

Queensland Timeline Pre1600s-1859

Pre 1600

- Continent inhabited by Indigenous peoples from as early as 50000 BCE
- Australia's Indigenous population displays a diversity in social and cultural customs as well as language

1606

- Dutch explorer Willem Jansz, sailing the "Duyfken", became the first European to encounter Australian Aborigines on the western coast of Cape York Peninsula

1770

- 17 May Capt. James Cook named Point Lookout, Cape Morton and Glass House Mountains
- 22 Aug Capt. James Cook, in the "Endeavour", claimed the entire east coastline of Australia as British territory
- Cooks records the presence of Aborigines along the east coast

1788

- 26 Jan The First Fleet, commanded by Captain Arthur Phillip, landed at Sydney Cove
- 7 Feb Colony of NSW proclaimed by Judge-Advocate David Collins

1799

- Lieut. Matthew Flinders chartered the east coast, amending Cook's maps
- Flinders entered Moreton Bay, landing at Red Cliff Point which later became Woody Point
- 17 Jul Flinders landed on Norfolk Beach, Coochiemudlo Island and encountered hostile Aborigines on Bribie Island. Skirmish Point was named following this clash

1802

- Flinders circumnavigated the continent in the “Navigator”
- 26 Jul Flinders anchored in Moreton Bay

1810

- Major-General Lachlan Macquarie became governor of NSW

1820

- Convict Bribie arrived on the island named after him during the 1920s

1821

- 1 Dec Major-General Sir Thomas Macdougall Brisbane became governor of NSW
- William Edwardson in the “Snapper” explored Moreton Bay but failed to find the Brisbane River
- John Bingle in the “Sally” speculated the Pumicestone was a passage, not a river
- 6 May Thomas Bigge’s report recommended a penal colony be established at Moreton Bay
- 9 Sept Surveyor-General John Oxley instructed to investigate Port Bowen, Port Curtis and Moreton Bay as potential sites for a penal settlement

1823

- 15 Apr John Finnegan, Richard Parsons and Thomas Pamphlett shipwrecked on Moreton Island
- 29 Nov John Oxley, in the “Mermaid”, at Bribie Island found Pamphlett, then Finnegan 30 Nov. Parsons was rescued by Oxley 11 Sep 1824 during a second voyage of discovery
- 1 Dec Oxley named the Pine River and Deception Bay while searching for the larger river

- 2 Dec Oxley located and explored the Brisbane River as far as Goodna, with the rescued sailors providing guidance

1824

- Oxley named Peel Island
- South Passage of Moreton Bay mapped
- First prefabricated house erected at Redcliffe before probable removal to Brisbane for commandant
- Convict timber getters shot and killed an Aborigine at Yebi Creek, Petrie
- 10 Jan Oxley's report recommended settlement at Breakfast Creek, not North Quay
- 10 Jun Governor Brisbane announced Morton Bay as site for the penal settlement in the Sydney Gazette
- 1 Sep Lieut. Henry Miller with John Oxley led an advance party to establish the penal settlement at Moreton Bay
- 12 Sep The "Amity" carrying Oxley and party arrived off Redcliffe. Lieut. Henry Miller became the first Commandant of Moreton Bay
- 14 Sep Convict settlement established at Redcliffe using Humpybong Creek for water
- 17 Sep Aborigines snatched Oxley's hat after breakfast at the creek. It consequently became known as Breakfast Creek
- 21 Sep First non-Aboriginal child born at Redcliffe named Amity Moreton Thompson
- 16 Oct Oxley, Allan Cunningham and Lieut. Butler explored the Brisbane River
- 9 Nov Governor Brisbane and party visited Moreton Bay
- 9 Nov Governor Brisbane approved the name Edinglassie for the settlement
- 9 Nov Chief Justice Sir Francis Forges suggested Edinglassie but name Brisbane was adopted

1825

- Commandant's residence built at North Quay
- First convict buildings erected along North Quay

- 28 Feb Governor Brisbane ordered removal of settlement from Redcliffe to Brisbane River
- May Redcliffe settlement relocated to Brisbane
- Convict cemetery opened west of North Quay at Skew Street (later known as the 'old burial ground')
- Aborigines reputedly called the deserted Redcliffe settlement 'umpie bong' meaning dead houses (hence Humpy Bong)
- John Gray surveyed a shipping channel between the South Passage and Brisbane River, and explored the river to Fernvale
- Capt. Sterling's chart filled in coastline and soundings of Moreton Bay
- 6 Jun Norfolk Island is reopened as a high security prison station
- Aug Henry Miller replaced as Commandant by Captain Peter Bishop
- 7 Sep Major Edmund Lockyer arrived on the "Mermaid" to explore the Brisbane River
- 10 Sep Lockyer's party, including Bishop and Miller, explored Brisbane River to Cressbrook Creek
- 13 Sep Lockyer discovered the first coal in Qld
- 20 Sep Lockyer named Redbank because of the soil and noted flood debris 100 feet above the river at Mt Crosby
- 19 Dec Lieut. Ralph Darling became governor of NSW

1826

- Storekeeper's wife Esther Roberts conducted the first school in Brisbane
- Henry Cowper, surgeon, arrived in Brisbane
- Peter Beauclerk Spicer served as Superintendent of Convicts to 1839
- 17 Mar Capt. Patrick Logan arrived as Commandant to 1830
- Logan set about extensive building using stone from Kangaroo Point and Goodna, bricks from Wheat Creek, lime from Ipswich and local timber
- Building works included extension to Commandant's cottage, slab huts for soldiers and prisoners and individual cottages for married couples

