

February 2007

## Queen Street Mall – History and Highlights

- 1825 (July) - A penal colony was established on the present site of Brisbane by order of the then Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Brisbane.
- One of the first convict barracks built was on the site of the present day Queen Adelaide Building in the 1820s.
- The prisoners' barracks was the largest building in the settlement and it determined the position and orientation of Queen Street. Subsequent streets were later built parallel.
- When Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859, the barracks took on a new role as the first Supreme Court and the first Parliament House. The barracks was eventually demolished in 1880.
- The Treasury building site was originally occupied by military barracks. The new Treasury building began construction in 1886 and was not completed until 1928.
- Brisbane's General Post Office was built on the site of the convict settlement's female factory prison.
- 1840: The Brisbane penal settlement closed and became a free settlement. Prior to this time, free settlers were not allowed within 50 miles of the area.
- 1864 (December): The Great Fire of Brisbane destroyed fifty houses and a number of businesses in a block between Queen and Elizabeth. George and Albert Streets were completely destroyed in two and a half hours.
- Following the fire, the area was redeveloped with buildings from more substantial materials, constructed of stone and brick rather than timber.
- 1882 (December): Queen Street was first illuminated by electricity as a demonstration. Electricity only replaced gas lighting on Brisbane's streets in 1917.
- 1885: The first tramline in Brisbane opened and ran from the fiveways at Woolloongabba to the Valley.
- 1915: Tar sealing of city streets begin.
- 1929: Queen Street Mall's Regent Cinema opened. The cinema was designed for both films and live productions and was the first of the lavish American-styled picture palaces to be built in Queensland.
- 1927 (November): Albert Street's Metro Cinema opened and was known as the 'The Theatre of the Stars'. Built for MGM, the Art Deco cinema was designed by American, William Fountain.
- In World War II, General Douglas MacArthur directed the Pacific campaign from the AMP Building (now MacArthur Central) in Queen Street.
-

- 1942: Emergency air raid shelters constructed along Elizabeth Street- a few weeks after Pearl Harbour.
- 1954: Her majesty the Queen's royal procession down Queen Street saw unprecedented crowds gather.
- 1982: New Queen Street Mall marks revitalisation of Brisbane CBD. The mall was first created between Edward and Albert Streets and later extended to include the top section of Queen Street (from Albert to George Streets).
- 1988: The Victorian styled Myer Centre opens as the largest CBD shopping centre in Australia with six levels of shopping and four levels of parking.
- 1999: The Queen Street Mall re-development takes just over 10 months to complete.
- 2003: Downtown Brisbane was recognised by the International Downtown Association (IDA) as the world's best downtown precinct beating some the world's higher profile cities.
- 2005 (June): Stage one of QueensPlaza, the newest addition to the mall's already expansive retail offer, is complete.

Media contact:	Damien Condon – Communication and Media Advisor <b>Brisbane Marketing Pty Ltd</b> <b>address</b> PO Box 12260 George Street Brisbane Qld 4003 Australia <b>telephone</b> 61 7 3006 6208 <b>fax</b> 61 7 3006 6251 <b>mobile</b> 0432 206 953 <b>email</b> <a href="mailto:dcondon@brisbanemarketing.com.au">dcondon@brisbanemarketing.com.au</a> <b>web</b> <a href="http://www.brisbanemarketing.com.au">www.brisbanemarketing.com.au</a>	Emma Penny – Communication Coordinator <b>Brisbane Marketing Pty Ltd</b> <b>address</b> PO Box 12260 George Street Brisbane Qld 4003 Australia <b>telephone</b> 61 7 3006 6261 <b>fax</b> 61 7 3006 6251  <b>email</b> <a href="mailto:epenny@brisbanemarketing.com.au">epenny@brisbanemarketing.com.au</a> <b>web</b> <a href="http://www.brisbanemarketing.com.au">www.brisbanemarketing.com.au</a>
----------------	--	---