

## **Former Victoria Bridge Abutments**

### **2 Melbourne Street, Brisbane**

The Victoria Bridge Abutments are remnants of the fourth bridge to cross the Brisbane River at this point. The first 3 bridges were either ruined by marine wood borers or swept away in floods. Having survived the elements of the Brisbane River, the fourth Victoria Bridge was demolished in 1969 to make way for the present Victoria Bridge.

*Navigational hint:* looking towards Southbank, find the distinctive Brisbane Tuff arched abutments on the left side of the current Victoria Bridge.

Constructed in 1896 to a design by the Queensland Government Architect, A. B. Brady, Victoria Bridge was constructed of iron and arched abutments of distinctive Brisbane Tuff with neoclassical ornamentation at each end. It served as an important link between the north and south sides of Brisbane and spurred on development of the south bank.

The opening of Victoria Bridge may have been a shambolic affair with The Week newspaper reporting a wild rush by the assembled public for fragments of ribbon after it was cut. Opening ceremonies on both sides of the bridge required back and forth processions by dignitaries.

Until the 1930s, Victoria Bridge was the only permanent crossing between north and south Brisbane. With increased traffic demands, a second bridge would be needed and the Grey Street (William Jolly) Bridge was constructed in 1925, followed by the Walter Taylor Bridge in 1936.

In 1969, the Victoria Bridge was demolished but portions of the Brisbane Tuff abutments were left in place to show its earlier form.