- 2 Jun First female convict, Elizabeth Robertson, arrived at Moreton Bay
- 15 Aug Moreton Bay formally proclaimed a penal settlement
- 21 Aug Logan sighted Southport bar and discovered Logan River
- Dec Hospital built
- Dec Grain sent from Sydney to complement rations

1827

- Convict hospital built on North Quay
- Relations with Aborigines deteriorate under Logan. Aboriginal leader Napoleon exiled to St Helena Island
- First bridge built across Wheat Creek for track to Windmill
- Pilot Station founded at Amity on Stradbroke
- Aboriginal raids on southside maize plots led to violent encounters with Europeans
- Logan established Dunwich on Stradbroke Island as a convict transshipment depot
- Stone causeway at Dunwich built by convicts
- Jun Outstation established at Limestone (Ipswich)
- 5 Jun Allan Cunningham discovered the Darling Downs on his first expedition from the Hunter Valley
- 8 Jun Logan discovered coal on Bremer River
- 11 Jun Cunningham observed a pass (Spicers Gap) in the Dividing Range to the Darling Downs
- 16 Jul Stradbroke Island, Dunwich, Rainbow Bay, Rous Channel and Logan River named by government order
- Dec First building regulations issued from Sydney
- High death rate among male convicts in summer 1827-28

1828

- Logan, Cunningham and Fraser explored beyond Mt Barney

- Convict Barracks completed in Queen Street
- Wheat Creek dammed and wooden pipeline with a treadmill operated the water supply
- First regular census in NSW
- Depot established at Dunwich for ships unable to navigate the river
- Soldier and convict killed by Aborigines near Seventeen Mile Rocks
- Sandstone quarry operated beyond Oxley Creek
- Logan, Cunningham and Fraser ascended Mt Coot-tha
- 25 Mar Robert Maginnis, 57th Regiment, appointed teacher of male pupils; Mrs Esther Roberts resigned as co-school teacher; girls schooled by mothers
- 26 May John Oxley died and buried in Sydney; succeeded as Surveyor General by Thomas Mitchell
- 3 Jul Colonial Botanist Charles Fraser from Sydney began laying out the Government Gardens
- Aug John Shottowe Parker, Superintendent of Agriculture arrived at settlement from Norfolk Island
- 25 Aug Cunningham discovered a pass (Cunninghams Gap) in the Dividing Range to the Darling Downs (the first main route from Brisbane)
- Sep Reverend John Vincent appointed chaplain at Moreton Bay
- Sep Ophthalmia and dysentery were increasing among convicts
- Oct Chaplains house built
- Oct Windmill on Wickham Terrace completed and used for grinding meal
- Nov Complete crop failure and last months of year Moreton Bay settlement on half rations

1829

- Cunningham explored Esk-Lockyer basin and upper Brisbane Valley to the mountains near Moore
- Commissariat Stores with retaining wall completed at Queens Wharf
- Smallpox seriously affected Aborigines

- Attacks on isolated people by Aborigines
- Road from lower Windmill track hewn along the riverside near Eagle Farm (later Kingsford Smith Drive)
- 5 Mar Governor Darling issued regulations imposing a uniform pattern on settlements
- 19 Mar Reverend John Vincent arrived in Brisbane Town
- Jul Botanist Charles Fraser selected site for agricultural station at Eagle Farm
- 13 Aug 1829 Penal Regulations introduced
- 12 Sep 150 male convicts working at Eagle Farm and 100 acres under cultivation; building work commenced
- Sep Parker transferred to Eagle Farm as Superintendent of Agriculture
- Sep Convict treadmill added to the Windmill on Wickham Terrace
- 7 Oct Reverend Vincent ordered to return to Sydney
- Oct 94 deaths recorded mainly caused by dysentery
- Dec Catherine Buckley (Connor) returned to Sydney when her sentence expired; the first female to do so

1830

- Female Factory built in vicinity of the later General Post Office in Queen Street
- Logan passed through Collins Gap to Richmond River
- Convict fishing party killed by Aborigines probably near Oxley Creek
- 10 May Assistant Surgeon James Murray arrived, accommodated in Chaplain's house
- 13 Jul Port Macquarie opened to free settlement, sending convicts to Moreton Bay
- Aug Captain James Clunie arrived as Commandant with detachment of 17th Regiment
- 1 Oct Death of Susan Benton, first female convict to die at Moreton Bay
- 17 Oct Logan killed, apparently by Aborigines near Mt Irwin between Ipswich and Mt Esk, north of Logan Creek
- 28 Oct Logan's body found in Logan Creek, between Lockyer Creek and Mt Esk
- Dec Fagan and Bulbridge, male convicts, hanged in Brisbane Town

- Dec Eagle Farm contributing to settlement's food supply

1831

- Moreton Bay population peaked at 1241 including 1066 convicts
- Surgeons Quarters Built on North Quay
- New Military Barracks completed on North Quay
- Military Hospital built on North Quay
- Convict Lumberyard removed to old Military Barracks, corner Queen and George Streets
- Jun Mary McCauley appointed Matron of female convicts until January 1832
- Jul series of violent racial clashes and fatalities around Amity Point
- 3 Dec Major-General Sir Richard Bourke became Governor of NSW
- Convict jetty built at Cleveland (between 1832 and 1837)
- 16 Dec Convicts seized schooner "Caledonia" at Amity Point on Stradbroke Island

