



A Bicentennial diary

Day One.

Chopped down
a whole lot of trees...
Shot a few aborigines...

Day Two.

Pissed till the creek turned yellow,
after the rum ration was issued.
Chopped down a few more trees.

Day Three.

Jeez, it's gonna take about 200 years
to chop down all these bloody trees
Must go out and kill a few more
aborigines.

Cane Toad Times

Preface

THE ECCENTRIC VOICES PROJECT and this book were sparked by the 2017 death of Damien Ledwich, who was a cartoonist, graphic designer, humourist, animator and enthusiastic contributor and collector of Brisbane culture.

In February 1974, when Damien Ledwich arrived late on the first day of his architecture course at the University of Queensland, none of us present could have imagined how we would be swept into an outburst of cultural creativity over the next two decades and beyond.

Architecture students would start rock bands and *The Cane Toad Times*, join the rebel radio station Triple Zed, design and print magazines, posters and T-shirts, join in protests and get arrested. Most of us still managed to complete our degrees and many became successful architects.

We were just one group of many all over this city who came together to create a new culture for our generation, to break out of the bible-bashing boredom of a public culture dominated by old blokes in bad hats, crooked cops and ladies in league against communism.

Life in Brisbane in the 1970s and 1980s was set against the backdrop of a police state overseen by the hillbilly dictator Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Joh was a lightning rod, the cause around which we would unite to bring him down. Maybe we brought him down. Maybe not. Maybe his hubris caught up with him in the end.

The essays in this book look at the era from many angles. Some are personal stories. Others try to tease out just what the hell happened.

The essays are supplemented by scraps of cultural history – cartoons, art, photographs, old news clippings, posters, T-shirts and flyers.

In addition to this book, Eccentric Voices is a web-based archive that contains links to other published material, videos, websites and musings.

Essays that weren't finished in time for this book will be published online at www.eccentricvoices.com when submitted. If you have material to contribute, please send it to incoming@toadshow.com.au.

Living in Brisbane between 1965 and 1995 was in many ways a terrible ordeal but it was also an amazing opportunity. What happened and what was achieved during those years continues to ripple through time to this day.

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Eccentric Voices: A scrapbook of Brisbane cultural history 1965-1995