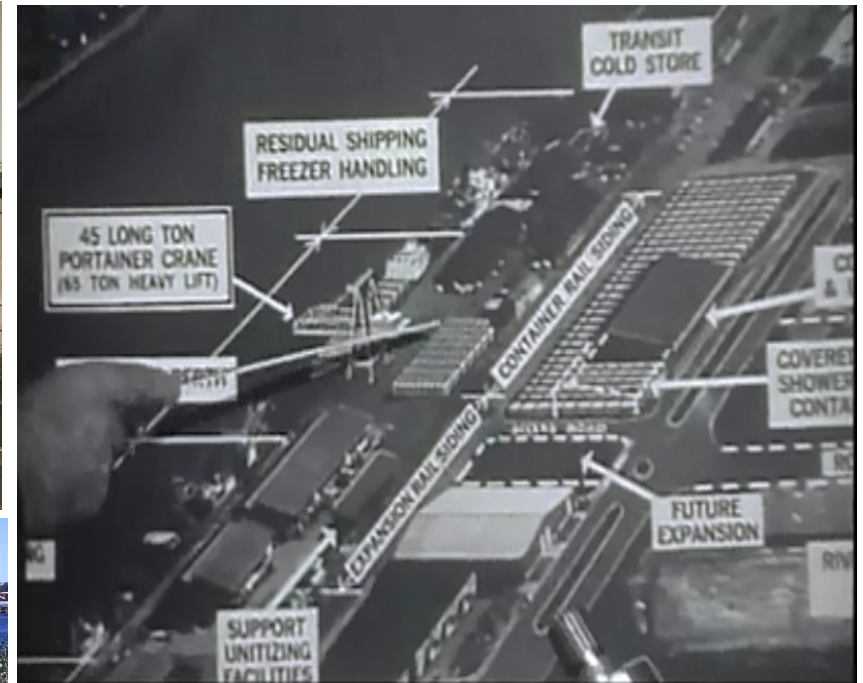


**Above Left:** The Queen visited Australia during her silver anniversary in 1977 seen here at the Brisbane airport. **Above Right:** A fountain was created in the Brisbane River in front of where the Cultural Centre is today to celebrate her silver anniversary. **Below Left and Right:** Two night photos of the fountain during the 1970's. It lasted several years before river mud in its workings ceased it from functioning any longer.





**THE PORT OF BRISBANE RELOCATES FROM SOUTH BRISBANE, EAGLE STREET, NEWSTEAD & HAMILTON TO FISHERMANS ISLAND (1977-78)**



**Top Left:** Before the era of ship containerisation cargo was moved on and off smaller ships by rope and pulley. **Above Left:** The Port of Brisbane was originally spread over several locations—South Brisbane (including the coal wharves), Eagle Street, Newstead (wool a primary cargo here with the Wool Stores) for ships needing deeper water (including passenger ferries) and Hamilton. **Above Right:** A model of the new container ship port envisaged for Fisherman's Island which began construction in 1977. **Below Left:** Sand pumping to reclaim more land and extend Fisherman's Island and expand the new port. **Below Centre:** Bishop Island in the 1980's before it was swallowed by the ongoing expansion of Fisherman's Island (**Below Right**).



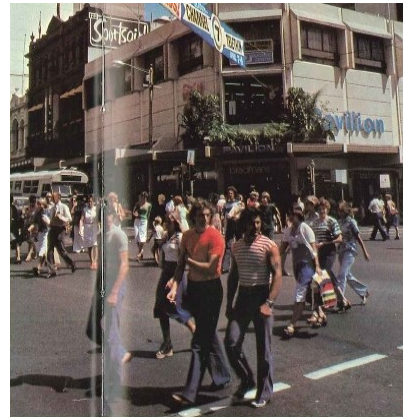




**Above and Below:** The first step in the riverside transformation along Eagle St after the relocation of the Eagle St port activities to Fisherman's Island in the 1970's was the construction of the golden AMP glass tower in 1977. The car parks in the disused wharves would not last much longer giving way to the Riverside Centre and Waterfront Place and many other towers.

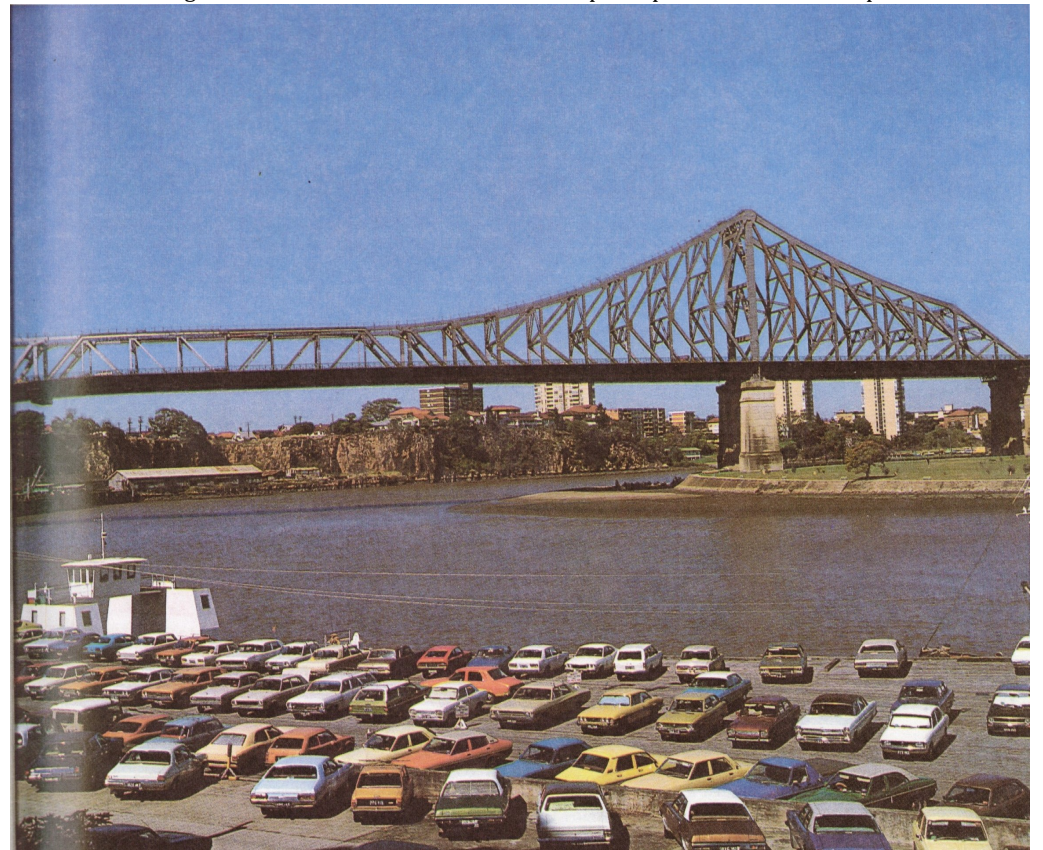






PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

**Left:** Looking down Adelaide St. **Above Left:** The corner of Queen and Albert St. **Below:** After the closure of the Eagle Street wharves the area became car park space before redeveloped in the 80's.







**Above:** The Valley Fiveways looking back down Brunswick St towards New Farm.



**Above:** Looking back to the City from Ivory Street.

### *Who was George?*

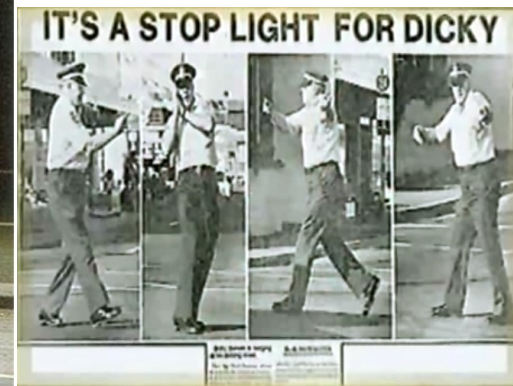
George Kiprios was born in West End, Brisbane in 1927 and lived his entire life in the same suburb, deeply entrenched in the area's Greek community. Although he was aware of his 'legendary' status in Brisbane, George was a quiet man who avoided publicity. His car was his great love, along with rugby league, boxing and racing. As a young man, George played in a Premiership-winning side for Souths and danced at Cloudland. Sometime along the way, his friends painted him a number plate declaring ROCK 'N' ROLL — and the nickname stuck.

George worked as a presser for a tailoring business and at the Globite luggage factory before spending the final 20 years of his working life at Watson & Ferguson printers. In retirement, George continued his trips into town, travelling by bus in latter years and only taking his car out on early morning weekend trips. West End's Greek 'village' was his world.

These portraits of George were painted by his friend and West End hairdresser, Bill Diacos. They capture George in places he frequented, wearing his distinctive attire of variously-coloured, stovepipe trousers and button-down, collared shirts, unchanged since the 1960s.



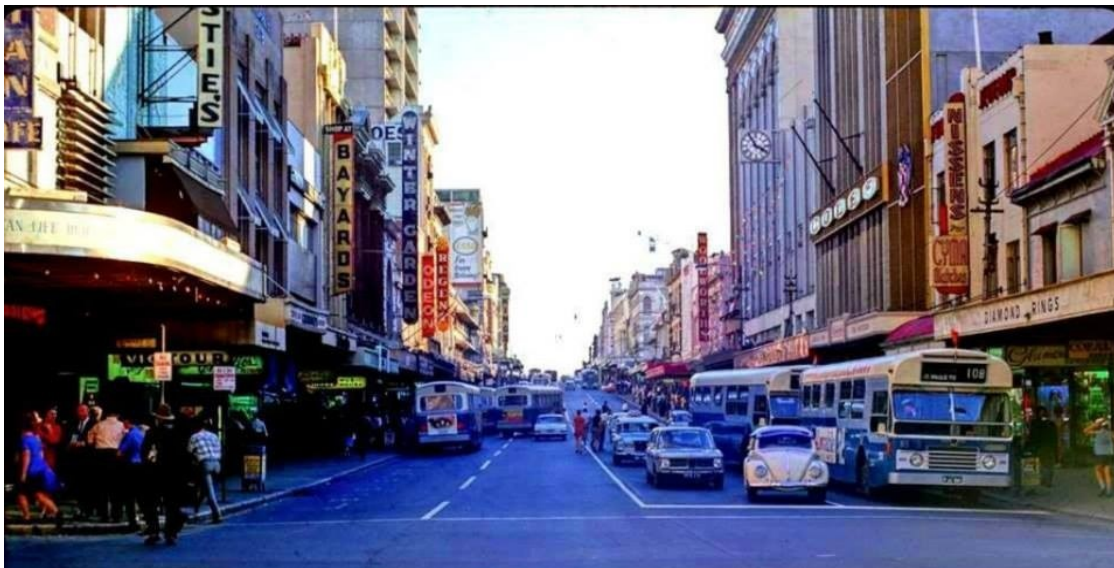
**Left and Right:** Two famous Brisbane characters from the 1970's—Rock 'n' Roll George and Dancing Dicky, who was well known for his animated gesturing as a traffic cop at the Woolloongabba Fiveways.







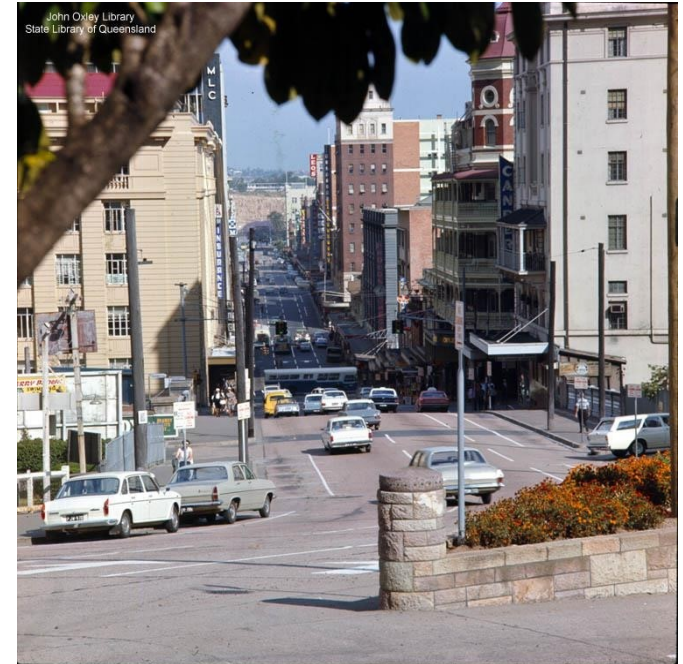
**Above:** Albert Street at night. Hungry Jack's on the mall today is situated next to where the Dairy Queen shop is in this photo.