1832

- Jun Mrs Isabella Blount appointed Matron of female convicts until December 1832
- Jan 653 acres maize and 28 acres potatoes at Eagle Farm; 434 acres under maize and 15 acres of potatoes at Brisbane Town
- 13 Feb Inquiry into secondary punishments in Sydney
- 21-22 Nov Surgeon Cowper and Captain Richard's indiscretion at Female Factory
- Cowper dismissed for misconduct and returned to Sydney

1833

- Mrs Mary Fawkes appointed Matron Female Factory until May 1834
- Escaped convict John Graham reappeared after six years with Aborigines

1834

- Increasing evidence of sexual relations between Europeans and Aboriginal women
- Jun Mrs Maria McAllister appointed Matron Female Factory until November 1835

1835

- Another bridge built across Wheat Creek near corner Queen and Creek Streets for new track to Eagle Farm
- American whaler “Elizabeth” called at Amity, Stradbroke Island
- Apr Dr James Murray relieved by Assistant-Surgeon Kinnear Robertson
- Nov Mrs Althea Parfitt appointed Matron Female Factory until July 1836
- Dec Captain Foster Fyans appointed Commandant

1836

- Quaker missionaries James Backhouse and George Walker noted Moreton Bay blacks were infected with venereal disease by the American whalers
- Contingent of female convicts located at Eagle Farm
- Bridge built over Breakfast Creek
- Apr Backhouse and Walker visit 40 female convicts at Eagle Farm
- 22 May 1836 Eliza Fraser shipwrecked on an island off the Queensland coast which was later named Fraser Island; Capt. James Fraser was master of the “Stirling Castle”
- Jul Mrs McDonald appointed Matron Female Factory until August 1837
- 8 Aug Rescue party leave to assist survivors of the “Stirling Castle” wreck
- 22 Aug Rescue party with Mrs Eliza Fraser reach Brisbane Town
- 25 Aug Chief Constable Richard Bottington arrested for breaking into Brisbane Town Female Factory
- 10 Oct Mrs Eliza Fraser arrived in Sydney with Mrs Robertson
- Oct Escaped convict Samuel Derrington reappeared after nine years with the Aborigines
- 12 Nov 38 children with the female convicts at Eagle Farm
- 31 Dec Classification of female prisoners

1837

- First Chinese labourers arrived in Australia
- Female prisoners moved from Female Factory to Eagle Farm depot
- Appointment of surveyor Robert Dixon
- Escaped convict Tom O'Shea lived on the island which bore his name (ca. 1837-51, renamed McLeay Island by surveyors)
- 2 Jan Edward Deas Thomson replaced Alexander Macleay as Colonial Secretary
- 10 Feb Brisbane Town Female Factory reduced to 14 oldest women; stockade built around Eagle Farm Factory
- 22 Feb Hospital established for female prisoners at Eagle Farm
- May Lutheran Rev JCS Handt arrived as an Anglican missionary and chaplain
- 28 May Mr Josselyn Mayo, planter, arrived for three week visit to establish sugar and cotton plants and provide employment for female convicts
- 19 Jun Convict women transferred to Eagle Farm Female Factory except for a few servants employed by the civilian and military officers in the town
- Jul Fyans and 4th Regiment left Moreton Bay
- 14 Jul 23 female convicts, the largest batch ever sent at one time, arrive at Moreton Bay and sent directly to Eagle Farm Female Factory
- Aug "James Watt" the first steamer to appear in Moreton Bay
- Aug Petrie Family arrived on the "James Watt" for Andrew to serve as foreman of works
- Sep Major Sydney Cotton and 28th Regiment appointed
- Sep Assistant Surgeon Robertson relieved temporarily by Dr Alexander of 28th Regiment and his wife
- Sep Mrs Anne Cox appointed Matron Eagle Farm Factory until May 1839
- 22 Sep New Regulations for Eagle Farm Female Factory instituted
- Nov Last group of female convicts arrived at Moreton Bay
- Nov Governor Richard Bourke departed NSW

1838

- First free cemetery in Queensland began at Zions Hill (later Nundah)
- George Thorn transferred from Sydney to Ipswich as Superintendent of Stock
- Reverend Dr John Dunmore Lang visited Moreton Bay from Sydney
- Petrie explored the area around Brisbane and north to Maroochy River
- Andrew Petrie's house and workshops built at Petrie Bight
- 24 Feb Sir George Gipps became Governor of NSW until July 1846
- 30 Mar German missionaries, the first free settlers, arrived to establish a mission for the Aborigines at Zions Hill (later Nundah)
- 1 Apr Dr David Keith Ballou appointed Colonial Surgeon of the hospital replacing Dr Kinnear Robertson
- 22 Jun "Phoenix" Hulk decommissioned
- 13 Oct Six convict women in positions of trust at Eagle Farm Female Factory

1839

- Most convicts removed from Moreton Bay and further transportation halted
- Trigonometrical surveys carried out on Brisbane River and its environs by Robert Dixon, James Warner and Granville Stapylton (to 1842)
- NSW border police established
- John Williams opened the first store in South Brisbane
- Convict officers' apartments converted to post office
- Female convicts sent to Sydney
- John Kent appointed Deputy Assistant Commissary General at Moreton Bay
- The name Kangaroo Point used on survey map rather than earlier Wheat Point
- May Lieutenant George Gravatt appointed Commandant
- 6 May Plan of Brisbane Town produced by Major George Barney based on Petrie survey of its topography
- 9 May 52 of 57 remaining female convicts returned to Sydney

