



Ipswich History Time Line

1824-1829

1824	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Convict Settlement was established at Moreton Bay, initially at Redcliffe and then at Brisbane Town. Lt John Oxley and Allan Cunningham discovered and named the Bremer River in 1824 (calling it Bremer's Creek), while they were exploring the Brisbane River.
1827	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commandant of the Moreton Bay penal settlement, Captain Patrick Logan, established the lime-burning operation at Limestone Hills. An overseer and five convicts were stationed at Limestone Hills to quarry the Limestone.
1828	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allan Cunningham discovered a pass through the Great Dividing Range to the Darling Downs. This gap is now known as Cunningham's Gap. Sheep were sent to Limestone Station. Later a farm at the 'Plough Station (Raceview) was established.
1829	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first brick cottage erected at 'Limestone' on a block of land on the east side of what is now Thorn Street, next to the railway line c1829. Allan Cunningham returned to Limestone Station and set out on a trip that went through Kholo, Pine Mountain, Grandchester, Lockyer Creek and the Laidley area.

1830-1839

1830	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captain Patrick Logan was killed on an exploration journey to the Brisbane Valley.
1839	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The penal settlement at Moreton Bay was officially closed down. George Thorn and his wife Jane arrived at Limestone Station. Thorn was appointed superintendent of the government pastoral station.

1840-1849

1840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squatters from the Darling Downs crossed the Dividing Range and visited Limestone. Free settlers were not allowed within 50 miles of the convict settlement unless special permission was obtained to allow them to proceed to Brisbane. After this time, Limestone became a regular stopping place between the Darling Downs and Brisbane.
1842	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Moreton Region was opened up for free settlement. Henry Wade surveyed garden allotments at Little Ipswich (West Ipswich), and then the township of 'Limestone'.
1843	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February 1843 Governor Gipps changed the name of the township from Limestone to Ipswich. On 11 October 1843 the auction of the first Ipswich allotments was held in Sydney.
1844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverend Dr John Dunmore Lang held the first Presbyterian Church service in Ipswich.
1845	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Thorn purchased 'Rosebrook' run (Normanby).
1846	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paddle steamer 'Experiment' owned by Mr James Canning Pearce, and under the command of Captain Alymer Campbell, became the first steamer to travel from Brisbane to Ipswich. Dr Dorsey was appointed the first magistrate of Ipswich and Henry McCrohan was appointed the first inspector of slaughterhouses and of cattle.
1847	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert King & John Campbell established boiling-down works in Long Pocket. The first courthouse and lockup were erected in the police paddock.
1848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first subdivision of crown land into small coal allotments was implemented at Woodend Pocket. The convict era in Ipswich ended when stock at the Plough Station were sold. The first St Mary's church was erected.

1849	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father James Hanly became the first resident priest in Ipswich. • Benjamin Cribb established London Stores in Bell Street, forerunner of the firm of Cribb and Foote. • Henry and Maria Mort settled at Franklyn Vale (they were the first white settlers in the Grandchester district). • An Aboriginal Reserve was set up on the Bremer River (it was abandoned after 2 years).
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1850-1859

1850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Peacock constructed the first racecourse in Ipswich, the Old Grange Racecourse. • The School of Arts was established. • Alexander McLeod formed the Loyal Ipswich Lodge of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows. • An Anglican Church was erected, which also served as a School.
1852	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Australian Jockey Club was formed. • Bathing Houses were erected at Ipswich by Owen Connor.
1853	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bank of New South Wales opened on the corner of East Street and Union Street. • The Bank of Australasia opened in Ipswich in the same year. • Colonel Gray was appointed the first Police Magistrate in Ipswich. • Reverend Dr William Lambie Nelson was appointed the first Presbyterian Church Minister in Ipswich.
1855	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership of Cribb and Foote was formed. • The first newspaper in Ipswich, The North Australian, was established. • The first Congregational Church in Ipswich opened on 11 March 1855.
1857	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claremont was completed as the residence of merchant John Panton and his wife Isabella. • On 1 October the North Australian Club was founded in Ipswich. • There was flooding at Ipswich and at Brisbane.
1858	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second Wesleyan (Methodist) Church was built in Ellenborough Street, replacing a slab chapel. This brick church still stands and is now an Uniting Church.
1859	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of the Ipswich courthouse was completed. • The Ipswich Hospital at Denmark Hill was completed. • St Paul's Anglican Church was opened on 12 June 1859. • The Ipswich Herald (newspaper) was established (later became the Queensland Times). • The proclamation separating the Colony of Queensland from New South Wales was read on 10 December 1859.

