

# Hotel records



*DR24158 - The Bellevue building - Brisbane, November 1973*

Research Guide to hotel records  
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

Queensland State Archives holds records about hotel records including liquor licenses. Records relating to the issue of licenses to sell liquor are a useful source of information on hotels.

Prior to Separation in 1859, notices of licenses issued may be found in the New South Wales Government Gazette and in the records of local Courts of Petty Sessions.

Under the provisions of the *Publicans Act 1863* licensing districts were established, and annual publicans' licenses were issued to occupiers of hotels or inns which provided accommodation, and which sold liquor on their premises. Annual licensing meetings were held in each licensing district before Justices authorised to preside at Courts of Petty Sessions. Certificates authorising the issue of publicans' licenses were granted by the Justices. On presentation of these certificates plus the required fee, licenses were issued by the Treasury Department. Under the *Licensing Board Act 1879*, the Justices were replaced by a Licensing Board for each district. The Board consisted of the Police Magistrate, the Mayor (in the case of municipality) and additional fit and proper persons appointed by the Governor in Council.

Under the *Licensing Act 1885*, the Licensing Board was replaced by a Licensing Authority consisting of either Justices of the Peace exercising ordinary jurisdiction within the licensing district, or only those Justices of the Peace (including the Police Magistrate and chairman of the local authority) appointed as Licensing Justices by the Governor in Council. This Act also replaced the system of publicans licenses with licensed victuallers licenses for hotels.

Licensing Courts were established under the *Liquor Act 1912* to replace the Licensing Authorities. The licensing courts were presided over by the Police Magistrate for each district. Under the *Liquor Acts Amendment Act 1935*, the Licensing Commission was established, and the Licensing Courts were replaced by the Courts of Petty Sessions.

Refer to Appendix 2 for more information about agencies responsible for liquor licensing and the legislation governing these agencies.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S Series ID (for a series of records)
- A Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.**

## Government Gazette

A list of references to the issue of publicans' licenses and licensed victuallers' licenses is available in the *Queensland Government Gazette* from 1860 to 1914 – see Appendix 1. The *Queensland Government Gazette* from 1860 to 1900 is available online on [Text Queensland](#).

Lists of licensees were not published in the *Queensland Government Gazette* after 1914. The main series after 1914 until 1960 is *Licensed Victuallers' Licence files, S17933* (see below under Licensing Commission).

## Court of Petty Sessions, Brisbane

### **Register of Applicants – Victuallers' Licences**

Circa 1/4/1895–31/5/1897

[S11144](#)

### **Register of Applications for Liquor Licences**

20/4/1858–11/6/1867

[S11147](#)

### **Registers of Applications - Liquor and Other Licences**

9/12/1879–3/3/1915

[S11156](#)

## Licensing Board, Southport

### **Register of Publicans and Other Licences**

Circa 1/1/1884–31/12/1903

[S9438](#)

## Licensing Authority, Barcaldine

### **Register of Licences**

1/4/1891–21/8/1924

[S8149](#)

## Licensing Court, Allora

### **Register of Liquor Licences and Licensed Premises**

Circa 1/1/1913–31/12/1930

[S10369](#)

## Licensing Commission

### **Revoked Liquor Licence Files**

28/5/1936–1/3/1993

[S18001](#)

Many of these files are listed by name of hotel in our catalogue.

### **Liquor Licence Applicants Cards (arranged by owner)**

Circa 1/1/1935–31/12/1989

[S17570](#)

### **Licensed Victuallers' Licence files**

Circa 1/1/1914–31/12/1960

[S17933](#)

These files are listed by the name of the hotel/premises in our catalogue.

### **Winesellers' Licences**

Circa 14/6/1914–31/12/1960

[S17936](#)

### **Bottlers' Licences**

6/5/1937–24/4/1990

[S17934](#)

### **Minutes of Sittings of the Licensing Commission**

24/02/1936–28/06/1985

[S17935](#)

## Magistrates Court, Clermont

### **Registers of Liquor Licences and Licensed Premises**

02/04/1913–30/10/1973

[S9662](#)

## Treasury Department

### **Liquor Licence Fee Cards**

Circa 1/1/1926–31/12/1936

[S17547](#)

There are three card sequences arranged by licensing district, by hotel name and by name of licensee.