- 21 May Moreton Bay closed as a penal settlement
- 24 May Cotton returned to Sydney
- 24 May Lieut. George Gravatt of 28th Regiment assumed role as Commandant for 3 months
- 27 Jun Allan Cunningham died in Sydney
- Jul Lieutenant Owen Gorman, 18th Regiment, appointed Commandant
- 5 Oct Arthur Hodgson travelled overland to the Clarence with mail
- Nov Gorman reported about 2010 Aborigines occupied the region but only 60 remained in Brisbane
- 29 Nov Final recidivists left Moreton Bay including 4 female servants; 1 woman convict remained in Brisbane Town

1840

- Gormans Gap in the Dividing Range discovered by the Commandant thus providing another route from Brisbane to the Darling Downs
- Petrie explored the Caboolture and Pine rivers, and later the Maroochy area
- Brisbane Town and much of the south coast area surveyed
- Brisbane Town became the trading centre for pastoral expansion, despite the 50 mile limit
- 24 Mar Dixon's plan of Brisbane Town superimposed square blocks over its topography
- 7 Apr Survey of dray route from Coopers Plains
- 28 Apr Cleveland Point surveyed
- 29 Apr Robert Dixon's trigonometric survey of Moreton Bay district included major islands
- 13 May Governor Gipps forbade squatting stations within 50 miles of Moreton Bay
- 14 May Runaway convict John Baker surrendered after living 14 years with the Aborigines
- 22 May Convict transportation to NSW abolished

- 31 May GC Stapylton and assistant Tuck killed by Aborigines while surveying the Logan River
- Jun Squatters moved into Darling Downs, starting with Leslie brothers at Canning Downs
- 12 Aug First supplies transported by bullocky from Brisbane to Darling Downs via Cunningham's Gap
- 19 Oct First dray taken through Cunningham's Gap

1841

- Hunter River Steam Navigation (HRSN) Co sent "Shamrock" to inaugurate regular steamship service from Brisbane
- German missionaries reported that Aborigines were in considerable decline due to diseases, especially venereal
- John Williams' cutter "John" commenced trading between Sydney and Moreton Bay
- James Warner surveyed Tingalpa and Hilliards Creek
- 16 Mar Moreton Bay population of 200 included 161 in government service, 30 at German Mission Station and 9 with residential permits, only 24 being women
- 3 May New Zealand proclaimed a separate colony from NSW
- Jul Dr Stephen Simpson acted as Colonial Surgeon in Ballow's absence
- 1 Jul Survey of road from Cleveland Point towards Coopers Plains
- 2 Jul Aborigines Mullan and Ningavil executed publicly at the Windmill for murder of Stapylton and Tuck
- Squatters moved into upper Brisbane valley via Darling Downs starting with David McConnell at Cressbrook, followed by the Mackenzies at Kilcoy and Archers at Durundur

1842

- Sale of crown land set at one pound per acre by government auction (marked by private speculation from the beginning)
- Andrew Petrie, Henry Stuart Russell, Wrottesley and Joliffe explored Noosa-Wide Bay area

- River port attempted at Redbank by Captain John Chambers and Petrie's sons
- Ipswich surveyed
- Pastoralist Darby McGrath leased vast areas around Brisbane including Moggill Creek, The Gap, Pine Rivers and Caboolture
- Squatter and entrepreneur Evan Mackenzie tried to make Brisbane an entrepot independent of Sydney (to 1845)
- Aborigines directly involved in local activity, employment and economy while forming camps on the fringe of town
- Duke of York's clan continued to camp at Yorks Hollow (to early 1850s) and Coorpooroo clan from Woolloongabba swamp to Norman Creek
- Aboriginal resistance to intrusion in Ipswich and Darling Downs area and upper Brisbane River Valley (to ca. 1845-6)
- Tom Dowse began ferrying passengers across the Brisbane River
- John Archer built a bridge over the Stanley River at Durundur
- Route from the Downs opened along line of Toowoomba toll road
- Northern Road blazed from Durundur to North Brisbane by squatters Archers and Mackenzies
- Map of Moreton Bay published by Surveyor Robert Dixon in Sydney
- 26 Jan Steam communication with Sydney commenced when "Shamrock" arrived
- 10 Feb Governor Gipps proclaimed district of Moreton Bay open to free settlement
- Mar Gipps amended survey plans of Brisbane to narrow streets
- 24 Mar Gipps decided Brisbane would be the capital port after wading through mud at Cleveland
- Apr Resident homeopathic Dr Stephen Simpson appointed land commissioner and magistrate
- 14 Apr Governor Gipps proclamation prohibited settlement and timbergetting wherever bunya trees grew, thus recognising Aboriginal significance (to 1860s)
- May Runaway convicts James Davis and David Bracewell brought to Brisbane by Petrie (after living with Wide Bay Aborigines for many years)
- May NSW Border Police units established for Moreton Bay district (to 1846)
- 10 May Boundaries of Moreton Bay District proclaimed

- 14 Jul First land auctions for North and South Brisbane in Sydney
- Nov North to South Brisbane ferry leased to John Williams
- Nov Thomas Pendergast began the first farm along the West End riverside to feed the new settlement
- 7 Dec Land sales for Eagle Farm