1860-1869

1860	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipswich was proclaimed a Municipality on 2 March 1860. This was published in the Queensland Government Gazette on 3 March 1860. • The first Mayor of Ipswich, John Murphy, was elected. • E.B. Cullen was appointed the first town clerk. • Ipswich was gazetted as a customs port. • An engineer was employed to survey and prepare plans for the formation of Brisbane Street. • The first bridge over the Bremer River was erected. It was a floating bridge suspended between two punts. • Queensland's first Defence Force was established in Ipswich. These first Army Corps were the Ipswich Troop of the Queensland Mounted Rifles, and the First, or Ipswich, Company of the Queensland Rifle Brigade. • The first Baptist Church was opened on the corner of Brisbane Street and West Street. • St Mary's Catholic Church was completed and the first mass was said on 3 November (this was the second church build on the site).
1861	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The telegraph office in Ipswich was first opened on 13 April 1861. • The telegraph line between Ipswich and Brisbane was completed. • The first mining strike in Queensland occurred at Campbell & Towns coal mine at Redbank. • The Ipswich Herald was renamed The Queensland Times.
1862	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Ipswich Post Office building was completed. • The government appointed the trustees of Queens Park.
1863	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 25 September 1863 the Governor of Queensland, Sir George Ferguson Bowen officially opened the Ipswich Grammar School. This was the first secondary school in Queensland. • There was serious flooding in Ipswich. • Robert Dunn purchased a block of land from the old Mt. Flinders sheep station (now the site of the township of Harrisville).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An immigration depot was established at North Ipswich.
1864	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lady Bowen turned the first sod to start construction of the first railway in Queensland on 25 February 1864. The first railway workshops were established at North Ipswich. On 25 July 1864 the foundation stone for St Mary's Convent was laid by the Rev. James O'Quinn, Bishop of Brisbane (this was the first convent which has since been demolished).
1865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first railway between Ipswich and Bigges Camp (Grandchester) was officially opened on 31 July 1865. The first iron rail and road bridge was constructed across the Bremer River, connecting North Ipswich and South Ipswich. The Ipswich Fire Brigade was established. George Cuthbert was appointed its first superintendent. Lewis Jones purchased land at Redbank Plains.
1866	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Stephens Presbyterian Church was erected (this was the second church on the same site). The first coal mine in Tivoli was opened by Hooper and Robinson. Samples of gold were found at Pine Mountain and in the Warrill Creek.
1868	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Ipswich of the Duke of Edinburgh (son of Queen Victoria). First school at Redbank Plains was opened (the first teacher was John Carroll). Thomas Lorimer Smith took up land in the Rosewood Scrub.
1869	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ipswich City council acquired the School of Arts and the Town Hall.