### **Register of Retail Liquor Licences**

3/4/1907–6/5/1908

[S6735](#)

### **Victuallers' and Billiards' Liquor Licence Butts**

Circa 1/7/1912–30/6/1936

[S17979](#)

## Department of Tourism and Racing

### **Liquor Licence Site Plans [Licensing Commission/Department of Tourism]**

8/12/1936-17/6/2002

[S20925](#)

Plans of hotels, clubs and other venues submitted to the Licensing Commission as part of the liquor licensing application process.

Appendix 1 – List of licenses in the *Queensland Government Gazette*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Page reference</b> (Annual lists and half year returns)
1860	page 268
1862	page 318 (Annual)
1863	pages 72, 415 (Annual)
1864	pages 111, 120, 124, 138, 234, 314, 328, 376, 482, 500, 519, 540, 542, 549, 663, 960, 972, 985, 1005, 1014, 1043, 1052, 1072
1865	pages 12, 124, 173, 691
1866	pages 184, 805, 831, 852
1867	page 803
1868	pages 877, 1034, 1194, 1339, 1453
1869	pages 48, 167, 268, 467, 625, 684, 934, 1184, 1406, 1478, 1671
1870	pages 92, 161, 413, 507, 606, 733, 934, 1143, 1306, 1499, 1654
1871	pages 148, 530, 722, 829, 1176 (Annual), 1365, 1489, 1665, 1803
1872	pages 212, 445, 615, 798, 870, 1284, 1508, 1931
1873	pages 69, 1345
1874	pages 299, 580, 918, 1092, 1619, 1742, 1985, 2153, 2372
Jan-Jun 1875	pages 95, 262, 263, 567, 747, 954, 1147
Jul-Dec 1875	Under area names in Index 'Licenses'
Jan-Jun 1876	pages 161, 243, 636, 742, 972, 1211
Jul-Dec 1876	pages 15, 195 (Annual), 198, 406, 601, 929, 930, 1204
Jan-Jun 1877	pages 96, 279, 280, 763, 1074, 1420, 1613
Jul-Dec 1877	pages 68, 302, 305, 505, 750, 964, 1245
Jan-Jun 1878	pages 166, 251, 252, 809, 1051, 1313
Jul-Dec 1878	pages 233 (Annual), 491, 775, 1004, 1192
Jan-Jun 1879	pages 100, 250, 584, 833, 1072, 1218
Jul-Dec 1879	pages 81, 204 (Annual), 207, 436, 749, 963, 1148
Jan-Jun 1880	pages 27, 271, 272, 468, 807, 1028, 1342
Jul-Dec 1880	pages 21, 289 (Annual), 519, 782, 1022, 1349
Jan-Jun 1881	pages 78, 251, 252, 499, 912, 1134, 1344
Jul-Dec 1881	pages 34, 239 (Annual), 242, 638, 867, 1086, 1324
Jan-Jul 1882	pages 91, 233, 647, 844, 1022, 1266
Jul-Dec 1882	pages 288, 291, 563, 811, 1141, 1412, 1601
Jan-Jul 1883	pages 252, 253, 429, 681, 995, 1234, 1470
Jul-Dec 1883	pages 275 (Annual), 278, 433, 678, 962, 1213, 1436
Jan-Jun 1884	pages 47, 299, 738, 1123, 1336, 1736
Jul-Dec 1884	pages 29, 471 (Annual), 836, 1094, 1240, 1491, 1526, 1893
Jan-Jul 1885	pages 124, 343, 659, 1215, 1444, 1764
Jul-Dec 1885	pages 144, 459 (Annual), 463, 853, 1196, 1535, 2033
Jan-Jun 1886	pages 112, 432, 433, 920, 1298, 1691, 2051
Jul-Dec 1886	pages 582 (Annual), 895, 1296, 1745, 2275
Jan-Apr 1887	pages 154, 393 (half year returns), 525, 946, 1302
May-Aug 1887	pages 83, 336, 1035 (Annual)
Sep-Dec 1887	pages 49, 408, 804, 1127

