

MEDIA RELEASE

Our River, Our Stories - Tales of the Brisbane River

Did you know that the city of Brisbane originally started as a penal colony? Visit the Queensland Maritime Museum from 31st August until the 28th of November, to see an exhibition that captures some of the stories of the Brisbane River from its convict days to more recent maritime history.

The Brisbane River had long been central to the identity and heritage of the Indigenous clans of South East Queensland and remained uncharted until 1823, when Lieutenant John Oxley took the northern passage into Moreton Bay in HM cutter Mermaid and sailed into history up the Brisbane River.

The ensuing convict establishment was sited temporarily at Redcliffe in 1824, until being relocated to Brisbane on the river. Free settlement followed in 1842, and then separation from New South Wales in 1859. Each subsequent boom until now was interrupted by a period of bust, war, drought or flood. Yet these historic eras brought waves of people and products, as well as concepts, from over the seas and up the river to Brisbane, which has developed into the populous Queensland capital city we see today.

This exhibition takes you on a journey through the eyes of the people that explored and settled on the Brisbane River and the subsequent growth of the City, its infrastructure, governance and culture. It highlights the river's role in the past, focusing on 'treasures' from six heritage collections- Diamantina Healthcare Museum, Mercy Heritage Centre, Queensland Maritime Museum, Redcliffe Museum, St John's Cathedral and the Brisbane Tramway Museum. All are members of the Brisbane's Living Heritage Network.

Brisbane's Living Heritage Network is an alliance of more than 65 heritage sites museums and galleries engaged in the preservation and interpretation of Brisbane's history and cultural heritage. The Network aims to raise awareness of the cultural significance of the heritage sector and its valuable contribution to the City of Brisbane, by encouraging visitation and providing information for the Brisbane public and visitors, about Brisbane's heritage.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore our past.

Our River, Our Stories is presented as part of *Riverfestival*.

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