



# Queen's Wharf Brisbane MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2015

## Six star service success

Congratulations to Queensland's very first cohort of six star trained hospitality students.

This month the students successfully completed a Certificate III in Hospitality through the new Queensland Hotel & Hospitality School, which was launched as part of a wider partnership between TAFE Queensland and Destination Brisbane Consortium partner, The Star Entertainment Group.

All 14 students are going straight into roles in the hospitality sector, as they have been offered positions with The Star Entertainment Group and the other industry partners following their training.



*Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, The Star Entertainment Group CEO Matt Bekier, TAFE Queensland GM Brisbane Aaron Devine, industry partners and graduating students*

The Star Entertainment Group CEO Matt Bekier said: "We have worked very closely with TAFE Queensland to develop the curriculum to support the future South East Queensland hospitality industry.

"When Queen's Wharf Brisbane is realised, there will be more than 8000 operational roles – the majority of which will come from hospitality.

"These students have graduated with skills that are in high demand now and into the future due to the pipeline of jobs that projects like Queen's Wharf Brisbane and the Commonwealth Games are triggering."

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said: "This unprecedented collaboration between many of Queensland's leading global brands speaks volumes about the vital role TAFE Queensland plays in delivering industry relevant training and collaboration which benefits our entire economy."

# Queen's Wharf Brisbane on show for Chinese business delegation



*Destination Brisbane Consortium representative and The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg speaking to the delegation*

Chinese and Australian business relations were further strengthened after a high level Chinese delegation, organised by the Australia China Business Council in partnership with the UQ School of Business, attended a presentation on the future Queen's Wharf Brisbane project.

Our presentation was part of the delegation's Brisbane program developed to provide an opportunity to gain a better insight into Australian industries, business opportunities and practices.

The delegation from the People's Bank of China School of Finance at the prestigious Tsinghua University included chairmen and presidents with more than 20 years managerial experience, along with other senior

executives from large Chinese companies representing finance, investment, property development, and infrastructure sectors.

The program also provided an opportunity for local business leaders to hear from the delegation and gain a better understanding of China's leading companies and business interests.

---

## Infrastructure Summit hears about Queen's Wharf Brisbane

Earlier this month we joined a number of industry leaders to discuss the future pipeline of infrastructure activity in Queensland.

Matt Bekier, CEO of The Star Entertainment Group, gave a keynote speech on Destination Brisbane Consortium's Queen's Wharf Brisbane project at the Infrastructure Association of Queensland Summit.

During his opening address he focused on how the development would deliver growth for Queensland and capitalise on expected opportunities in the tourism sector.

Mr Bekier describes tourism as the next most likely boom industry in Australia. He told delegates at the infrastructure summit that the south east Queensland region is well placed to capture significant opportunities that will be generated by the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project.

The presentation profiled current and future inbound tourism statistics, how Integrated Resort Developments drive tourism and how Queen's Wharf Brisbane will be a catalyst for future business opportunities.

Mr Bekier said the future development is forecast to attract an additional 1.39 million tourists to Brisbane each year.

## Brisbane's heritage focus



This month Destination Brisbane Consortium met with the Queensland

Heritage Council to discuss our plans to restore and reactivate the significant cluster of historic buildings and places within the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct.

The Destination Brisbane Consortium and State representatives presented to the council on the overall project scale, timeline, community benefits and the process we plan to follow for the heritage features.

The development will incorporate nine heritage buildings and two heritage parks, dating back to the early days of European settlement in Brisbane 190 years ago. Given the significance of these historic landmarks, the Destination Brisbane Consortium engaged heritage experts when developing a vision for the precinct, to ensure the heritage treasures within the precinct will be safeguarded during the future construction process, and to ensure the buildings and sites will be re-opened to the public.

Currently, many of the buildings within the precinct have restricted access. The Queen's Wharf Brisbane development aspires to improve the city's connectivity with its natural features and to showcase its heritage attributes.