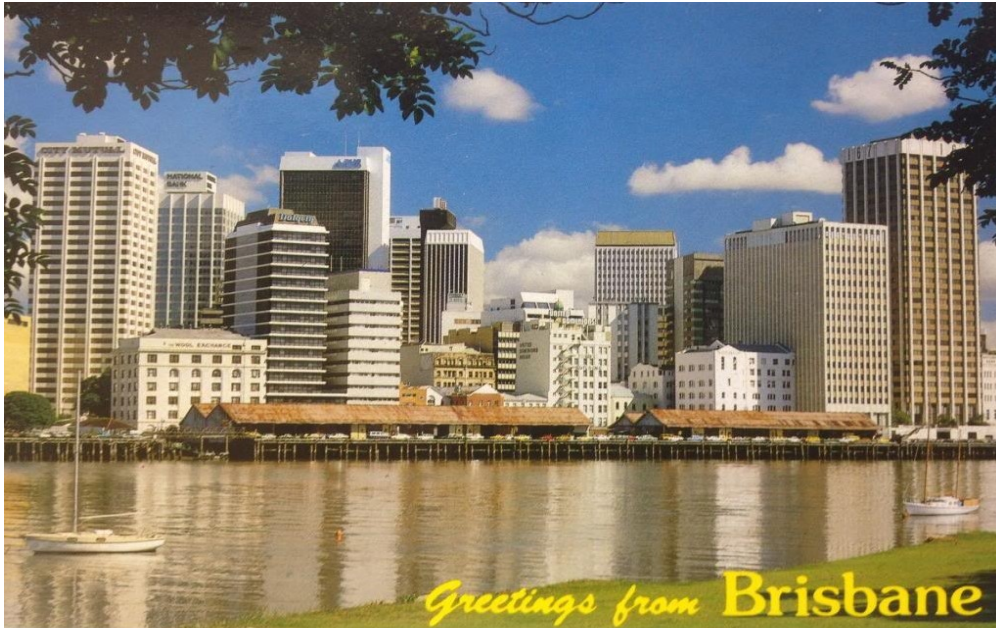
**Left:** Queen Street viewed from Edward Street a few years before this became the Queen St Mall.

**Above Right:** The view looking down Edward Street.

**Below Right:** Looking across Queen Street from the GPO with a water feature in the front that is no longer there.







**Above :** The view of the City from Kangaroo Point showing the old Eagle St wharves being used as car parks and a more crowded skyline. **Below:** One of the car parks near the old wharves near today's Waterfront place. It's hard to believe a packet of Winfield smokes only cost 79 cents back then according to the advert above the snack bar.



**Above:** A postcard from the 1970's looking down what I think is Queen Street.

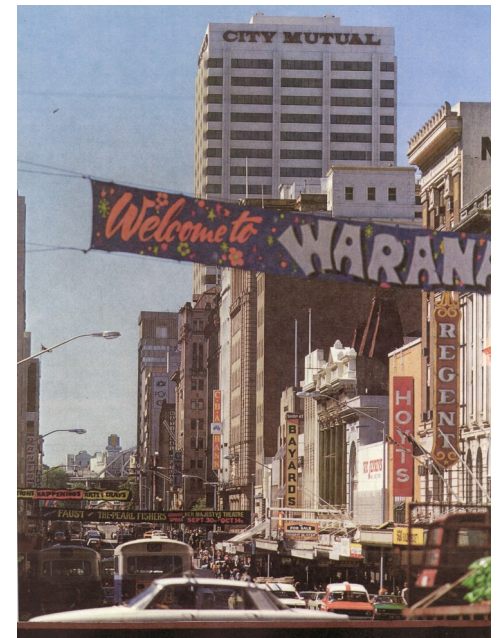
**Below:** Where Elizabeth Street joins up with Eagle Street with the giant figtree. A car park is seen where the AMP tower would shortly go up.







**Above Left:** The Treasury Building with the long bus shelter in front of it that used to be there before the tunnel under the Myer Centre. **Above and Below Right:** The Warana Parade in Spring was big in Brisbane back in the 70's. **Below Left:** Queen St **Below Right:** Cut Price Sam, mascot for the former grocery chain by the same name, at the Warana Parade. Is that the real Sam next to him or Mr T (Rod Tiley)?





# BRISBANE IN THE 1980's

As the 1980's dawned preparations were well underway for an exciting event that would turn out to be a great success for Brisbane and would begin to put Brisbane on the world tourist map. The 1982 Commonwealth Games near the start of the decade and World Expo 88 towards the end of the 80's would propel Brisbane forward as a tourist destination.

Clem Jones made two attempts to host the Commonwealth Games. In 1976 Brisbane won the bid to host the 1982 Commonwealth Games by default after the other candidate cities Lagos, Kuala Lumpur and Birmingham all pulled out. The 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics were plagued with cost overruns and bidding on a sports festival anywhere in the world was not good politically.

To capitalise on the tourism that the event would bring and to revive the retail fortunes of the City's department stores that had lagged following the explosion of major suburban shopping centres, it was decided to create a pedestrian mall in the heart of Queen Street between Edward and Albert Streets. The Mall had a new Wintergarden arcade, a stage for entertainment and alfresco street dining such as Jimmy's on the Mall and proved to be a great hit when it opened in 1982.

A couple of major new sporting facilities were built for the Commonwealth Games. When Clem Jones originally bid for the games he initially envisaged that Lang Park would host the athletics and opening ceremony. As time progressed it was decided to build a new athletics stadium with a 50 000 seat capacity at bushland in Nathan near the Mount Gravatt cemetery. The QEII Athletics Stadium on the corner of Kessels and Mains Roads was built close to the Games Village at nearby Griffith University. East of Carindale at Chandler, the Chandler Sports Complex was built with swimming and diving facilities, a weightlifting hall and a cycling velodrome.

Matilda the kangaroo mascot for the 1982 Commonwealth Games was represented by a gigantic 13-metre (42 feet) high mechanical "winking" kangaroo, who travelled around the stadium and winked at the crowd. Using placards a giant map of Australia was formed during the opening ceremony (minus poor old Tasmania) on what was a fine but very windy day. The games were officially opened by The Duke of Edinburgh and closed by The Queen. Some 46 Commonwealth nations and territories took part including a total of 1,583 athletes participated in the event.

Australia topped the gold medal count with 39 pipping England's 38 though England just pipped Australia in the overall medal count (108 to 107). Some of our golden girls who dominated the women's swimming events included local heroes Tracey Wickham (400m & 800m freestyle) and Lisa Curry (100m & 200m butterfly, 400m IM) as well as Lisa Forrest (100m & 200m backstroke). The Aussie "Mean Machine" won gold in the 4x100 metre freestyle relay.

The marathon started and finished at South Brisbane where South Bank is today and was won by Australian marathon runner, Robert De Castella. Other notable Australian performances included Raelene Boyle (400m), Debbie Flintoff (400m hurdles), Gary Honey (Long Jump), Dean Lukin (Weightlifting, SuperHW overall) and Neil Brooks (100m freestyle).

A couple of months after the Commonwealth Games at 4am on November 1, 1982 the popular ballroom and entertainment venue, Cloudland, atop Montpelier Hill in Bowen Hills was demolished by that sparked a great public outcry. Ron Grant of Caboolture became the first man to run around Australia in 1983 cheered by hundreds of people when he completed his epic run in 7 months (an average of 60 kms a day) starting and finishing in Brisbane.

In 1984 the massive Wivenhoe Dam was completed with its 2.3 km wall. It's construction was spurred on by the devastating 1974 floods. It created a lake several times larger than Lake Somerset.

Back in 1972, a decision to build a new Queensland Art Gallery on its present location at South Bank was made by the Queensland Government. Later, during 1974, the government decided to extend this idea to a Queensland Cultural Centre which included the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the State Library of Queensland and the Queensland Museum, as well as the Queensland Art Gallery, so that all of these institutions would be in proximity to each other, as well as being within easy reach of the Brisbane Central Business District.

The Queensland Art Gallery (formerly Queensland National Art Gallery), has had many homes, and moved to its present location at the Queensland Cultural Centre at South Bank during 1982. The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) was opened in 1985. QPAC contains some of Brisbane's main theatres (Lyric Theatre, Concert Hall, Cremorne Theatre, and the Playhouse), and the Tony Gould Gallery which is operated by the Queensland Museum and displays historical material related to theatre in Queensland.

The Queensland Museum was established in 1862, and has had many homes, including being based at a building on William Street, which was later home to John Oxley Library (1879-1899) and the Exhibition Hall, now called the Old Museum Building (1899-1986). The Queensland Museum moved to the Queensland Cultural Centre at South Bank during 1986 and includes 6,500m<sup>2</sup> of floor space.

A change of government in 1985 from Labor to Liberal saw the City of Brisbane being led for the first time by a woman. Sallyanne Atkinson became Lord Mayor from 1985 until 1991 when Jim Soorley of Labor defeated her.

Brisbane's two major freeways were completed in the mid-1980's. The last stage of the Western Freeway from Moggill Road at Indooroopilly to the Centenary Bridge and highway was completed on December 19, 1984. The South East Freeway continued to develop reaching Klumpp Road in October 1980 then Logan Road near Garden City in August 1982 and finally joining with the Pacific Highway at Springwood in November 1985 being opened in style by larger-than-life Minister for Transport, Racing and everything else, Russ Hinze.



Brisbane started to see the value in its river at this point in time. Brisbane's grand boulevard, the river, was shackled to industry up until the 1970s, but the recovery of the shorelines and their conversion to parks and pathways gave it 'kerbing' and 'nature strips'. With the river freed from the demands of shipping and industry, dredging was stopped on the Brisbane River allowing river silt to settle and improve the quality and colour of the river. The docks of South Brisbane had been converted to parkland and would soon become the site of World Expo 88. The Cultural Centre with its foreshore park area beautified that area. Between the Expo site and the Captain Cook Bridge several beautiful high-rise apartment buildings were built before World Expo 88.

The derelict area near the old Eagle Street wharves in the City just upstream from the Story Bridge became the next area of urban river renewal. The first tower to go up on the river side of Eagle Street where the old wharves used to be was the Riverside Centre with its modern plaza, cafes, restaurants and food court. It was completed in 1986. Brisbane's riverfront along this part of the Brisbane then became highly desirable leading to more urban renewal around the old Eagle Street port area. The Riverside Centre is 40 stories high and rises 146 metres above ground.

Festival Hall in the city had only a seating capacity of 4000 people. A larger hall was needed for bigger events and in 1986 the Brisbane Entertainment Centre opened with an indoor seating capacity of 10 000. The Brisbane Bullets who won the NBL in 1985 moved there from Auchenflower and won the NBL title again in 1987 with star players Larry Sengstock and Leroy Loggins.

