Sallyanne Atkinson's
BRISBANE
Guide
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Guide
For Leigh, Nicola, Damien, Eloise, Genevieve, and Stephanie
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Some years ago I came back to Brisbane after a time away and saw it as though for the first time; this book is the result of this new view and old knowledge. I discovered Brisbane as a tourist, with my family in tow, and put my findings together with my long experience of the place.

Many people gave me help and advice in getting this book together, but without the practical encouragement of my husband and friends, it would probably never have been finished.

Among many others, my thanks go to the Queensland Government Travel Centre, the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, the Brisbane City Council, the National Trust of Queensland, the Queensland Hotels Association, and the University of Queensland.
Acknowledgments

To the best of my knowledge all the information in this book was correct at the time of going to press. However, it will be appreciated that hotels and restaurants do change hands, businesses do move elsewhere, and Telecom does alter phone numbers, etc. My apologies for the inconvenience such changes may cause.
Introduction

For years travel books have described Brisbane as easygoing and sleepy, and tourists have zoomed through it on their way between Great Barrier Reef and Gold Coast, Australia's most famous international resorts. The essential Brisbane is still a city whose people have a relaxed and casual attitude to life, and pride themselves on not having been caught up in the rat race of their southern neighbours. But Brisbane is now a young-adult sort of city, newly grown up. It is fast becoming a significant tourist destination in its own right.

Over the past few years, it has acquired a multi-functional Cultural Centre, world-class sporting facilities (for the 1982 Commonwealth Games), and the 25,000 hectare Brisbane Forest Park right on its doorstep. The city centre skyline has soared upwards
and our citizens have acquired the confidence of coming of age.

Brisbane is the capital of Queensland, a subtropical city that lives on its hills and around its winding river. The summer is hot and humid, though the temperature rarely exceeds 38°C, and in winter the days are crisp, clear, and sunny. April/May and September/October are without doubt the best months to come; but if you don't mind humidity and the odd mosquito, the city looks its best in summer when all the flowering trees are in bloom, and if you're escaping the rigours of a southern winter June, July, and August are the months for you.

All tourists worth their traveller's cheques know about Lone Pine and its koalas; but what they probably don't know is that there is a genuine rainforest a few hundred metres from the City Hall, in the Botanic Gardens; that the wooden houses on stilts marching up and down across our suburbs are unique in Australia; and that the cobweb-steel Story Bridge, built in the Depression to provide work for the unemployed, is longer than the Sydney Harbour Bridge. On the outskirts of the city there is one of the largest park areas in Australia. The Brisbane Forest Park stretches out from our western suburbs and includes rainforests, scenic lookouts, camping areas, riding and walking trails.

The city sprawls across an area of 1,220 square kilometres, all of which is administered by just one local council. The Brisbane City Council is one of the largest municipal authorities in the world and the only one in Australia to control its own water supply, sewerage, and transport services.

It's unlikely you'll hear many people in Brisbane
sounding off with even half this much civic pride –
getting steamed up is not part of their relaxed style.
But you'll enjoy discovering Brisbane for yourself,
especially as this book was made to help you.
1 About the place

Tourist information

Many visitors to Brisbane begin their stay with a visit to the Queensland Government Travel Centre, corner Adelaide and Edward Streets, City (31 2211). This government-run tourist information office has the latest information about what to do in Brisbane and when and how; it also handles bookings and trips both within the city and to destinations elsewhere in the state, and the staff will find and book accommodation for you anywhere in Queensland. All brochures, pamphlets, and booklets are available upon request. The centre is open from 9 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. Saturday.

In the Queen Street Mall there is a City Council information booth stocked with plenty of tourist
brochures and helpful staff who'll point you in the right direction if you are lost. The council's "Heritage Trail" booklets are useful for exploring.

A trip to the National Trust's office at the bottom of George Street (229 1788) is a must for anyone interested in history and old buildings. Appropriately, the office is located in Old Government House, built in 1860 beside the Botanic Gardens. The Trust's booklet "Four Walks and a Drive around Brisbane" is available at the office.

The Royal Automobile Club of Queensland has an excellent touring service for its members. Information about the RACQ is provided in the Going by Car section of this chapter.

**Getting your bearings**

Finding your way about the city streets is fairly easy if you remember that the women's names go one way and the men's another – Ann, Adelaide, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Mary, Margaret, and Alice Streets are parallel to the main street, Queen Street; William, George, Albert, and Edward are at right angles to it. Queen Street, with its pedestrian mall, has shopping in the centre, government at the Victoria Bridge end and business at the other. The mall, between Edward and Albert Streets, is a favourite spot for street entertainers and a popular meeting place.

**To the north**

The nearest suburb to the north of the city centre is Fortitude Valley, known to Brisbaneites simply as the
Note: The places numbered on the map are only those mentioned in the guidebook. The map is intended to assist readers to locate a particular place, rather than to provide a general what's where of everything in the city.

Information
1 City Council Information
2 National Trust of Qld
3 Qld Govt Travel Centre
4 RACQ city branch

Buildings
2 Old Govt House
5 City Admin. building
6 City Hall
7 Customs House
8 GPO
9 Old Govt Stores
10 Old Windmill
11 Parliament House
12 Parliamentary Annexe
13 Public Library
14 Queensland Club
15 Treasury

Churches
16 Albert St Uniting
17 Ann St Presbyterian
18 All Saints'
19 St Andrew's Uniting
20 St John's Cathedral
21 St Stephen's Cathedral
22 Synagogue

Accommodation
23 Atcherley Hotel
24 Canberra
25 Carlton
26 Crest International
27 Embassy
28 Eton Private Hotel
29 Gateway Inn
30 Gazebo Terrace
31 Grosvenor
32 Hotel Majestic
33 Lennons Plaza
34 Parkroyal
35 Sheraton
36 Tower Mill

Transport
29 Ansett terminal
37 Central station
38 Deluxe coach terminal
39 Pioneer coach terminal
40 Roma St station
41 TAA city terminal

Parks & gardens
42 Botanic Gardens
43 Anzac Square
44 King George Square
45 Post Office Square
Valley. This is a secondary shopping and business area in the inner city; the main streets, Brunswick and Wickham, cross at right angles. In fairly recent times the Valley has become Brisbane's Chinatown. More and more Chinese restaurants are crowding into a few blocks along Wickham Street as Chinese cuisine, of a consistently high standard in this area, becomes ever more popular. The Valley is also a bargain-hunter's paradise with many secondhand jewellery shops and others selling bric-à-brac, antiques, and diverse memorabilia.

In a loop of the river and bordered by the Valley is the suburb of New Farm, which takes its name from when the area was a convict market garden. Today high-rise units tower over old, single-level, wooden cottages in this popular, dense residential area. It abounds in new, exciting restaurants, snack bars, and corner shops.

To the south

Across the Victoria Bridge from the city are the southern inner suburbs of West End, Highgate Hill, and South Brisbane. The south bank of the river has become prominent as the site of the Queensland Cultural Centre. Set behind leafy terraces leading down to the river, with its floating fountain a kind of standard-bearer, the centre, when complete, will include the Queensland Art Gallery (now open), the Queensland Museum, restaurants, a theatre and concert hall both with a seating capacity of 2,000, and public library.

The centre should be visited not just for its theatre, music, or exhibitions – the complex itself deserves
close inspection. It is a stunning, award-winning example of contemporary Queensland architecture that has taken full advantage of Brisbane's climate and the river setting. In the art gallery, for instance, there is a clarity of light and a sensation of space that links indoors and outdoors with soaring glass walls, internal water pools and outdoor areas dotted with sculpture or lush with creepers, trees, and shrubs.

Brisbane's south bank is seeing another burst of building activity as the city prepares to host Expo 88. The area in West End stretching from the Cultural Centre to Vulture Street and back behind Grey Street is the site planned for this international exposition.

To the east

Kangaroo Point, east of the city across from the Botanic Gardens, has become a busy transit suburb with multi-lane, curving freeways converging on to Brisbane's cobweb of steel, the Story Bridge. Underneath the bridge the suburb has been scarcely changed by time; there you can walk around the point that juts out into the river. The high cliff-tops along River Terrace provide magnificent views across to the city, the best viewing times being around sunset and at night.

The old suburb of Woolloongabba has several of the large, red-brick, old-fashioned pubs still in operation. The area comes alive during the cricket season when hordes of sporting fans converge on the Brisbane Cricket Ground, otherwise known as the Gabba, in the block bounded by Vulture Street, Main Street and Stanley Street East.
To the west

Spring Hill, the hill overlooking the city centre, and once the smartest place to live, is now a fascinating area full of quaint old houses, and impressive new buildings in the old style. Another area that combines a look at old Brisbane with interesting shopping or browsing is known to locals as the Paddington Circle. This takes in parts of the near-city suburbs of Petrie Terrace, Red Hill, and Paddington. Here hordes of Brisbaneites have restored (or are restoring) some few-remaining, Victorian terrace houses, tiny weatherboard cottages once known as "workers dwellings", old shops, and hundreds of wooden houses on stilts that straddle the steep hillsides and lead down to backyards that abound in mango and pawpaw (papaya to some non-Australians) trees.

Renovated shops in the area stock anything from exclusive, locally designed fashion to secondhand furniture, old and new "colonial" hardware, and arts and crafts. Restaurants and delicatessens abound.

Money matters

Banks

All of the main banks are represented at a number of locations in the city, and all have branches in the suburbs. Normal banking hours are 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, with Friday closing 5 p.m. Trading outside these hours is permitted after 8 a.m. and up until 9 p.m., so some variations in opening and closing times may be encountered. The addresses of some of the most convenient banks in the city are listed
below, with the head office address listed first for each bank.

**Commonwealth:** King George Square, corner Adelaide and Albert Streets (226 3100), automatic teller; 240 Queen Street (corner Edward Street); 259 Queen Street, automatic teller; 366 Queen Street; 247 Adelaide Street; 333 Adelaide Street

**ANZ:** corner Queen and Creek Streets (221 7000), automatic teller; 144 Edward Street (corner Charlotte Street); 372 George Street (corner Turbot Street); 136 Adelaide Street, automatic teller

**Westpac:** 260 Queen Street (227 2222); 43 Queen Street; 150 Adelaide Street; 231 Albert Street. All have automatic tellers.

**National Australia:** 308 Queen Street (221 2922); 108 Queen Street; 215 Adelaide Street; corner Elizabeth and Albert Streets. All have automatic tellers.

**Bank of Queensland:** 229 Elizabeth Street (31 0421), automatic teller; 305 Queen Street; 115 Queen Street, automatic teller

Overseas banks include the Bank of New Zealand, 410 Queen Street (221 0411) and the Banque Nationale de Paris, 370 Queen Street (229 2361).

**Tipping**

Tipping is not the institution here that it is in other parts of the world. In general, Australians don't tip; having said that, however, it should be added that tipping is common in restaurants and for hotel porters; it is rare for taxi drivers, and then only for handling your luggage.
Medical matters

The phone number for emergencies is 000; when your call is answered state which service you require (doctor/ambulance, police, fire brigade) and be prepared to give necessary details.

Hospitals

There are five large public hospitals in Brisbane: the Royal Brisbane at Herston (253 8111), which includes a maternity hospital and a children's hospital; the Mater Misericordiae at South Brisbane (240 8111), which also has maternity and children's hospitals; the Princess Alexandra at Woolloongabba (240 2418); and the QEII Jubilee Hospital at Coopers Plains (275 6111). All of these have outpatients' and casualty departments. The fifth hospital is the Prince Charles Hospital at Chermside (350 8111), a public specialist hospital mainly for cardio-thoracic complaints. It has an outpatients' department but no casualty section.

Chemists

Certain chemists in the city and suburbs are open until well into the night and also on weekends and some provide a twenty-four hour service for medication on prescription only (press the buzzer on the door). Chemists are listed in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory and many include their hours of opening. However, for convenience and speed, some of those offering late opening, weekend opening, and/or twenty-four hour prescription services, and that are in handy locations, are listed here.
Drysdales, 576 Queen Street, City (around the corner from Ann Street near the Valley) open 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday, Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday and public holidays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; twenty-four hour prescription service (221 1319)

Green Spot, Queen Street Mall, corner Queen and Albert Streets, City, open Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. (221 4585)

Normanby Day and Night, 17 Musgrave Road, Red Hill, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday and public holidays (229 3214)

Coorparoo Junction Day and Night, 332 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo, 8.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week; twenty-four hour prescription service (397 5884)

Albion Day and Night, 4 Albion Road, Albion, open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week; twenty-four hour prescription service (262 4307)

Auchenflower Day and Night, 410 Milton Road, Auchenflower, open 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. seven days a week (370 2918)

Shopping

City shops open at 8.15 a.m. Monday to Saturday and close at 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 p.m. Friday, and midday Saturday. The late night shopping night is Friday in the city and the Valley and Thursday in the suburbs. Except for this difference, suburban shopping hours are the same as in the city. Arts and crafts shops and antique shops have unrestricted opening hours and hardware stores that are family businesses and staffed by family are permitted to open on Satur-
day afternoons and Sundays. At Redcliffe, less than an hour's drive north of Brisbane, the shops are open all day Saturday (also on the Gold Coast).

In the city centre the main department stores are Myer and David Jones, both in Queen Street, the latter on the mall. McDonnell and East in George Street, corner Tank Street, has adjacent undercover parking (at a reduced fee for customers), and welcome touches such as the provision of babies, strollers for use within the store.

The heart of shopping is the Queen Street Mall, with fashionable shops and boutiques cramming the several arcades that lead off it and the multi-level Wintergarden Centre. Recently restored Rowes Arcade in Edward Street is one of the smartest places in town and it links up with the shopping level of Post Office Square.

**Groceries** – where to buy them is one of the most difficult things to discover when you are in the middle of an unfamiliar city. In the supermarket section of Coles (enter from the mall, Edward Street or Adelaide Street) you'll find all of the basic provisions you're likely to need, including fruit and vegetables and even some delicatessen items. There is a meat hall in another section of the store. Woolworths Variety store, also on the mall, has a smaller range of the essentials.

Interstate **newspapers** can be bought at Curran's, corner Adelaide and Edward Streets; at AMP Place, 10 Eagle Street; and at the kiosk beside the General Post Office.

*Duty-free shopping*

Duty-free goods can be bought at any of several shops
in the city upon presentation of your passport and an airline ticket for a flight departing overseas from anywhere in Australia, not only Brisbane. You may purchase your duty-free requirements at any time before your departure and take them out of the shop with you in a sealed bag which must remain sealed until you leave the country. At the airport customs officials will check that the parcel has not been opened.

There are large duty-free shops at the following inner-city locations.

**City International Duty Free**, corner Creek and Adelaide Streets (229 7955), and another branch at Isles Lane – on the northern side of Post Office Square (229 4128)

**Cityport Duty Free**, 297 Adelaide Street (221 7832) (also at the Brisbane international airport)

**Downtown Duty Free**, Macarthur Chambers, corner Queen and Edward Streets (221 5666)

**George's Duty Free**, 146 Adelaide Street (221 9911), camera specialists in addition to the usual duty-free range

**Orbit Duty Free**, 126 Adelaide Street (31 2920), camera specialists

*In the suburbs*

The large, air-conditioned shopping complex under one big roof has proved most popular and convenient. Such complexes are all located in the suburbs – the main ones being listed below.

**Indooroopilly Shoppingtown**, Moggill Road, Indooroopilly
Garden City, Logan Road, Mt Gravatt
Carindale, Creek Road, Carina
Toombul Shoppingtown, Sandgate Road, Toombul
Aspley Pick 'n' Pay Hypermarket, Albany Creek Road, Aspley

Going by car

Copies of the road rules may be obtained from any police station. The speed limit in the city, or in any built-up area, is sixty kilometres per hour and one hundred on the open road. Kerbside signs tell you the parking dos and don'ts. One rule that differs among the Australian states is the turning order of the cars in the situation illustrated below. In Queensland, in this case, Vehicle B must give way.

Visitors to Queensland from another state or overseas are permitted to drive any vehicle which they have a licence to drive in their home state or country. This licence must be carried at all times and presented to a police officer upon demand or within forty-eight hours.
The penalties for driving while under the influence of alcohol are severe. The upper limit for the alcohol content permitted in a driver's blood is 0.05 per cent; that is, 50 mg of alcohol per 100 ml sample of blood. The average blood alcohol content from one 200 ml (7 oz) glass of beer is 12 mg per 100 ml blood but this varies between 10 and 15 mg per 100 ml blood according to the person's muscle weight.

The RACQ (Royal Automobile Club of Queensland) is a motorists' club that offers an emergency breakdown service; an excellent travel service and first-class road maps; highway information and weather conditions for road travelling; technical services; vehicle inspections; and a bi-monthly news publication. The members of other motorists' clubs in Australia and of most overseas ones enjoy reciprocal rights with the RACQ while in Queensland. Head office is at 300 St Pauls Terrace, the Valley (253 2444). The twenty-four hour emergency breakdown service number is 340 1122. There are branch offices in the city (190 Edward Street) and suburbs (Aspley and Eight Mile Plains), at any of which you may collect maps, guides, and touring information.

_Motor vehicle rental_

The car rental business in Brisbane is highly competitive and many companies offer attractive discount rates under certain circumstances, such as booking ahead for a weekend. To find the best deal for your requirements you'll have to shop around. The main inner-city car-rental offices are listed on the next page, but there are more in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory.
Avis, 275 Wickham Street, the Valley (52 9111) – also at the airport
Budget, corner St Pauls Terrace and Baxter Street, the Valley (52 0151) – also at Brisbane and Archerfield airports; to book from outside Brisbane, phone 008 33 1331 for the cost of a local call
Hertz, 55 Charlotte Street, City (229 0990)
Manx, 325 Wickham Street, the Valley (52 7288)
Thrifty, corner Ann and Brookes Streets, the Valley (52 5994)

If you want a chauffeur as well, you can hire car and driver from Bel-Air Hire Cars (268 1462); they also provide chauffeur-driven half-day and day tours.

Four-wheel-drive vehicles can be hired from Four Wheel Drive Hire Service at Windsor (57 9077, a.h. 345 6239, 30 3004); Shoestrings at Albion (262 1322). Others are listed in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory.