1870-1871

1870	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Thomas opened the Dinmore coal mine.
1871	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Phillip Jost took up land that was once a portion of Franklyn Vale and named it Jost Vale (now known as Hidden Vale). On 4 September the Purga Creek No. 2 School opened, it was renamed Peak Mountain State School in 1879 and became the Peak Crossing State School in 1929.
1872	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hancock Bros establish a sawmill and timber business at North Ipswich.
1873	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first pastoral and agricultural show (Ipswich Show) was held on 2 April 1873 at Churchill.
1874	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'National Bank of Australasia' established its Ipswich Branch.
1875	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 14 June 1875 the railway line between Ipswich and Brisbane officially opened. Cobb & Co coaches stopping running between Ipswich and Brisbane. The 'Queensland Woollen Manufacturing Company' was formed in Ipswich on the banks of the Bremer River.
1876	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Thorn Junior became the Premier of Queensland (son of George Thorn 'Father of Ipswich'). St Mary's Presbytery was completed. The Walloon Scrub Primary School opened on 12 July.
1877	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ipswich Gas and Coke Company was formed.
1878	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich changed to gas lighting in August of this year. Ipswich gained the first pumped water supply in Queensland when a waterworks was completed at Kholo and officially opened early the following year.
1879	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich gained the first pumped water supply in Queensland. A clock tower was erected in the School of Arts building. The Blackall Memorial, in honour of Governor Samuel Wensley Blackall, was erected on the corner of Nicholas Street and Brisbane Street.

1880-1889

1882	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Receiving Office (for mail) was opened at Mt Crosby on 1 October. A branch railway line opened to Harrisville.
1884	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new St Mary's convent was opened. Walloon Scrub was named 'Kirchheim' on 22 September of this year.
1886	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blackstone United Welsh Church was opened. The Cambrian Choir was formed (later named the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir) and contested the first eisteddfod on New Year's Day 1887.
1887	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Eisteddfod in Queensland was held. There was major flooding in Ipswich.
1889	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Thomas built 'Brynhyfryd' at Blackstone Hill. Brynhyfryd was a three-storey building designed by George Brockwell Gill.

1890-1899

1890	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on a pumping station began at Mt Crosby in August.
1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ipswich Technical College began classes in rented and borrowed premises.
1892	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ipswich Girls Grammar School was officially opened. • Reverend E. Fuller and several Aborigines settled on land at Deebing Creek selected by a committee comprised of members of local church groups. By May there were 33 people in residence. • A pumping station at Mt Crosby was commissioned on 2 April.
1893	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was major flooding in Ipswich and Brisbane. • Eclipse Mine Disaster (North Ipswich) occurred when floodwaters entered the Mine - 7 men died. • Queensland was in the midst of a severe financial recession. • Queensland Cotton Company's factory at East Ipswich began operating and producing cloth.
1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first towels made in Australia were two honey-comb unbleached bath towels manufactured at the Queensland Cotton Company's factory at East Ipswich.
1896	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipswich and Brisbane were again flooded.
1897	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Pommer Bros' established the North Ipswich Ice and Butter Factory. • A new railway bridge was erected over the Bremer River for railway purposes (this was the first bridge of this type to be constructed in Australia by the Railway Department).
1898	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booval Beer was introduced to the Ipswich public when the beer was placed on the local market on 23 May.
1899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A telephone exchange was opened in Ipswich, and the first trunk lines to Brisbane were connected. • Ipswich voted No to Federation on 2 September.

1900-1909

1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundation stone of the present St Mary's Catholic Church was laid on 28 October 1900.
1901	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The present Post Office building was completed. • The 'Queensland Farmers Co-operative Association Ltd' was formed and started operations with a butter factory at Booval. • The Ipswich Technical College building on the corner of Ellenborough and Limestone Street opened. • On 5 February large gatherings attended memorial services to mourn the death of Queen Victoria. The principal service in Ipswich was held in the Town Hall. • Banjo Paterson delivered a lecture in the Town Hall in March of this year.
1902	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ipswich Croquet club was founded on 7 May. • A very severe drought occurred throughout the district, following years of very little rain since 1897.
1904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipswich was proclaimed a City on 1 December 1904. • Council received a telegram on 2 December 1904 advising that the request for the town to become a city had been approved by the Governor-in Council. • On 3 December 1904 the proclamation of the City of Ipswich was Gazetted. • Cardinal Moran of Sydney officially opened St Mary's Catholic Church.
1905	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first electric coal cutter in Queensland were used at the Box Flat mine.
1906	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and Industry was launched in the Technical College Hall.
1908	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr A. Horan laid the foundation stone of the second St. Brigid's Church.
1909	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Andrews Private Hospital was established. • The Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band was formed by the Caledonian Society under Pipe Major James Mustard and Drum Major Ben Ford.