# Brisbane's new Integrated Resort Development helps unlock the city's forgotten history

Queen's Wharf Brisbane will not only transform Brisbane and showcase its heritage – but it is also helping unlock secrets behind the city's convict history dating back 190 years.

The historical Queen's Wharf precinct, which lies in the grid between the Brisbane River and George Street stretching from Alice Street to Queen Street, is home to Brisbane's largest collection of heritage buildings and sites.

Over the next nine years, nine heritage buildings and two heritage parks will be revitalised, repurposed, and available for the public to enjoy as part of the Destination Brisbane Consortium's (DBC) \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development.

The precinct has largely become a forgotten part of the city, and today is largely unexplored by the general public. But it holds many intriguing stories about the people and practices of our past yet to be told to the masses.

DBC has worked with the Royal Historical Society of Queensland to rediscover these charms of a bygone era. Before construction starts in 2017, come and visit the precinct and explore these hidden gems to find out some of the history of Australia's New World City.

## If these walls could talk

Did you know Queen's Wharf Road was the first road built in Brisbane in 1826 and was made by convicts to connect the timber wharf to the lumber yard as well as other structures?

The road still features a few metres of the convict retaining wall that originally ran the full length of the road.

The wall was made from Brisbane tuff, volcanic sediment that has been quarried since the initial settlement of our city. Brisbane's first quarry was the Kangaroo Point cliffs.

The wall along Queen's Wharf Road reveals how shell mortar was used to build it due to a lack of limestone at the time. Shell mortar was made by crushing oyster and pipi shells into a powder, then burning them to create lime to produce mortar.

## Say a little prayer for you

If you're fascinated by churches, the historic Queen's Park bounded by William, George, and Elizabeth Streets marks where the altar of the first St John's Anglican Pro-Cathedral was erected in 1854 by Andrew Petrie and Sons. It was demolished 50 years later.

However, a marble plaque remains in the ground today marking the place where the altar originally stood.

## Very superstitious

In 2015 construction workers will sometimes celebrate the end of a project by 'wetting the roof' and enjoying a few alcoholic beverages. However, very different traditions existed for hundreds of years.

From the late 1700s until as late as the 1930s, construction workers held the superstition that concealing a dead cat and a boot near a fireplace, where evil spirits could enter via a chimney, would bring good luck to a building project and keep evil spirits at bay.

In 2013, the remains of both were discovered by workmen treating rising damp in the second oldest building in William Street, the Immigration Depo originally built in 1866. The building was designed by architect Charles Tiffin who also designed Parliament House.



*Old boot found under the floor boards  
Picture provided by National Trust of Australia  
(Queensland)*



*Cat bones  
Picture provided by National Trust of Australia  
(Queensland)*

The cat's remains were found under floorboards in front of the fireplace in the original part of the building, while the boot was found in the extended section built in the 1890s.

Both items are still kept within the building today but are not on general public display. However, it's highly likely many of Brisbane's other heritage buildings share similar surprises beneath their footings...

## Just what the doctor ordered

Did you know that Brisbane was the home of the first female doctor in Queensland and the first female surgeon in Australia Dr Lillian Violet Cooper?

Dr Cooper lived in The Mansions building at 40 George Street.

These were originally designed as six townhouses and were quickly taken up by Members of Parliament and the medical profession.

Built in 1888 at a cost of 11,700 pounds, the building was a personal investment by former Premier of Queensland Boyd Morehead, State Treasurer William Patterson, and Member for Clermont John Stevenson.

On the roof of the building are two cats made from New Zealand omaru limestone, at each end of the



*New Zealand limestone cat on the George Street façade  
Picture provided by Royal Historical Society of Queensland*

George Street façade.

While the significance remains unknown, the statues are said to have a connection to construction workers' superstition that cats guarding buildings brought good luck.