1843

- Troop detachment stationed at Moreton Bay
- Evan Mackenzie's boiling-down works established at Kangaroo Point with John Campbell as manager (to 1846)
- Catholic mission at Dunwich, Stradbroke Island established by Bishop John Bede Polding of Sydney
- Catholic mission to Aborigines began at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island (to 1847)
- First vehicular ferry from Queens Wharf to Russell Street
- Surveyor James Warner licensed to build the first house at Kangaroo Point
- Maiden sittings of Court of Requests and Court of Petty Sessions at Moreton Bay
- Aborigines ambushed drays en route to Darling Downs at foot of Dividing Range, resulting in soldiers based there
- Final plan by NSW surveyor Henry Wade superimposed a rectangular grid system on the convict promontory
- Cemetery surveyed at South Brisbane (later West End school)
- After sinking coal shafts at Fairfield and Oxley Creek, John Williams succeeded in supplying HRSN Co steamers from Redbank (then Moggill)
- Stimulated by early industry and speculation Kangaroo Point developed as a riverine settlement
- Griffin family began squatting operations at Whiteside and Redbanks in Pine Rivers district
- 17 Jan Captain John Clements Wickham arrived as police magistrate (to 1855)
- Feb Two-horse conveyance started to Ipswich
- 3 Feb First gaol quarters provided in convict-built Queen Street apartment building

- 3 Aug Sir Charles August FitzRoy became governor of NSW
- 9 Aug First auction of South Brisbane land in Brisbane
- Sep New Brisbane burial grounds surveyed at Milton
- 11 Oct First land auctioned at Ipswich
- 13 Dec First auction of Kangaroo Point land in Brisbane

1844

- The Springs (later Drayton) established as a teamsters' camp
- Freeman's Channel through Moreton Bay discovered
- Surveyor James C Burnett determined town boundaries of Brisbane
- Henry Wade's plan of Brisbane and environs completed
- Aboriginal resistance to intrusion in Logan district (to ca. 1853)
- 20 Mar New Farm subdivisions offered at crown auction (to 1853 resulting in speculation and small farming)
- Apr First Brisbane meeting to express indignation against squatting regulations
- 13 Aug Ludwig Leichhardt left Sydney for the Darling Downs via Moreton Bay to start expedition to Port Essington (near Darwin, arrived 17 Dec 1845)

1845

- First denominational school opened in Brisbane by Catholic Church
- Cotton planted at Moreton Bay
- Barge or punt services began between Brisbane and Ipswich
- Wickham informed the Select Committee on Aborigines that 50 Europeans had been killed by them
- Surveyor James C Burnett surveyed northern entrance to the bay
- Brisbane area population estimated to be 1599 in about 200 houses
- Aborigines pillaged farm produce around Brisbane especially Breakfast Creek, Eagle Farm and Nundah (to ca. 1854)
- John Brennan bought acreage at Enoggera for farming and fruit-growing

- Aboriginal resistance to intrusion in Pine Rivers district
- John Massey started brickmaking (probably Fortitude Valley, then Windsor, and Kedron Road ca. 1869 on)
- Nov First cargo of wool from Moreton Bay hinterland loaded

1846

- Colliery established at Ipswich
- Patrick Leslie built his cottage at Newstead (occupied by Wickham 1847)
- New route to Brisbane opened from upper Brisbane Valley through the D'Aguiar Range
- Armed reprisals against Aborigines at Yorks Hollow camp
- Wickham, assisted by Warner on land and Yule at sea, surveyed Moreton Bay and Brisbane River navigation channels
- Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell found good grazing land around Maranoa and Barcoo rivers
- Crisis year for Aboriginal conflict highlighted by killing of squatter Andrew Gregor and servant Mrs Shannon at North Pine (18 Oct)
- Baker's Map of Moreton Bay including squatting stations published in Sydney
- 1 May Town boundaries proclaimed as the Boundary Streets plus Kangaroo Point
- 20 Jun The Moreton Bay Courier, the first weekly newspaper, published in Brisbane by proprietor Arthur Sidney Lyon
- 24 Jun Brisbane proclaimed a port of entry
- 29 Jun Paddlesteamer "Experiment" began service between Ipswich and Brisbane
- 2 Dec Leichhardt embarked from Darling Downs for the west coast (returned unsuccessful on 31 Jul 1847)

1847

- Sugarcane grown in Botanic Gardens
- Separation from NSW first mooted at meeting of the Moreton Bay Association

- Courts of Petty Sessions gazetted for Moreton Bay, Ipswich, Cressbrook and Darling Downs
- Relations between Aborigines and European settlers continue to deteriorate
- Henry Alphan traversed Spicers Gap (developed as major route to Darling Downs via Warwick)
- Indian coolies imported to work on the Tent Hill run
- Drayton township surveyed and land sales (to 1848)
- James C Burnett explored the district named after him by Governor FitzRoy
- Two sawyers killed by Aborigines in Pine Rivers district
- 30 Jan Colony at Gladstone proclaimed (disbanded Apr-Jul)
- 11 Mar Paddlesteamer "Sovereign" wrecked at Amity Point with the loss of 44 lives, prompting buoying of the northern entrance instead
- 24 Apr Survey of northern entrance of Moreton Bay completed
- Nov Chart of the northern entrance available

1848

- Native Mounted Police corps established for the district
- Two consignments of Irish orphan girls arrived on board the "Mary Ann"
- John Williams opened coal mine at Moggill
- National and denominational Boards of Education created for NSW
- Leichhardt vanished crossing Australia from Darling Downs
- Village reserve permitted at Cleveland Point
- Annual gathering of Aborigines and distribution of blankets in town resumed on Queen's birthday
- Edmund Kennedy explored Cape York
- Jun Omilly strangled at blacks' camp during capture for murder
- 2 Jun First mails despatched by steamer from Brisbane to Ipswich
- Aug Convict Hospital converted to Moreton Bay District Hospital