**A new bridge to replace the Vehicular ferry at Murrarie allowing quicker access between the airport and the Southside was started in 1980. The Gateway Bridge was completed 6 years later in 1986 at a cost of \$92 million. It was officially commissioned on 11 January 1986 and thousands took the chance to walk across the bridge on opening day. On this day 200,000 people crossed the bridge by foot as part of the opening activities. In 1986 the new toll bridge carried an average of 12,500 vehicles per day. In early 2010 the single bridge was carrying an average of 100,000 vehicles per day. Its total length is 1,627 metres, width is 22 metres and its height is 64.5 metres above river level. For all its great height, some of today's tallest ocean liners are now big enough not to be able to pass under it.**

In tandem with the Gateway Bridge was the Gateway Arterial Road. The road was constructed to connect the then-recently opened Gateway Bridge to the Bruce Highway in the north and the Pacific Motorway in the south. It was opened to traffic in December 1986. It provides a true bypass of the built up area of Brisbane allowing much quicker access from one side of Brisbane to the other. Originally, the route was called the Gateway Arterial Road because the road was not at motorway status, the road passing through three large roundabouts north of the Brisbane River. The road was a runaway success as was the Gateway Bridge, even with the toll. To cope with the heavy traffic, the government began upgrading the road in 1987. Duplication to four lanes and grade-separation was completed in several stages between 1991 and 1995.

**Australia's bicentennial year in 1988 celebrated 200 years of European settlement (Sydney 1788) and it was a very big year for Brisbane. The Federal Government over a decade earlier announced the construction of Brisbane Airport to be built immediately north east of Eagle Farm Airport which was inadequate for a city of Brisbane's size and anticipated growth. The new domestic airport was opened in 1988 with a new domestic terminal and two runways. Large amounts of sand were pumped from nearby Moreton Bay to raise the swamp land above the tidal range. The new airport included a 3500 metre and 1700 metre runways with parallel taxiway systems, parking facilities and a 75 m tall air traffic control tower.**

The Queen Street Mall in 1988 was extended to include the section of Queen Street between Albert Street and George Street as well as expanding to include Albert Street between Burnett Lane and Elizabeth Street. Significant heritage-listed building facades were preserved such as the Carlton Hotel and Telegraph Office giving the mall a restored yesteryear feeling. The Myer Centre in the newly extended section of the Mall was opened in 1988 and is the Brisbane CBD's largest shopping centre. It has almost 200 stores spread across 6 floors including Queensland's largest department store, Myer, as well as Target and Birch Carroll and Coyle cinemas. Before the cinemas were relocated from the lowest to highest level an amusement park with a Pirate ship that swung through a couple of levels occupied the top level. In the original section of the Mall, Broadway on the Mall opened in 1989. It was a four level shopping centre with around 60 stores that is currently being refurbished.

**World Expo 88, also known as Expo '88, was a World's Fair held in Brisbane, the state capital of Queensland, Australia, during a six-month period between Saturday, 30 April 1988 and Sunday, 30 October 1988. The theme of the Expo was "Leisure in the Age of Technology", and the mascot for the Expo was an Australian platypus named Expo Oz. The A\$625 million fair was the largest event of the 1988 Bicentennial celebrations of the European settlement of Australia. Expo 88 attracted more than 15,760,000 visitors who bought tickets worth A\$175 million.**

**The event achieved both its economic aims and very good attendances, was successfully used to promote Queensland as a tourist destination and it spurred a major re-development at the South Brisbane site. The core feature of the site were the international pavilions. Many of the exposition's sculptures and buildings were retained by various entities around the state and are still in use or on display decades later.**

World Expo 88 occupied a mixed usage 40-hectare resumed parcel of land on the South Bank of the Brisbane River, opposite the city's central business district. For many years this mainly industrial and former port area had been largely derelict. The creation of Expo, along with the recent construction of the Queensland Cultural Centre, helped to revive the area. Large sun sails were erected over the site to provide shade from the hot Queensland climate. These became an icon of the Expo, becoming an element of Expo's sun-sails logo. A A\$4.5 million 88-metre symbolic tower for the Expo was constructed, called The Night Companion, which featured a gold and copper dome black spire top, with a xenon laser beam eye that scanned the Brisbane horizons each Expo evening up to 60 km away. The Skyneedle, which was originally built for World Expo 88, was to be relocated to Tokyo Disneyland after the Expo. Hairdresser and local celebrity Stefan bought the rights and moved it 500 m (1,600 ft) from its original location at South Bank to his corporate headquarters in South Brisbane, where it remains a local landmark.



A monorail was constructed for World Expo 88 to take visitors quickly around the Expo site. Costing A\$12 million, it consisted of 2 stations at either end of the site, 2.3 kilometres of track and 4 nine-carriage trains. The route included going through the Queensland Pavilion, across the Pacific Lagoon and beside the Brisbane River. The system was able to carry 44,000 passengers per day. Following Expo, one of the trains and some track joined the existing Sea World Monorail System at Sea World on the Gold Coast. A ticket to the fair allowed entry to the World Expo Park amusement park at the same location. Although originally intended to be a permanent feature, the park remained open for only one year after Expo had closed.

World Expo 88 attracted some 100 pavilions, from 52 governments, of which 36 were from international-level, and numerous corporate participants. Major western and European nations were represented such as the United States, the Soviet Union (last representation at a World Exposition), France, West Germany (also last representation at a World Exposition), the United Kingdom, Canada, Spain and Greece, as well as major Asian countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Indonesia, amongst others. Close neighbouring countries, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea were also represented.

State-level and multi-lateral organisations included the six Australian states, the United Nations, the European Union, Vatican City, three American states (Hawai'i, California and Alaska), one Japanese prefecture (sister state of Queensland, Saitama Prefecture), and one Japanese city (Brisbane's sister city Kobe City). Corporate pavilions included IBM, Ford, Fujitsu, Queensland Newspapers, Australia Post, Cadbury Chocolate, Suncorp, and the Queensland Teachers Credit Union. NASA and Universal Studios hosted outdoor exhibits, with models of the space shuttle and Apollo program, as well as the car KITT from the TV series Knight Rider. A very popular place was the Bavarian Festhaus, a large German beer drinking hall with traditional music and dancing.

The \$38 million entertainment program featured acts from all over Australia and the world at a variety of custom-made performance venues on the World Expo 88 site from the 10,000-seat spectacular open-air River Stage (for national day events, opening and closing ceremonies and large-scale events), the 850-seat piazza for circus, marching band, acrobatics, magic and mime, an aquatics arena and the smaller-scale amphitheatre for national day ceremonies and laser shows. The River Stage was also the venue for water ski-ing shows on the River and the popular evening fireworks and large-scale laser show, set to music, each Expo evening at 10 pm.

Big international and Australian names were a feature at World Expo 88. Perennial Australian favourites such as Icehouse, Little River Band, Mental as Anything, The Cockroaches, Joe Camilleri and the Black Sorrows, John Farnham, Julie Anthony, Simon Gallaher, and Jon English, were regular performers, as well as concerts by international artists such as Jerry Harrison (of Talking Heads), Julio Iglesias, John Denver, Donny Osmond, Cher, Phyllis Diller, and a wide variety of international theatre, opera and classical music at the adjoining World Expo on Stage program (separate ticket admission) at the Queensland Performing Arts Complex.

**The exposition averaged 100,000 visitors a day, with highest day of attendance being 184,000 visitors on 29 October 1988, the last day before the closing ceremony. At the closing ceremony of World Expo 88 at the River Stage, a concert showcased all the Expo's entertainers singing and dancing. A massive fireworks display, the longest in Australia at the time, soon followed, with a burning icon of the World Expo 88 sun sails logo set alight on the Brisbane River.**

The State Library of Queensland was based for a long time in a building in William Street (1899-1988). In 1988 it moved to its present location near the Queensland Museum and the Queensland Art Gallery, as part of the Queensland Cultural Centre. Central Plaza One at the corner of Queen and Creek Street was completed in 1988. The height of the tower is 174 m and it contains 44 floors. At the time of its completion it was the tallest building in Brisbane, holding this title until Riparian Plaza's completion in 2005 on Eagle Street. Central Plaza One has a unique window cleaning mechanism in which a section at the top of the building rotates, allowing for the suspension of outdoor window cleaners.

The Logan Motorway was opened in December 1988 and offers a quick 30km link between Ipswich and the Pacific Motorway at Loganholme. It would later be connected to the Gateway Motorway. As part of the ongoing riverfront renewal a bike and pedestrian path, the Bicentennial bikeway was created along the Milton-Toowong reach of the Brisbane River.

Riverstage, an outdoor entertainment venue within the City Botanic Gardens was officially opened on 7 September 1989 by Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson. It was inspired by the temporary Riverstage used for World Expo '88 and has a capacity of 9,500.

Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson, jokingly referred to as Sir Joh Bonkers-Bananas of the Banana Republic by satirist Mike Carlton, was ousted as premier in 1987 amidst claims of internal corruption of his government by the Fitzgerald Inquiry. Taking over was a much milder National Party leader, Mike Ahern, for 2 years before Russell Cooper took control of the National Party for 3 months in late 1989. By this stage the National-Liberal party coalition was in tatters and Labor under Wayne Goss won the December 1989 state election.

The 1980's was the decade of corporate excess and the story of brewing in the 80's captures the spirit of this time. Alan Bond borrowed heavily to buy Western Australia's Swan Brewery in 1981, and made a success of it. He didn't hit the big time in beer until 1985, when he captured Castlemaine Tooheys for \$1.2 billion, in the biggest corporate takeover Australia had ever seen.

In Queensland, almost the first thing to be done was the removal of the iconic XXXX sign on the company's Milton brewery which was replaced with one saying 'Bond Brewing'. Adding insult to injury, the XXXX label was redesigned so that 'Bond Brewing' and 'WA' appeared on the cans. Meanwhile, the brewery's loyal hoteliers were squeezed, having their free credit period reduced from 30 days to 7. Bond Brewing did it just before Christmas when they needed the money most. "It nearly sent a lot of people to the wall," according to Bernie Power, who ran a string of Brisbane hotels.



Power himself was so angry he set up his own Powers brewery in 1986 based at Yatala in competition. The banks laughed at him at first, but he got the media on his side and within a year had carved out a 10% share of the Queensland beer market. Powers sponsored the Brisbane Broncos which created tension with the XXXX sponsored QRL. Despite a period of intense competition lasting several years, Power ended up partnering with Carlton and United (CUB) before selling the brewery in 1992. "The facts are that we ran out of beer, literally on the first day, and never caught up," is how Power describes the situation. CUB moved their Valley brewery to Yatala in 1996 at the site of Powers original brewery. Bond Corporation chalked up the then largest loss in Australian corporate history, with a deficit of more than \$1 billion. Bond Brewing (including Castlemaine Perkins) was finally sold to Lion Nathan in September 1990.

In cricket during the 1980's Queensland experienced heartbreak over and over again in their quest for their first Sheffield Shield losing three finals though they did win three domestic one-day titles.

**In July 1980 the birth of State of Origin rugby league began as the last game in the series was played under State of Origin rules. Queensland had its players back who went to the Sydney clubs rather than playing against them in the NSW Blue. Queensland won an epic encounter 20-10 with Chris Close winning man of the match with a sensational try weaving past Blues players and Mal Meninga, who turned 20 that night, kicking 7 out of 7. The biggest cheer, though, was when legendary forward Arthur Beetson returned home to lead the Maroons out that night. His fight with Parramatta team-mate Mick Cronin is part of Origin folklore.**

In 1981 the same format of State of Origin for the third game if NSW had won the series before then was played. This time Arthur Beetson was coach and Wally Lewis or King Wally was captain. NSW got out to 15-0 lead early before a try before half time got Queensland back within striking distance. They levelled the game with tries to Chris Close after a break by Colin Scott and another try by King Wally. A controversial penalty try saw Queensland triumphant 22-15.

In 1982 the whole series was played under State of Origin rules. After going down in the first match Queensland won the next two to take the first full series 2-1. It was the first series win to Queensland in over 20 years. The next two years saw Queensland win again with Wally Lewis striding like a colossus on the Origin stage. NSW fought back to win in 1985 and 1986 in close contests. The following year saw the emergence of a little halfback from Ipswich called Allan Langer. Together with Wally Lewis they led a comeback to win 2-1 in 1987. The next two years (1988 and 1989) saw Queensland completely dominant winning two series by 3-0. Excluding the Los Angeles Exhibition Game they had won 8 Origin games straight.