Campervans are available for hire from All Seasons at Sunnybank Hills (345 7237, a.h. 345 3292); Newline at Slacks Creek, just south of Brisbane (208 0765); Sunseekers at Woolloongabba (391 3733); Motacampa at Hamilton (268 6797); Holiday Motorhome at Zillmere (265 4217); and others listed in the Yellow Pages.

Public carparks
The main undercover parking stations in the city are the following.
Council carpark, King George Square, open from 7 a.m. Monday to midnight Saturday (enter from Adelaide or Roma Streets)
Council carpark, Wickham Terrace (behind the Sheraton Hotel), open 7 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. weekdays (to 11 p.m. Friday), 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday (enter from Turbot Street or Wickham Terrace); pedestrian access to city centre via subway to Anzac Square

Wintergarden carpark, Wintergarden on the Mall, Queen Street, open 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday (enter from Elizabeth Street, a hundred metres past Albert Street)

Kings carpark, Post Office Square, open 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

Kings carpark, 123 Albert Street, open 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday to Saturday, 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Sunday (enter from Charlotte Street or, sometimes, Elizabeth Street)

Kings carpark, 41 Albert Street, open 7 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. weekdays (to 1 a.m. Friday night), 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday (enter from Margaret Street)

*Getting out of town*

The Bruce Highway is the major exit route to the north from Brisbane. It leads to the Sunshine Coast and beyond, and there are turn-offs to Redcliffe, Caboolture, and other near towns. To get to it from the city, take Turbot Street northbound and, soon after it becomes Wickham Street in the Valley, watch for the turn-off sign on the left to the Bruce Highway and follow the signs from there.

To travel southbound to the Gold Coast and beyond to coastal New South Wales, take the south-eastern freeway from the city (there are entrances from North
Quay, Ann Street, and Alice Street) and follow it to the end where it joins the Pacific Highway.

Ipswich Road leads to the Cunningham, Warrego, and Mt Lindesay Highways. To get to it, take the south-eastern freeway and follow the exit signs to Ipswich Road. (The road begins at Woolloongabba at the intersection with Stanley Street East and Main Street.) The Cunningham Highway is the main inland route for southbound travel. It becomes the New England Highway across the border. The Warrego Highway leads to Toowoomba and beyond to the south-western part of the state. The Mount Lindesay Highway leads to Beaudesert and beyond to the border. To get to it, leave Ipswich Road for Beaudesert Road either at Moorooka or at Rocklea.

For a drive to the hills west of Brisbane, including Jolly's Lookout, Mt Nebo, and Mt Glorious, follow Musgrave Road from the Normanby fiveways intersection; it becomes Waterworks Road which leads out of the city.

To travel east of Brisbane to Moreton Bay, Cleveland, and the Redlands district, leave the city on Old Cleveland Road which branches to the left off Logan Road at Stones Corner.

Going by bus

Around Brisbane

The bus system in Brisbane is adequate for travel to most of the places visitors want to see, although it is not one of the services the people boast about. This is partly due to the city's notorious low-density living – the ratio of cars to residents is predictably high.
Weekend bus services are limited to a handful of journeys per route each day, but running times are more frequent during the week.

Bus timetables are available free of charge from the Public Transport Information Centre, ground floor, City Administration building, corner Ann and George Streets. Bus maps are also available there and from the Queensland Government Travel Centre. Detailed information about times, routes, and fares can be obtained from the City Council on 225 4444; the phone service operates from 6.30 a.m. to 11.15 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

On Brisbane buses, you enter by the front door and leave by the centre door; you pay the street conductor before boarding in the city and, in the suburbs, you pay the driver.

Numerous day and part-day tours of Brisbane are available in private coaches — the Queensland Government Travel Centre always has up-to-date information on what is offering. See also the Bus and Boat Tours section in chapter 4, Things to see and do.

Coach services to country and interstate

Bus companies that offer regular passenger services interstate include Greyhound, 79 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane (240 9333), a few blocks' walk over the Victoria Bridge; Ansett-Pioneer, 16 Ann Street, the City (226 1184), under the Gateway Hotel; and Deluxe Coachlines, 114 Elizabeth Street (229 7655).

Country coach services include Skennars, 22 Barry Parade, the Valley (831 2616), who offer regular services to the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and northern New South Wales; and Border Coaches, corner Melbourne and Manning Streets, South
Brisbane (44 2530), who have a daily service (except Sunday) to Moree via the New England Highway with main town stops along the way.

**Going by train**

*Around Brisbane*

Train travel in Brisbane is fast, air-conditioned, and electric – and even during off-peak hours the trains run half-hourly. It is an advantage to live in an area serviced by the railway, but unfortunately the network is not very extensive.

The Queensland Railways' "Suburban Timetable" booklet gives information about times and fares for all lines and it is available from all railway stations for a small charge. Individual line timetables are free. Information can also be obtained by phoning 225 0211 (a.h. 225 1244). Public transport pocket maps are available from the Queensland Government Travel Centre.

The main stations are Central and Roma Street and all lines pass through them. The different lines are Ipswich to Ferny Grove; and Beenleigh or Thorneside to Caboolture, Pinkenba, or Shorncliffe.

*Leaving Brisbane*

The interstate terminal is at South Brisbane station. The Brisbane Limited Express leaves there for Sydney every day. Trains travelling outside Brisbane within the state depart from Roma Street station. These include The Sunlander which travels up the east coast to Cairns, The Capricornian to Rockhampton, and
The Westlander to Quilpie. For information about departure times and fares, phone 225 0211.

Going by ferry

From the city there are two cross-river ferries and one that travels downstream, all operated by the Brisbane City Council Transport Department. The cross-river ferries leave from behind the Customs House in Queen Street and from the Botanic Gardens (Edward Street). Both are bound for Kangaroo Point and leave about every fifteen minutes. The downstream ferry departs from the bottom of Creek Street, for Bulimba (Oxford Street), via New Farm (Sydney Street), East Brisbane (Mowbray Park), and Hawthorne (Hardcastle Park).

Suburban cross-river ferries travel from the University of Queensland to Dutton Park; St Lucia to West End; New Farm (Park) to Norman Park; New Farm (Merthyr Road) to Hawthorne; Newstead to Bulimba (Oxford Street); and Hamilton to Bulimba (Apollo Road).

For ideas about sightseeing by ferry, see the Bus and Boat Tours section in chapter 4, Things to see and do.

Going by plane

There are two main domestic airlines in Australia, the government owned and operated Trans Australia Airlines (TAA), and Ansett Airlines. The main booking offices in the city are: TAA, 247 Adelaide Street (260 3311); and Ansett, corner George
and Queen Streets (228 8222). A private coach transports passengers from these offices to the Eagle Farm airport for connecting flights. Unlike many cities, the domestic airport is not a long way out of town, so the taxi fare from the city is not prohibitively expensive.

Other booking offices in the city are as follows: TAA, corner George and Adelaide Streets, and 10 Market Street; Ansett, City Mutual Building, 307 Queen Street. Any travel agency will also organize your reservation.

*International airlines*

The Australian international carrier is Qantas Airlines. Its Brisbane office is at Qantas House, 262 Adelaide Street, City (phone 227 1931 all hours for fares and booking enquiries). The ticket office is open Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (224 3711).

Most of the other major international airlines have offices in the city. They are as follows.

Air New Zealand, 288 Edward Street (229 3044)
Air Pacific, corner Edward and Elizabeth Streets (229 6655)
Alitalia, 171 Edward Street (corner Elizabeth Street) (31 2196)
British Airways, 243 Edward Street (221 1599)
Cathay Pacific, 40 Queen Street (229 4499)
Pan Am, City Mutual building, 307 Queen Street (221 7477)
Philippine Airlines, National Bank building, 177 Albert Street (229 6022)
Singapore Airlines, 127 Creek Street (221 6300)
TAA act as agents for the following airlines: Garuda, MAS, Japan Air Lines, Continental (phone 260 3311 for enquiries about any of these).

Duty-free shopping is convenient and easy in Brisbane – you don't have to make frantic last-minute decisions before rushing through the departure gate. See the information contained in the Shopping section of this chapter.

What to do with the children

Where to take them

Try ferry rides across the river or up and down it, depending on how much time you have. Cross-river ferries leave from the bottom of Creek Street and from the Botanic Gardens almost continuously. Take a launch one way on the obligatory trip to Lone Pine.

I have always had success with rides to the top of the City Hall clock tower for the view, and with viewing the waterfall between King George Square and Roma Street station.

You can very satisfactorily fill a child's morning by taking a train from either Brunswick, Central, or Roma Street station to Redbank station near Ipswich and visiting the Railway Museum right behind it which houses a fascinating collection of old locomotives.

It is safe for children to ride bikes in the Botanic Gardens; you hire them at 24 Margaret Street. New Farm Park has some of the city's best swings, ferry rides across the river, and lots of space for running around.
Watch the papers for children's theatre. Brisbane Arts Theatre in Petrie Terrace nearly always has a children's show on Saturday afternoon. Check there and at La Boite for children's workshops. The Queensland Children's Theatre and Creative Workshop Association, Bonney Avenue, Clayfield (262 7983) offers weekday afternoon and Saturday morning workshops and special programmes during school holidays. Holiday workshops for children are also offered by the Community Arts Centre, 109 Edward Street, City (221 1527).

Where to feed them

The Pizza Huts (in many suburbs) provide highly successful no-fuss child fodder and they are licensed, which is nice for mum and dad. The McDonalds and Hungry Jacks outlets are ever popular with children. There is a McDonalds in Queen Street, City, below the Hoyts Entertainment Centre in the mall, and a Hungry Jacks a few metres away on the corner of Queen and Albert Streets.

The Pancake Manor, 18 Charlotte Street, City, is a fascinating restaurant for children, being housed in a lofty, converted old church. Open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, it serves snacks and meals from an extensive menu guaranteed to please.

Jo Jo's Kitchen, on level one of the Pavilion Arcade, 130 Queen Street, is open all day until well into the night. The service is friendly and helpful, the atmosphere casual, the food selections endless, and it's licensed.

The Hibiscus Room, on top of Lennon's Plaza Hotel, is a glamorous place for Sunday lunch-with-a-view.
In the suburbs, **Spagolini's**, 406 Milton Road, Auchenflower, serves spaghetti and pizzas and treats children well. **Gino's**, 468 Kingsford-Smith Drive, Hamilton, is a busy but good Italian restaurant with special meals for children.

The **Taco Dens** (at Mt Gravatt, Kedron, and Capalaba) are family restaurants with a Mexican flavour.

*Where to leave them*

Right in the city centre at the top of the City Hall, is a Kindercraft Civic Day Nursery (221 0145), a marvellous institution whose trained staff mind babies from three months of age and provide kindergarten for children up to six. I speak as a long-standing patron. It's open for occasional day care from 8.30 a.m. to 3.55 p.m. Monday to Friday, provides nappies and lunch, and, as the auxiliary staff is a voluntary one, its hourly charge is low.

The Gabba Greyhound Racing Club has a child-minding centre in Stanley Street, Woolloongabba (391 7444), which opens from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and on Thursday night for racegoers. It takes children of any age and mothers must provide lunch and nappies. Charges are weekly, daily, or hourly.

There are babysitting agencies in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory, and most of the university women's colleges and teacher-training college residences have willing babysitters among their students. Some numbers to try are University of Queensland Students Union (371 1611), Women's College (370 1171), Duchesne College (371 2212),
Grace College (371 3688), College of Advanced Education at Mt Gravatt (343 0611).

The Playground and Recreation Association (221 5591) runs supervised playgrounds where children over five can be left from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. every day (from 9 a.m. in school holidays and on weekends), and they'll be organized into football or cricket games, playground activities, reading books, or sitting over chess. The six playgrounds – the handiest to the inner city are in Love Street, Spring Hill, and Moreton Street, Paddington – have covered halls for wet weather play and most have canteens. All are free.

The Queensland Arts Council (221 5900) runs vacation schools.

**Hiring nursery equipment**

You can hire strollers in the city at the Bo-Peep Baby Salon (221 4510) in the Brisbane Arcade, which runs from Queen Street to Adelaide Street between Albert and Edward Streets. Strollers and other baby equipment can also be hired from Nurseryland (349 8703) at the Garden City shopping complex, Mt Gravatt.

**Churches**

The best way to find out what’s on where and when is to use the telephone book and ring – individual churches are listed under their denominations. There are places of worship for all faiths, including a synagogue in Margaret Street and a Chinese Buddhist temple at Breakfast Creek. A few churches and Sunday services are listed here.
St John's Anglican Cathedral, Ann Street: 7, 8, 9.30 a.m., 6 p.m.
St Stephen's Catholic Cathedral, Elizabeth Street: 6, 7.30, 9, 10.30 a.m., noon, 7.30 p.m.
Albert Street Uniting Church, corner Albert and Ann Streets: 10 a.m., 7 p.m. (6.30 p.m. in winter)
St Andrew's Uniting Church, corner Creek and Ann Streets: 9.30 a.m., 7.30 p.m.
Baptist City Tabernacle, Wickham Terrace: 11 a.m., 7 p.m.

Public holidays

The main public holidays in Queensland are as follows.

- Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day
- Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday
- Australia Day (held Monday closest to January 26)
- Anzac Day, April 25
- Labour Day, first Monday in May
- The Queen's birthday (usually second Monday in June)
- Exhibition Wednesday in Brisbane only (the Wednesday of the Royal National Show in August)

National associations

Some nationalities have their own clubs in Brisbane and all welcome their countryfolk getting in touch. Some, like the Caledonian Club, the Italo-Australian
Centre and the German Club, have their own premises and hold regular dances and cabarets.
All Nations Club (Netherlands Association), corner Annerley Road and Grantham Street, Dutton Park (44 3088)
American Chamber of Commerce in Australia, 10 Market Street (221 8542)
Australian-American Association, 420 George Street (221 8305)
Caledonian Club, O'Connell Street, Kangaroo Point (391 1543)
Danish Club, c/- Mr O.S. Anderson (221 6277)
English Club, 31 Felix Street, City (229 4158)
German Club, 416 Vulture Street, South Brisbane (391 2434)
Greek Club, Edmondstone Street, South Brisbane (44 1166)
Irish Club, 179 Elizabeth Street, City (221 5699)
Italo-Australian Centre, 23 Foster Street, Newmarket (356 8433)
Italy-Australian Club, 142 Wickham Street, Valley (52 3324)
Norwegian Club, c/- Ekeberd Knut (356 4508)
Polish Association of Queensland, 10 Marie Street, Milton (369 2747)
Ukrainian Association in Queensland, 70 Cordelia Street, South Brisbane (44 4326)

Other clubs and societies

Apex Club, c/- 3 Maitland Street, Church Hill, Ipswich (28 1703)
Brisbane Bridge Club, 17 Manning Street, South Brisbane (44 2672)
Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, 243 Edward Street, City (221 1766)
Brisbane Women's Club, 107 Albert Street, City (229 3969)
Chess Association of Queensland, 51 Morgan Street, Redbank Plains (201 3358)
Lions Clubs International, northern and north-western districts: Adelaide Street, City (221 9748); southern and south-western districts: 62 Brownie Street, Jamboree Heights (376 5992)
Masonic Temple, Ann Street, City (229 3533)
Queensland Country Women's Association, 89 Gregory Terrace, City (831 8188)
Returned Services League, Anzac House, Wickham Terrace, City (221 0722)
Rotary Club of Brisbane, 177 Ann Street, City (221 2592)
Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, 300 St Pauls Terrace, Fortitude Valley (253 2444)
Royal Queensland Bowls Association, 468 Ann Street, City (221 5022)
2 Where to stay

In the last ten years, Brisbane's store of luxury hotels and motels has increased dramatically while some grand old-timers, tragically, have disappeared. Whereas once overseas visitors would complain that they couldn't get international-style accommodation here, Brisbane can now meet the very highest expectations of any traveller.

At the other end of the accommodation price scale are private hotels and serviced rooms (some listed under Board and Residence in the classified ads of the Courier-Mail), on-site vans at caravan parks (though most are some way out of town), and youth hostels for YHA members (221 2022).

Public bars in hotels and built-in parking in motels – this is the main difference between the two though some hotels have parking and some motels have
liquor licences. Hotels usually charge by the person and motels by the room and almost as much for one person as for two, so that it is more economical to stay in a hotel if you're travelling alone, and in a motel if you're with someone else. Sometimes the tariff includes breakfast, but this is becoming less common. Accommodation owners shouldn't mind if you ask to see the room before you take it.

For bookings ahead, the Queensland Government Travel Centre on the corner of Edward and Adelaide Streets (31 2211) provides a good service and has offices in all states.

Because prices do change and it's maddening to have to pay more than you've expected, I have deliberately not been specific about tariffs, but classified places in high, medium, and low price brackets.

**High tariff accommodation**

*In the city centre*

The **Crest International Hotel**, corner Ann and Roma Streets (229 9111) is opposite the City Hall and King George Square. It is comprised of two towers, one sixteen storeys high with swimming pool, barbecue, and garden on top, and the other of eighteen storeys with bars, four restaurants, saunas, two heated pools, convention room, secretarial facilities, and gymnasium.

The **Gateway Inn**, corner North Quay and Ann Street (221 0211) has a swimming pool, parking, two restaurants, cocktail bar, and full convention and
secretarial facilities. Extra touches are the toasters in every bedroom for hot breakfast toast and the first floor lounge with views of the Brisbane River.

The Gazebo Terrace Hotel, Wickham Terrace (831 6177) has terraced floors at the front so that each has a view and a sunny balcony. Two levels of plate-glass walls at the top house the hotel’s restaurant and mezzanine-level cocktail bar, affording spectacular, high views out across the city. Bedroom suites are attractively furnished in Mediterranean style. There are business facilities and a functions room.

Lennons Plaza Hotel, Queen Street (222 3222) offers parking right in the heart of the city. It has a coffee shop, full conference facilities and a restaurant featuring a daily smorgasbord.

The Parkroyal Hotel, corner Alice and Albert Streets (221 3411) overlooks the Botanic Gardens in the least noisy part of the inner city. In addition to a swimming pool in the large courtyard area, there is also a wading pool for children. Other features are a sauna bath, restaurant, convention and banquet facilities and a number of distinctive touches such as the waterbeds in some rooms.