- Aug Traffic bridge over Breakfast Creek opened (collapsed May 1849)
- 27 Nov Chinese labourers arrived on the “Nimrod”
- 13 Dec First British immigrant ship “Artemisia” arrived

1849

- Bulimba House built in Elizabethan style for David and Mary McConnel by Andrew Petrie (with water closet)
- German Mission Station disbanded
- St Johns Anglican School opened in former convict carpenters’ shop
- Grimes families arrived (later town retailers and farmers of Fairfield/Yeronga)
- Influx of Lang immigrants ensured ultimate ascendancy of urban-agricultural society over pastoral-plantation
- Markwell family took up farm land in the Slacks Creek area
- The Windmill auctioned and partly demolished, but returned to the Crown after popular protest
- Squatter Francis Bigge’s house built at Cleveland Point (later Brighton Hotel)
- 12 Jan First Brisbane Hospital opened to the public at former convict premises on North Quay
- 20 Jan First shipment of Rev Dr JD Lang’s immigrants arrived on the “Fortitude”
- Fortituders allowed to form a temporary village by Yorks Hollow waterholes (Later Fortitude Valley)
- 11 Mar Fortituders fixed on a farming site upstream at Moggill
- 1 May Lang’s “Chaseley” immigrants arrived
- Shiploads of convict exiles arrived (to Apr 1850)
- 20 Jul Moreton Bay made a warehouse port
- 8 Oct Survey of road to Brisbane-Bremer River junction
- 3 Nov Lang’s “Lima” immigrants arrived (some farmed at Moggill)
- 11 Dec Female Factory became Brisbane Gaol
- 18 Dec Steamer “Hawk” launched at South Brisbane by Captain Taylor Winship

1850

- First overland trip made from Cabbage Tree Creek (Sandgate) to Brisbane
- Australian Colonies Government Act passed in England
- First grant provided for establishment of a national school at South Brisbane
- Ticket-of-leave convict Thomas Lucas began oystering off Macleay Island (1850s)
- Areas beyond the inner suburbs used mainly for agricultural and pastoral purposes including Bulimba, Coorparoo, Enoggera, Nundah, Sherwood and Stafford (1850s to 1880s)
- Increasing land purchases by speculators such as Jimmy 'Corner lot' Gibbon around town, McConnell brothers at New Farm, Patrick Mayne, Thomas Lodge Murray-Prior, TB Stephens and James Toohey further afield (late 1840s to 1870s)
- Timber cleared from Moreton Bay islands (ca. 1850s)
- James Fitzgerald and Peter Jackson leased acreage for grazing in the Logan district (1850s)
- Timber cut from the Brookfield area floated downstream from the Rafting Ground at Moggill Creek (1850s on)
- Land auctioned for small-scale farming in outer areas such as Milton, Toowong, Bald Hills and Bulimba
- Aboriginal resistance to intrusion in Wide Bay-Burnett district (to ca. 1859)
- Breakfast Creek/Eagle Farm camps formed by Aborigines from further afield especially Bribie Island, Redcliffe Peninsula (Ningy Ningy) and Wide Bay (to 1860s)
- 26 Mar First Customs House opened at Petrie Bight
- Township of Cleveland surveyed by James Warner
- 13 May Circuit of the Supreme Court began in Brisbane
- 22 May Survey of road to Cleveland
- Jul Dunwich declared a quarantine station (upgraded 1860, to Peel Island 1874)
- 19 Jul Moreton Bay Free Press established as a weekly newspaper
- 29 Jul Arrival of first dray from Wivenhoe
- Oct Separation Association formed

- 8 Nov Public meeting to draw up separation petition to the Queen
- 12 Dec Cleveland township proclaimed

1851

- Slack family settled at Slacks Creek (1850s)
- Customs Wharf built at Petrie Bight
- Electoral Bill created Stanley boroughs including North Brisbane, South Brisbane and Ipswich
- Rev Robert Creyke began building Ravenscott at Kangaroo Point (later Shafston House of Henry S Russell)
- Police reserve surveyed at Cleveland (Later police station)
- First land sales along north bank of Brisbane River towards Toowong
- Coach services connected Ipswich and Drayton
- Timothy Corbett bought acreage at Enoggera and then built his brick house Killarney
- Entrepreneur Thomas Boyland leased the area known as Boylands Pocket (later Oxley to Chelmer)
- First wool shipped direct from Moreton Bay to England
- 13 Apr First Cleveland land sales
- 1 Jul Separation of colony of Victoria from NSW
- 18 Oct Pearls found at Caloundra
- Nov Public meeting chose Lang to present petition supporting free immigration and separation to the colonial secretary

1852

- William Clark leased from Cleveland to Logan River as a cattle station
- Convict transportation to the eastern colonies abolished
- Mounted Native Police depot established at Sandgate above the beach and Einbunpin Lagoon (to 1862)
- Woolstore built at Cleveland for squatter Francis Bigge for direct shipment to London