Appendix 1 – List of licenses in the *Queensland Government Gazette* (cont)

Year	Page reference (Annual lists and half year returns)
Jan-Apr 1888	pages 53, 336, 770, 1161, 307 (half year returns)
May-Aug 1888	pages 23, 367, 968, 1054 (Annual)
Sep-Dec 1888	pages 89, 560, 985
Jan-Apr 1889	pages 145, 600, 929, 1236, 349 (half year returns)
May-Aug 1889	pages 35, 339, 984, 1205 (Annual)
Sep-Dec 1890	pages 30, 430, 779, 1126
Jan-Apr 1890	pages 129, 425, 887, 1152, 373 (half year returns)
May-Aug 1890	pages 26, 317, 768, 1051 (Annual), 1056, 1058
Sep-Dec 1890	pages 23, 357, 695, 1216
Jan-Apr 1891	pages 143, 424, 900, 1236, 355 (half year returns)
May-Aug 1891	pages 27, 378, 1051 (Annual), 1056, 1058
Sep-Dec 1891	pages 40, 385, 785, 1160
Jan-Apr 1892	pages 119, 504, 947, 1275, 417 (half year returns)
May-Aug 1892	pages 22, 323, 647, 983 (Annual)
Sep-Dec 1892	pages 20, 354, 724, 1078
Jan-Apr 1893	pages 43, 348, 679, 1026, 385 (Annual)
May-Aug 1893	pages 23, 285, 549, 823 (Annual), 828, 830
Sep-Dec 1893	pages 24, 425, 698, 933
Jan-Jun 1894	pages 19, 288, 590, 835, 1067, 1340, 361 (Annual to June 1894)
Jul-Dec 1894	pages 263 (Annual to June 1895), 266, 282, 529, 771, 1022, 1278
Jan-Jun 1895	pages 376, 660, 948, 1183, 1404, 241 (Annual)
Jul-Dec 1895	pages 33, 403, 592, 795, 1062, 1238
Jan-Jun 1896	pages 65, 319, 339 (Annual), 664, 897, 1081, 1281
Jul-Dec 1896	pages 19, 339 (Annual), 535, 1025, 1228
Jan-Jun 1897	pages 54, 203 (Annual), 305, 707, 1147, 1344
Jul-Dec 1897	pages 61, 328 (Annual), 520, 794, 992, 1285
Jan-Jun 1898	pages 68, 183 (Annual), 275, 758, 1118, 1297, 1495
Jul-Dec 1898	pages 368 (Annual), 681, 899, 1092, 1321
Jan-Jun 1899	pages 7, 129 (Annual), 287, 709, 942, 1156, 1350
Jul-Dec 1899	pages 358 (Annual), 603, 857, 1077, 1542
Jan-Jun 1900	pages 16, 105 (Annual), 361, 837, 1030, 1245, 1535
Jul-Dec 1900	pages 11, 324 (Annual), 556, 844, 1675
Jan-Apr 1901	pages 72, 233 (Annual), 338, 986, 1274
May-Aug 1901	pages 76, 295, 543, 997 (Annual)
Sep-Dec 1901	pages 13, 313, 768
Jan-Jun 1902	pages 45, 344, 383 (half year returns), 890, 1080, 1385, 1597
Jul-Dec 1902	pages 74, 347 (Annual to June 1903), 539, 540, 914, 1083, 1275
Jan-Jun 1903	pages 93, 319 (half year returns), 536, 971, 1197, 1359, 1528
Jul-Dec 1903	pages 48, 261 (Annual to June 1904), 277, 484, 683, 869, 1108
Jan-Jun 1904	pages 60, 219 (half year returns), 370, 1007, 1299, 1485, 1723
Jul-Dec 1904	pages 31, 301, 403 (Annual to June 1905), 619, 756, 940, 1240
Jan-Jun 1905	pages 104, 177 (half year returns), 373, 1038, 1292, 1478, 1691

Appendix 1 – List of licenses in the *Queensland Government Gazette* (cont)