1910-1919

1910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipswich celebrated its municipal jubilee. • The present day St Brigid's Church was blessed and dedicated by James Duhig, Bishop of Rockhampton.
1911	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marburg Branch railway line opened.
1912	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd opened in Harrisville in July. • John Morris & Dr E. Brown established the 'Ipswich Woollen Co Pty Ltd' at Tivoli Hill.
1915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new settlement called the Purga Mission was selected and in 1914 or 1915 the people from Deebing Creek were relocated to Purga. • The first Queensland Mines Rescue Station was opened in the Ipswich area in this year.
1916	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirchheim was renamed 'Haigslea' after General Douglas Haig. • A phone and telegraph was installed in Peak Crossing.

1917	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boundaries were extended to include portions of the shires of Brassall, Bundamba and Purga. This area was called Greater Ipswich.
1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First public electricity supply for Ipswich.

1920-1929

1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prince of Wales visited Ipswich in July of this year.
1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commonwealth Savings Bank and Commonwealth Trading Bank opened. The Salvation Army Church took over the Purga Mission with the official opening taking place in January of that year.
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Receiving Office at Mt Crosby became a Post Office.
1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak Crossing Public Hall was opened on Friday, 20 August. The 'Riverside Coal Transport Company' was formed.

1930-1939

1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak Crossing was declared a 'market town'. Rylance Collieries & Brickworks Pty Ltd at Dinmore established a brickyard.
1932	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percy Manders commenced work in the river trade with a regular transport service using a vessel called the 'Eclipse'.
1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Morris founded the Morris Woollen Mills at Redbank.
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ipswich Men's Hockey Association was formed in June of this year.
1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The incinerator, designed by Sir Walter Burley Griffin, was built in Queens Park.
1937	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work began on the construction of the City's sewerage system.
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major army camp set up at Redbank. From 1949 to 1945 some American airmen were housed at the Tivoli State School so they could man a searchlight, which was located behind the tennis court.

1940-1949

1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amberley Air base was established.
1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation stone for the new St Mary's College was laid.
1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the Churchbank Weir commenced.
1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Purga Mission was closed.
1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area from Bundamba to Woogaroo (formerly part of Brisbane) was included in the City of Ipswich boundaries. The Shires of Rosewood and Normanby became part of the Moreton Shire.

1950-1959

1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An art exhibition by Technical College students in 1950 and an anonymous donation provided the original impetus for the development of the City of Ipswich Collection and the establishment of Ipswich's first art gallery.
1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first pieces of the City of Ipswich Collection were displayed in the Old Town Hall in 1951.
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musketeers Sports Club formed and first operated from grounds in Spring Street East Ipswich.
1958	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth II (Elizabeth R.) Queen of England visited Ipswich on 19 February. Redbank Workshops were established.

1960-1969

1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remaining walls of the castle 'Brynhyfryd' at Blackstone were demolished.
1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Olympic Swimming Centre was opened in Limestone Park (known as the Jim Gardiner Pool).
1962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Peak Mountain station (railway) was closed on 29 June.
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trumpy Bridge (named after Dr David Trumpy) was constructed. A motor cycle dirt track event occurred in Coal Road, Tivoli in August of this year to celebrate the opening of a new track.
1967	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British High Commissioner Sir Charles Johnston and his wife Lady Johnston visited Ipswich on 5 September.
1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 acres of land was purchased at Tivoli on behalf of the Auto Cycle Union of Queensland Inc.