The Sheraton-Brisbane Hotel, 249 Turbot Street (835 3535) above Central station, is Brisbane’s newest top-class hotel. It offers convention facilities, restaurants including one on the rooftop on the thirty level, a nightclub/disco, a gymnasium, and twenty-four hour room service. From here it is an easy, pleasant walk to Queen Street, without having to cross busy roads, via the Anzac Square flyover footpath to Post Office Square.
The **Tower Mill Motor Inn**, Wickham Terrace (831 6177) is a round-tower landmark with a restaurant on top commanding a spectacular 360 degree view, of which each of the bedrooms gets a slice. It's set in a quiet area across from the historic Windmill with lovely parkland screening off the bustle of the city centre. Some of the services provided are laundries within the motel and babysitting.

**Near the city centre**

Along the ridge to the west that overlooks the city centre is the **Ridge Motor Inn**, corner Leichhardt and Henry Streets (831 5000). Some of the suites here have cooking facilities. Amenities offered are a swimming pool, sauna, cocktail bar, restaurant, and functions room.

Across the Story Bridge and just a short ferry ride from the city proper is the **Kangaroo Point Travelodge**, Main Street, Kangaroo Point (391 5566). It offers excellent views of the city across the river from the rooms and the restaurant. There is a swimming pool and off-street parking.

The **Coronation Motel**, Coronation Drive, Milton (369 9955) is good value in this price range. It overlooks the river, has a restaurant with an excellent reputation for seafood, and a bistro bar in the foyer that serves coffee and exotic Italian icecream. There is no charge for children under sixteen sharing rooms with their parents and there are special family suites of two bedrooms (with two bathrooms) that sleep up to eight at a reasonable price.
Medium tariff accommodation

In the city centre

The Atcherley Private Hotel, 513 Queen Street (31 2591) has a laundromat on its roof, a cafe bar where guests can buy tea or coffee, and a restaurant at ground level. Travellers passing through town may have a hot shower without booking in for the night.

The Canberra Hotel, Ann Street (32 0231) is a huge temperance hotel that offers accommodation ranging from very basic rooms to luxury motel suites. Its dining room opens to the public seven days a week, and it's geared for tourist groups and families.

The Carlton Hotel, 103 Queen Street (229 4777) is an older hotel that's a popular local meeting place especially in Show Week in August. It has modern facilities in an old-fashioned setting.

The Embassy Hotel, corner Edward and Elizabeth Streets (221 7616) is another older hotel that has been redecorated in grand style, with accommodation, bars, and restaurants.

The Hotel Majestic, George Street (221 7111) is good value, especially for a single traveller. Rooms all have shower, toilet, air-conditioning, and telephone; there's a good dining room, several bars, a lounge, and writing room.

In the city and the Valley are a number of older-style hotels at the lower end of this price bracket; their rooms have hot and cold water but not private showers and toilets. They include the Eton Private Hotel, corner Wharf and Adelaide Streets (221 2655);
and the Royal George, corner Ann and Brunswick Streets, Valley (52 2524). The Grosvenor, corner Ann and George Streets, City (221 5788), was built in 1886 and still uses the old cellar. In the private bar is a thirty-metre long mural by noted artist Margaret Olley. It depicts Brisbane scenes from the city's beginnings and includes buildings that are no longer standing.

Near city and suburban

The Metropolitan Inn is in walking distance of the city centre, corner Leichhardt and Little Edward Streets (831 6000). It offers a cocktail bar, licensed restaurant and functions room.

The Melbourne Hotel, Browning Street, West End (44 1571) offers first class motel accommodation, and the hotel section includes Henry Africa's Theatre Restaurant and Melba's Gourmet Restaurant. It has a highly recommended dining room and conference facilities, and is a short drive or a few blocks' walk across the Victoria Bridge to the city.

At Kangaroo Point, a collection of near-city motels in Main Street includes the Story Bridge (391 2266) near the ferry, the Queensland Motel (391 1061) and the Paramount (391 1109) both of which have pools, as do the Southern Cross Motel (391 2881) and the Motel Main (391 6222), which also have restaurants.

At Woolloongabba, home of the Brisbane Cricket Ground and the Greyhound Racing Club, the Australian National Hotel, Stanley Street (391 3964) is value for money for good rooms without showers, public transport at the door, and suburban-hotel-style music with dancing in the lounge downstairs.
The **Regatta Hotel**, Coronation Drive, Milton (370 7063) overlooks the river and is an excellent example of an "iron-lace-verandahs pub". It is about midway between the city and university and the downstairs bars are a favourite haunt of university students. The bar upstairs is cool and quiet and you can sit out on the verandahs watching the busy world go by along Coronation Drive below and the river beyond it. It's right on the city bus route, has good simple rooms, and a restaurant.

At Hamilton, **Stewart's Hamilton Hotel**, Kingsford Smith Drive (268 2564) is a far cry from the original after which the suburb was named. The modern brick version has well-appointed rooms and an excellent restaurant. The bus to the city passes the door and it is close to the airport and racecourses.

**Chardons Hotel**, Ipswich Road, Annerley (848 4091) has a particularly good table, self-contained rooms, and a flat for families.

**Low tariff accommodation**

**Marr's Town House**, corner Wickham Terrace and Twine Street (831 5388), is a sixty-five room, first class, economy motel/private hotel. The modern six-storey hotel specializes in catering for the single traveller, offering rooms with or without private bath facilities at a range of six prices. For doubles there is a range of four prices. The fully-carpeted rooms feature bedside lamps, radios, tea-making facilities, and a restful decor. There are luggage trolleys, house phones on each floor, a guest laundry, limited free parking, a TV lounge and pool table, and a licensed restaurant.
Also close to the city is the **Yale Budget Inn**, Upper Edward Street (31 1663) which has a young clientele and a kitchen where guests may cook their meals.

The cheapest accommodation I've found is at the **Vogue Private Hotel**, 34 Cordelia Street, South Brisbane (44 5074) where there's a swimming pool and TV lounge. The rooms are basic and there are no meals served but there's a kitchen for the use of guests.

On the way to the airport, **Kingsford Hall**, bus stop 14, Kingsford-Smith Drive (262 5414) is a modern building overlooking the river (some rooms have balconies) with hot and cold water in every room, a laundry and ironing facilities. Breakfast is not included in the tariff but there's a kitchen where you may make your own.

Youth hostels, for members only, are the very cheapest places to stay, though your stay must be no more than three nights. The two in Brisbane are at 15 Mitchell Street, Kedron (57 1245), and on the Hornibrook Esplanade, Woody Point (284 6167), out of town a bit. Youth Hostels Association membership lets you stay at hostels anywhere in the world. Phone 221 2022.

**Caravan parks**

Queensland is ideal, climatically and scenically, for caravan enthusiasts. Caravan parks offer the cheapest accommodation going for non-caravanning motorists; most caravan parks have on-site vans that you can hire by the night for about $20 for two people, with a charge of about $3 for each additional adult and $2 for a child.
Brisbane and bayside caravan parks recommended by the Caravan and Tourist Parks Association include:

Amaroo Gardens Caravan Park, 771 Logan Road (Pacific Highway), Holland Park (397 1774)
Aspley Acres Caravan Park, 1420 Bruce Highway, Aspley (263 2668)
Belcaro Caravan Park, 97 Wynnum Road, Wynnum West (396 3163)
Blue Gum Caravan Park, Pacific Highway, Slacks Creek (208 2411)
Greenacres Caravan Park, Mt Cotton Road, Capalaba (206 4444)
Leisureland Caravan Park, 14 Murphy Street, Scarborough (203 6060)
Nestle-In Caravan Park, 905 Manly Road, Tingalpa (390 4404)
Newmarket Gardens Caravan Park, 199 Ashgrove Avenue, Newmarket (356 1458)
Northern Star Caravan Park, Gympie Road, Aspley (263 1719)
San Mateo Caravan Park, 2481 Logan Road, Eight Mile Plains (341 5423)
Sheldon Five Star Caravan Park, 27 Holmead Road, Mt Gravatt (341 6601)
3 Where to eat

While we haven't yet reached the stage where eating out is as common a part of family life as it is to the French and Italians, Australians regard restaurants as necessary to civilized living and demand from them a high standard. The best things to eat in Brisbane, as elsewhere, are what abounds locally – in this case, tropical fruit such as pawpaw, pineapple, and avocado pears; seafood – especially mud crabs and reef fish – and that famous Australian institution, the steak. But Brisbane's cooks as well as its customers come from all over the world, so there is plenty of international cuisine worth trying too.

If you're planning an evening out in Brisbane, it's always better to book. The closing times of restaurants usually refer to the latest time you can order a meal – they won't throw you out while you...
eat it. Not all the restaurants or places to go at night in Brisbane are mentioned here; I've only listed those I know. In this guide, a restaurant is licensed unless it is described as BYO (bring your own).

The Allegro, Central Station Plaza, Edward Street, City (229 5550) is located around the corner from Central station by the Sheraton Hotel. It's an elegant restaurant with excellent food and pleasing dinner music complemented by tropical decor and atmosphere. Lunch is served weekdays until 3 p.m., dinner Monday to Saturday, with last dinner orders 9.30 p.m. except for Saturday 10 p.m.

Ardrossan Hall, 33 Brookes Street, Bowen Hills (52 7168) has a reputation for its imaginative range and presentation of food. It features attractive Victorian-style decor, and private dining space is available. Lunch is served on Thursdays and Fridays (in the courtyard on sunny days) and dinner Monday to Saturday.

Baguette, 150 Racecourse Road, Ascot (268 6168) is out of town a bit, but handy to the racecourses and the airport. Palm trees and cane furniture give it a Queensland atmosphere and you can eat outdoors in the courtyard or inside. Works of art by local artists decorate the walls and are for sale. Baguette serves lunch weekdays, dinner Monday to Saturday and Sunday brunch from 11 a.m.

Baxter's, 166 Braun Street, Deagon (269 1928), some kilometres north of the city, is Brisbane's oldest restaurant, established in 1861. It is in an old chamfer-board house and the atmosphere is simple and unpretentious. There is a small dance floor and, usually,
a singer. It opens for lunch noon to 2.30 p.m. and dinner 6 p.m. to midnight seven days a week.

**Bozarts**, corner Albert and Charlotte Streets, City (221 4256) has a boutique and garden bistro as well as the restaurant. It often has fashion parades for lunchtime diners. Pleasant, attractive, and relaxed, this European-style restaurant is open for lunch Monday to Friday, dinner Monday to Saturday.

The **Breakfast Creek Wharf**, see the Wharf restaurant and the Coral Trout.

The **Camelia** restaurant, 119 Queen Street, City (229 5566) offers an à la carte menu with an extensive choice of continental and tropical seafood dishes. It opens for lunch Monday to Friday, dinner Monday to Saturday.

**The Cat's Tango**, 242 Hawken Drive, St Lucia (371 1452, 371 1789) is a little mystic, a little unusual, a place where the staff just might tango between the tables. The woman who dreamed up this one (it's named after a French fairytale) is Peter Hackworth, a well-known Brisbane restaurateur with a flair for originality. The menu (which isn't French) changes daily from Sunday to Friday for lunch and seven nights a week for dinner.

**Chevaliers**, 55 Railway Terrace, Milton (369 6271) is a comfortable, unpretentious French restaurant housed in an old colonial cottage painted brilliant red. Lunch is served in the leafy courtyard Thursday and Friday and romantic, candlelit dinners indoors from Monday to Saturday. Some of the intimacy is sacrificed on the busier Friday and Saturday nights though, so if you're after something cosy, just for two, go mid-week. BYO
The Clansmen, 35 Waldheim Street, Annerley (48 1935) will cost more than your local takeaway, but if you're after a superb evening it's hard to go past. There's a cocktail bar that stays open until midnight and you can dine in a private room if you wish. Lunch is served Tuesday to Friday from noon and dinner Monday to Saturday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Cloak and Dagger, 888 Stanley Street, East Brisbane (391 4102) is a Scottish restaurant serving authentic favourites such as haggis and Edinburgh Fog dessert. It opens for dinner Tuesday to Saturday. BYO

The Coral Trout, Breakfast Creek Wharf, 192 Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead (52 1741) is the quieter and more elegant of the two restaurants at the Wharf, the other being the Wharf restaurant. Specializing in seafood, it opens for dinner Monday to Saturday from 6 p.m.

The Coronation, Coronation Motel, 205 Coronation Drive, Milton (369 9955) is renowned for its seafood – it's one of the best. Open for lunch Monday to Friday, for dinner Monday to Saturday 6 p.m. to midnight, and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Crest International Hotel, see George and Martha's Washington Room.

Denison's, on the thirtieth floor of the Sheraton Hotel (835 3535) behind Central station, serves dinner only, Tuesday to Saturday. The bar opens at 5.30 p.m. and meals are available from 6.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Diablo's, 28 Grimes Street, Auchenflower (370 7606) specializes in Spanish food and opens for dinner Wednesday to Sunday. BYO
Dods House, 97 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill (839 9388) serves nouvelle cuisine with special care taken over the preparation and sauces, and an emphasis on freshness. The building, designed by architect Robin Dods and built for his brother in 1907–8, was the subject of a battle between conservationists and developers prior to its opening as a restaurant in the early 1980s. It is open Monday to Friday for lunch and Monday to Saturday for dinner.

The Fountain Room, Queensland Cultural Centre, South Bank (240 7111). What everyone comments on first about this elegant restaurant is the superb view of the city skyline across the river, but the food – European international cuisine – and the wine selection are also first rate. The Fountain Room is open for lunch and dinner Monday to Saturday. A pianist plays on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

Gambaro's, 33 Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace (369 9500) is probably Brisbane's best-known seafood restaurant. For seafood at its most delicious, the fresh seafood platter gives you something of everything: prawns, crab, oysters, and Moreton Bay bugs – a local delicacy rather like a crab. Opening times for lunch noon to 2.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, for dinner 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Gateway Hotel, see Gillies.

Gazebo Terrace Hotel, see Top of the "G".

George and Martha's Washington Room, Crest International Hotel, Ann Street, City (229 9111) overlooks King George Square. It opens for lunch and dinner Monday to Friday, dinner Saturday and lunch Sunday.
Gillies, Gateway Hotel, 85 North Quay (221 0211) has replaced the Matthew Flinders Room. In plush salmon pink and forest green surroundings you can listen to French pianist, Marcel, who plays Monday to Friday evenings. At its entrance is one of Brisbane's more elegant cocktail bars. Open for lunch Monday to Friday, dinner Monday to Saturday.

Harold's Posh Cafe, 466 Boundary Street, Spring Hill (839 0188) is indeed posh as far as the imaginative choice of entrees and main courses is concerned. Anything served at the table is available to take away, and that includes salads, terrines, patés, cold meats, cheeses, quiches, cakes and tortes. Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

At Harrington's Garden Cafe opposite the GPO in a courtyard under the Colonial Mutual building (221 6526), you can sit and sip a glass of wine, beer or a cappuccino accompanied by a steak, hamburger or homemade pastry. Closed Sunday, it opens at 7.30 for breakfast and serves lunch and dinner.

Jean-Pierre's, 485 Boundary Street, Spring Hill (839 9831), one of my favourites, serves lunch Monday to Friday and Sunday, dinner Monday to Saturday. You can dine inside in the charming Parisian setting or in the courtyard. BYO

Jimmy's on the Mall, Queen Street Mall, City (229 9999) is set in leafy privacy in the heart of the lively city mall. It makes a specialty of fresh Queensland seafood and tropical fruit. Wines and cocktails are always available. It is the only restaurant providing outdoor dining seven days a week (from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.).
Joséphine’s, upstairs in Bonaparte’s Hotel, 247 St Pauls Terrace (52 3797) serves Queensland seafood, fruit, and beef cooked in traditional French style. Open for lunch from noon Tuesday to Friday and for dinner Tuesday to Saturday.

Kelvin House, 252 Kelvin Grove Road, Kelvin Grove (356 8605) is close to the city and serves French cuisine in a beautifully restored building over one hundred years old. Meals are well presented and the wine list is extensive. It opens for lunch Wednesday to Friday from noon, dinner every day but Sunday 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Kookaburra Cafe, 280 Given Terrace, Paddington (369 6760) is a converted old house not far from the city. It serves dinner only Tuesday to Sunday from 5 p.m. for takeaways and from 6 p.m. for sit-down meals. The menu is a mixture of French and Italian at reasonable prices and it’s BYO.

La Crémaillère, 117 Fernberg Road, Paddington (369 6561) is attractively furnished in an old building that was a former bakehouse. Private dining space also available. It opens for lunch Sunday to Friday and dinner seven days a week. BYO

La Grange, 303 Adelaide Street, City (221 5590) is a popular French-provincial restaurant where the motto seems to be: When you’re on a good thing, stick to it. La Grange has been serving the same good, basic, Gallic food for years. It’s open for lunch Monday to Friday and for dinner Monday to Saturday until midnight. BYO

Le Figaro, 5 Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill (369 0160) occupies an old terrace house close to the city. It
serves classic French dinners Tuesday to Sunday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and late supper Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. BYO

**Lennons Plaza Hotel**, see Matilda’s.

**Le Tahiti**, corner Blandford Street and Laymont Road, Grange (356 7273) offers fine French food in a Polynesian setting. It opens for dinner Tuesday to Sunday from 6.30 p.m. BYO

**Loaves & Fishes**, 200 Logan Road, Buranda (391 5288) is set in a circus tent and the atmosphere is relaxed, fun, and trendy. It has a garden courtyard, cocktail bar, and imaginative food selected around local produce. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Saturday. It is also well known for private catering.

**Manouche**, 517 Milton Road, Toowong (371 5251) is an elegant restaurant with French provincial cuisine. It opens for dinner Tuesday to Thursday from 6.30 p.m. and from 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. BYO

**Matilda’s**, Lennons Plaza Hotel, 66 Queen Street, City (222 3222) opens for lunch Monday to Friday from noon to 2 p.m. and dinner Monday to Saturday from 6 p.m.

