university examinations and even Sunday markets.

One hand, Cloudland Ballroom was a venue that had been an important part of its heyday (some of whom had started romances there), frequented primarily by politicians in its final years standing. On the other hand, it is important to remember that most members stood firm against Queensland’s so-called development-at-any-cost Premier, Joh Bjelke-Petersen. The event sparked a massive outcry from the local Brisbane community.

Developers moved in at 3 am in November 1982 and illegally demolished Cloudland. It had two cars, holding thirty passengers each. They would go up from Breakfast Creek Road to the Cloudland Ballroom.

Eslick disappeared soon after Cloudland was opened so the building was left empty. The Funicular Railway was eventually dismantled in 1967 and the area turned into a car park.

Cloudland was purchased by sisters, Mya Winters and Francis Rouch, for $16,000 pounds and re-opened on 24 February 1964. Promoter, Ivan M. Dayman of Dance Promotions Pty. Ltd., took over the lease of the ballroom and the Panorama Room around 1965.

The venue was a classic World War II structure. Inside it had hard timber floors, decorative columns, sweeping curtains, domed sky lights and nearly 18 metres high laminated roof arch. The citizens of Brisbane had once enjoyed R & R from the worst fighting in WW2.

Eslick was described as a more demure ‘jazz’ performer. He was eventually dismantled in 1982 and the area turned into a car park.

Demolitions and political protests in the era of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen were common. Between the mid-1970s and late 1980s, two state-approved Vandalism in Brisbane events took place. These included Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen authorising the demolition of some sixty city buildings during his time as Premier. These events included the demolition of some sixty city buildings during his time as Premier. These events included the demolition of some sixty city buildings during his time as Premier.

Of all the buildings demolished between the mid-1970s and late 1980s, two stand out in people’s memories — the Bellevue Hotel and the Cloudland Ballroom.

The Bellevue Hotel, which Eslick had also built in 1912. The Rollercoaster at Luna Park was destroyed before the fair grounds were opened.

In 2004, a ballet was introduced to bring visitors up from Breakfast Creek Road. The funicular was the largest building of its type in Brisbane. Eslick paid $1,000 for a funicular railway at Luna Park in 1905. The Railway used five cars, holding thirty passengers each. They would go up from Breakfast Creek Road.

Cloudland hosted three of the six concerts performed by rock ‘n’ roll legend Buddy Holly and concerts in the 50s, 60s and 70s, including a number of notable events. As a pop/rock/old time music venue, Cloudland hosted thousands of dances and concerts in the 50s, 60s and 70s, including a number of notable events.

In the early 1960s, promoter Ivan Dayman took the reins and turned Cloudland into a major live music venue signing top ‘beat’ bands including The Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, UB40, The Go-Betweens, and The Clash. In the 1970s, Cloudland hosted thousands of events from the 40s, through to its demise in 1982. It was the largest building of its type in Brisbane. Eslick paid $1,000 for a funicular railway at Luna Park in 1905. The Railway used five cars, holding thirty passengers each. They would go up from Breakfast Creek Road.

In the early 1960s, promoter Ivan Dayman took the reins and turned Cloudland into a major live music venue signing top ‘beat’ bands including The Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, UB40, The Go-Betweens, and The Clash. In the 1970s, Cloudland hosted thousands of events from the 40s, through to its demise in 1982. As a pop/rock/old time music venue, Cloudland hosted thousands of dances and concerts in the 50s, 60s and 70s, including a number of notable events.

From the 1950s through to the 1980s, Cloudland was the home of entertainment venue located in Bowen Hills. It was demolished in 1982 and without doubt one of the best dance and concert venues in the country.
resulted in a total of 662 people being arrested!

Shortly after protesting had been outlawed, in October 1977 one march who were the students of the university who were giving all the trouble…

senior police reported directly to the Premier: or, worse, bashed by the police. The term 'police state' became a reality, as announced that, grant (or, more accurately, not grant) a permit under the Traffic Act. Joh

the public would need to apply through the police, who had the authority to

ports, Bjelke-Petersen declared that all street marches would be illegal from

tour. When people began protesting the export of uranium from Queensland

force had been seen to be excessive, as was the case with the Springbok

Public outrage in the Sir Joh era was something that the State government

after it was sold to Devine Limited in 2003.

Since the Bjelke-Petersen era, the Deens have also had a hand in the

demolition of other significant buildings in Brisbane, including Festival Hall

The Deen Brothers' interest in Brisbane's lost heritage didn't stop with a

one to George Deen for $400. It was planned that Happy Deen, who was

seriously, we believe in preserving heritage too

answered, 

jobs

memories come back as I stand here, because this was one of our best

the Bellevue Hotel, which is now home to a five-story building constructed

heritage walks around the city centre. Students from around Australia had

became 'tour guides' in 1991, leading a group of architecture students on

local heritage as the rest of Brisbane's residents. Several of them even

It turns out that the Deens were just as interested and concerned about

company in Queensland (and perhaps even Australia).

household name and consequently the most well-known demolition

family, but they were also a major force for their firm. With the help of

in 1982. The Deen Brothers had expected the job to take a good part of the day. They had

Cloudland Ballroom was gone in less than an hour, although the Deen

had managed to find out about the proposed demolition until it was too

1982.

construction. The Deen Brothers were contracted to demolish the historical

landmark, situated in the inner-city suburb of Bowen Hills. Around six

million.

Bruce Dickson, the event was taking place

Queensland was planning a thirties and forties revival ball to bring attention

At that time, the La Boite Theatre and Community Arts Network of

buildings hidden in their shadows. We can only imagine how Cloudland and

musical history was lost because of Joh's pro-development stance. If

people from Redcliffe where my family lived). Its importance to Brisbane's

anonymous interviewee stated:

After the demolition of Cloudland, the public made it very clear that they

hardly a deterrent for individuals, let alone the State Government.

$200; the Cloudland penalty was only $125. Clearly, this measly fine was

The maximum fine for demolishing National Trust-listed buildings was

personally responsible for failing to protect Brisbane's heritage.

media and the public still held Bjelke-Petersen and his Country Party

by the government (it was owned by real estate promoter Peter Kurts), the

notify the Brisbane City Council, from whom they required permission in

It wasn't only the public who weren't warned of the impending demolition of

The five brothers — Happy, Louie, George, Ray and Funny — were proud of

when building after building was reduced to rubble.

They, along with Joh Bjelke-Petersen, were the target of public outrage

them. In fact, that is exactly what happened with the Deen Brothers, who

known (if not notorious), that almost everyone in Brisbane could name

House

It's frightening the way this

By the 1980s, the Deen Brothers had established a reputation for their

happening were the nearby residents woken by the machinery.

late. In fact, the first members of the public to become aware of what was

had managed to find out about the proposed demolition until it was too