1970-1979

1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Box Flat mining disaster occurred.
1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bundamba Swimming Centre was opened. The first Primary School Library built in Queensland was opened at Goodna State School by the Hon. Keith Hooper M.L.A.
1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich was severely flooded.
1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich Civic Centre opened 19 July. Ipswich City Soccer Club, "The Bulls", was formed on the 16 February 1975.
1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Humanities Centre was officially opened on 19 November (South Street).
1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Ipswich Railway Station was constructed over two city blocks including the railway station, 55 specialty shops & 3-storey car park. The official opening took place on 8 August. Work commenced on the construction of a Technical & Further Education College at Bundamba (TAFE).
1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich City Council constructed a 19.3 mega litre reservoir above High Street at Brassall. Coles Complex in Brisbane Street was developed. McConaghy's Shopping Centre in Hunter Street, Brassall was developed. Work commenced on the Birch, Carroll & Coyle Picture Theatre in East Street (site of the former Wintergarden Theatre). The Ipswich Municipal Library relocated from Nicholas Street to the upper level of the Ipswich Centre near the East Street entrance to the Mall.

1980-1989

1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourist cruises resumed on the Bremer River in December of this year but only lasted a few years.
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willowbank Raceway was developed.
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reid's Department Store (formerly Cribb and Foote) was destroyed by fire.
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kruger Shopping Village at Redbank Plains was opened.
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich Mall and the first stage of the Ipswich City Square opened. The Brisbane Tribal Council Limited purchased the 60 acre property at Purga (site of the original mission building).

1990-1999

1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duchess of Kent visited Ipswich on 26 February.
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d'Arcy Doyle Place opened and the Top of Town project was completed.
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moreton Shire Council & Ipswich City Council were amalgamated to form a new Ipswich City Council. The Ipswich Library moved to the purpose-built Global Information Centre in South Street. Global Info Links was established (Information Technology led Economic Development Strategy for the Ipswich Region). Ipswich City Council was the first local authority in Australia to provide access to the Internet.
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ipswich City Council, in partnership with the Ipswich Arts Foundation, initiated the Global Arts Link (GAL) project (a new type of visual arts museum).
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The University of Queensland Ipswich Campus began operating in February 1999 on the site of the former Challinor Centre. Global Arts Link was officially opened on Friday, 14 May 1999 with the Public Opening on Saturday 15 May 1999.

2000-2003

2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition of the Jim Gardiner Pool in Limestone Park commenced on 29 November. Ipswich based Nunukul Watamaa Aboriginal dance troupe was selected to perform at the opening of the 2000 Sydney Olympic games.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Workshops Rail Museum officially opened on 1 September 2002.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Gardiner was honoured with the opening of a commemorative gateway to Limestone Park on 6 September on the former site of the Jim Gardiner Pool.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich celebrated its 100th year as a City. Celebrations included: a Party of the Century held in Queens Park and a publication titled 'Ipswich in the 20th Century'. 10th Anniversary of the Ipswich-Nerima, Tokyo Japan Friendship Agreement. This was re-affirmed by the signing of the 10th Anniversary Friendship Agreement and the Official Opening of Stage 2, Nerima Gardens in Queens Park on 21 October 2004 by Mayor Toshiro Shimura and Mayor Paul Pisasale.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capral Aluminium opened their \$160 million manufacturing plant at Bundamba.

2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and Industry celebrated 100years. • Goodna turned 150. Goodna was one of the first stops for Cobb & Co Coach passengers. • The University of Southern Queensland opened a campus in Springfield – part of Education City.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orion Shopping Centre opened at Springfield. • Riverlink Shopping Centre opened in Ipswich. • The International Hotel opened in Ipswich. • Friendship Agreement between Ipswich and central China’. • River Heart Parkland opened. • HMAS Ipswich II was decommissioned on 11 May 2007. For the first time since WWII there is no HMAS Ipswich currently serving in the Royal Australian Navy. The Ship’s company exercised their right to Freedom of Entry to the City of Ipswich through the streets of this City for the final time on 27 April 2007.
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspire Apartments opened. This was the first high rise in Ipswich.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipswich City Council purchased the Ipswich City Square. • Polaris Data centre opened in Springfield. • A new seven storey office tower will feature in the redevelopment of the former Super Cheap Auto site in East Street Ipswich. The project also includes an 11 storey tower of residential apartments in Wharf Street. Ipswich City Council has given the green light for the \$50 million project.