**Melba’s**, Melbourne Hotel, 2 Browning Street, West End (44 1571) has a large and varied menu that includes pork, chicken, beef, curry, and plenty of seafood. Melba’s serves lunch Monday to Friday noon to 2.30 p.m., dinner Monday to Saturday 6 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

**Merlo’s**, 938 Brunswick Street, New Farm (358 1464) is a few minutes’ drive from the city, across the road from New Farm Park. It is run by a younger brother
of the proprietor of the Milano restaurant. The food is as sophisticated as the decor, with the accent on Italian specialties and seafood. There’s a cocktail bar with a piano for background music. It opens for lunch from Tuesday to Friday and Sunday, and for dinner every night but Monday from 6.30 p.m.

**Michael's**, City Centre Arcade, 164 Queen Street Mall, City (229 4911). Low key elegance is the mood here, with a piano for background music and a good à la carte menu. Popular with lunching lawyers and businessmen, it’s especially good for local fruit and seafood. Serves lunch 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on weekdays and dinner 6 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

The **Milano** restaurant, 78 Queen Street, City (229 3917, 221 5972). Consistently good and always busy, the Milano has long been regarded as one of Brisbane’s top places to dine and it boasts one of the best wine lists in Australia. “Fine food, silver service, elegant atmosphere” – the stock restaurant phrases – are put into practice here. There’s background music from a grand piano, and a stylish cocktail bar. It is open for lunch and dinner every day but Sunday.

The **Mt Coot-tha Summit** restaurant, Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mt Coot-tha (369 9922) is owned by the folk who also run the Samford restaurant. It serves morning and afternoon teas (scones with jam and cream to sightseers), and lunches and evening meals from a varied menu seven days a week. It’s both BYO and licensed, to cater for those diners who go up the mountain principally to dine there and want to take their own drinks, as well as for those who go for the view or are involved with one of the four
nearby television stations and find the restaurant a convenient place to have a meal.

**Muddies**, 5 Edward Street, City (31 1996) serves good seafood and offers a splendid view across the river and the Botanic Gardens. It is open for lunch Monday to Friday and dinner Monday to Saturday.

**Paddingtons**, 267 Given Terrace, Paddington (369 6963) offers indoor or courtyard dining in a renovated bakery built in the 1800s. It specializes in grills cooked on the barbecue in the courtyard. Lunch is served Thursday, Friday, and Sunday; dinner Tuesday to Saturday 6 p.m. to midnight. BYO

**Parkroyal Hotel**, see The Walnut Room.

**Petrie Mansions** restaurant, 242 Petrie Terrace, City (831 9350) is a prime example of early colonial terrace architecture – hand-made bricks, solid cedar joinery, open lace verandahs, and so on. For three splendid courses the cover charge is under $20. Open for lunch Tuesday to Friday, noon to 3 p.m., dinner Monday to Saturday 6 p.m. to midnight. And don't forget the Sunday smorgasbord at noon.

At **Rags** garden restaurant, 25 Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace (369 6794) you can choose between the all-weather garden area or a Victorian style building where old family portraits watch over diners from the sand-blasted brick walls. It was renovated by owner Robert Ridgeway (who gave his boyhood nickname to the restaurant) and his wife, and a brilliant job they did. The menu is simple and unusual. Rags opens for lunch Wednesday to Friday, dinner Thursday to Saturday 6 p.m.

**Restaurant du Parc**, 78 Kingussie Street, Kenmore
(378 7080) offers French dining Monday to Saturday from 6.30 p.m. BYO.

The Roseville restaurant, 36 Chester Street, Newstead (358 1377) is in a huge old home built in 1882 featuring solid cedar joinery and long, wide verandahs. The private dining rooms can cater for up to sixty-five. It opens for lunch Tuesday to Friday and dinner Tuesday to Saturday until midnight.

The Samford restaurant, Main Street, Samford (289 1485), on Brisbane's rural outskirts, is BYO. It serves dinner nightly and lunch on Sunday.

Scandals, corner Turbot Street and North Quay, City (221 0431, 221 8252) is attractively located in an old church and garden setting close to the heart of the city. In the ritzy decor of brass tabletops, candlelight, and chandeliers, velvet-clad maids and butlers will serve you for lunch weekdays and for dinner Monday to Saturday until midnight.

For seafood restaurants or restaurants that make a specialty of seafood see The Coral Trout, the Coronation, Gambaro's, Merlo's, Muddies, the Wharf.

Sheraton Hotel, see Denison's.

Silks, Amy Street, Breakfast Creek (262 2044) is in the Albion Park Paceway, Brisbane's horse trotting stadium. Lunch and dinner (gala seafood smorgasbord) are served seven days a week, except Sunday lunchtime. On racing evenings (Wednesday and Saturday) it is booked out months ahead.

Squirrels, corner Melbourne and Edmondstone Streets, South Brisbane (44 4603) is the restaurant to change the mind of anyone who considers
"vegetarian" synonymous with all things bland and boring. Scrumptious meals are served in this delightful old restored building or, if weather permits, in the courtyard. Takeaways, coffee, cakes, and a buffet lunch are available weekdays from 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon, à la carte dinner from 6 p.m. BYO

The **Terrace House** restaurant, 230 Petrie Terrace (369 1692, 369 6374) is in a carefully restored, late-nineteenth century terrace house. The à la carte menu specializes in Queensland food. Lunch is served Sunday to Friday and dinner every night from 6 p.m.

**Top of the “G”,** Gazebo Terrace Hotel, 345 Wickham Terrace, City (831 6177) has walls of glass ten floors above ground level. It overlooks the city, which appears to be at your feet as you sit in the mezzanine cocktail bar. It opens for dinner every night from 6 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The **Terrace Bistro** on the ground floor serves breakfast, snacks, and à la carte meals and opens daily from 6.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.

The **Tortilla**, Elizabeth Arcade, City (Charlotte Street entrance) (221 4416) serves Mexican and Spanish food. (If you like shellfish the exotic shellfish stew is consistently delicious!) It is open for lunch Monday to Friday, dinner seven nights a week to midnight. On the opposite side of the arcade is the **Tortilla Cantina**, where the choice is Mexican, Spanish, or Australian, eat in or take away. It's cheaper than the restaurant and opens from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday and until midnight Friday and Saturday.

The **Walnut Room**, Parkroyal Hotel, corner Alice and Albert Streets, City (221 3411) is open seven days
a week from 6.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. for breakfast, lunch (smorgasbord and à la carte) and dinner.

The Wharf restaurant, Breakfast Creek Wharf, 192 Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead (52 2451) is a light and airy restaurant, serving a wide selection of seafood for lunch and dinner seven days a week. The centrepiece of the decor is a large boat with tables aboard for diners who want to pretend they're on the high seas.

**Italian**

We've always had a large Italian population so there are lots of Italian restaurants. I've already referred to Merlo's, the Milano and the Kookaburra Cafe, all of which have Italian specialties on the menu.

A favourite is Sweet Patootie, 480 St Paul’s Terrace, Fortitude Valley (52 9606) where the pasta is fresh and home-made; and there are other French/Italian dishes, including pizza. Eat inside or in the covered courtyard to the music of local jazz trio, Dr Jazz, in the evenings and Sunday lunchtime. Lunch is served Sunday to Friday, dinner Wednesday to Sunday.

Another top spot for pasta, meat balls, and bolognais is St Lucia's Pasta, Pasta Etc. Etc. at 242 Hawken Drive (371 1403), and Big Louis, Lambert Road, Indooroopilly.

Fiorini's, 29 Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace (369 5552) offers you a choice of about forty-five entrées and sixty main courses, plus a dozen or so "specials". Mainly Italian but you can order other dishes too. It opens for lunch Thursday, Friday, and Sunday and dinner Tuesday to Sunday.

If you're after something more casual, try the cafe-
style Il Giardinetto, 366 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley (52 4750). It's BYO and serves lunch Tuesday to Friday, dinner every night except Monday. And Lucky's, 683 Ann Street, the Valley (52 2353) has been serving generous quantities of spaghetti at very generous prices for years. It's long been a favourite of university students – a sign that the food is good, cheap, and plentiful. It opens 6 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. Tuesday to Thursday, to 1.30 a.m. Friday and Saturday. In the city, the Venice restaurant, 252 George Street (221 5959) offers formal and informal dining areas, both of which are licensed. It's open seven days a week and the pasta and pizzas are generous and authentic.

Other places you can get good pizza, either to eat-in or take away are Pizza Vesuvio at Enzo's Place, 70 Boundary Street, West End (44 8374), Sophies in the shopping village, Hawken Drive, St Lucia (371 5348), The Pizza Shop, 529 Sandgate Road, Clayfield (262 5324), and Salvatore's, Kessels Road, Macgregor. Silvio's Dial-a-Pizza (368 1888) and Domino's Pizza (Toowong 371 0355, Kedron 350 1777, Ashgrove 38 5946) will deliver it to your door.

Chinese

Most suburbs in Brisbane have at least one Chinese restaurant, many dating back to the days when chicken chow mein and sweet and sour pork takeaways were practically the only Chinese dishes most people knew. Nowadays all Chinese restaurants offer a dazzling variety of dishes and the Chinese-restaurant-going population in Brisbane has become a large and enthusiastic one.
Fortitude Valley rightly claims the title of Brisbane's Chinatown, with Wickham Street abounding in Chinese restaurants, supermarkets, hairdressers, and a cinema. Among the excellent restaurants there, you could try the **Mayflower**, 146 Wickham Street (52 5004), especially the honey king prawns. It's open seven days a week for lunch and dinner with the exception of Sunday lunchtime. The **Cathay**, 222 Wickham Street (52 2765), one of the oldest Chinese restaurants in Brisbane, specializes in Yum Cha, the traditional daytime trolley meal. There's an informal dining area on the ground floor and more formal dining upstairs, both sections being licensed. It's open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

Other recommended restaurants include the **Chinatown Palace**, 185 Wickham Street (52 1893), and the **Oriental** restaurant, 202 Wickham Street (52 2118), and at the **Singapore** restaurant, 196 Wickham Street (52 2006) you can try the specialties of that island. In the **Chinese Meal Kitchen**, 257 Wickham Street (52 2831) the dining area is small and cramped but always packed out because the food is consistently plentiful and good (BYO). Try the **China Foods** restaurant, Valley Centre Plaza, Wickham Street (52 4166) for Peking duck. The **Phoenix**, 316 St Pauls Terrace (52 3600) is grandly situated upstairs in a large free-standing building decorated ornately and splendidly with colourful Chinese tiles.

In the city centre, **Jimmy Lee's**, 47 Elizabeth Street (229 9999) is more expensive than other Chinese restaurants, but the decor and setting are pleasing, the atmosphere subdued and elegant, the menu exotic, the food exquisite. At the **Ta-Wa Palace**, 62 Queen Street (221 2453) there is live entertainment and dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings; it opens
Monday to Friday for lunch and seven days a week for dinner. The **Golden Bowl**, 231 Edward Street (229 2427) also opens seven days a week and it's licensed.

### Japanese

At **Little Tokyo**, Bowen Street (off Turbot Street between Wharf and Boundary Streets) (221 7751) you take off your shoes and sit Japanese-style at low tables. The food is exotic and delicious and both the teranyaki and sukiyaki styles are served. On Friday and Saturday nights there are performances of Japanese folk-dancing. It's open Monday to Saturday 6 p.m. to midnight.

**Shoki**, 345 Queen Street (229 6410) advertise their live seafood and table cooking as features of this excellent restaurant. And don't forget **Shoki Two**, which serves Japanese and Korean cuisine at 221 Brunswick Street, the Valley (52 4060).

### Indian

**Scherhazade**, 127 Creek Street, City (221 9424) offers a wide variety of Indian curries and vegetarian dishes and has a tandoori oven. Takeaways also available. A guitar player provides entertainment on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights. Open for lunch Monday to Friday noon to 3 p.m., dinner Monday to Saturday. Parking under the building.

You'll also find good curries and other Indian food at **Feroza**, 227 Given Terrace, Paddington (369 3483), **Shalimar Gardens** restaurant, 184 Enoggera Road, Newmarket (356 5879), and **Ashoka Exotic Curries**,
corner Station Road and Riverview Terrace, Indooroopilly [378 4806]. All these are BYO.

**Lebanese**

The **Violette** restaurant, 69 Boundary Street, West End [44 8214] serves great Lebanese food in the West End Market. You can eat in or take away and vegetarians are catered for. Hours of opening are noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday. BYO

**Al Sahara**, 76A Wickham Street, the Valley (next to Skennars bus service) [839 7907] and **Baalbek**, 52 Petrie Terrace, Petrie Terrace [369 4991] also serve traditional Lebanese. Al Sahara is BYO, Baalbek is licensed.

**Indonesian**

The **Satay House**, 26 Duncan Street, the Valley [52 7044] serves Malaysian, Indonesian, and Chinese food – delicious satays, of course, and Malaysian steamboats. It is open Monday to Friday for lunch and dinner and Saturday for dinner only.

**Greek**

The **Greek Taverna** restaurant, 167 Elizabeth Street, City [221 3034] offers traditional Greek food in an attractive setting. You may join in the Greek dancing Wednesday to Saturday nights. It opens for lunch Monday to Friday and dinner Tuesday to Saturday 6 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

**Soulaki's Taverna**, Paddington Court, 147 Latrobe
Terrace, Paddington (369 9652) is a BYO offering Mediterranean as well as Greek food. It opens from 6 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

Grills and bistros

Mention the word steak to a Brisbaneite and you'll probably be told the fastest way to get to the Breakfast Creek Hotel. At Kingsford-Smith Drive, Breakfast Creek (262 5988), the "Brekkie Creek" has long been a favourite haunt of steak lovers. There, you choose your own steak and eat it in the lush ferns-and-creepers setting of the Spanish Garden. Opens for lunch from noon and dinner from 5.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

The Carriage Grill at the Sheraton Hotel, Turbot Street, City is open for lunch and dinner Monday to Friday and for dinner on Saturday.

Orsino's BYO Steak Hut, 2421 Sandgate Road, Boondall (265 4086) is a treat for steak connoisseurs. It opens seven nights a week from 5 p.m.

The Gateway Grill, Gateway Hotel, North Quay, City is popular at lunch time with city workers and the atmosphere is casual and friendly. It's open for lunch Monday to Friday and dinner every evening.

Scandals is a restaurant extravaganza where steaks are a specialty. See main alphabetical section for details.

Paddingtons, already referred to in the alphabetical section of this guide, makes a specialty of the great Aussie barbecue.
Dinner and a show?

Try MV Bonaparte’s Afloat, Petrie Bight Marina, Howard Street, City (52 3797) for that “something different” evening. Enjoy a seven course buffet and musical revue as you cruise along the Brisbane River. Departure time: 7.30 p.m. Friday and Saturday (in November and December, Tuesday to Saturday). Bonaparte’s Afloat also has a little sister – MV Josephine’s – which holds six to eight people and, like MV Bonaparte’s [which takes 86], is available for charter anytime. MV Josephine’s is hired for everything from fishing trips to board meetings and champagne breakfasts.

Leo’s restaurant/cabaret, eighth floor, 160 Edward Street, City [221 2307] has a live band and floor shows and opens Monday to Saturday 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Henry Africa’s, Melbourne Hotel, 2 Browning Street, West End (44 1571), the Brentleigh Theatre Restaurant, 497 Lutwyche Road, Lutwyche (57 3857) and the Elizabethan banquet at Dirty Dick’s, corner Judge and Weetman Streets, Petrie Terrace (369 0555) are also guaranteed to be a lot of fun if you enjoy theatre restaurants.

Sibyl’s, 383 Adelaide Street [229 2355, 221 5834] arrived on the Brisbane scene in the early eighties to take advantage of the dearth of late night entertainment in the city. It is a restaurant, convention and entertainment centre on three levels. The Dome Room on the top floor is the main entertainment area and can cater for banquets of up to 550 or a cocktail party of up to 800. There’s 60-40 dancing on Thursday nights, but other evenings are given over to
the disco and the eighteen to twenty-one age set. Next floor down is Capucine's, another function area. Beneath that is Sibyl's Downunder, a disco for the over twenty-five's. Bistro style dining is available. The Sibyl's complex opens Wednesday to Saturday 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. and Sundays 7 p.m. to midnight.

Another wing of Sibyl's is Images, for the twenty-one to twenty-five group, on the twenty-fourth floor of the SGIO building. It opens Wednesday to Saturday 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. and is best known for its revolving dance floor.

General Jackson's, Crest International Hotel, corner Ann and Roma Streets, City (229 9111) is one of the popular discos in town but you'll have to eat before you go there as there is no food available. It's open from Wednesday to Saturday evenings from 7.30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Bands play on each of these nights and Thursday is a country night.

Another popular disco spot is the Brisbane Underground, corner Caxton and Hale Streets, Petrie Terrace (369 2633). There's a cabaret, à la carte dining and private cocktail bar. It's open from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 7 p.m. to midnight on Sunday.

Clubs and hotels

For entertainment, hotels and football clubs are two of the best places to go, especially on Saturday night and especially if you want to join the locals. The best way to find out what's on is to check the entertainment pages of Friday's Telegraph or the free entertainment guide, Time Off.

Lots of league clubs have singers and cabarets, and some serve dinner, and welcome visitors as well as
members. They open Sunday nights too. There's Wests Leagues Club, Lorward Avenue, Bardon (369 1600); Norths at Franklin Street, Nundah (266 9811); Easts at Langlands Park, Stones Corner (397 8885); Souths at Davies Park, West End (44 6046) and Mayne Football Club at Grayson Street, Windsor (57 8188).

Suburban hotels are a great night out, with dancing and drinking and singers. These include the Jindalee Hotel, on the Centenary Highway, Jindalee; the Bonny View Hotel, 2077 Gympie Road, Bald Hills; the Sunnybank Hotel, 275 McCullough Street, Sunnybank; and the Ferny Grove Tavern at Ferny Hills. Today, most suburban areas seem to have their own tavern. The Wintergarden Tavern, Queen Street, City has a piano bar and is open until 3 a.m. Monday to Saturday.

If you lob in town early and need breakfast

The first three never close.