At the club level Souths and Wynnum-Manly were the dominant sides in the Brisbane Rugby League competition with Souths starring Mal Meninga winning in 1981 and 1985 while Wynnum won in 1982, 1984 and 1986. Easts won in 1982 and Brothers won the last BRL Grand Final in 1987 before the Brisbane Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition. In the BRL competition, after the Broncos came along, Valleys made a strong comeback winning a treble in 1988 to 1990.

**A combined Brisbane team under Wally Lewis won the Panasonic midweek competition in 1984 and the feeling was that rugby league needed to expand and become a national competition like the AFL, NSL and the NBL were doing at the time. It was a massive blow to the local Brisbane competition which deserved much better treatment than it got after the Broncos came along but having a Brisbane (and also a Gold Coast team in the ARL competition) did allow Brisbane fans to see their best players week after week take on the best from Sydney. The opening game was against Manly, the 1987 Sydney premiers. The Broncos smashed Manly 40-14 with Wally Lewis running riot. After an amazing early run they fell away when losing rep players during the Origin series and test series and missed the finals. A similar pattern would strike for their first few years before their first ARL premiership in 1992. The Brisbane Broncos did, however, pick up one piece of silverware winning the last Panasonic midweek competition when they defeated the Illawarra Steelers 23-21 in 1989.**

**Brisbane's population in the 1980's grew from 1 million to 1.3 million. Much of that growth occurred in the Logan City area. The Albert Shire experienced such growth in the 1970's in the area north of the Logan River that it opened a sub branch in Woodridge. Logan Shire was then split off from Albert Shire being created in 1979 and subsequently called Logan City in 1981. Within the Brisbane City Council area the population grew from 700 000 to 750 000.**



**Below:** Queen Street as viewed from Edward Street shortly before it became the Mall. Her Majesty's Theatre is clearly visible as Hoyts, who took over the Regent Theatre.







**Above:** Albert Street. Stefan's hairdresser and his Jo-Jo's restaurant is on the right.

**Below:** Queen Street after the Wintergarden between Her Majesty's and Hoyts was pulled down for renovations



**Above:** The corner of Queen and Albert Streets just after Hungry Jacks was located there.

**Below:** Queen St near the corner with Edward St. I have fond memories of going to the Coles Cafeteria as a kid and enjoying pies with chips covered in gravy.





## STATE OF ORIGIN IS BORN

1980 INAUGURAL QUEENSLAND  
STATE OF ORIGIN TEAM

Inaugural State of Origin Match, Lang Park, 1980. Queensland team.

Back row, left to right: W. Lewis, R. Reddy, M. Meninga, G. Scott, B. Baker. Second row, left to right: K. Boustead, C. Close, R. Morris, R. Hancock, N. Carr, B. Astill. Front row, left to right: B. Davies (co-manager), G. Oliphant, J. McDonald (coach), A. Beetson (captain), A. Smith, J. Lang, D. Hall (co-manager). (Sidney Riley Studio)



In July 1980 the birth of State of Origin rugby league began as the last game in the series was played under State of Origin rules. Queensland had its players back who went to the Sydney clubs rather than playing against them in the NSW Blue.

Queensland won an epic encounter 20-10 with Chris Close winning man of the match with a sensational try weaving past Blues players and Mal Meninga, who turned 20 that night, kicking 7 out of 7. The biggest cheer, though, was when legendary forward Arthur Beetson returned home to lead the Maroons out that night. His fight with Parramatta team-mate Mick Cronin is part of Origin folklore.



**MAROONS VICTORY SPECIAL**

**Telegraph**

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BRISBANE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1980

Treasure 1293: P65

**FINAL**

**Artie says 'let's do it again' after...**

By DAVID FALKENMIRE

Arthur Beetson was nursing a sore head this morning — but he reckons it was worth it.

Beetson, Queensland's favorite son, celebrated after leading the Maroons to their memorable 20-10 win over New South Wales at Lang Park last night.

And just for good measure ... at the age of 35 ... he was one of the best players on the field.

"I had never played for Queensland and I doubt if I have ever been so determined to win," Beetson said today.

"It is one of the highlights of my career."

Beetson said he had no doubts a state-of-origin match should be played annually.

"I am more convinced than ever after last night," he said. It was Beetson's first representative match since 1977 and it may well be his last.

After 15 years of Sydney football with Balmain, Easts, and now Parramatta, he admits his career is nearly finished.

• More pictures, stories, Pages 3, 72, 73 and Back Page.

**THE NIGHT WE BEAT THE BLUES**

Queensland last night produced the magic to beat New South Wales 20-10 in an historic state-of-origin rugby league match at Lang Park.

Queensland league followers have been saying it for years: Give us our players back, Sydney, and we will beat the Blues.

So they gave us back a Magnificent Seven — seven players from Queensland playing with Sydney clubs — who combined with the best north of the border to defeat "the Unbeatables."

Evergreen Artie Beetson, Johnny Lang, Kerry Boustead, Greg Oliphant, Rod Morris, Allan Smith and Rod Reddy provided experience to galvanise the locals.

And the locals more than did

**Triplets in**

y's KEITH MORRIS picture of Artie Beetson the morning after.





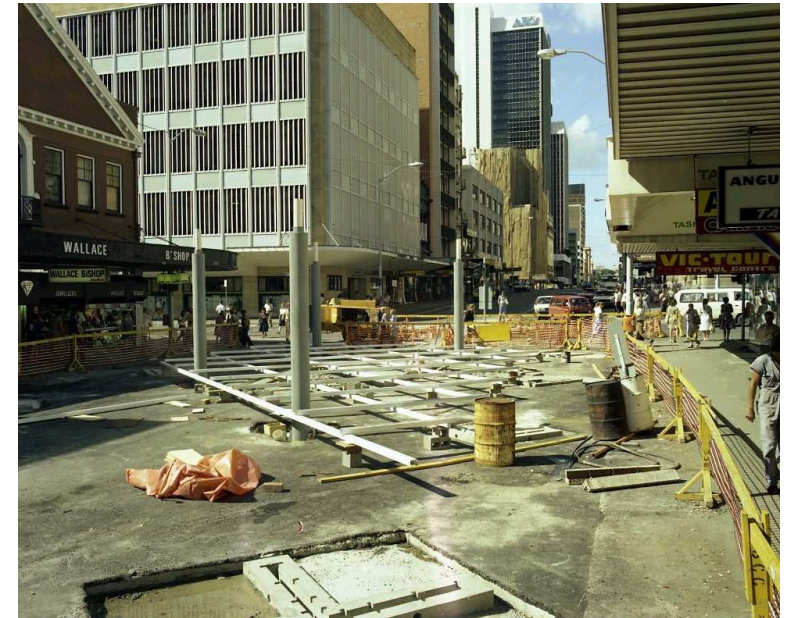
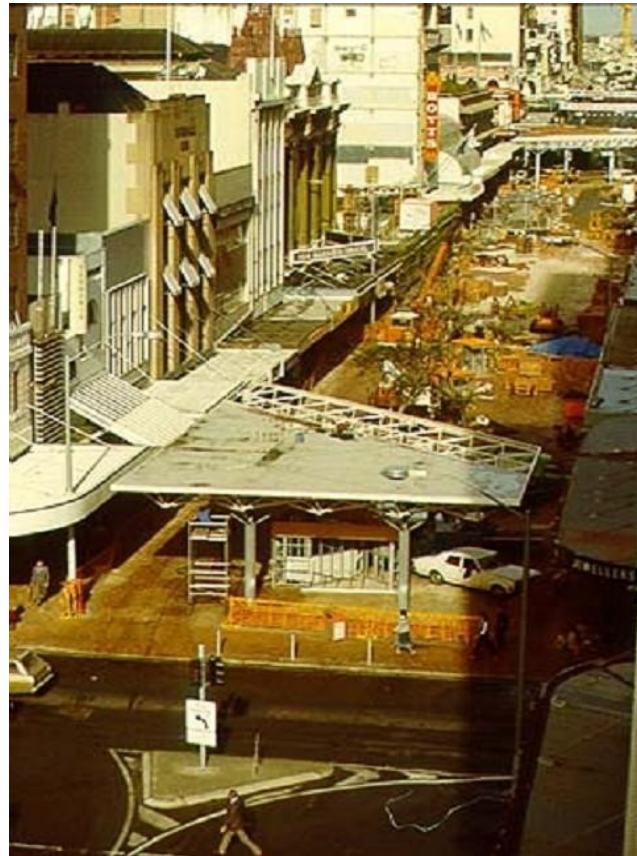
**Above:** Wally Lewis fires a long pass during an Origin game in the 1980's. **Below:** In 1987 King Wally was supported by Allan Langer in winning back the Origin Shield. **Right:** "King Wally" is chaired from the field with fellow Queenslanders who were a part of the two 3-0 whitewashes of 1988 and 1989.



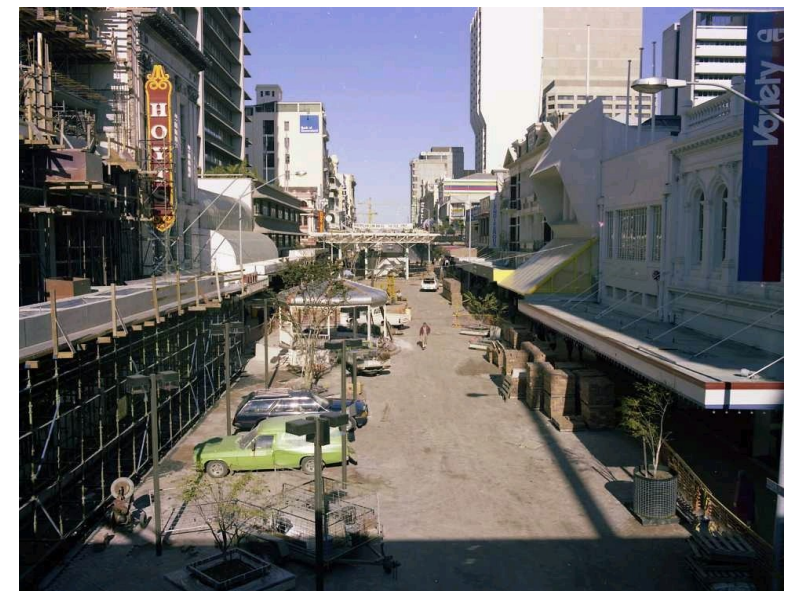




**Above and Below:** Pizza delivery came to Brisbane in 1980 started up Silvio's restaurant at Red Hill at the suggestion of a Canadian visitor who was surprised we were so behind the times. Silvio's Pizza took off like a rocket leading to other pizza delivery chains including Dominos which Silvio owned the Australian branch of for a time.



**Left, Above and Below:** Queen Street in 1981 became a construction site as the section between Edward Street and Albert Streets was converted into a pedestrian mall to be completed in time for the 1982 Commonwealth Games.





**Below:** Queen Street between Edward & Albert Streets became a pedestrian mall in 1982 reviving the City Centre as a shopping district and included alfresco dining such as Jimmy's on the Mall.







**Above:** The new Queen Street mall proved very popular with shoppers and tourists alike including the two Jimmy's on the Mall restaurants at either end of the mall.

**Below:** A plan that never came to fruition from the man who would later develop Springfield was to extend the mall underground of Queen Street from the Mall to Post Office Square and the GPO.





## 1982 COMMONWEALTH GAMES



**Above:** The QE2 stadium at Nathan was built to host athletics for the 1982 Commonwealth Games. It seated over 50 000 people. It was the venue for the Opening Ceremony. **Below:** Another scene from the opening ceremony where placards form a map of Australia (minus poor old Tasmania). **Right:** The mascot for the games was Matilda the kangaroo seen here in the Opening Ceremony.







**Above and Below:** More scenes from the 1982 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony including the arrival of Matilda, the kangaroo, the mascot for the games. She captured hearts when she winked at the crowd as she passed on by.





