1876 On November 29 Queensland's first official flag is unfurled, featuring an imperial crown inside a Malayan crescent. The first flag to be flown in Brisbane, Queensland's first indigenous land rights claims results from a petition by a Scottish Roman Catholic priest.

1877 Henry Beggars Bank Chester arrives on Thursday Island as the first Resident Government Resident.

1878 The first electric light is switched on at a public demonstration in Edward St, Brisbane. Queensland introduces the Rabbit Nuisance Act 1878, which empowers Rabbit Boards to erect fences preventing the incursion or migration of rabbits.

1879 Local government is established with the Universal Councils Act.

1881 The first Fire Brigade Act and the Brisbane Fire Brigade Act is established. The Brisbane Fire Brigade was formed the following year and Brisbane gets its first full-time fireman in 1880.

1883 The Queensland Premier Sir Thomas McArthur, joins part of Papua New Guinea to Queensland to prevent a European takeover.

1887 Queensland, Victoria and South Australia object to New South Wales' plan to adopt the name “Australia” for the colony. Yungaburra Immigration Centre opens in Brisbane.

1888 The Queensland Premier Sir Samuel Griffiths, is selected President of the Federal Council at its meeting in Hobart. The first band of Bundaberg Rum rolls off the production line. In 1881, the company chooses a polar bear as its brand mascot. In 1887, it is announced that their product will “walk off the coldest cliff of winter”.

1889 Joining with Covenanters and adherents, Queensland’s first permanent Customs House opens in Brisbane. Breakfast Creek Hotel is opened. Division 13 doubles figures (13) for first time.

1890 Central Queensland railways undergo a period to separate from Queensland and form its own representative government.

1891 Queensland Labor Party forms – first May Day procession by workers in Brisbane. Queensland’s first major industrial dispute between shipwrights and wealthy squatters lasts six months. The Cairns Kuranda Railway opens to the public.

1892 Archer hose cleans a world record 3.17 sheep in 7 hours 40 minutes at Isis Downs.

1893 Queen Victoria grants the Queensland Coat of Arms, the oldest State Arms in Australia, to the Colony of Queensland. South Queensland is affected by three cyclones in February, resulting in severe floods.

1895 The first Edison motion pictures in Queensland are shown in the Brisbane Exhibition Building. Window display is performed for the first time in the South Sydney Hotel at Winton.

1897 The Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act is passed. The legislation includes extensive clauses that restrict the rights of Aboriginal people, including controlling their finances. Other sections of the Act permit the Queensland Government to deport Aboriginal people to missions and reserves where they could be forcibly incarcerated. The Act also gives the government the right to exercise guardianship over all Indigenous children in the colony.

1898 A great drought begins and lasts until 1903 (this year). Street and snow is recorded in George St, Brisbane (23 July).

1899 The Queensland Parliament passes the Federation Enabling Act, joining the way for Queensland to join the proposed Federation of the Australian colonies. On December 1, the world’s first Labor Government is sworn in to the Queensland Parliament. Cyclone Mahina destroys a glowing fleet in Princes Charlotte Bay on Cape York and kills about 400 people. The first contingent of Queensland soldiers leave for the Boer War in South Africa.

1900 Between 1900 and 1907, 459 cases of bubonic plague are officially reported in Queensland, resulting in 259 deaths.

1901 The colony of Queensland becomes a state of the new Commonwealth of Australia on January 1.

1905 Queensland women are granted the right to vote.

1906 Pacific invaders who had arrived to work as servants in Queensland are deported due to the adoption of White Australia Policy legislation adopted in 1901.

1908 Witchetty grubs at M1 Tamborine is proclaimed Queensland’s first national park. Rugby League is established as a separate sport from Rugby Union.

1909 Queensland Surf Lifesavers rescue a group of young women in the first recorded rescue, at Greenmount Beach, Coolangatta.

1910 The University of Queensland is the first university in the state, officially founded on April 16. Teaching starts in 1911 in Old Government House in George St, Brisbane.

1912 A dispute, concerning union badges on Brisbane tramway workers' uniforms spreads across 44 unions with the Strike Bulletin describing it as “the most simultaneous strike in the world”.

1914 World War I’s declaration (the war ends in 1918). Yatala Pie Shop opens.