- Kon-Tiki Bistro, Crest International Hotel, Ann Street
- The Pancake Manor, 18 Charlotte Street
- Kadoo's Belly Button, 250 George Street, for basic fare like bacon and eggs or grilled sausages
- La Brasserie, 40 Creek Street, City, opens 6.45 a.m. to 6 p.m., eat inside or out under an umbrella
- Jimmy's on the Mall, Queen Street Mall, opens from 7 a.m., outdoor dining
- Canberra Hotel, Ann Street, 6.30 a.m. to 9 a.m
- Atcherley Hotel, Queen Street, 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. weekdays; 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. weekends
Where to eat

• Terrace Bistro, Gazebo Hotel, Wickham Terrace
• Gateway Hotel, North Quay
• Walnut Room, Parkroyal Hotel, Alice Street, opens 6 a.m.
• Sidewalk Cafe, Sheraton Hotel, Turbot Street (behind Central station), opens 6.30 a.m.

Late-night eating

Discos

• General Jackson's, Crest Hotel
• Sibyl's Downunder, Ann Street
• The Brisbane Underground, corner Caxton and Hale Streets, Petrie Terrace

Restaurants

• Jimmy's on the Mall – to 1 a.m.
• Parrot's Gourmet Hamburgers (93 Elizabeth Street), Little Tokyo, Roseville, Paddingtons, La Grange, The Cat's Tango, Scandals, and the Tortilla – until midnight.

Eating out on Sunday

• Hibiscus Room, Lennon’s
• Bellevue Carvery
• Munich Steak House (will serve children’s meals)
• Pancake Manor
• Most hotels are open – the Crest, the Gateway, the Sheraton, the Parkroyal, the Atcherley, and the
Canberra in town, for example; the Hamilton, the Breakfast Creek, the Colmslie in the suburbs. The Melbourne, just across the river from the city at South Brisbane, is also open. At the New York Hotel, 69 Queen Street (221 0605), Groucho’s Bistro serves a good, very reasonably priced smorgasbord.

- Restaurants include: Petrie Mansions (lunch), Merlo’s, Squirrels, Jimmy’s, Kookaburra Cafe (dinner), Baguette (brunch), Tortilla (dinner), Mt Coot-tha Summit, Samford; most Chinese, Italian, and some Indian restaurants; fresh or cooked seafood from Cafe Le Mer, a BYO at 878 Brunswick Street (358 1638), Cat’s Tango.
4 Things to see and do

Seeing Brisbane on foot

If you have only a short time in which to get to know Brisbane, you will surely want to get a feeling for the inner city area at least. To this end, I'd suggest you choose either of the walks outlined below. The first is on flat ground all the way and takes you around the government and establishment parts of the city; the second is a hilly walk along the medical ridge of Wickham Terrace overlooking the city to the west and through part of the quaint old residential area of Spring Hill.

Walk One: Begin at the downriver side of Victoria Bridge at the top of Queen Street and walk down Queen's Wharf Road, convict-built and the oldest in
Brisbane, to the Old Government Stores building (p. 86). Come back up to William Street and at the Public Library (p. 88) cross to Queen’s Park, with its stone marking the altar of the original Anglican pro-cathedral. On your right is the Executive building and across the road, on your left, is the Treasury building, site of the first military barracks (p. 86).

Cross George Street on the far side of the park to Queensland Aboriginal Creations at number 135, where you can see and buy genuine Aboriginal artifacts and bark paintings. Continue down George Street, away from town, noticing the government buildings and terraces of once-fashionable town houses on the way, to Parliament House (p. 86) and the Botanic Gardens (p. 69).

Come out of the Gardens at the far end (Edward Street) and you can have a ferry ride across the river and back. Then walk up Edward Street, turn left into the Queen Street Mall and right at the end of it along to King George Square and the City Hall (p. 85).

Walk Two: Walk up to Wickham Terrace, once called Windmill Hill when it was the smartest place to live. What were once fashionable homes are now doctors’ surgeries – like number 137, Firhall, home of Sir David Hardie, Queensland’s first medical knight. At number 97 is the Dods House restaurant, a former home designed by notable Queensland architect Robin Dods and built in 1907–8. Ballow Chambers, number 121, was named after Dr D.K. Ballow who died of typhus attending immigrant patients on Stradbroke Island in 1850. In the foyer is a link with Scotland’s romantic past, two eighteenth-century paintings, one of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the other of Henry, Cardinal of York, given to Lord Keith, Earl
Marshal of Scotland and an ancestor of Dr Ballow, by the Old Pretender as a reward for services rendered. Continue on to the Old Windmill (p. 86) and then cross over the Terrace into Berry Street, which is very much as it was a hundred years ago. This whole area of Spring Hill (named for the spring which once gave the town its water) is good exploring territory. Turn down any of the side streets off Berry Street to see some tiny quaint old cottages or keep straight on up to Leichhardt Street. Turn left there and walk up the hill past arts and crafts galleries and turn left when you reach Wickham Terrace. Stroll downhill now with Albert Park on your right into Albert Street for some good views over the city. Walk down to King George Square, passing the spectacular Albert Street Uniting Church on your left.

If you are interested in other walks to go on around Brisbane and especially if you are keen on history and architecture the National Trust of Queensland has produced a charming brochure entitled “Four Walks and a Drive around Brisbane”. You can obtain a copy from their main office in Old Government House at the end of George Street (229 1788) on the Queensland Institute of Technology campus. The brochure is worth keeping as a souvenir of Brisbane and for the attractive drawings it contains.

**Bus and boat tours**

An excellent way to get an overall idea of the place is to take a bus tour. There are two half-day tours you can do with any of the private coach companies. One takes you around the northern suburbs to the Golden...
Circle pineapple cannery at Northgate, the lookout on Bartley's Hill at Ascot, Newstead House at Newstead, and Albert Park and other inner-city areas; the other takes you west and south to such places as Mt Coot-tha, Queensland University, Lone Pine, the Oasis Gardens, and the Cultural Centre. The different companies' itineraries differ in minor details, so make enquiries from the Queensland Government Travel Centre, corner Adelaide and Edward Streets (31 2211).

A weekday ferry commuter service operated by the council's Golden Swan Ferries leaves from the bottom of Creek Street for Bulimba, via New Farm, East Brisbane and Hawthorne. This is also an excellent way for tourists to see the city skyline, riverside parks, the naval base, and foreign shipping at anchor. The return trip takes about one hour. For more information phone 399 5054.

Every Sunday morning a council ferry cruise along the upper reaches of the river departs East Brisbane at 9.45 a.m. and then to pick-ups at New Farm (Sydney Street), Creek Street, and the Botanic Gardens. This cruise travels as far as the Indooroopilly Bridge and arrives back at the Botanic Gardens at noon. On Sunday afternoons and public holidays, a three-hour cruise in the other direction, seawards to Moreton Bay, leaves the Botanic Gardens at 2 p.m. For more information phone 399 5054.

A cruise to Newstead House is operated by Hayles Cruises departing Monday to Thursday at 10.30 a.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. from their wharf at Queens Wharf Road, North Quay. The cruise, which includes a tour of Newstead House, takes two hours. The same company runs a cabaret cruise on Friday and Satur-
day evenings departing from their wharf at 7.30 p.m. The charge covers the smorgasbord dinner and entertainment. There is also a bar and dance floor. Bookings are necessary. For information about any Hayles cruise phone 229 7055.

The Hayles river cruise to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, perhaps the most popular of all the cruises, is discussed in the Parks and Gardens section of this chapter.

**Views worth a look**

The most famous city view has always been from the clock tower of the **City Hall**, especially when seventy-five metres up was a rare vantage point and before ever-rising city buildings began to hem it in. It's still worth the lift ride up if only for the excitement of going through the clock itself. The clock tower is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there is a small admission charge.

The hills around Brisbane provide good lookouts in every direction from the city centre. The best of all is **Mount Coot-tha**, where all visitors are taken. From the lookout nearly 230 metres up, you can see right across to Moreton Bay, south to the Lamington Plateau, and north as far as the Glasshouse Mountains. Adjacent to the lookout is the Mt Coot-tha Summit restaurant which serves morning and afternoon tea, lunch and dinner.

City Council buses (route 10C Birdwood Terrace) depart daily from Wickham Terrace and the green bus-stop in Adelaide Street (corner Albert Street) for the Mount Coot-tha Lookout. If you are driving go out
along Milton Road (it runs off Petrie Terrace) and follow the signs past the Toowong Cemetery. After you've been to the lookout continue on the full circuit past the four television towers for sweeping views across the ranges, and stop off at Slaughter Falls on the way down.

Not far from Mount Coot-tha (along Moggill Road and up Russell Terrace, Indooroopilly) is Green Hill Reservoir with a view over the western suburbs and a picnic spot complete with ornamental pools and fountain.

South of the city, there's Mount Gravatt Lookout right at the top of Mt Gravatt, 195 metres up. Turn off Logan Road (the Pacific Highway) just before you reach the Mount Gravatt shopping centre; you can also catch a Mount Gravatt bus to the shopping centre and walk, but it's a long haul to the top.

Another excellent spot to see over Brisbane is from Bartley's Hill. To get there, drive along Sandgate Road and turn right up Butler Street, two blocks past St Columban's College; zigzag up the hill to the top of Morgan Street. On a clear day from this lookout it is possible to see Mt Warning, across the border in New South Wales.

Parks and gardens

The Botanic Gardens, on a loop of the river at the bottom of George, Albert, and Edward Streets, are considered among the finest subtropical gardens in the world. The eighteen hectares contain about a hundred different species of palm trees, a lake with ducks and swans, and century-old, rare, exotic plants.
My favourite spot is the riverbank corner near the Conservatorium of Music where there is a collection of succulents that’s one of the best in the world (it looks like something from outer space), a genuine rainforest, and what former curator Mr Harold Caulfield believes to be the first jacaranda tree in the country brought here from Brazil and planted in 1858.

The gardens began as officers’ gardens in convict days, and were later suggested as the site for the city heart in the first town plan drawn up in the 1840s. This idea came to nothing, however, and the gardens became official botanic gardens in 1855.

They are open seven days a week from 6.30 a.m. to sunset. Every weekend there is live entertainment in the form of FREEPS concerts or band music (see the Music section of chapter 7, Arts and entertainment). Ocean-going yachts and houseboats moor on the river near Edward Street and Brisbane Bicycle Hire at 24 Margaret Street (229 2592) has bikes available to ride on the network of paths through the gardens.

Other parks in the city worth visiting are the Roma Street Gardens (with their generous waterfall and public forum area), Albert Park, up the hill from them, with its open-air theatre, and Queen’s Park, at the top of Elizabeth Street, site of the first Anglican cathedral.

The **Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens** are thirty-five hectares of the eastern slopes of Mt Coot-tha and a showplace of modern landscaping. Among the main features are the Tropical Display Dome with exotic plants from all over the world and the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium where visitors can see a spectacular re-creation of the night sky at any time in history on a 12.5 metre dome. The Tropical Display
Dome is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Planetarium is open for shows at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday; 1.30 p.m., 3.30 p.m., and 7.30 p.m. Saturday; 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Sunday. Bookings are taken Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. (377 5896). City Council buses (route 39 Toowong) depart King George Square, Ann Street, City.

The nearby **J.C. Slaughter Falls** is a large area of spacious natural parkland, delightfully secluded from the road and set in rolling terrain with plenty of shade from the native trees and abundant birdlife and other fauna. This extensive area is successfully natural, with easy walks, a waterfall, a swimming hole, and barbecues, and is part of a huge national park development.

**New Farm Park** on the river at New Farm is famous for its many rose bushes and the curved avenue of jacaranda trees that bloom in late October. A New Farm bus from Adelaide Street will take you there or a ferry from the Creek Street jetty. By car, drive along to the end of Brunswick Street.

**Picnic spots**

In addition to the parks and gardens already mentioned in this chapter, other good picnic spots within a few kilometres of the GPO are on the top of the cliffs along River Terrace, Kangaroo Point for panoramic views across the river to the Botanic Gardens and the city (electric barbecues are provided); the university grounds at St Lucia and Nathan; Robertson Park, a pretty tree-filled park on Indooroopilly Road,
Indooroopilly, which also has barbecues; and Sherwood Forest Park on the riverbank at Sherwood (off Jolimont, Turner, and Joseph Streets) which provides electric barbecues and playground equipment.

The most convenient areas further afield, apart from places already mentioned in this chapter, are the Pine River district to the north, out past Kenmore and Brookfield to the west, and the Bulimba Creek area in the south-east. For the Pine River district, take the Bruce Highway past the Royal Brisbane Hospital to Aspley (thirteen kilometres) and turn left at the drive-in theatre signs. For Leitch's Crossing you turn right after driving about five kilometres on this road; for Cash's Crossing you keep straight on for about seven kilometres. There's a signpost to Eaton's Crossing nearly one kilometre past Cash's Crossing. To reach Young's Crossing, turn left off the Bruce Highway at Petrie and then turn off again two kilometres along.

To get to the outer western suburbs, take Moggill Road to Kenmore and at the monument in the middle of the road turn right for Gold Creek and the reservoir, or keep straight on to follow Moggill Creek to the Upper Brookfield area.

For Meadowlands picnic grounds on Bulimba Creek, take Wynnum Road out past Murarrie and turn right into Belmont Road to Tingalpa. Meadowlands is at the end of Meadowlands Road, off Belmont Road to the right.

*Fauna sanctuaries and amusement parks*

**The Oasis** at Station Road, Sunnybank [345 1246] features a zoo with koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, and parrots. In the lush garden setting there are three
swimming pools and barbecue areas. The Oasis is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary**, Fig Tree Pocket (378 1054) is the most famous parkland attraction of all, with kangaroos for you to walk among, birds, snakes, and crocodiles to see, and koalas you can cuddle and be photographed with. There are about a hundred koalas in the sanctuary, which is set in natural parkland on the river. The best way to go is by boat so that you can see Brisbane and its suburbs from the water.

Hayles Cruises offers a launch service to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary departing daily, including Sundays and public holidays, from Hayles Wharf, Queens Wharf Road, North Quay at 1.30 p.m. and returning there four hours later. A special Sunday morning service departs at 9.30 a.m. If you wish you may complete the return leg to the city by connecting coach from Lone Pine, via the Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Government House and the Old Windmill. For more information phone 229 7055. A free pick-up service is available for passengers staying in city hotels and motels.

If you are driving take Coronation Drive from the city, turn right at the Toowong railway bridge into High Street and Moggill Road, then turn left at the Centenary Highway and follow the signs on the left to Lone Pine, which is about eleven kilometres from the city. Open daily 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Bunya Park**, Bunya Park Drive, Eaton's Hill (264 1200) is a unique wildlife sanctuary where you can see marsupials and other native fauna in an attractive bush setting. A feature of the park is Koala
Kingdom, its big attractions being Monarch King Kolo, a koala maternity section and the world's first koala kindergarten. Open daily 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Rainbow Valley**, 148 Samford Road, Ferny Hills (351 5775) features a typically Australian woolshed with sheep-shearing demonstrations, wool displays, billy tea and damper, and craft shop. There are also picnic facilities, a kiosk, a waterslide, and a barbecue. Open daily.

The **African Lion Safari**, Beenleigh (287 2522) is only a half-hour's drive along the Pacific Highway south of Brisbane. There you drive for five kilometres, safari-style, among free-roaming lions and tigers, and meet Australia's first and only liger – a cross between lion and tiger.

Also to the south of Brisbane, further along the Pacific Highway, is **Dreamworld**, an exciting tourist attraction and family amusement park. The admission charge covers the cost of most of the rides inside. Experience the Thunderbolt roller coaster, the log ride, and the sensational Imax theatre.

**Woollahra Dairy Farm** is a working farm on the way to Beaudesert, south-west of Brisbane, run by Bob and Carol Ruddle and their family. It gives city children an action-packed day in the country feeding the animals, going on hay rides and pony rides, and helping with the milking. They like you to phone beforehand (075 431 171) so that they can arrange to look after you properly.

The farm is about forty-five minutes' drive from Brisbane in Walker's Road, Gleneagles; take Beaudesert Road from Brisbane and watch for the
signposted turnoff to the farm a few kilometres past the hotel at Veresdale.

The universities

The 114 hectare campus of the University of Queensland is set in a picturesque loop of the Brisbane River at St Lucia. The main buildings are on a central rise surrounded by playing fields, a lake and parkland that makes an ideal spot for picnics. A "Guide for Visitors" pamphlet is available from staff at the drive-in information stand at the start of the main drive. For other queries contact the public relations office (377 3367).

The university, which now has sixty-four departments, was founded in 1910 and housed in Old Government House near the Botanic Gardens. In 1948 it began a permanent move to the St Lucia site which had been purchased in 1930 with a donation from the Mayne family.

The first buildings were of impressive Helidon sandstone set around a cloistered court. Others have been added, some complementary to the central core, some not.

The university has become the centre of much of Brisbane's cultural life: the Schonell Theatre shows art films; beneath it is a smaller theatre, the Schonell Downstairs; Mayne Hall is a major venue in the city for chamber and orchestral concerts; Sunday afternoon and weekday lunchtime recitals are often held in the Department of Music's Performance Room; the Art Museum in the central tower of the main building houses the Darnell and Behan collections of paintings; the Anthropology Museum in the Department of
Anthropology and Sociology is definitely worth a visit. For more details, see chapter 7, Arts and entertainment.

The university bookshop is one of the better bookshops in Brisbane (opening hours 9 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Monday to Friday).

Council buses to the university, route numbers 11 and 12, travel down Adelaide Street, City; the service usually runs until after any public concerts on the campus.

**Griffith University**, in Kessels Road, Nathan, is Brisbane's second university, quite different from the first in personality and academic style. It is ten minutes' drive from the city centre on the south-eastern freeway. The buildings, set in 175 hectares of natural forest on the south side of the city, are some of the finest examples of modern Queensland architecture and have won several awards. The forest provides an ideal field laboratory for the School of Australian Environmental Studies.

For the visitor, apart from the fascination of a new-look university, there are some splendid works of art around the various buildings and fine sculptures in outdoor atriums. This campus was the athlete's village for the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

Buses to Griffith University leave the city on weekdays: route 199, from Albert Street, travels via Mt Gravatt; and route 191, from Queen Street, travels via Salisbury.

**Specialty museums**

When the **Queensland Museum** moves into new
premises at the Cultural Centre in mid 1986, it will be one of the highlights on the sightseer's list of places to visit. Check the opening times by phoning the museum's recorded information or ask at the Queensland Travel Centre. Information current at time of publication about the present museum can be found in chapter 7, Arts and entertainment. (See chapter 7 also for the Civic Art Gallery and Museum and the University of Queensland Art Museum.)