Year	Page reference (Annual lists and half year returns)
Jul-Dec 1905	pages 111, 364, 479 (Annual to June 1906), 603, 852, 1042, 1251
Jan-Jun 1906	pages 98, 237 (half year returns), 344, 1010, 1286, 1550, 1704
Jul-Dec 1906	pages 87, 348 (Annual to June 1907), 521, 733, 1005, 1201
Jan-Jun 1907	pages 77, 193 (half year returns), 433, 1004, 1247, 1458, 1579 (bound before Jul-Dec 1907)
Jul-Dec 1907	pages 417 (Annual to June 1908), 607, 960, 1249, 1455
Jan-Jun 1908	pages 108, 223 (half year returns), 436, 666, 872, 1287, 1453
Jul-Dec 1908	pages 90, 342 399 (Annual to June 1909), 562, 710, 958, 1161
Jan-Jun 1909	pages 115, 353, 603 (half year returns), 701, 922, 1114, 1298
Jul-Dec 1909	pages 154, 410 533 (Annual to June 1910), 650, 993, 1219, 1475
Jan-Jun 1910	pages 153, 411 (half year returns), 489, 749, 1010, 1250, 1635
Jul-Dec 1910	pages 166, 663 (Annual to June 1911), 693, 1104, 1345, 1622
Jan-Jun 1911	pages 486, 938, 947 (half year returns), 1340, 1491, 1712, 1951
Jul-Dec 1911	pages 234, 737 (Annual to June 1912), 833, 1320, 1392
Jan-Jun 1912	pages 143, 798, 901, 1007 (half year returns), 1085, 1340, 1561
Jul-Dec 1912	pages 609 (Annual to June 1913), 913, 1414, 1783
Jan-Jun 1913	pages 177, 637, 916, 1093 (Annual to June 1913)
Jul-Dec 1913	page 1211 (Annual to June 1914)
Jan-Jun 1914	pages 133, 560, 751, 999, 1700



## Appendix 2 - Agencies Responsible for Liquor Licenses 1859 onwards

Agency	Legislation or Mandate	Functions included:
1859-1879 Courts of Petty Sessions	<i>Publicans Act 1863</i> <i>Licensing Boards Act 1879</i>	Hearing charges and complaints, keeping records of charges and complaints, and keeping Registers of Licenses.
1879-1885 Licensing Boards	<i>Licensing Boards Act 1879</i> <i>Licensing Act 1885</i>	Granting and reviewing of liquor licenses.
1886-1913 Licensing Authorities	<i>Licensing Act 1885</i> <i>Liquor Act 1912</i>	Granting licenses, as well as renewal, transfer, removal, transmission of licenses.
1913-1935 Licensing Courts	<i>Liquor Act 1912</i> <i>Liquor Acts Amendment Act 1935</i>	Granting, regulating and rescinding liquor licenses including victuallers', wine sellers', packet, billiard and bagatelle licenses.
1935-1964 Courts of Petty Sessions	<i>Liquor Acts Amendment Act 1935</i> <i>Justices Act Amendment Act 1964</i>	Hearing charges and complaints, keeping records of charges and complaints, and keeping Registers of Licenses.
1935-1973 Licensing Commission	<i>Liquor Acts Amendment Act 1935</i> <i>Liquor Act Amendment Act 1973</i>	Issuing licenses, informing the Courts of Petty Sessions/Magistrates Courts to enable their Registers of Licenses.
1973-1992 Licensing Commission	<i>Liquor Act 1912</i> <i>Liquor Act 1992</i>	Keeping Registers of Licenses, keeping records of charges and complaints, informing the Magistrates Courts, and supervision of licensed premises.
1965-current Magistrates Courts	<i>Justices Acts Amendment Act 1964</i> <i>Liquor Act Amendment Act 1973</i>	Supplying information to the Licensing Commission concerning charges and complaints.
Licensing Court 1974 - 1992	<i>Liquor Act 1912-1987</i>	Keeping Register of Licenses, keeping records of charges and complaints (information supplied by Magistrates Courts), and supervision of licensed premises.

### Need more information?

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Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.