## Better the devil you know

You may have walked past the 1887 former Government Printing Offices on the corner of Stephen's Lane and George Street many times, but have you ever looked up to see the 'printer's devil' watching on the keystone over the entrance, as well as two others on the parapet?



*Printer's Devil at the former Queensland Government Printing office on George Street  
Picture provided by Department of State Development*

One theory is that a printer's devil was used to describe a printer's apprentice who performed a number of tasks such as mixing tubs of ink and fetching type.

The apprentice's skin would become black from the ink, a colour associated with the 'black arts', thus earning an apprentice the nickname of a devil.

Another origin is linked to the belief that a special devil haunted every print shop performing mischief such as inverting type, misspelling words, or removing entire lines of completed type.

Apprentices became a substitute source of blame and were called a printer's devil by association.

## We built this city

Do you love our river city, but want to know where and when the first building was erected? Although it no longer exists today, it was the Commandant's Cottage, built in 1825, and situated in the Commandant's Courtyard located behind the old printing office in William Street.

The Commandant's Cottage housed the founder of the city of Brisbane, first Commandant Captain Henry Miller.

It was built following the relocation of the penal settlement from Redcliffe, and was originally pre-fabricated in Sydney and sent to Redcliffe.

Today, brick paving outlines where the cottage once stood, while another line of bricks shows the foundations of the kitchen that was used to feed the small colony at the time.

## Behind closed doors

Have you ever noticed a wrought iron gate on the Charlotte and George Street corner of the Lands Administration Building, which houses the Treasury Hotel? It hides a door on the left side that opens onto a secret spiral staircase which led to the former Lands Minister's office on level one, and the former Premier's office on level two.

Stories from the time allege that the staircase was used as a hidden escape route by the former government heads when they sought to avoid unwanted attention.

---

## 133 years since Brisbane turned on first electric light display

While December marks the time for putting up Christmas lights and decorations, it also represents the 133rd anniversary of when Brisbane delivered Australia's first public display of electricity.

The event, in December 1882, represented the early stages of the city's transition from gas, with the use of electricity as the main source of energy occurring over time from the late 1800s through to the 1900s.

Today, four original gas lamps stand proud on George and William Streets, paying homage to their former use as gas lights since the early 1900s.

The lamp posts sit within the heart of the city's origins, the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct, which is set to transform with a new \$3 billion Integrated Resort Development opening in 2022.

Royal Historical Society of Queensland President Dean Prangley said the origins of electricity use in Brisbane inherently link to several of the city's heritage buildings, including some within the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct.

Destination Brisbane Consortium looks forward to the opportunity to shine a spotlight on Brisbane's proud history and interesting stories that have helped shape our city.

## Queen's Wharf Brisbane project timeline

- July 2015**  
Destination Brisbane Consortium announced as preferred proponent for Queen's Wharf Brisbane development
- November 2015**  
Queensland Government signs off on contractual close with Destination Brisbane Consortium
- 2017**  
Anticipated start of construction activities following completion of 1 William Street. Likely activities include the removal of non-heritage buildings, then start of underground car park construction
- 2018**  
Commence foundations for core development area
- 2019**  
Foundations, car park completed. Heritage work commences
- 2020**  
Core development starts to take shape as construction progresses above ground
- 2021**  
Internal fit out commences of Integrated Resort Development buildings
- 2022**  
Opening of core Integrated Resort Development including hotels and all public realm areas. Conversion begins of Treasury building and beneath Queens Gardens to create a retail zone that links Queen Street Mall to the heart of the precinct
- 2024**  
Anticipated opening of the repurposed Treasury building

### CONTACT DETAILS

Website: [www.destinationbrisbaneconsortium.com.au](http://www.destinationbrisbaneconsortium.com.au)  
Toll Free Phone: 1800 104 535  
Email: [qwbenquiries@star.com.au](mailto:qwbenquiries@star.com.au)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/queenswharfbrisbane](http://www.facebook.com/queenswharfbrisbane)



QUEEN'S  
WHARF  
BRISBANE