The Queensland Maritime Museum in Stanley Street, South Brisbane (44 5361) features an old dry dock built in 1881, a working steam tug, and the frigate HMAS Diamantina, as well as indoor exhibits. It opens Wednesdays and weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Railway Museum, at Redbank, is for trainlovers; here, grand old locomotives from as far back as 1865 when the railways came to Queensland are still in working order. The open-air museum is right behind Redbank station, near railway workshops, on the highway just before you reach Ipswich. It opens from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., to 5 p.m. on weekends, and is closed on Mondays except Monday public holidays (then it closes the next day). You can do the full railway bit, and travel by an Ipswich-bound train from Brunswick, Central or Roma Street stations to arrive right at the door. The Railways Historical Society, which looks after the museum, also runs special steam-train excursions from time to time; the Queensland Government Travel Centre (31 2211) can give you information about them. If you go by car, take in Wolston House on the way, off Ipswich Road to the right at Wacol.
The Brisbane Tramway Museum Society (351 1776) is in the process of collecting and preserving old trams and establishing them in a bushland setting on the outskirts of the Brisbane Forest Park. At present it's open only on Sunday and most public holidays from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is in McGinn Road, Ferny Grove, on the way to Samford.

For aviation fans, there's "Smithy's" plane, The Southern Cross, on display under glass at Brisbane Airport, a permanent memorial to Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, who made the first solo flight across the Pacific Ocean in 1928.

Panaroo's Playthings, 401 Lutwyche Road, Windsor (57 8893) is a doll and toy museum with display items dating back to the late eighteenth century. Opening times are Wednesday to Friday 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., weekends and public holidays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, in the Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, is the largest of its kind in Australia. There, on the domed roof, you can see fascinating projections of the night sky from any place in the world at any time of the day. Bookings are necessary. Showing times and other information are included in the Parks and Gardens section of this chapter.

Places to see in action

When state Parliament is in session you can look and listen from the visitors' gallery. Public tours of Parliament House and the Parliamentary Annexe are
conducted at 9.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m., and 2.30 p.m. Monday to Friday all year round. They leave from the main entrance in George Street. Parliament House has been magnificently restored and visitors are shown its remarkable features, such as the huge leadlight window of Queen Victoria and the many hand-painted glass doors and windows, as well as the Legislative Assembly gallery. The tour also includes a look at the Parliamentary Annexe, including the temporary chamber that was used while restoration of the main building was under way, and the interesting collection of artefacts on the third level.

The **Brisbane City Council** meets on Tuesday afternoons in the City Hall and its meetings are open to the public. Like Parliament House, the City Hall has been recently restored and it is worth taking a walk around. On the ground floor there is the concert hall and on higher levels you can see the Brisbane Room, a small ballroom, the Ithaca Auditorium, a chamber music room which seats up to four hundred people, and the adult and junior public library. You can also take the lift up through the clock of the clock tower to see the view from the top and visit the Civic Art Gallery and Museum.

The **Brisbane Stock Exchange** is in Network House, 344 Queen Street, and is open to the public. Trading is from 10 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 3.15 p.m., but the best time to see the action is around 10.15 a.m. The exchange, which celebrated its centenary in 1984, is due to move to the Riverside Centre in 1986.

The **Golden Circle Pineapple Cannery**, Earnshaw Road, Northgate, processes most of the enormous quantities of pineapples that are grown in south-eastern
Queensland. There are hour-long tours at 9 a.m., 10.15 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. Tuesday to Friday (public holidays excluded), but phone the senior hostess before you go (266 6122) to make sure they aren't booked out by groups. First you drink your fill of pineapple juice, then see how the pineapples are canned in slices, chunks or as juice. If you go by car, drive out along Sandgate Road or Nudgee Road to Northgate, then watch for the signs to the cannery. Northgate railway station is about a fifteen-minute walk away.

Queenslanders are known to enjoy their rum so it is not surprising that there are some local distilleries to cope with the demand. The Beenleigh Rum Distillery, at Beenleigh (287 2488) is on the Pacific Highway, about a half-hour’s drive out of Brisbane, in a picturesque rural setting on the banks of the Albert River. A special turn-off to the distillery is clearly marked on the left just past the township. Conducted tours take place at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., midday, then half-hourly to 2.30 p.m., and 3.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and half-hourly from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. You are shown the complete process from the crude molasses stage to the sweet-smelling end product. The molasses comes from Rocky Point Sugar Mill at Woongoolba, not far away, a cane-growing area for over a hundred years.

Grills and roast dinners are available for lunch in the cafeteria, which is licensed, and on Sundays from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. a chef will grill your steak in the barbecue area outside in the sun; this area also contains a bar.
5 Historic places

Background history

Brisbane was originally a penal settlement. In 1823 Lieutenant John Oxley, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, sailed up the east coast in search of yet another gaol for His Britannic Majesty as far removed from Britain as possible.

He came upon Moreton Bay and explored up the river, which he named with a singular lack of imagination after Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales. (The oak door of Governor Brisbane's home at Largs, Scotland, now opens the way into the Lord Mayor's reception rooms in the City Hall.) Oxley landed at several places on his journey upriver, including Breakfast Creek which, predictably, was named after he'd breakfasted there, and
near Six-Mile Rocks in the south-west corner of the university site at St Lucia.

Redcliffe was the first settlement, but the natives were difficult and there was little fresh water, so in 1824 Oxley landed at North Quay (there's a monument at the top of Makerston Street) and found a good spring of fresh water near where Roma Street station is now.

Convict Brisbane spread over what is now the city centre. The wharf was below William Street near Queen's Park and convicts built the road that still leads up from it, and the government stores above. The gardens that fed the settlement spread down towards the Botanic Gardens. (Later, more convict market gardens were established at a "new farm", now a suburb of that name.) The military barracks were on the site of the present Treasury building, and the hospital was in the area where North Quay meets Ann Street, with the cemetery over towards Roma Street station. The male prison was on the present site of Myer in Queen Street; the women convicts had a barracks where the GPO now stands until they moved out to Eagle Farm, building the road that is Kingsford-Smith Drive on the way. The settlement spread up towards Spring Hill and Wickham Terrace, where convicts had hauled stone from Oxley to build a windmill in 1828 (p. 86). There are still lots of little lanes all over the inner-city area – Burnett Lane, for example, which once backed on to the convict barracks, runs from George to Albert Street – and cellars that were dug out by the city's first citizens.

By 1839 the convict system had officially come to an end and in 1842 the Moreton Bay colony was thrown open for free settlement. Unofficially, free
settlers had been coming in for a few years prior to this and South Brisbane and Kangaroo Point started as small towns across the river from the convict area. Free settlers used to land at the rocks at the bottom of Toorak Road, Hamilton, which was just outside the penal boundaries. The first local land was bought by the crown land commissioner, Dr Stephen Simpson, who built Wolston House (p. 92) on his purchase near Goodna. Captain John Wickham, second owner of Newstead House (p. 90) was appointed police magistrate and, in 1853, government resident.

The 1840s were bad times for Brisbane. Drought, disease, and distance from the fount of government generosity, as well as the small population (928 in 1846), combined to inhibit growth at a time when the rich farmlands around the Logan River to the south and towards the Darling Downs in the west were being developed.

Brisbane in fact was nearly bypassed as the choice for the capital. The graziers, centred at Ipswich, and Sydney government officials felt that Cleveland should be the port and capital. A great deal of agitation and political lobbying went on. However, when Governor Gipps visited Cleveland in 1842 he arrived at low tide and had to wade ashore - he was not impressed. Governor Fitzroy later tried to visit Cleveland, but the weather was too bad. So Brisbane's claim won out in the end. By 1850 four shiploads of free tradesmen and labourers had arrived and the 1851 census showed a population of 8,375 in Brisbane, Kangaroo Point, South Brisbane, and Ipswich. Things slowly improved. However, even by 1859, when the government acceded to pressure from the squatters and Queensland was proclaimed a state,
there was only 7½d in the treasury (and even that was stolen two days later). Brisbane was declared a municipality with a population of 5,000.

There are very few public buildings left from the pre-1859 days. But with separation, the increasing wealth from the west, and the unbridled optimism that the birth of a new state seemed to unleash in its residents, there began a building boom that lasted for about thirty years. Only six years after Brisbane became a municipality, its citizens laid the foundation stone of a majestic parliament house that was to cost about £1,000 a room.

Queensland's first newspaper was published in Brisbane in 1846. It was then called the Moreton Bay Courier, later the Brisbane Courier, and now the Courier-Mail. In 1850 the Bank of New South Wales set up its first branch. The first telegraph line between Brisbane and Sydney was opened in 1861, and a direct cable to Britain in 1872. The first bridge across the river was built in 1865, but floods swept it away four years later. The Victoria Bridge built in 1874 was swept away in the Great Flood of 1893 when people rowed boats up Queen Street.

The railway line to Ipswich opened in 1875. In 1885 the first trams appeared. (These were abolished in 1969.)

Brisbane prospered as the port for the rich grazing and farming lands of the Darling Downs and beyond. It was also the commercial centre for the development that was taking place to the north. In 1902 it was proclaimed a city.

Brisbane's first town plan had been drawn up in the 1840s and was to have been carried out in the loop of the river now covered by the Botanic Gardens and Parliament House. The surveyor, a Batavian,
envisaged a European-style town square. Brisbane's "women streets" were to have been joined by two others, Maud and Blanche. Governor Gipps didn't approve the plan.

In 1924 the City of Brisbane Act made all of Brisbane into one city. One large city council took the place of twenty smaller councils, and the local town halls had to find new functions. The South Brisbane Town Hall, for example, became the Conservatorium of Music for over fifty years. The building is in Vulture Street, one of a "set" of almost identical red-brick-with-arches buildings that includes South Brisbane and Central railway stations and the old museum building on Gregory Terrace.

**Historic public buildings**

City Hall is the most important city building in Brisbane. Fronting on to King George Square, topped by a clock tower, and bordered by palm trees, it is the best known symbol of Brisbane. It was built of Queensland stone in 1930 (the Prince of Wales laid a foundation stone in 1920) and has an ornate interior. The administrative offices are now in the adjacent building above the City Plaza, and the City Hall is a cultural and community centre. There is a first-class art gallery (with works by Dickerson, Daws, Jack, Friend, Rees), museum, and library. The auditorium with its superb organ seats 2,000, and there's a smaller concert hall for 400. Tourists are welcome — be sure to see the Lord Mayor's reception rooms, with the oak door from Governor Brisbane's Scottish home, and the documents and memorabilia associated with the city's progress. There's a lift to the tower and nursery.
The Old Government Stores building in William Street can be reached down Queen's Wharf Road from the northern end of the Victoria Bridge. The stores were built by convicts in 1828–29, and the basement and the first floor are as they were. Captain Patrick Logan, the first officer in charge of the settlement, had his offices there. The original roof was lifted to add the extra storey but some of the original line can still be seen. In convict days it was used as a holding prison, and then later as a depot for migrants who landed on Queen's Wharf below.

The Old Windmill, on Wickham Terrace, can be reached from the city by walking up Edward Street and cutting up the stairs [called Jacob's Ladder] beside the Trades Hall. Built by convicts in 1828 of sandstone blocks brought from Oxley, the mill was covered with cement in 1864. It was built to grind maize for the settlement but as the sails wouldn't work with windpower manpower was used instead. Convicts worked it as a treadmill and later the useless sails became a gallows; they were removed in 1849. In 1866, a one o'clock gun was fired from the tower, a handy practice that was later dropped. The mill became the observatory and an instrument in the pioneering of television.

The Treasury, on the corner of Queen and George Streets, was begun in 1888 on the site of the town's first military barracks. Built of local sandstone, the Renaissance design was modified for Queensland's climate, and it is considered one of the finest Italianate buildings in the southern hemisphere.

Parliament House stands at the other end of George Street, another Renaissance-style building with colon-
nades shielding the interior from summer heat. Building began in 1865 after an Australia-wide competition (and 200 guineas) had been won by Queensland's colonial architect, Charles Tiffin. The stone came from Goodna, and the cedar for the interior from Canungra. Extensive restoration work was completed in the early 1980s. When parliament is in session, you can watch from the visitors' gallery. It's the only state parliament with just one house.

The General Post Office, Queen Street, which now forms one end of the new Post Office Square, was built between 1871 and 1879 on the site of the female convict barracks. The architect was John Petrie, son of Andrew Petrie, Moreton Bay settlement's first overseer of works. It boasted the first locked private boxes in the British commonwealth. In the forecourt there is still an original hitching post. An interesting museum collection of telegraphic material is open to the public on weekdays.

The Customs House, at the Petrie Bight end of Queen Street, was designed to look equally good from land and water. It was built by John Petrie in 1884 of local freestone. Italian marble and English ironwork were specially imported and provide an interesting contrast with the generous use of local red cedar timber. The best view is probably from the cross-river ferry below it.

The Brisbane School of Arts, Ann Street, has just been restored by the Brisbane City Council as a community building. Built around 1865 as The Servant's Home, it became the School of Arts in 1873. The restoration has involved the demolition of shops that were added to it in 1937 and completely hid the building itself from public view.
Old Government House, George Street, is beyond Parliament House in the grounds of the Queensland Institute of Technology. Built in 1860–62 for Queensland's first governor, it later became the city's university in 1910. This elegant sandstone and porphyry building, which underwent a series of additions between 1882 and 1895, is now the home of the National Trust of Queensland.

The State Library, William Street, was erected in 1878 as the museum. It contains the Oxley Memorial Library which houses the state's historical records and is open to the public. The main library opens 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. The six-metre cast-aluminium sculpture on the riverside wall is by Leonard Shillam and represents “The Dissemination of Enlightenment to Mankind”. On the William Street wall is a mosaic of coloured glass by Lindsay Edward. New premises for the library comprise the final stage of plans for the South Bank Cultural Centre.

Fireman Mooney's Memorial Fountain, on the corner of Queen and Eagle Streets, is in fact a non-memorial . . . although money to build it was raised by public subscription in memory of fireman James Mooney who died fighting a town fire in 1877. When it was finished in 1880 the only names it bore were those of the town's mayor and aldermen!

The Queensland Club, on the corner of George and Alice Streets, is another imposing building that shows the optimism that abounded after Queensland's separation from New South Wales. Built in the 1880s as the home for the club of prominent citizens (mainly
squatters and bankers) that had been formed in 1859, it was modelled on the famous clubs in London’s West End.

**Historic churches and religious buildings**

**Ann Street Presbyterian Church**, on the northern side of King George Square, is one of the oldest churches in Brisbane. It was the setting for the marriage in 1882 of Helen Mitchell, later to become Australia’s famous opera diva, Dame Nellie Melba, to Charles Armstrong. A plaque commemorates the fact.

**Albert Street Uniting Church**, on the western side of King George Square, is an architectural gem with its crisp, red-and-white exterior and cool, timbered interior. The first Albert Street Church was built in 1847 on the other side of what is now King George Square. The present one was opened in 1889.

**St John’s Pro-Cathedral** was built in 1854 in Queen’s Park, William Street, and a plaque now marks the spot where the high altar stood. It was demolished in 1904 and **St John’s Cathedral** was built in Ann Street in English Gothic style with some French influence.

The **Deanery** is tucked away beside the cathedral and is easy to miss. It was built as the home of Dr William Hobbs in 1849 by Andrew Petrie and was rented as the temporary Government House from 1859–63. Sir George Bowen proclaimed Queensland a separate state from its balcony on 10 December 1859. It became the Deanery after the cathedral was consecrated in 1910.
All Saints' Church, Wickham Terrace, near the top of Wharf Street, was the venue for society weddings when Windmill Hill was Brisbane's most fashionable suburb. Built in 1861, on land granted in 1856, it was rebuilt and enlarged in 1869 with the same porphyry stones. It houses the organ built in the pro-cathedral in 1875, a stone prayer desk given by Dr William Hobbs in his son's memory, and probably the oldest stained-glass windows in Queensland (1870).

St Stephen's Catholic Church, Elizabeth Street, is the third-oldest building in Brisbane, dedicated on 10 May 1850. St Stephen's Cathedral beside it, is in the Victorian Gothic style and was consecrated in 1874.

The Synagogue, Margaret Street, was built from the winning plans in an architectural competition. It was opened in 1886.

The Joss House, Breakfast Creek, is at the end of Higgs Street beside the Breakfast Creek Hotel. The only Chinese Buddhist temple in Brisbane, it was built in 1884 with materials imported from China by the Chinese market gardeners of the area. In 1966, after a thirty-year drift into decay, the temple was carefully restored and reopened. Visitors are welcome, but are requested to phone first (262 5588).

Historic houses

Newstead House is arguably the best known of our historic houses – it is Brisbane's oldest private home. Its position is superb, on the banks of the Brisbane River and Breakfast Creek, set in a lovely park ideal for picnics. Sometimes there are outdoor concerts
there. To get there by public transport, catch an Ascot or Clayfield bus and get off at stop 12; by car, drive to Breakfast Creek and you see it on the right just before you reach the bridge. Patrick Leslie, the first settler on the Darling Downs, built the house from handmade bricks in 1846, then sold it to his brother-in-law, Captain John Wickham, the government resident of Moreton Bay. As the forerunner of a Government House, Newstead was the centre of Brisbane's social scene until the state was proclaimed in 1859. It is now a museum, furnished as it would have been when the Wickhams lived there. Make sure you go below to the cellars. Opening times are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**Earlystreet Historical Village** is a pioneer town that is gradually being set up in the beautiful two-hectare grounds of Mr and Mrs Stanley Hancock's hundred-year-old home at 75 McIlwraith Avenue, Norman Park. There's an old pub, a store, a slab cottage, and a pioneer's house, part of old Auchenflower House (and home of several Queensland premiers), and coaching stables. Everything about the village has been carefully researched by the Hancock family and the fittings and furnishings have been collected from far and wide around Australia. It opens 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. weekdays, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. weekends. To get there by bus, catch number 8A, 8B, or 8C from Ann Street.