**Below Left:** The various venues for the 1982 Commonwealth Games. **Below Right:** Matilda today is an attraction at a Matilda petrol station up in Gympie.







**Above and Below:** The view of the QE2 Athletics Stadium site at various stages. First, the site before construction, then during construction and lastly the view between when the main grandstand had been completed and the temporary stands had not gone up. I remember competing on the ground in high school during this last stage.



**Above and Below:** The Chandler Sports Complex was built for the Commonwealth Games and was the site for swimming, weightlifting (I remember this venue well as my church used to visit here on Holy Days) and cycling.



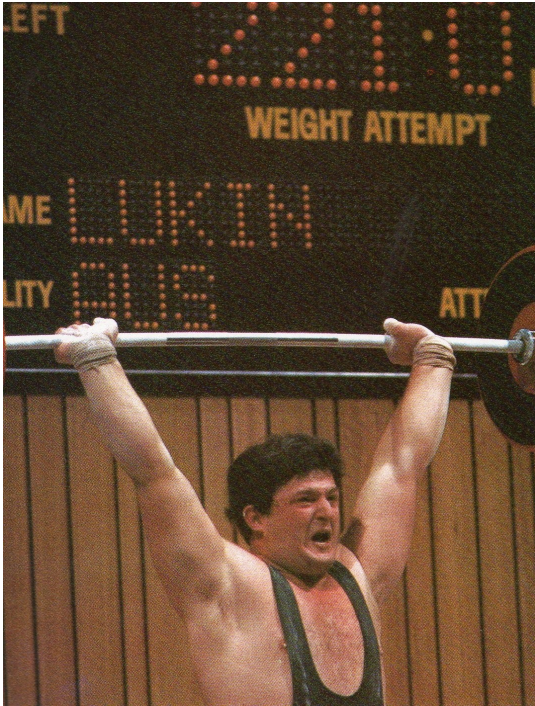




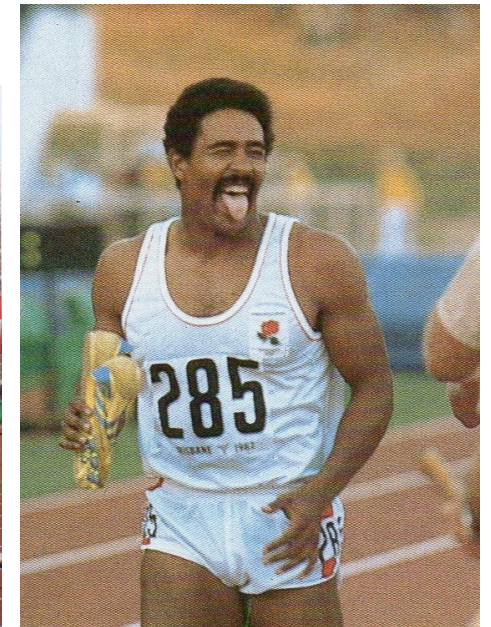
**Above Left:** The Aussie “Mean Machine” won gold in the 4x100 metre freestyle relay. **Above Right:** Golden girls in the swimming—Tracey Wickham, Lisa Curry and Lisa Forrest.  
**Below:** The marathon started and finished at South Brisbane where South Bank is today and was won by Australian marathon runner, Robert De Castella.







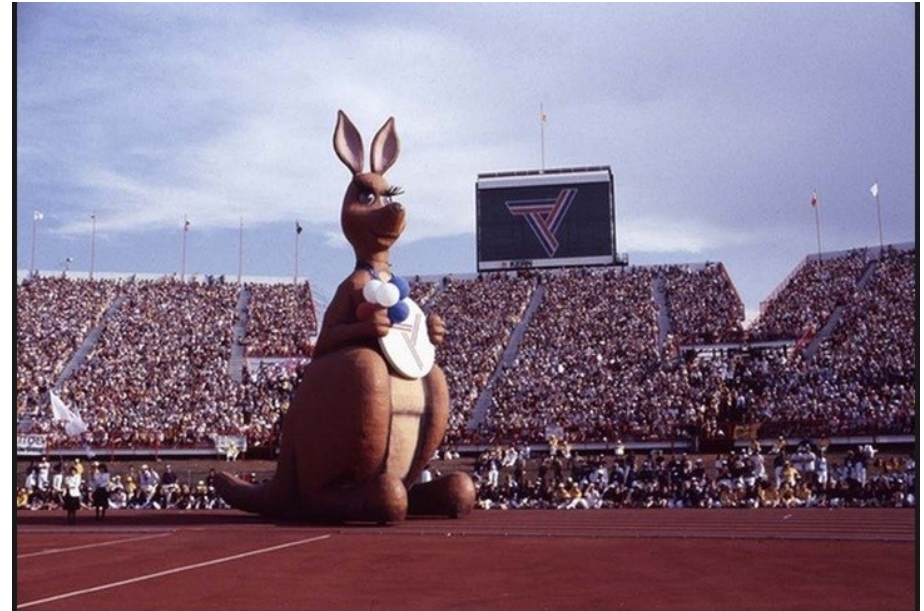
**Above Left:** Dean Lukin wins gold in the weightlifting. **Above Centre:** The Queen congratulates Tracey Wickham on winning a gold medal. **Above Right:** The Queen takes a happy snap. **Below Left:** Fun and frivolity after the swim meet finishes. **Below Centre:** The women's relay. **Below Right:** Champion English decathlete Daley Thompson.







**Above:** The royal ship "Brittania" on the Brisbane River with the Queen in town for the Games.  
**Below:** The Queen getting quite excitable during the Closing Ceremony.



Matilda the Kangaroo, a mascot at the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games, pictured at the closing ceremony on October 9, 1982. Photo: Vic Sumner

**Below:** The Gold Coast will be the site for the next Commonwealth Games in 2018.







**Above:** An aerial view of the City in the early 1980's.

**Below:** Looking across Adelaide Street from King George Square towards Myer and QBD.



**Above:** The Silver Jubilee fountain from South Brisbane.

**Below:** Another of Brisbane's characters about this time - that old guy I remember seeing in the City selling the Telegraph usually across the road from King George Square who's selling chant was utterly indecipherable.







**Above and Below:** Ron Grant of Caboolture became the first man to run around Australia in 1983 cheered by hundreds of people when he completed his epic run in 7 months (an average of 60 kms a day) starting and finishing in Brisbane.



## The most excitement this side of World Expo 88

**Timeline for the Cultural Centre:**

- Art Gallery — 1982**
- Performing Arts Centre — 1985**
- Queensland Museum — 1986**
- State Library — 1988**  
(expansion 2006)
- Modern Art Gallery — 2006**

All interest focuses on Brisbane's South Bank during World Expo 88. And the Queensland Cultural Centre, right beside the Expo site, is a unique and integral part of the excitement. The Centre is proud to present a six month, once-in-a-lifetime extravaganza of arts, exhibitions and entertainments throughout the entire Expo period. The four major components of the Centre, the Queensland Art Gallery, Performing Arts Complex, Queensland Museum and State Library will be on show to the world as never before.

The Queensland Cultural Centre is an initiative of the State Government of Queensland

**THE QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY**  
Masterpieces from the Louvre:  
*French Bronzes and Paintings from the Renaissance to Rodin.*  
 A French Government contribution to the Bicentenary, organised by the Queensland Art Gallery and sponsored by Channel 9. Domestic air carriage by Australian Cargo. April 14-July 31, 1988.  
Japanese Ceramics from the Idemitsu Museum of Arts, Tokyo  
 Sponsored by Arco Coal Australia Inc. August-end October, 1988.  
The Great Australian Art Exhibition 1788-1988.  
 Sponsored by Boral Limited. May 17-July 17, 1988.  
The Inspired Dream: Life as art in Aboriginal Australia  
 March 31-October 31, 1988.  
A Study of Genius:  
 Drawings from the Royal Collection, Windsor Castle. Sponsored by British Airways. September 23-November 6, 1988.

**THE PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX**  
 During World Expo 88, the Performing Arts Complex hosts **World Expo on Stage**, the largest international entertainment programme in Australian performing history. More than 150 companies from 25 different countries and every Australian state, will present over 500 performances between April 30-October 30, 1988. Highlights will be the Peking Opera, the English Shakespeare Company, the Monterey Jazz Festival, Spain's Antologia de la Zarzuela company of singers and dancers and Switzerland's mime troupe, Mummenschanz.

For Ticket Sales enquiries please telephone (07) 223 0555. For Bookings using credit card facility telephone (07) 223 0000.

**STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND**  
 The new State Library provides a modern riverside venue for the State's Reference Collection and John Oxley Library of Queensland History.  
 Admission to the Art Gallery, Museum and Library is free but entry charges will apply to most special exhibitions.  
 For further information on activities at the Queensland Cultural Centre during World Expo 88 contact the Information Officer on (07) 840 7229 or write to P.O. Box 159, South Brisbane 4101.

**THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM**  
 Queensland's world class Museum features innovative and technically outstanding displays interpreting Queensland's natural, human and technological history.  
 During World Expo 88, the Museum will host: *First Impressions: The British Discovery of Australia*. July 20-September 4, 1988.

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STANDARD RATE PLAN. SEE PAGE 121, 122

**Queensland Cultural Centre**  
 South Bank, South Brisbane. QCCAU





**Above Left:** The Cultural Centre under construction. **Above Centre:** The Cultural Centre after its completion. **Above Right:** Inside the Queensland Art Gallery which was the first part of the Cultural Centre completed in 1982. **Below:** Construction photos of the Art Gallery (**Completed 1982**) and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre with theaters and concert halls (**Completed 1985**).