- Earl Grey deferred separation due to small population and lack of revenue
- North Brisbane strengthened by urban immigrants, port facilities and administrative offices (to 1860s)
- Gunyahs at Breakfast Creek burnt by a party of constables and citizens
- Merchant John Richardson established his Eagle Street warehouse and wharf (by 1852)
- Make-i-light twice reprieved of murder due to identification difficulty (1853-54)
- British Government surrendered control of land policies in Australian colonies
- 1 May Survey of road to Wivenhoe
- Sep Streets, footpaths and town boundaries aligned and marked (until Oct)
- 11 Sep First plan of Cabbage Tree Head (Sandgate) drawn by surveyor James C Burnett
- Oct German immigrants arrive in Brisbane after Hamburg shipowners began a regular service
- Oct Wolston House built for Dr Stephen Simpson to William Pettigrew's plan (completed 1853)
- 22 Nov Public meeting to petition NSW Legislative Assembly for separation

1853

- British Government authorised Australian colonial governments to draft constitutions
- Roads from Ipswich to Drayton, Spicers Gap and Brisbane improved
- Fifth and sixth sections of the Native Police formed in Brisbane
- Adelaide House built above Ann Street in Colonial Georgian-style by Andrew Petrie for Dr William Hobbs (later The Deanery)
- Watch house and lockup built at South Brisbane
- Renewed lobbying for separation
- Successful cotton cultivation by GF Poole at Moggill
- Eskgrove Villa, East Brisbane, built for bank manager Archibald Hutchison
- Milton House built Colonial Georgian-style for chemist and farmer Ambrose Eldridge

- Stone cottage built at Cleveland Point for Francis Bigge (later courthouse and lockup 1859-80s; Courthouse restaurant 1970s onwards)
- Aboriginal resistance to intrusion around Sandgate (to ca. 1859)
- John Scott ran St Andrews School, corner Ann and Creek Streets (to 1860)
- St Lucia first farmed by John Carmody (became sugar-producing, including Darts Mill to 1893 flood)
- Land surveyed at Capalaba
- Jan Aboriginal Tetaree alias James Alexander gave a School of Arts concert after returning from education in England
- 1 Jan JC Wickham appointed Government Resident for the district (to 1859)
- 19 Mar Sandgate town site proclaimed
- 12 Apr First steamer arrived from Europe via Torres Strait
- 3 May “New Orleans” paddle steamer visited from San Francisco
- 28 Jun William Pettigrew’s steam sawmill began work at Mary Street (to ca. 1800)
- 31 Oct “Countess of Derby” wrecked at the south passage en route to Cleveland
- 9 Nov Successful land sales at Sandgate and Cleveland
- Dec NSW Legislative Council amended the constitution to allow separation
- Dec Profitable Brisbane, Sandgate and Cleveland land sales
- 3 Dec Aborigines attacked Tom Dowse and sons at Sandgate
- 22 Dec Great affray between regional Aboriginal clans at Burnett Swamp (later Stones Corner) depicted in London news

1854

- Land sales at Toowoomba
- First surveyor of Moreton Bay roads appointed
- Cleveland no longer regarded as suitable alternative to Brisbane as the main port
- Port Curtis proposed as possible capital of a colony north of Moreton Bay
- Moreton Coal Co floated at Ipswich

- Public meeting at Gayndah protested over selection of Brisbane as the capital
- Land sales in Yeronga area resulted in riverside estates and scrub farming, especially maize and potatoes
- All of the Kangaroo Point tongue of land sold (by 1854)
- 27 Jan First cotton shipped from Brisbane
- 5 Mar The “Swallow” sank at South Brisbane Wharf
- 20 Mar Governor-General Sir Charles FitzRoy visited Moreton Bay
- 25 May Aboriginal leader Dundalli captured
- 20 Jun Brisbane street widths proclaimed
- Aug Subdivisions for the working man advertised at Milton
- 29 Sep Sydney dentist Henry Jordan conducted short professional visit (returned permanently 1 mar 1856)
- 18 Nov Bungaree, Aborigine educated in Brisbane, died

1855

- Heightened rivalries over the eventual capital of the new colony
- Moreton Bay Immigration & Land Co incorporated
- Kent & May’s sawmill and brick factory established at Kangaroo Point
- Woolscour established at Hilliards Creek near Cleveland by TB Stephens (to 1860)
- South Brisbane publican Thomas Grenier purchased acreage in Coopers Plains- Archerfield area (farmed by sons 1860s on and occupied by himself 1870s)
- Fred Ward, later bushranger Capt. Thunderbolt, worked for squatter JP Wilkie at his Dalby Station and Hill End farm
- AJ Hockings established his Rosaville nursery and home off Montague Road, West End (mid-1850s)
- Samford station taken up
- 5 Jan Dundalli hanged for murder at Queen Street Gaol
- 20 Jan Sir William Thomas Denison became governor of NSW (to 1861)

- 21 Feb Walter Hill appointed Superintendent of the Botanical Reserve (and developed the gardens, to 1 Mar 1881)
- 10 May Brisbane declared a place where prisoners could serve hard labour
- 16 May The “Gazebound” left for London, the first direct ship completely loaded at Brisbane
- Jun Building lots for sale at Woolloongabba
- 2 October The North Australian established at Ipswich as Queensland’s first provincial newspaper
- Nov Public proposal made for a bridge linking North and South Brisbane
- 21 Nov The “Venus” wrecked in Freeman’s Channel along with its cargo of sugar