**Miegunyah**, Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills, which opens from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and weekends, is very much a home, with an old-time intimacy that feels authentic. The guides are the member of the Queensland Women's Historical Association, which runs it. They will show
you round and describe the features in loving detail. The house, built in 1884 for the Perry family, has beautiful cast-iron verandahs and inside is exactly as it was then . . . even to real calling cards on a silver salver, and a kitchen terrifying to behold to a modern home-maker. Memorabilia include a chair that belonged to Governor Bowen, a chest that was at the Battle of Waterloo, and a rocking horse ridden by children of the Hon. Louis Hope, the pioneer of Queensland’s sugar industry. To get there, take an Ascot or Clayfield bus to stop 10.

**Ormiston House** is about twenty-nine kilometres from Brisbane on the southern shores of Moreton Bay. It is set in pretty parkland with a view across the bay and is open on Sundays from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Devonshire teas are served by members of its restoration association. Originally the home of Captain Louis Hope, seventh son of the Earl of Hopetoun, it is considered one of the finest examples of early colonial architecture in Queensland. With its Doric columns and shuttered French windows, it was built of bricks baked on the estate. In 1862 Captain Hope began growing sugar commercially on the property for the first time in Australia and, though it was not a lasting success, he is rightly considered the father of the sugar industry. To get there drive along Old Cleveland Road through Stones Corner and travel right out to the signs to Ormiston Village where you turn left into Wellington Street.

At **Wolston House**, you can have billy tea and damper, the bush bread of the pioneers, from Thursdays to Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Light meals such as servings of paté and ploughman’s lunches are also available. Set on a rise above the river
and surrounded by green fields, Wolston looks much as it must have done when it was built in 1852 for Dr Stephen Simpson, first commissioner of crown lands, acting colonial surgeon, and acting police magistrate of Moreton Bay. It stands on the first land grant in Queensland, made in 1842, and is of local freestone in the traditional colonial style with French windows opening on to long shady verandahs. The original baker's oven is still in the kitchen. To get there, follow Ipswich Road out of Brisbane and at Wacol, look for the signs to Wolston House on the right of the highway.

**High Barbaree**, Aspley, is another old private home that is now open to groups by appointment (263 1436). The house, carefully restored by owners Mr and Mrs Ranald McLeod, stands on land that was selected in 1858. It was once a stopover on the old track from Dayboro to Brisbane; today you take Gympie Road out to Aspley, and turn at Albany Creek Road. The house is about three hundred metres along it.

**Driving round the suburbs**

Around the 1860s, when Brisbane was building feverishly, its prominent citizens seized the surrounding hilltops for their homes. Some of these hilltops now belong to churches, but most of the houses that remain are still private homes. Though their owners would naturally resent any intrusion on their privacy, it's worth knowing where to find them if you like viewing old houses from the outside. On the Windsor–Wilston hills are **Oakwal**, Bush Street, Windsor, the magnificent stone home of Queensland's first chief justice, Sir James Cockle; **Wilston House**,
Watson Street, Wilston, which is built of plaster-faced brick, as is Conon, Conon Street, Lutwyche. Kirkston, Rupert Street, Windsor, was built of sandstock brick some years later.

Further west are St John's House, Paddington Street, St John's Wood; and Bardon House, The Drive, Bardon, both built of stone. Bardon House, built in 1853 by a one-time lord mayor, Joshua Jeays, and home of two premiers, Sir Charles Lilley, and Sir Thomas McIlwraith, is now a convent. It occupies the grounds of the local Catholic church. Fernberg, Fernberg Road, Bardon, was built in 1865 for Johann Heussler who organized the initial migration of German farmworkers to Queensland. It is now Government House.

The Church of England owns Bishopsbourne, built on a hill in Milton as home for its bishop. It is now St Francis's Theological College and rather hidden from view by the Castlemaine Perkins brewery. Nowadays the Anglican archbishop occupies Bishopsbourne, Eldernell Avenue, Hamilton, built high over the river in 1869. On the next hill is Toorak House, built in 1864. In Queen's Road, Hamilton, another Victorian home, Palmarosa, now belongs to the English Speaking Union.

On Petrie Terrace, at the Normanby Junction, some terrace houses dating from the 1880s have been painstakingly restored.

On the south side of the river, there aren't so many hills but there are several very fine old homes. Stone-built Bulimba House, Kenbury Street, Bulimba, dates from 1848 and is the second oldest house in Brisbane. Silverwells, under the Story Bridge at 269 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, is a colonial Georgian plaster-faced brick home built in the 1850s.
Timber came into its own as a building material in the last quarter of the century and the traditional square house with a verandah around it was raised on stumps, sometimes embroidered with cast-iron lacework or latticed panels – so evolved a Queensland style. Good examples of this are Miegunyah, the Queensland Women’s Historical Association home in Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills, the house at 10 Dean Street, Toowong, with its wrought iron, and Boondah, 50 Howard Street, Rosalie, with its distinctive turrets. The best “streetful” of samples of old Brisbane residences is, I think, tree-lined Sutherland Avenue, Ascot. For some quaint old cottages try Berry Street, Spring Hill.

Wooden houses on stilts abound in every older suburb but no one seems to agree about the original purpose of the stilts: to escape floods? for protection against termites? for safety from wildlife? as an early air-conditioning system? Whatever the reason, “under the house” is still popular as a clothes-drying area and wet weather playground. Modern brick homes are now being built in this style with the laundry-garage-rumpus room forming the ground floor.

The “best” addresses in Brisbane today are in the established areas of Clayfield–Hamilton–Ascot, St Lucia–Indooroopilly, and Coorparoo, though the city is an interesting hotch-potch and you find all kinds of houses fence-by-fence in every locality. Some of the most beautiful homes are in not-so-beautiful suburbs, and vice versa. Probably the best way to see a wide range of modern domestic architecture in a consistently good setting is to drive out around Kenmore, Jindalee, Mount Ommaney and Bellbowrie in the western suburbs. Close to the city, in Paddington and
Red Hill, old cottages are being smartened up. New Farm and West End have a cosmopolitan air. On the edges of the city are the brick houses of the new and expanding younger suburbs.
6 Out of town

Scenic drives

Mount Glorious is one of the best half-day mountain drives. The ninety-six kilometre round trip takes you through pretty countryside, with walks through national parks where you might hear bellbirds and whipbirds. Drive out through Ashgrove and The Gap, along Waterworks Road, which becomes the Mount Nebo Road. Jolly's Lookout, about thirty kilometres from the city, is 500 metres above sea level and close to Boombana National Park. A few kilometres further on, you pass through Mt Nebo village and then on to Mount Glorious and Manorina National Park (where you hear the birds), the Knoll with magnificent views, and Maiala National Park where there is a kiosk, picnic areas and easy, graded walks. You can come
back to Brisbane via Samford (take the left turn just back from Mt Glorious).

**Tamborine Mountain** is a 2,800-hectare plateau, some 550 metres above sea level, rich in rainforests, orchid and carnation farms, and avocado plantations, and busy with local arts and crafts. It is a seventy-kilometre drive from Brisbane in the hinterland of the Gold Coast and can be reached from the Pacific or Mt Lindesay Highways.

There are several national parks (including Queensland's first, Witches Falls) with waterfalls and graded walks. The rainforest and centuries-old macrozamia palms are unique.

If you tire of walking and admiring the views, there are bush turkeys, bowerbirds, and whipbirds to be spotted, and a butterfly farm in Long Road that opens at weekends where visitors can watch the butterflies that breed so well in Tamborine's cool mountain air. There are also several crafts galleries on the mountain which are fun to browse in. For bus tours enquire from the Queensland Government Travel Centre.

**Lamington National Park** is 19,800 hectares of rugged mountains and rainforest just over a hundred kilometres south of Brisbane. In a clearing on the top is Green Mountain and O'Reilly's Guest House, famous since 1937 when Bernard O'Reilly tracked down a missing light aircraft that everyone assumed was lost forever in the wilderness.

About nine hundred metres above sea level, you approach the national park through nine kilometres of subtropical rainforest and superb mountain scenery. The climb begins after the township of Canungra, behind Mt Tamborine. Once there, you find forest walks and waterfalls, an orchid sanctuary, birds and
possums that come to be fed during the day and at
night, respectively, and 3,000-year-old Antarctic
beech trees. By day, O'Reilly guests walk, go on
Landrover trips, play tennis, or sit in the sun; at night,
there are trips to see glow-worms, barbecues, danc­
ing, films, or community singing around the fire. The
accommodation ranges from basic to country luxury,
and all meals are provided in the dining room. The
phone number is 075 45 1611.
Binna Burra is another place to visit on the
Lamington Plateau for good walking through semi­
open forest and rainforest. You can stay at the Binna
Burra Lodge or stop off there for teas or lunch. Binna
Burra is about twenty-two kilometres from O'Reilly's
and guests from either end may choose to make the
trek between them. A minibus awaits hikers at their
destination to take them back the easy way. Tour
buses leave from the Queensland Government Travel
Centre, Adelaide Street, City.
The Fassifern Valley was pioneered in the 1840s,
and is a rich agricultural district (potatoes and other
vegetables) with some lush rural scenery. Its centre is
Boonah, 110 kilometres south-west of Brisbane,
where the Church of England church boasts one of
Australia's most unusual carillons, like a huge
xylophone on its side. North of Boonah is the town of
Harrisville which has a historical museum open on
Sunday and public holiday afternoons. Twenty
kilometres south-west of Boonah is Moogerah Dam
where there are barbecue and picnic facilities,
swimming holes, and boats.
Cunningham's Gap is further west. It was
discovered by Allan Cunningham in 1828 as the link
between the coast and the Darling Downs and riches
beyond. There are magnificent views and picnic facilities all around the Gap and a rainforest with graded walks at Kamp Stacey just beyond it.

The picturesque town of Beaudesert is closer to Brisbane, sixty-nine kilometres away. The centre of a prosperous dairying district, it was one of the earliest-settled parts of Queensland. There's a historical house open to visitors (12.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends and holidays) and some magnificent old homesteads and interesting historic buildings, such as the church at Tamrookum, south of Beaudesert.

Somerset Dam, 130 kilometres north-west of Brisbane has a capacity double that of Sydney Harbour. It is popular with water skiers and speedboat enthusiasts; there are picnic and swimming areas, and the local town shop is open on Sundays. The dam can be reached by two routes, both very pretty: the shorter, through Ipswich, Fernvale, and Esk, the longer (139 kilometres) through Dayboro, Mount Mee, and Kilcoy.

Ipswich

Ipswich, forty kilometres to the south-west, was Brisbane's colonial rival as the centre of commerce and main town. It was the terminal for the grazing districts of the Darling Downs, it had coal deposits, and was conveniently sited on the Bremer River. In the mid-nineteenth century it was a thriving city with two-storey buildings in its main streets and imposing residences for its leading families.

Today a great many of its interesting historical
buildings are still standing and it is paradise for colonial romantics. In the heart of the city there's the Post Office, the Town Hall (originally the School of Arts and Mechanics' Institute), and the Old Bank of Australasia. In the words of the National Trust of Queensland, these form a "civic complex of great solidity and architectural appeal".

The oldest building of note in Ipswich is Claremont, Milford Street, built in 1858. You can inspect it by appointment (281 7377). Garowie, built in the 1880s is in Whitehill Road and is open as a gallery from Tuesday to Saturday. Other old homes include Rockton in Rockton Street, Dumfries in York Street, and Belmont in Burnett Street. Among the firsts for the city, the Ipswich Grammar School was the first secondary school in Queensland and the state's first railway line was laid between there and Grandchester. The Incinerator Theatre in Queen's Park was originally a municipal incinerator designed by Walter Burley Griffin, the American architect of Canberra. Another distinctive public building is the old Court House in Ginn Street with its interesting sandstone facade. The building was erected in 1859 and the interior remains practically unchanged.

To get there from Brisbane follow Ipswich Road all the way from Woolloongabba.

The Gold Coast

The Gold Coast, a city in its own right, is Australia's most famous resort. It's a fifty kilometre strip of beachland that's an easy hour's run from Brisbane on a good highway. Surfers Paradise, the heart of it, is a
mix of high-rise buildings, great shops and restaurants, a golden beach and a system of man-made waterways with magnificent mountains and valleys behind. On either side, the city stretches along the coast to Southport and its residential areas to the north and to Coolangatta and its airport to the south. Places to visit on the drive down include the Beenleigh Rum Distillery, the oldest in Australia (287 2488), Rocky Point Sugar Mill at Woongoolba (075 46 2422), Bullens African Lion Park Safari south of Yatala (287 2522), and Dreamworld, Australia's largest theme park, near Coomera (075 51133).

The Sunshine Coast

North of Brisbane is another coast, the Sunshine one, which its devotees refer to as "unspoiled" and which over the years has been the scene of many battles to keep it that way. The area has an unequalled range of and variety of natural beauty: surfing beaches, craggy headlands, lush subtropical farmlands, breathtaking mountain scenery. Noosa is the most sophisticated spot as well as the most northern, Buderim is a mountain top minutes from the sea, Mooloolaba, Alexandra Headlands and Caloundra are popular beach resorts. Caloundra, with a stillwater inlet which is ideal for family swimming, is the start of the Sunshine Coast and nearly 90 kilometres from Brisbane.

Toowoomba

About an hour and a half's drive west of Brisbane is
Toowoomba, gateway to the Darling Downs and all places west, which means the wealth of The Great Outback. Toowoomba lies in an amphitheatre on the top of a mountain range with magnificent views all around and its attractions include its cool crisp climate (it’s 600 metres above sea level) and the spectacular parks and gardens that flourish in its rich red soil (the reward of long ago volcanic activity; you can still see the crater).

Moreton Bay and the islands

Tangalooma is a resort on Moreton Island fifteen minutes by air from Brisbane. It’s about forty kilometres across Moreton Bay and makes an ideal one-day boat-trip destination. The hotel resort is a cluster of low buildings set on the edge of the beach among oleander, hibiscus, banksia, and gum trees. It’s essentially a place to relax and get away from it all; as one guest put it, “I can just sit on the terrace and the beach, the bar, the pool and my bed are all within arm’s reach.”

Moreton Island boasts some of the highest sandhills in the world, a hundred-year-old lighthouse, and a strange desert with a realistic ghost town. There are Landrover trips to all of these, or you can ski, fish, mess about in boats, or swim in the surf, the bay, or the pool.

A plane leaves Eagle Farm twice daily and the boat from the game fishing wharf on Kingsford-Smith Drive, each day except Monday. For bookings phone 075 48 2666. For day trippers, the return boat fare includes a smorgasbord lunch on the terrace and use
of the pool and bar facilities. If the ninety-minute trip each way sounds too long, you can fly over in the morning, and boat home. There's also a car ferry from Bulimba (399 6155).

**North Stradbroke Island**, the largest of the Moreton Bay islands, has a variety of attractions and accommodation. On the ocean side, Point Lookout is a craggy promontory flanked by gorges and a good surfing beach. The scenery between there and Amity Point on the northern tip is magnificent and popular with bushwalkers. The fishing is good, particularly towards the south of the island at Jumpinpin. You can reach **Stradbroke Island** by bus or your own car via the vehicular ferries that leave Redland Bay (358 2122) and Cleveland (286 2666) for Dunwich on the bay side of the island. Enquire about bus times from the Queensland Government Travel Centre.

**Bribie Island**, the northernmost island in Moreton Bay, is one of the few islands you can visit without having to get aboard a boat — there's a bridge across to it from the mainland. Only seventy-seven kilometres from Brisbane, Bribie is a comfortable distance for a day trip. The surf beaches on the western side are like the Gold Coast was thirty years ago, with scrub and bushland right down to the sand in some places. On the bay side are still-water beaches and dinghies for hire.

**St Helena Island** was a convict settlement and later a Brisbane jail from 1867 to 1932. Recently it has been made a tourist attraction. You can get there by the launch that leaves Manly at 10 a.m. on weekends and public holidays (bookings are necessary).

The other islands are largely uninhabited and you
need your own boat to visit them. The most interesting for the explorer are those in the southern part of Moreton Bay, such as Karragarra, Coochiemudlo, and Peel Islands.

Brisbane's bayside suburbs are scattered along the wide arc of Moreton Bay and they're all about a half-hour's drive from the city. They begin with Scarborough and Redcliffe in the north, which you reach by crossing Australia's longest viaduct, the Hornibrook Highway. Redcliffe is Queensland's oldest settlement, established by John Oxley in 1824 before he moved upriver and founded Brisbane. The whole Redcliffe Peninsula is an area of safe, sheltered beaches and good fishing. Further south are Sandgate and Shorncliffe, which are on the train line from Brisbane. Catch the train there from Roma Street, Central, or Brunswick Street stations.

Across the river-mouth are Wynnum and Manly, where the Royal Queensland Yacht Club has its boat harbour. Both can be reached by train.

Wellington Point, Cleveland, Victoria Point, and Redland Bay have a different atmosphere: they are quieter, prettier, less developed. The beaches are not as good but the views across the bay are spectacular and the islands are close. You can hire boats at all places to do your own exploring or fishing. At Cleveland, an early contender for Queensland's capital, there are several historic buildings to be seen. Ormiston House opens for inspection on Sundays and the Olde Court House by the sea, built in the 1850s of handmade bricks, is a restaurant which serves candlelight dinners Tuesday to Saturday (286 1386).

The Redlands district is a rich farming area and
takes its name from the colour of its fertile soil; on Sundays you can buy fruit and flowers from wayside stalls. A private bus service leaves North Quay near the public library (for times, phone 286 1328).

Day return to the Great Barrier Reef

For travellers in a hurry who'd like to get a glimpse of our famous coral reef, it's possible to organize a one-day visit to Lady Elliott Island, an uninhabited quiet coral cay off the coast near Maryborough. You can leave Brisbane on an early morning scheduled flight to Maryborough and join a tour out to Lady Elliott, or go direct from Brisbane in a light aircraft, have lunch there and see the coral. Either way, it's more economical to go with a group of five or six people.

Seeing the outback

The romantic idea of the real Australia is “the outback”, once off the beaten tourist track but now accessible thanks to several enterprising property owners. These have opened their gates for tourists to visit for a day or stay, taking part in station activities and social events. The range is wide – you can be a guest on a dairy farm only eighty kilometres from Brisbane (see Woollahra Dairy Farm, p. 74) or stay right “out west” near Winton or Longreach.