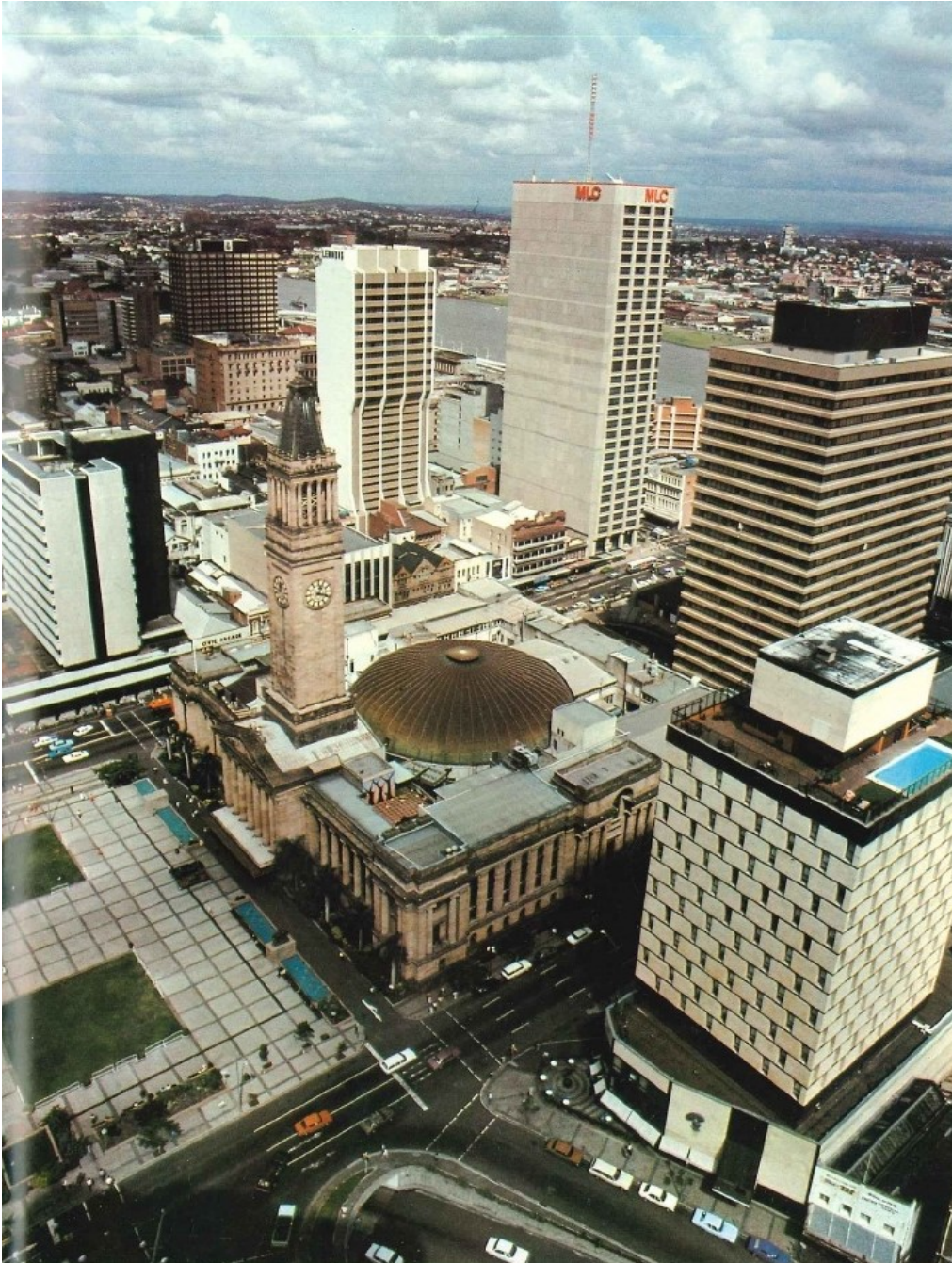




**Above:** The old Queensland Museum at Bowen Hills near the Ekka. Its large collection was moved to a new Queensland Museum in the Cultural Centre at South Brisbane (right) in 1986. **Below Left and Centre:** The huge model T-Rex was quite the removalist job across the city. **Below Right:** The museum being opened (on right) by Queensland's larger-than-life premier who was leader from 1968 to 1987. Some considered the National Party leader and Queensland premier a dinosaur himself with his imitable style that comedians loved to take off while others loved him. He was big on business projects that would financially improve the State such as this project.







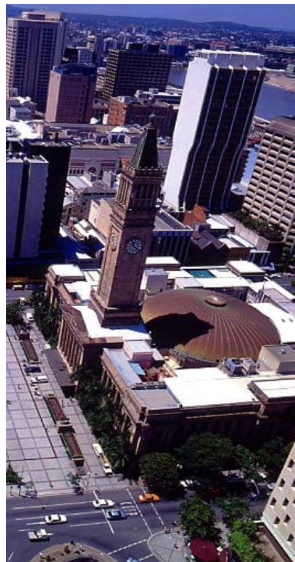
**Left:** Looking down at City Hall and King George Square from the air. The MLC building with its weather beacon is also visible as well as the Crest Hotel with pool on top. **Above:** The Munich Steak House on Albert Street with the Forum cinema behind. **Below:** Enjoying a drink outside the Crest Hotel.



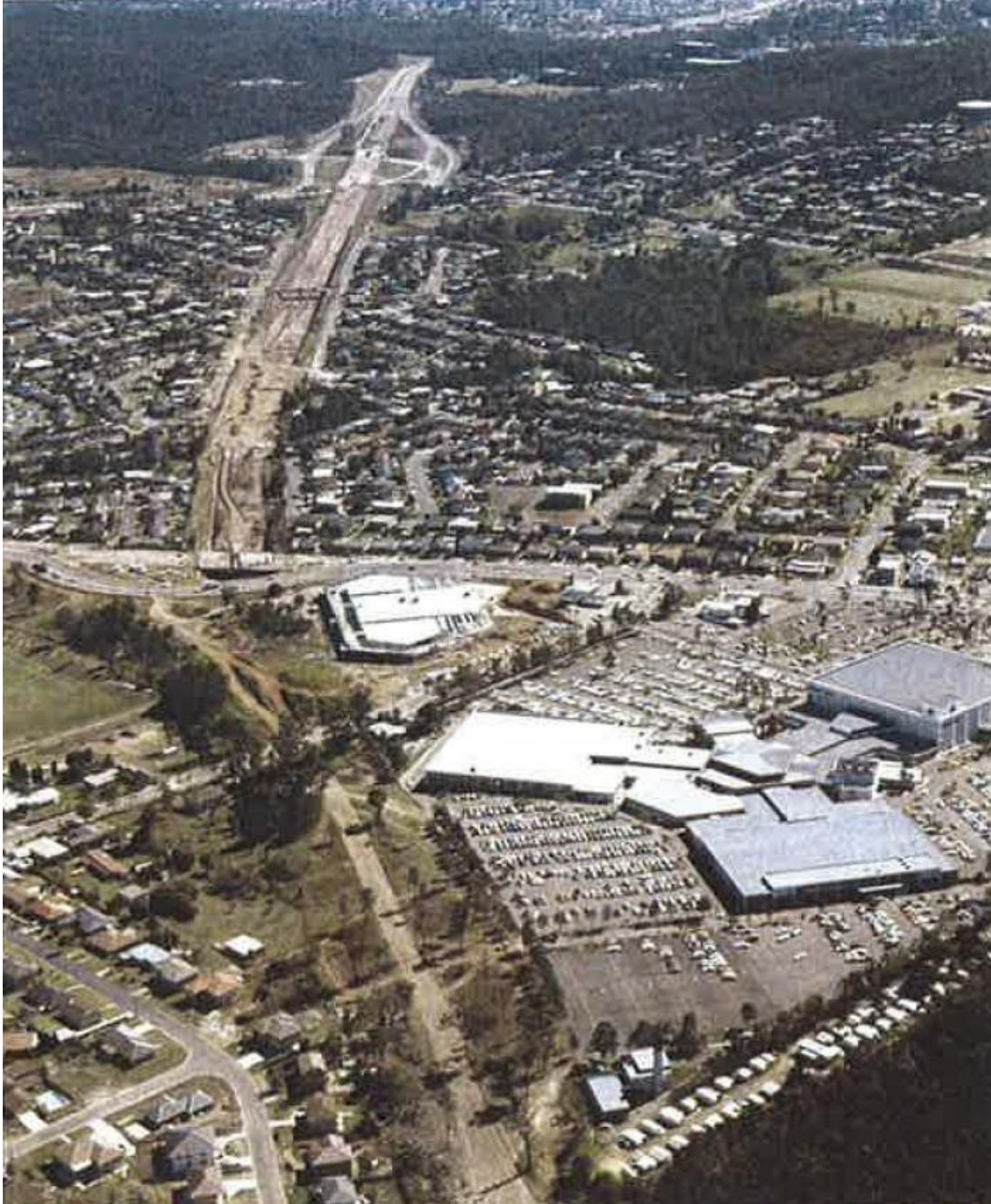




**Above Left:** Taking cover under the awning near Hungry Jacks on the Mall before the Mall was extended. **Above Right:** City Plaza near City Hall. **Below Right:** The enormous Wivenhoe Dam was completed in 1984 creating Lake Wivenhoe, several times larger than Somerset. **Below Centre:** The water feature on the Adelaide Street side of King George Square. **Below Left:** City Hall from above.



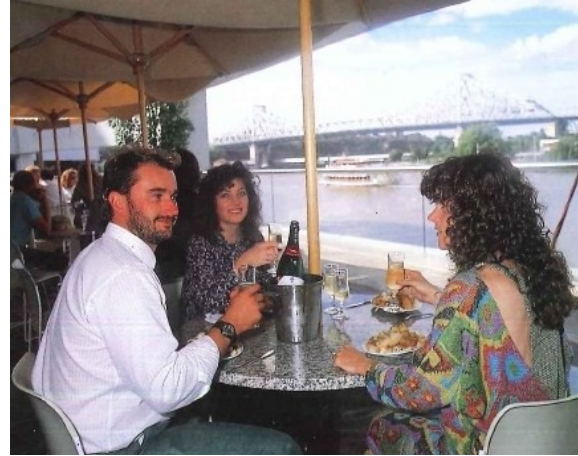




**Left:** The South East Freeway seen here being built near Garden City was completed in 1985. **Above:** The Brisbane Entertainment Centre was built in 1986 at Boondall in the north east of Brisbane which was home for a time to the Brisbane Bullets and has hosted many concerts. **Below:** The Gateway Bridge was built in 1986.







**Above Left:** A man enjoys the company of a couple of lovely twins in one of the stylish new riverside restaurants. **Above Right:** The magnificent view at night from the Riverside Centre with the water feature and Michaels restaurant in the foreground. **Below Left:** A design model showing an early vision for the Riverside Centre with luxury apartments that were never built. **Below Right:** The view from above the Riverside Centre.

**Above:** Another glass tower has joined the skyline across Charlotte St from the AMP tower. The first tower to go up on the river side of Eagle Street where the old wharves used to be was the Riverside Centre (right) with its modern plaza and food court that was completed in 1986. The riverfront along this part of the Brisbane then became highly desirable. **Below:** A city ferry on the river in 1985 while the Riverside Centre is being built.





## A NEW BRISBANE AIRPORT



**Above:** Eagle Farm Airport, east of Doomben train station on Terminal Drive, was originally built in 1931 and after being upgraded during World War II it then serviced as Brisbane's airport. The igloo terminals serviced both domestic and international flights until another international terminal at Eagle Farm (photo with the Queen in) was built in 1975. That year work commenced on a new airport closer to Moreton Bay which required the complete eviction of an entire suburb, Cribb Island (**Above and Below Right**), one of three suburbs where the Bee Gees once lived when young. The complete eviction of Cribb Island took place in 1974 after much protest. It would take more than ten years to drain swamp land and then construct the new domestic airport (Plan - Below Left) was completed in **1988**. Cribb Island was at the bay end of the cross runway. The new international airport, built closer inland than the domestic terminal, was completed 7 years later in **1995**.







**Above Left:** Construction work on the new domestical airport. **Above Right:** The new domestic airport was completed in 1988.

**Below:** The domestic terminal of the Brisbane Airport with the control tower. **Below Right:** The International Terminal was completed in 1995.



*The new Brisbane Airport is only a 15-minute drive from the central city, an achievement for planners seeking to balance the needs of a suitable, convenient spot and minimising noise nuisance along flight paths. A central arrival/departures building with covered walkway 'fingers' and extensive short and long-term car parking (left) is a far cry from the former Eagle Farm complex which grew out of a grassy paddock in the 1930s and a World War II airbase. The air traffic control tower has given Brisbane a new landmark.*







**Above:** The view of the City and Kangaroo Point in the mid 1980's from New Farm. Ship building finished at Kangaroo Point in 1976. Luxury urban renewal transformed the area in the 1990's with the Dockside development. **Below Left:** The corner of Queen and Albert Streets before the Mall was extended for Expo 88. Steve Ackerie (Stefan's) Jo-Jo restaurant is visible along with the Channel 7 digital headline banner board. **Below Right:** Anzac Square.



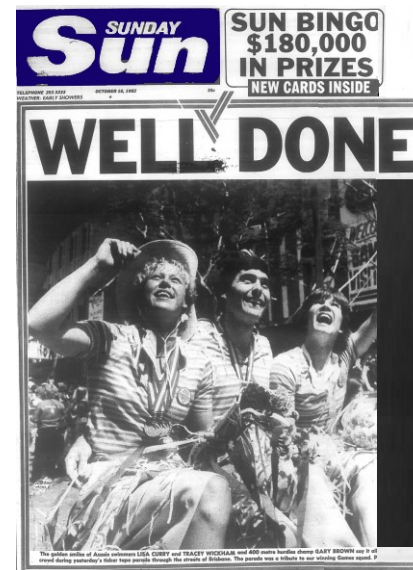




Left, Above and Below: Some scenes from Brisbane's annual Ekka show.