1856

- The brig “Maia” took first shipment of sheep and cattle to New Caledonia
- First Spring Hill land sales along Wickham Terrace and Leichardt Street
- Floating baths built in the river by Taylor Winship (to 1857)
- Brisbane area population estimated to be 8920 (city census total 5345)
- Norman Creek Bridge built by Winship provided a short cut eastwards
- New Farm developed a pattern of small subdivisions around central to northern Brunswick Street and elite estates to the south (mid-1850s onwards)
- Dr Stephen Simpson’s nephew JM Ommaney killed in a horse accident (hence Mt Ommaney)
- South Brisbane Recreation Reserve declared (later Musgrave Park)
- Jan First Circuit Court at Brisbane before Judge Samuel Milford
- Jan John Cooling’s Brisbane Almanac published in Sydney
- 1 Mar Tenders called for Cape Moreton lighthouse
- 16 Jun Site of Woogaroo/Goodna Village proclaimed
- 1 Aug Town boundaries extended as far as New Farm and Spring Hill
- 11 Sep Wickham appointed commissioner for crown lands in Brisbane
- 21 Oct Large portions of farm land auctioned in Coorparoo

- 20 Nov Large separation meeting held in Brisbane

1857

- Ebenezer Chapman arrived and became building contractor (by 1860s, E Chapman & Son 1923 to date)
- Lighthouse settlement established at Cape Moreton
- Brick house at Bowen Hills built and occupied by Joshua Jeays (ca. 1857)
- Birley Bros sawmills founded at tip of Kangaroo Point (to 1893)
- Bald Hills settled by John Steward and other families as a Scottish farming community
- Two cotton plantations established near Sandgate
- Public and private action against escalating Aboriginal drunkenness, disorder, theft and violence around the town (late 1850s)
- 13 Feb William Maunsell purchased acreage at Stafford and leased part to Chinese gardener Wong Chin
- 15 Apr Moreton Bay Supreme Court opened
- May Subdivisions advertised for sale at Teneriffe
- Oct Three bridges underway in Milton

1858

- Survey of Beenleigh Road, otherwise known as Slacks Track, linking South Brisbane and Logan districts
- NSW Municipalities Act enabled local government
- Gold rushes to the Boonoo Boonoo and Fitzroy River
- Adderton built at Petrie Bight for Dr William Fullerton by Andrew Petrie (later All Hallows)
- First permanent bridge over Breakfast Creek
- First mail coach service via Nundah to Sandgate Native Police depot
- Detachment of Native Police stationed at Sandgate to counteract Aborigines in the Cabbage Tree Creek, Bald Hills and Pine River areas

- First post office opened at Toowoomba
- 1 Mar Augustus Charles Gregory set out from Dawson River to search for Leichhardt (to 21 July)
- 20 Apr Middle ferry between Edward Street and Kangaroo Point proclaimed for passengers
- Sep Gold rush to Canoona near Rockhampton
- 16 Oct Petrie's tender accepted for new gaol at Green Hill's (later Petrie Terrace)
- Nov Dalinkua and Dalipia gave Aboriginal point of view in Courier letters
- 11 Dec Llamas introduced to Moreton Bay
- 12 Dec First Pugh's Almanac published (to 1927)

1859

- Control of Botanic Gardens reverted to the Crown
- Tom Petrie formed Murrumba Station from Griffin's land at Pine Rivers with Aboriginal assistance
- Court house built at Ipswich
- Elevated water tank constructed in Tank Street
- About 13,000 British immigrants brought to Moreton Bay by 49 ships (1852-59)
- About 200 whites killed by Aborigines in 15 years according to Courier
- First police station established at Cleveland
- Feb Lytton village site established
- 21 Feb Alfred James Peter Lutwyche appointed first resident judge (to Jun 1880)
- 19 Apr First sale of county lots in the Paddington area (produced scattered settlement)
- May Water Police under Police Magistrate William Thornton comprised a chief constable, 4 constables and a clerk (based on hulk "Proserpine" at river mouth 1860)
- 6 Jun Queen Victoria signed letters patent separating Queensland from NSW
- 4 Jul Ipswich Herald published
- 7 Sep Municipality of Brisbane proclaimed within the old town boundaries (of Aug 1856)

- 14 Sep Survey of another road to Cleveland
- Oct First Grenier family burial in Gods Acre Cemetery at Archerfield
- 13 Oct First elections of Brisbane Municipal Council (BMC) resulted in John Petrie as Mayor and Patrick Mayne, Thomas Blackett Stephens, Joshua Jeays, Albert Hockings, George Edmonstone, Robert Cribb, George Warren and William Sutton as Aldermen
- 13 Oct First BMC meeting in Police Office (subsequently in old Convict Barracks)
- 14 Oct Tooloom gazetted as a goldfield
- Dec Police department relocated from old Convict Barracks to old gaol in Queen Street
- 10 Dec Sir George Ferguson Bowen arrived as Queensland's first governor, with Lady Diamantina di Roma (to 4 Jan 1868)
- Bowens occupied Adelaide House in Ann Street (later The Deanery)
- 10 Dec Proclamation creating Colony of Queensland read by Governor Bowen from Balcony of Adelaide House
- 10 Dec Robert George Wyndam Herbert became the first Premier (to 1 Feb 1866)
- 12 Dec William M Boyce appointed first town clerk (to 1861)
- 20 Dec Manhood suffrage and secret ballot granted in Queensland, limited by property qualification and zoning favouring the country
- 27 Dec The Moreton Bay Free Press discontinued

Resources used to create this timeline: Rod Fisher and members of the Brisbane History Group, 1999, Brisbane Timeline: From Captain Cook to City Cat, Brisbane History Group Inc. and Jennifer Harrison, 2016, Shackled: Female Convicts at Moreton Bay 18260-01839, Victoria, Anchor Books Australia.