Prices vary, sometimes within the one station. At Rosevale, for example, a 52,000 hectare sheep and cattle property near Wyandra, 960 kilometres west of Brisbane, you can have a VIP “squatter’s holiday”,...
staying in the homestead with a private bathroom; a "jackeroo's holiday", sleeping in the shearers' quarters with all meals supplied; or a cheaper "swagman's holiday", sleeping in the shearers' quarters and doing your own cooking.

The Queensland Government Travel Centre has a brochure with about a dozen properties listed. At all stations you take part in shearing, branding, shooting, whatever is going on, the local dances and race meetings, and most owners will pick you up from the closest form of public transport.

You can, of course, go camping on your own, in the bush or on an island, in one of the national parks. If you pick a park, get permission first from the Department of Forestry, Mineral House, 41 George Street (224 0515). The coach companies also offer regular camping tours to different parts of Queensland and even right around Australia.
7 Arts and entertainment

What’s on where

To find out what’s on where, check the Courier-Mail’s entertainment page which tells you of public lectures, art exhibitions, concerts and other goings-on (on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings there are more substantial reports and reviews). The free weekly entertainment guide Time Off gives up-to-date information. Copies can be found in hotels, pubs, travel agencies, theatres, and cinemas.

For more details, especially about workshops, conventions and exhibitions, telephone the office of the Director of Cultural Activities (227 6193) which produces the free Queensland Cultural Diary, mailed monthly upon request, or the Queensland Arts Council (221 5900).
The bi-monthly magazine *Arts Queensland* covers all the arts goings-on in the state in informative articles and reviews. It is available from larger newsagents and some bookshops (for example, at Folio Books, 81 Elizabeth Street, City and the University of Queensland bookshop).

**Queensland Art Gallery**

The Queensland Art Gallery, on the south bank of the river beside the Victoria Bridge, was opened in 1982, the first stage of the Queensland Cultural Centre. Wherever you walk in this spacious building you receive the impression of space, light, and water, a most congenial atmosphere for viewing the exhibitions. The gallery houses a large, permanent collection of paintings and other works of art by Australian and international artists, and there is a busy calendar of visiting exhibitions throughout the year.

Films and videos about aspects of art of topical interest are screened regularly in the lecture theatre and talks and discussions are also held there from time to time. The gallery bookshop sells prints, postcards, art books, posters, and souvenirs. The self-service restaurant provides snacks and meals and you can sit inside, or outside in the sun under large umbrellas.

Opening hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (to 8 p.m. Wednesdays), except for Christmas Day, Good Friday, and Anzac Day, when the gallery is closed. Admission is free except to special exhibitions.
Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum, until it opens in its new premises in the Cultural Centre in mid 1986, remains in its old home of many years on the corner of Bowen Bridge Road and Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills. It opens daily from 10 a.m. to 4.55 p.m. Admission is free.

The Performing Arts Centre

The new Performing Arts Centre opposite the Queensland Art Gallery on the south bank of the river is being described by groups who will perform in it as the most significant thing that's ever happened on the local cultural scene. It marks the "cultural coming of age" for the city, they say. All of this is high praise, but it's hard not to be excited by something that will revolutionize the presentation of the performing arts in Brisbane.

The complex represents stage two of the Cultural Centre; stage one was the art gallery, stage three is the museum and stage four, the library. It includes a lyric theatre and concert hall, each with a seating capacity of 2,000, and a studio theatre for about 200. One wall of the concert hall is almost completely filled by a huge pipe organ. A 450-seat bistro, a kiosk, and several foyer bars and shops complete the building, which will be joined to the rest of the Cultural Centre by a pedestrian walkway across Melbourne Street. The centre will be home to many fine performing arts groups in music, theatre, and dance.
Theatres

The **SGIO Theatre**, Turbot Street (221 5177), in the SGIO building, is the home of the Queensland Theatre Company. The Queensland Ballet also performs there, as do various visiting companies from time to time. Among its attractions as a theatre is that you can see and hear equally well from any of its six hundred seats; there’s a bar in the foyer, and doors lead into the building from the adjoining car park. Subscription tickets to the QTC's season are available and there is a discount for the under twenty-ones.

The **TN Theatre Company** (352 5133) shares a fifty-year slice of Brisbane's history and produces highly innovative, contemporary, and classical work. From its original professional home in Twelfth Night Theatre it moved to a converted church at 112 Brookes Street, the Valley – one of a collection of old buildings near the Valley Baths. The company may soon occupy new premises, so check the papers for performances.

**La Boite**, 57 Hale Street, Milton (369 5060) is the home of Brisbane Repertory and has long been one of our most imaginative local theatre groups. It regularly features contemporary plays, often by unknown authors. The building is designed for theatre-in-the-round and seats two hundred.

The **Edward Street Theatre** is part of the Community Arts Centre, 109 Edward Street (221 1527). Since the centre was opened in 1981, the theatre has been used by many drama companies including the Queensland Theatre Company (for their Tangent productions), Shoestring, Kite Theatre Company, and
Mummers Theatre Company. The aim of the theatre is to encourage experiments in the performing arts by community, semi-professional, and professional groups alike. It offers regular drama workshops for interested members of the public, and there are special workshops for children during the school holidays.

The **Brisbane Arts Centre**, 210 Petrie Terrace (369 2344) caters for children as well as adults. Junior workshops for youth aged ten to eighteen are conducted on Saturday mornings during the school term. The Youth Theatre group performs at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and in the daytime during school vacation.

**Schonell Downstairs** is under the Schonell Theatre (371 1879) at St Lucia, within the University of Queensland. It is open to the public and to visiting companies.

**Cinemas**

The main cinemas in the city centre are the following. Check the newspapers for programmes and screening times.

**Albert Cinemas**, 183 Albert Street (221 5777)
**Forum Cinemas**, 160 Albert Street (221 3255)
**George Cinema**, 346 George Street (221 7866)
**Hoyts Entertainment Centre**, 167 Queen Street (phone 11680 for recorded information about programmes and screening times)

In the suburbs, keep a watch on the **Hawthorne Twin Cinema**, Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne (399 2978) for good programmes. You will sometimes catch there the film you missed in the city.
Art films in Brisbane are screened at the following cinemas.

**Centre Cinema**, Brisbane Community Arts Centre, 109 Edward Street, City (221 1527)

**Schonell Theatre**, University of Queensland, St Lucia (371 1879) — often has late night screenings beginning about 9.30 p.m. as well as regular sessions; open to public

**Crystal Theatre**, Le Geyt Street, Windsor (57 7811)

**Music**

The Australian Broadcasting Commission was once the provider of almost all serious orchestral music in Brisbane, as was the case in other Australian cities. Throughout the year the ABC's orchestra, the Queensland Symphony, performs several concert series with guest appearances by international visiting artists. Although its contribution is still great, there are now several flourishing private orchestras and chamber ensembles.

Brisbane's second full-time professional orchestra is the Queensland Theatre Orchestra under the inspiring baton of its founder Georg Tintner. There is also the internationally acclaimed Queensland Youth Orchestra, two ballet companies, and two opera companies.

The Musica Viva Society is an Australia-wide chamber music organization that sponsors concert tours by international celebrity artists to capital cities and, occasionally, other major centres in a series of concerts from March to October. Forthcoming concerts are advertised in the press, but you can find out
more by phoning the society's office in the Valley (852 1806). The concerts are usually held in Mayne Hall at the University of Queensland.

The Department of Music at the University of Queensland holds free lunch-hour recitals of a very high standard in its Performance Room [hung with magnificent Arthur Boyd tapestries] in the Music building. These are on Tuesdays, from 1.10 p.m. to almost 2 p.m. There are also Sunday afternoon recitals, often in Mayne Hall, but there is a charge for these. Brochures are available from the department (377 2014).

The Queensland Conservatorium of Music offers chamber and orchestral concerts regularly throughout the year in a varied programme, and there are often Sunday afternoon recitals. The concerts are held in the Basil Jones Auditorium in the Conservatorium, at the Botanic Gardens end of George Street in the grounds of the Queensland Institute of Technology. You may obtain a concert calendar from the office or by phoning Concerts Administration (221 4715).

There are music societies and choirs such as the Bach Society and the Hadyn Society whose concerts are well publicized. St John's Anglican Cathedral in Ann Street is an important musical venue for both church and secular groups.

Jazz

JAZZ in Brisbane happens at the following places.
Adventurer's Club, 1 Annie Street, Kangaroo Point
Blue Moon Cafe, 540 Queen Street, City
Port Office Hotel at the lower end of Edward Street
Sweet Patootie Restaurant, with one of the country's best-known jazzmen, Dr Mileham Hayes and his band, Dr Jazz
Whelpstead Restaurant at Wellington Point
Waterloo Barn, Commercial Road, Fortitude Valley
Brisbane Paddlewheeler, leaves Davies Park Wharf, opposite South Leagues Club, 11.30 a.m., returns 3 p.m. (246 1717)
Belfast Hotel, Queen Street, City
The Jazz Club, Lands Office Hotel, George Street, City operates Friday and Saturday nights (snacks available)
Jazz Spot in the basement of the Community Arts Centre, 109 Edward Street
Caxton Hotel, Caxton Street, Paddington
St Paul's Town Inn, St Paul's Terrace, Spring Hill

FREEPS and band concerts

FREEPS ... that is, Free Recreation and Entertainment for Everyone in Parks on Sundays is a community project of the Brisbane City Council that presents a wide range of musical and other activities. The events usually take place in the city Botanic Gardens. Last year's programme included the annual teddy-bear picnic, a multicultural day, bush dancing and tributes to stars such as Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, and the Beatles.

Sunday entertainment in some parks is also provided by brass band concerts. You can hear them in the bandstands at New Farm Park, Newstead Park, and the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens on fine Sunday afternoons.

Art galleries

The Civic Art Gallery in the City Hall houses a collection that had long been displayed in the building
but was seldom seen by locals who didn't know it was tucked away in the lord mayor's reception rooms. There are works by Lawrence Daws, Kenneth Jack, Robert Dickerson, Donald Friend, a charming collection of Lloyd Rees, and paintings by the nineteenth-century artist R.J. Randall which were a gift to the city. They are all housed in two galleries, to the left of the main entrance of the hall and downstairs, both with world-standard lighting and air-conditioning.

The **University of Queensland Art Museum** is another world-class gallery that also displays some long-neglected paintings. It is housed in the central tower of the Forgan-Smith building at the university, St Lucia. The Darnell collection was on show in the building before the museum was built, the largest art survey collection in any Australian university, but it had been seen by very few people. Now that collection and selections from the Behan collection, a private collection on loan to the university, may be viewed Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Philip Bacon Galleries**, 2 Arthur Street, New Farm, has regular showings of "name" artists and invitations to his openings are highly prized. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

The **Victor Mace Gallery**, 35 McDougall Street, Milton opens Saturday to Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The **Ray Hughes Gallery**, 11 Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill exhibits a lot of abstract work. It is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday.

**Verlie Just's Town Gallery**, second floor, 77 Queen
Arts and entertainment

Street, opens Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday until 7 p.m. The gallery's Japan Room specializes in exhibitions of Japanese prints.

Cintra House Galleries, 23 Boyd Street, Bowen Hills occupies a beautifully restored colonial home built in 1865. It has regular exhibitions of Australian paintings as well as Georgian, Regency and early Victorian furniture and prints. It opens Tuesday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The Young Masters Gallery, ground floor, Network House, 344 Queen Street, exhibits the work of a group of young, well-known, Australian artists. It opens Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Centre Gallery in the Community Arts Centre, 109 Edward Street, City (221 1527) presents exhibitions by individual artists. It is normally open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, but because there are occasional minor changes to these times it is advisable to check with the centre before you go.

Also look out for exhibitions at the Sheridan Gallery, 101 Adelaide Street and Michael Milburn Galleries, 108 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington, Dabbles on Days, 185 Days Road, Grange.

Spring Hill

The old inner-city suburb of Spring Hill has become an artists' colony in recent years, with galleries abounding in quaint old houses. It's a short walk from the city up Edward Street to the top and then left into Leichhardt Street or up Wickham Terrace to its top and then right.

The Royal Queensland Art Society at 419 Upper...
Edward Street has a large membership of local artists whose work it exhibits from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. It also conducts art classes; for enquiries, contact the secretary (221 3455).

The **Spring Hill Gallery** at 12 Downing Street opens Wednesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The **Joy Bowman Galleries**, 6 Leichhardt Street, tend to specialize in the unusual – photokinetics, handmade furniture, and fabrics. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The **Institute of Modern Art** at 106 Edward Street (229 5985) is concerned with exhibitions of contemporary art in various media, and opens from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Arts and Crafts**

The **Potters' Gallery**, corner Malt and Brunswick Streets, the Valley is the headquarters of the Queensland Potters' Association. You can visit it from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The **Community Arts Centre**, 109 Edward Street, City is another place for some excellent exhibitions of a range of arts and crafts put on by the Crafts Council of Queensland. The centre also runs workshops in everything from stained glass to film making. For information phone 221 1527.

If your interest is **embroidery**, the Embroiderers' Guild of Queensland displays some beautiful work in
their centre, a former Masonic temple at 149 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley. If it's glassware, you'll be impressed with the work at A Touch of Glass, 41 Benfer Road, Victoria Point (207 7850).

Antique shops

Antique shops display fascinating random collections of evidence about how we once lived, and I find poking about in them wonderful entertainment. There are lists of them in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book. The established ones include Hind's Antiques, 143 Moggill Road, Taringa (370 8526); Senior Antiques (for jewellery and oriental pieces), 82 Swann Road, Taringa (370 2888); Ian Still Antiques, 261 Given Terrace, Paddington (369 9724); Discovery Corner, 263 Lutwyche Road, Windsor (57 4600); and Brisbane Antique Market, 791 Sandgate Road, Clayfield (262 1444).

There are a number of shops clustered around the start of Logan Road at Woolloongabba that sell mainly Australian antiques. Cintra House, 23 Boyd Street, Bowen Hills (52 7522) and Millar and Allan, 238 Newnham Road, Mt Gravatt (349 9024) are both big dealers.

Festivals

Warana – the name is Aboriginal for blue skies – is Brisbane's spring fun festival, usually beginning on the last Saturday in September. What began as a rather parochial week of self-conscious cultural activities and a street parade of decorated floats now includes a variety of entertainment all day and into
the night in the Queen Street Mall and city squares, a food and wine festival, the Great Aussie Picnic, and a host of associated events such as the annual writers' weekend. Every art gallery, theatre, and performing arts society goes all out to present its best during Warana time. The Caltex Art Exhibition is held in the Botanic Gardens and has become a traditional event.

**The Spring Hill Fair** is a street fair in Leichhardt Street (between Wickham Terrace and Upper Edward Street) and surrounds, in Spring Hill, one of Brisbane's oldest suburbs and now home for many of the city's artists. Each year, during the first weekend in September, the streets and yards and lanes and parking lots are filled with stalls selling arts and crafts, antiques, and bric-à-brac. Tantalizing food stands abound selling all sorts of Greek, Indian, Lebanese, and other nationalities' delicacies. The little art galleries are crammed with works of art for sale and street artists and minstrel players add that Continental touch to the fair's sunny atmosphere.

**The Brisbane Exhibition**, or Royal National Show, is known locally as the Ekka. It's the annual meeting of country and town when cattle, horses, and sheep jostle side by side with the latest cars and washing machines and everyone enjoys the sideshows and fairyfloss. Held in early August for ten days, Exhibition Week is the social highlight of Brisbane's year, crammed with balls, parties, and civic receptions.

The Brisbane **Winter Racing Carnival** is held each year during June and July at Eagle Farm and Doomben racecourses. The carnival attracts thousands of visitors, especially from the southern
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states, and includes such racing "greats" as the Elders Handicap and the Brisbane Cup, two of Australia's richest race meeting events.

St Patrick's Day. There are many people of Irish descent in Brisbane and many others who adopt that lineage every year on 17 March, St Paddy's Day. It's a well celebrated feast and restaurants provide special dinners – with green rice if you're lucky – and certain pubs serve green beer. Try the Shamrock, 176 Brunswick Street, the Valley, where you might even see a leprechaun.

The Winter Bowls Carnival is a fortnight of carnival lawn bowls on the Gold Coast beginning the second week in July. After that, keen bowlers continue north to the Sunshine Coast for another three weeks of carnival. For details, contact the secretary of the Royal Queensland Bowling Association, 468 Ann Street, City (221 5022).

Redland Bay Strawberry Festival. This one-day festival in the heart of strawberry country about thirty kilometres from Brisbane is held in the showground at Redland Bay on the first Saturday in September. The highlight of the day is the strawberry-eating contest. There are also the usual country carnival parades, pipe bands, and sideshow attractions – and, of course, strawberries for sale by the tonne. Proceeds from the festival go to the local ambulance brigade and you may phone them for details (286 1400).

The Stanthorpe Apple and Grape Harvest Festival is a large-scale version of the strawberry festival, above, except that the main attraction is
wine-tasting of the reds and whites from local vineyards. Stanthorpe is near the border with New South Wales, more than a short drive from Brisbane to the south-west, but it attracts huge crowds from here and from all the towns in the region. The festival is held every two years in early March.

The Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba is one of Queensland's oldest festivals and one of the most popular. It lasts for about a fortnight in September and includes a street procession of magnificent flower-bedecked floats as well as a host of other attractions. Home-owners prepare their gardens for months beforehand and many enter the prize garden competition. A favourite pastime for carnival visitors to the "Garden City", as it is known, is driving around suburban streets admiring magnificent garden displays.
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In this indispensable guide, Sallyanne Atkinson solves the question of where to find a late meal, an early breakfast, an inexpensive hotel, an after-hours chemist or a Japanese restaurant. She also suggests places to take children and covers an entertaining range of historic, scenic and popular sites around Brisbane.

With her lively commentary, Sallyanne Atkinson combines an affection for this unique subtropical city with practical, up-to-date information.

The sections on where to eat, where to stay, what to see, day trips, arts and entertainment make this book invaluable for Brisbane residents as well as for tourists.

Formerly a journalist, broadcaster, and researcher, Sallyanne Atkinson has been a city council alderman for six years. She and her family have lived in Brisbane since 1968.

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