Brisbane during the 1980's had 5 main newspapers as shown above. Following mergers only the first two, the **Courier Mail** and **Sunday Mail** are still in publication today as morning papers. The Courier Mail began as the Moreton Bay Courier in 1846 and then as the Brisbane Courier which merged with the Daily Mail in 1933 to become the Courier Mail which moved to Bowen Hills in 1963. The **Telegraph** was our only afternoon paper from 1872 to 1988. It was bought out by Queensland Newspapers and later discontinued in 1988. For most of its time it was based in Queen Street where the Myer Centre is today. The Truth started in 1900, changing name to the **Sunday Sun** in 1963. It was based on Brunswick Street in the Valley where the Sun Apartments are today. It went daily with the **Daily Sun**, a morning paper, in 1982 until 1991. The Sun was bought out by Queensland Newspapers and the Sunday Sun was discontinued in 1992.







**Above:** King George Square. The white tiled areas “roughly” match where Roma St and Albert St used to go through the Square. **Below:** Brisbane’s main concert hall before the Entertainment Centre, Festival Hall, on Charlotte Street.



**Above and Below:** The Shingle Inn when it was still on Edward Street which was one of my favourite places to eat with its Tudor style ambience. It recently re-opened a similar cafe with its old Tudor style ambience in City Hall.







**Above:** City Hall lit up at night.

**Below:** The Woolloongabba Fiveways.



**Above :** The view towards the City from Albion Park with the Newstead gasworks in the centre.

**Below:** Adelaide Street on a rainy day outside Wallace Bishop on the corner with Albert Street.







**Above:** Stanley Street in the 1980's before construction for Expo 88. **Above and Below Right:** The Plough Inn before Expo 88. It would survive except for its drive through bottle shop. **Below Left:** The other survivor was the Ship Inn which was upgraded from its run down look shown here.





September 1986



**Above :** The view of the World Expo 88 site under construction as its sails go up. **Below Left:** South Brisbane in 1984. With the exception of the Moreton Bay Tug Company the old docks had all been converted to parkland. The Interstate Rail Station is still seen but no longer used after completion of the Merivale Bridge in 1978 and moving the interstate termination to Roma Street. It was torn down in 1986 and became Expo 88's ride and amusement park and later the Convention Centre. The Qld Museum also nears completion. **Below Right:** The Riverstage near QUT was opened in 1989.



SOUTH BANK 1984







**Queen Street, looking west, 1988** The new Myer Centre, under construction at the left of the picture, opened on 28 March 1988. It incorporated the facades of some old buildings, including the Carlton Hotel (pre-1891), old Newspaper House (c. 1891) and the New York Hotel (1929). Lennon's Hotel is undergoing extension (right foreground) and adjacent is the building (without its elegant spire) erected for the C.M.I. Assurance Society in 1883. The southward extension of the Queen Street Mall is under construction (centre), and the Victoria Bridge (1969) leads southwards from the city centre to the Queensland Cultural Centre and the World Expo 88 site at South Brisbane.



**Above Right and Below Right:** The extension to the Mall under construction including the underground bus station underneath the Mall and Myer Centre and the bus tunnel coming out in front of the Treasury building.



## BRISBANE IN THE 1980's



No other development in the inner Brisbane area had as great an effect on the community in the 1980s as the City Mail. What was the city's main street, Queen Street, was closed to traffic for two blocks between Edward and George Streets. The area was turned over to pedestrians who instantly appreciated being able to 'jay walk' Queen Street on brick pavements among landscaping, stages, sculptures and several open dining areas as they went about their business, shopping and leisure. Several canopy areas and seats invited visitors and locals to tarry awhile to watch the passing parade in some comfort, too. The Brisbane City Heart Business Association and the Brisbane City Council combined forces to plan and manage the City Mail, the cost of which is contributed to through a levy on businesses in the vicinity. After all, the Mall has helped stem the drift of trade and business to the suburbs so many here stand to benefit. Nineteenth century style steelwork supports a canopy to shade Mall visitors watching a presentation on the Top Stage (below). Trees help soften Mall constructions such as a first floor level walkway and shade seats for tired strollers (right, top and bottom).

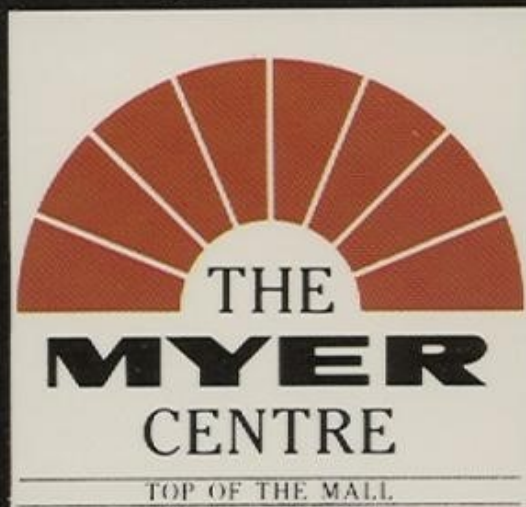
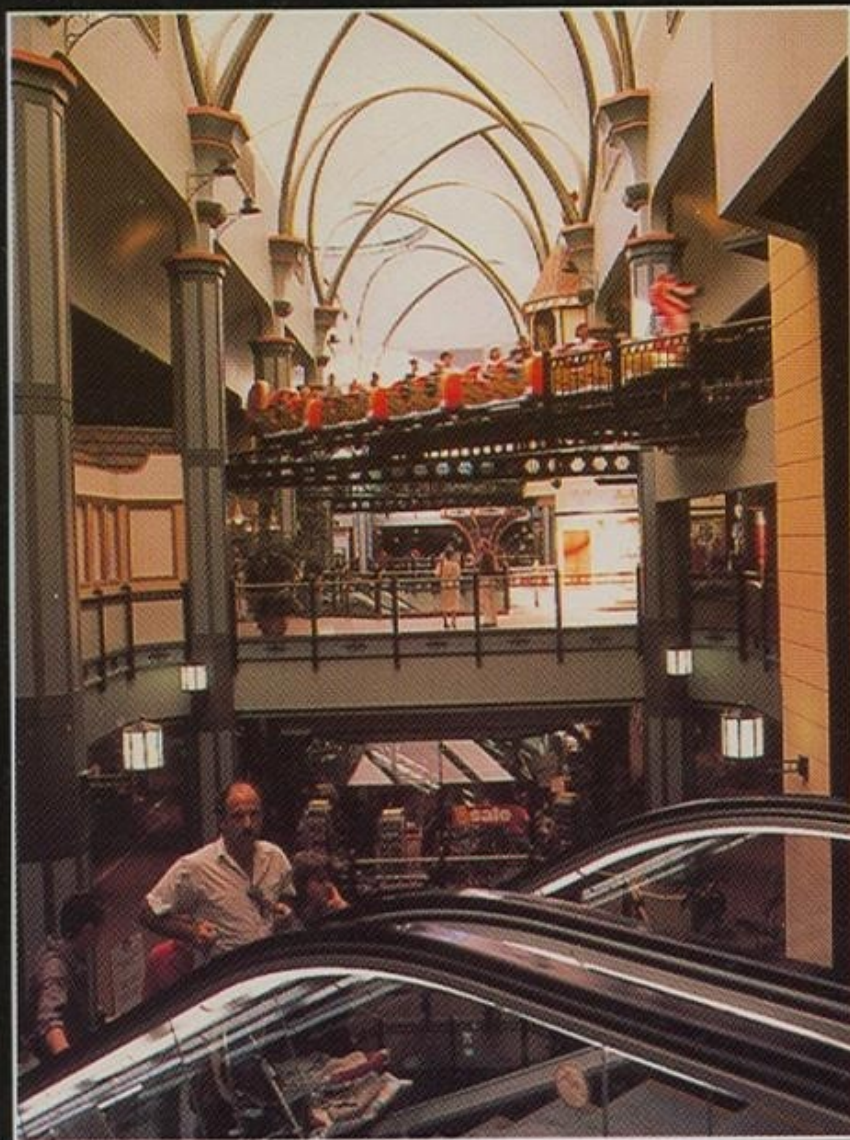


Natural light floods through the clear roof section of the canopy now shading the central city Queen and Albert Streets corner of the City Mail (left). Open facade of the new Broadway arcade at the City Mail end (below left) entices shoppers to multi-levels of shops. Facade of the old Telegraph Newspaper building in Queen Street (below). This and the facades of several other old prominent Brisbane buildings adjacent like the Hotel Carlton have been retained on the Queen Street frontage of the huge Myer Centre.





# Greetings from BRISBANE AUSTRALIA



centre  
for the government of  
Queensland



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**BRISBANE IN THE 1980's**

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**1988 WORLD EXPO**



**Above and Below:** A couple of panoramas of the World Expo 88 site with its pavilion shaded by sails. Some prominent features seen here are the Aquatic entertainment pool, the Boardwalk restaurants where the Kookaburra Queen paddlesteamer is moored, the monorail line, the Expo sky needle and the riverstage park area.







**Above and Below:** Two more great panoramic views of the World Expo 88 site. The World Expo Fun Park is seen on the opposite side of the railway where the Convention Centre would later be.





**Below:** An aerial of the Expo 88 site and the City looking towards Moreton Bay. The various rides in the World Expo Fun Park can be clearly made out.







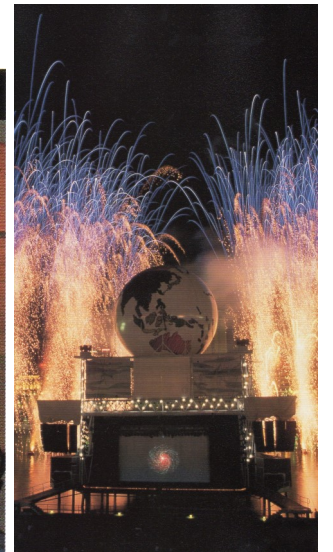
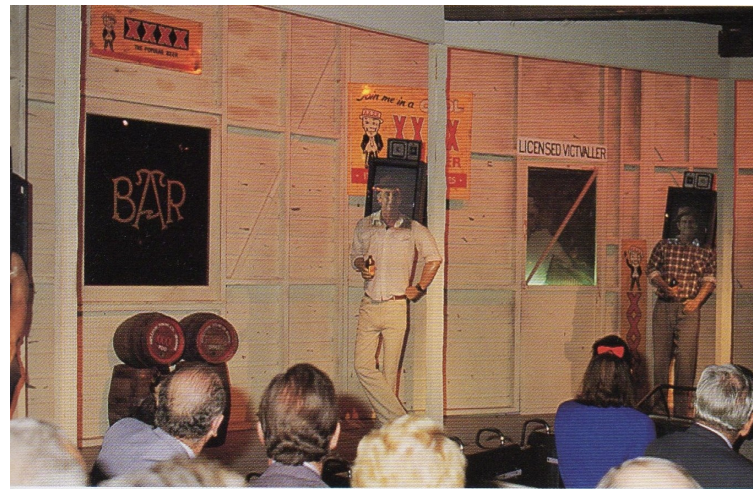
**Above:** The Expo riverstage with its huge inflatable globe of the world above it. It was also the stage for much entertainment along the Brisbane River.  
**Below:** The view of the Expo 88 site viewed from Kangaroo Point.







**Above:** World Expo 88 at sunset looking magnificent. **Below Left:** Queen Elizabeth II, Sir Llew Edwards (World Expo 88 Chairman), Sir Ninian Stephens (Governor General) and Bob Hawke (Prime Minister) at the official opening. **Below Centre:** Some locals greet the tourists. **Below Right:** Fireworks at the official opening.







More scenes from Expo 88. On the left are scenes from the opening ceremony which the Queen officially opened. Expo 88 was enormously popular with millions of visitors over its 6 months.



