

# As we were: Brisbane 1953



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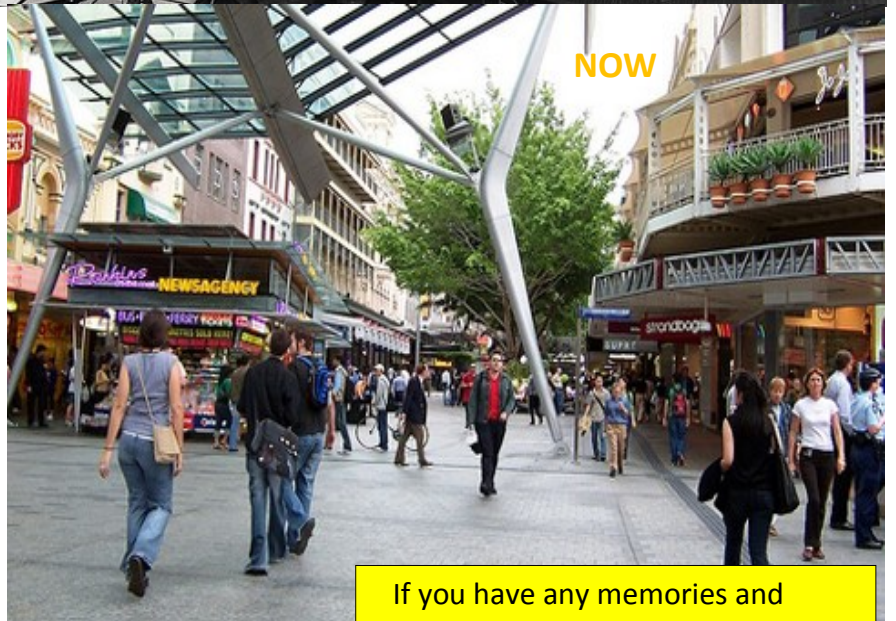
Queen Street, 1953: Until the late 1960s, trams ran along the entire length of Queen Street and cars could be parked in the main street of Brisbane. Buildings on the left included Christies Café, Tattersall's Club, Bayards, His Majesty's Theatre, Wintergarden Theatre, and T&G Mutual Life Society Building. Brisbane has always been a friendly town, where the locals are just as likely under a veranda taking refuge in the shade. A city where life moves at a slower pace. More akin to Darwin than Sydney and Melbourne, but where a welcome and a "G'day mate" can still be heard. Yet Brisbane has erupted. With substantial new high-rise office buildings and a road network to rival the worlds best.

I came across this story in the Courier-Mail of April 1953, which although from a time long past, creates an image of Queensland/Brisbane that's hard to beat.

A character walks into a pub, slapped down a dingo scalp on the bar, and said "I want drinks for the boys." The publican, without batting an eyelid, puts down his change—a pair of eagle claws.

For the record in 1953, a dingo scalp was worth one pound, eagle claws five shillings.

Most of us are interested in our family tree and our place in it. Even more general interest is shown when it comes to how our parents and grandparents lived, worked and survived in their personal environment and what that environment looked like. Over the next few months The Digger will reproduce city scenes from around the country in a "As we were" series, that we hope you will enjoy.



If you have any memories and photo's of your city that you'd like to share please send to:

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