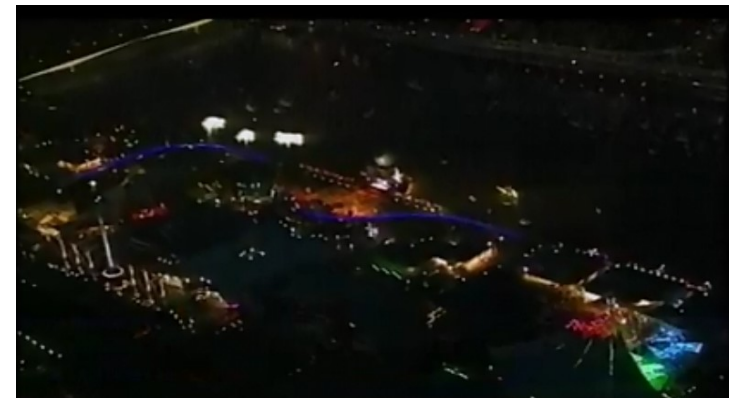


## BRISBANE IN THE 1980's



**Above:** Various scenes from the opening ceremony of Expo 88. The cutting of the ribbon letting people in was done by the Expo Chairman Llew Edwards and Expo's platypus mascot.

**Below:** More scenes from Expo 88 including the Polynesian lagoon, the Expo Piazza and the nightly fireworks that happened every night for six whole months of Brisbane's greatest ever party!







**Above and Below:** Perhaps the most popular place at Expo 88 was the Bavarian Beer Hall with lots of beer and German entertainment.



**Below:** The view of Expo 88 at night with the Expo needle projecting a spinning bright beam like a lighthouse.



**Above and Below:** The Expo riverstage hosted many big artists including Johnny Farnham at his peak.



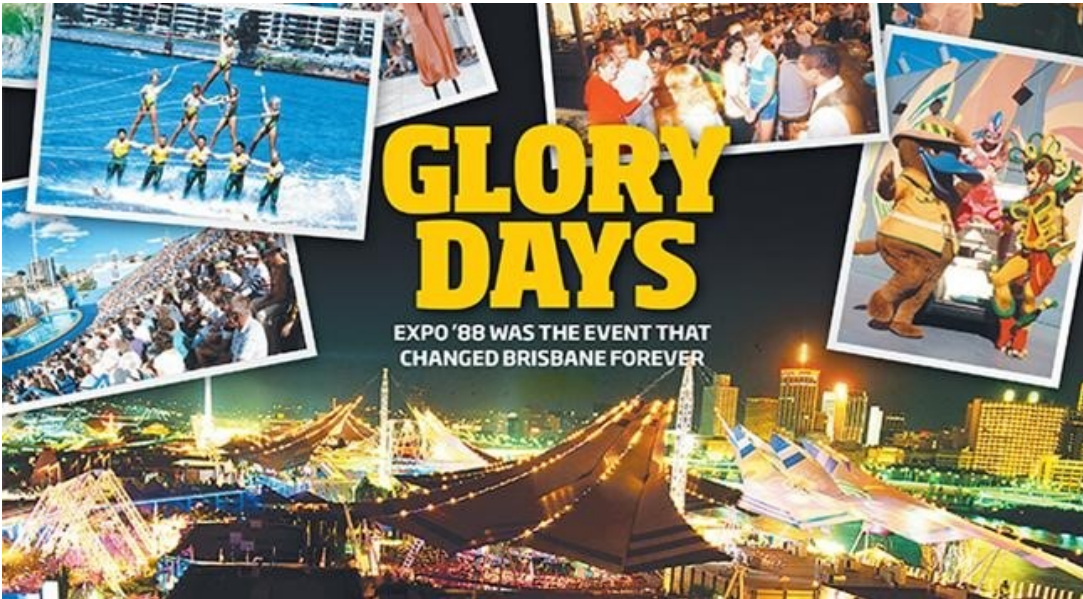
**Above:** A helicopter skids across the river as part of the regular entertainment. **Below:** Throngs of people walk along the river promenade.







**Above Left:** People kicking up their heels having a great time at the Bavarian Beer Hall. **Above Right:** The Aquatic entertainment centre. **Below Left:** Expo 88 looking magical at night. **Below Right:** Some thrillseekers having a great time on one of the rollercoaster rides in the Expo Fun Park.







**Above Left:** The Kookaburra Queen paddles past the Expo 88 site. **Above Right:** Some waterskiers form a pyramid during a waterkiing show on the River. **Below Left:** Throngs of tourists and local walking through the site with the monorail overhead. **Below Right:** One of the rollercoaster rides in the Expo Fun Park.







**Above:** The British Pavillion showing a rendition of My Fair Lady.  
**Below:** The monorail glides under one of the sails of the Expo 88 site.



**Above:** The Queensland Pavillion.  
**Below:** The Australia Pavillion. The Australia banner is now on the Bruce Highway at Burpengary.







**Above:** Another aerial view of the Expo 88 site.

**Below:** The view of Expo 88 at night from the City as a concert is taking place.



**Above:** The transformed Plough Inn was a hugely successful food and meeting place during Expo.

**Below:** Some of the many colourful street performers at Expo 88.





Below: A map showing the locations of the various pavilions and attraction throughout the World Expo 88 site.

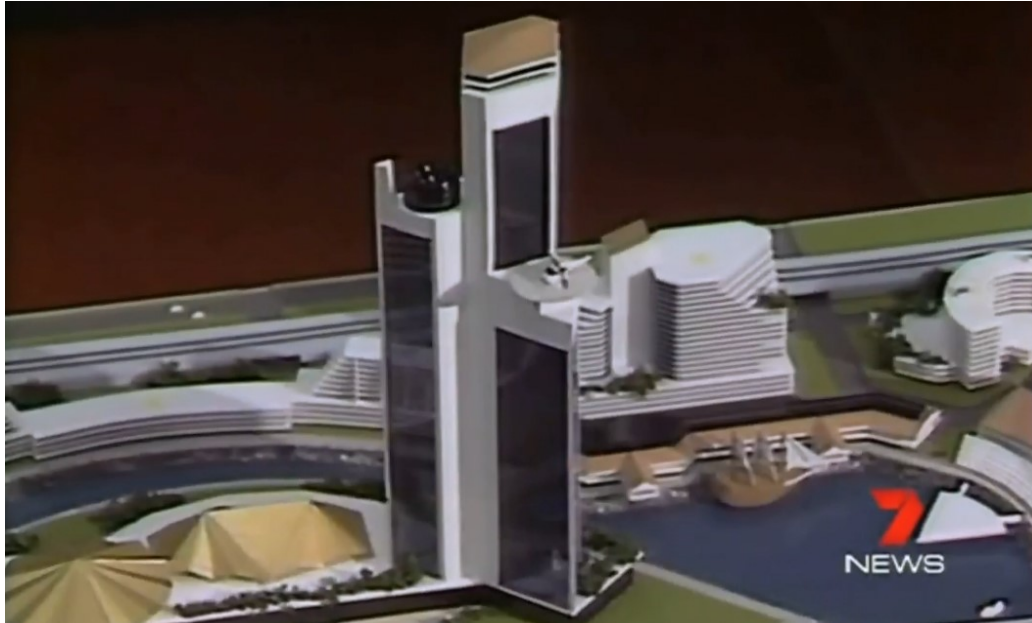




**Below:** A view from above Expo 88 at night looking absolutely magical and packed with locals and tourists having a marvellous time.







After the 6 month Expo 88 party was over the people of Brisbane craved more and wondered what would become of the site. The first major proposal was for a casino on a man- made island created by a large canal through the site with luxury apartments and parklands. The people of Brisbane rejected this proposal en masse wanting a people's place and not just a place for the rich.



## The Post-Expo Look

**B**RISBANE is about to see its \$1 billion (assault) independent in its history.

The south bank of the Brisbane River, for years the poor cousin of the thriving City of Brisbane, is about to be turned into the 21st century.

A massive redevelopment of the World Expo 88 site was presented to the people of Brisbane yesterday as a last attempt.

It is the result of more than a year of secret negotiations and lobbying in the halls of Queensland power.

Eventually more than 12,000 jobs will be created by the development, and the State Government believes the project will put Queensland firmly on the world map.

The battle to reshape the Expo site and give Central Brisbane a new image was won by a group called the River City 2000 consortium made up of the Kier Corporation, J.A. Pilgrem and Sons, Superannuation Fund Investment Trust and Central Institutional Holdings.

The group agreed to pay \$300 million over six years for the prime land and a development which will involve reshaping the river bank.

Central to the plan is a large island — to be called Endeavour Island — which will be surrounded by the river at the front and a canal development at the rear.

The island will house a five-star 400-room hotel, to be run by the Conrad group, a World Trade Centre (the only one left standing on the site), and an exhibition and convention centre.

The bulk of the island area will be parked, accessible to the public via three bridges, including a draw-bridge which will be raised to let high boats into the canal area.

A shopping complex will be incorporated in the overall development. At the southern end of the development will be low and medium-rise serviced apartments to run



thing Mr. Albery would not have mentioned as early in his report.

Mr. Albery invited yesterday that River City had been chosen purely on the basis of its design.

He said all members of the Expo site redevelopment committee, including the Expo Authority and the Brisbane City Council, supported the choice.

Regardless of this, River City with its strong Queensland connection, represented a fairly safe choice from a political viewpoint, and the decision of the river parkland should lead off most public criticism.

The big question is whether the people of Brisbane are prepared to accept a redevelopment into which they only input has been through their representatives on the Brisbane City Council.

The Government has attempted to avoid the wrath of the National Trust by preserving the historic buildings on the site.

As part of the plan, all these buildings, and possibly some others, will be brought together in a sort of historic village designed as a tourist attraction.

Some of the details of the overall proposal will be finished over the 12-month period before River City has between now and the anticipated handover.

One section of the canal drainage has been set aside for "sustainable and retail".

Yesterday's decision will have significant implications for the Expo Authority.

The authority needed at least \$100 million to have a reasonable chance of making its books.

On current plans, the \$200 million of bond for the site represents about \$150 million, meaning it has achieved its objective.

The price also means that the authority will get more than double what is paid for the land over the past three years.

Mr. Albery said the development





**Above Left:** The old Queensland State Library on William Street with its extension (foreground) that was built in 1955. The State Library was moved in 1988 to the Cultural Centre **(Above Right)** across the River and later expanded in 2006. **Below Left:** The Bicentennial Bikeway from the City to Toowong was built in 1988 and is a source of great leisure for many cyclists and walkers. **Below Right:** Central Plaza One was built in 1988 and at 44 stories (174m) it was Brisbane's tallest building until 2005. It had a swivel top to assist window cleaners.







**Above:** The Bulimba Brewery, famous for its Gold Top Pale Ale, was acquired by Carlton and United Breweries (CUB) in 1966. The Gold Top beer was phased out. Around the same time CUB, which is best known for Fosters and Victoria Bitter, and was based in the Valley near the Story Bridge, came out with Brisbane Bitter that was popular in the 70's and 80's before being also phased out.

**Right:** In the late 1980's Bernie Power started Powers Bitter which had some bitter (no pun intended) beer wars with XXXX which was owned for a time by Alan Bond. Powers sponsored the Brisbane Broncos which created friction with the QRL as XXXX were the main sponsors at Lang Park. Power's brewery based at Yatala was bought out by CUB in 1992 which consolidated its operations and moved to Yatala from the Valley in 1996.

**Below:** Brisbane's famous Breakfast Creek Hotel when Sandgate Road used to go past it before the Inner City Bypass was completed in 2002.





## BRISBANE IN THE 1980's

You're not from Brisbane until...

You get your jumper out when the **temperature falls below 22 degrees**.



When you talk about **The King** you're not talking about Elvis Presley



Elvis was a good singer, but could he bust a tackle, kick ahead, regather, score and pull off a double fist pump?

You can correctly answer this question. **Stefan?** (answer: **Yes, Stefan**)



Hairdresser, businessman, restaurant owner, power boat racer. No wonder he's a household name.

The Bureau of Meteorology radar viewer is on your internet favourites list.



Lighting storms send us scurrying to our computer screens.

You can name which towers belong to which station on the Mount Coot-Tha skyline



You have passionate arguments over which is better, the Goldie or the Sunny Coast.

