BREAKBONE BOOKS · BRK B1

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# Home by dark. A sixteen-year-old's history of who got to gather in Brisbane, 1846 to 2026

On Saturday 4 May 2024 a thirteen-year-old left a free all-ages gig at Paddington Skatepark before the last band, because eight o'clock was the deal he had argued out at home. He walked up to the bus stop as PIMP started.

Two and a half years later he has written the history of everyone in Brisbane who had to leave before the end.

The Square State, by Iggy Bitburg, follows Brisbane's young people from 1846 to 2026 and the rules that sent them home. The Sunday order of 1853. Three thousand people in the bleachers of the Brisbane Stadium on 21 November 1956, with police walking the aisles to stop anyone who stood up to dance. The licences revoked in 1979 and the halls that kept getting raided. A fence and a five dollar gate on Market Day in 1994. The last bus. It is told from the crowd's side, through the people who hired the hall, paid at the door and caught the train in from Woodridge.

Iggy is sixteen and in Year 11. Nine days after that night at Paddington he started Breakbone, an online magazine about Brisbane's all-ages underground, and in September 2024 he published its first history of the scene. The Square State grew out of it, and is now in its final rewrite.

Breakbone is asking Brisbane for the rest. Every week its Instagram, @breakbonemagazine, posts an archive photograph of a Brisbane crowd from the State Library of Queensland or the Queensland State Archives, with the date, the place and one question. Were you here? The first is the Brisbane Stadium on Albert Street. Replies become oral history for the book.

On request

· Interviews with Iggy Bitburg, by phone, email or in the studio

· A sample chapter, 'Rock Around the Clock' (Brisbane Stadium, 1956)

· Archive images with credits, and photographs of the Breakbone archive

· The Classroom Edition, three free chapters and an inquiry sheet for Queensland history teachers

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# About the author

Iggy Bitburg is sixteen, in Year 11, and writes the history of Brisbane's young people.

He went to his first underground gig alone, at thirteen, a free all-ages show in Paddington Skatepark on 4 May 2024. He stood with the photographers because it looked like having a reason to be there, went into the pit in the second set, and left at eight o'clock to make the deal he had struck at home. Nine days later he started Breakbone.

Breakbone is an online magazine about Brisbane's all-ages underground. Its motto, 'Document, distribute, demonstrate', came first and the practice caught up later. In September 2024 it published a history of the scene, still among the most-liked posts on an account now followed by nearly four thousand people. Since then the magazine has covered the halls, carparks, skateparks and parks where kids have put on their own gigs, written up the bands, and kept the flyers.

The Square State is the history that grew out of it. It runs from 1846 to 2026 and follows one question through Brisbane's dance halls, stadiums, pubs, parks and squares. Who got to gather here, and until when? It is built from newspapers, court reports, student papers, fanzines and the memories of people who were there, and told from the crowd's side. It is the first of four Breakbone Books, published under the catalogue number BRK B1.

He writes under the name Iggy Bitburg. The author photograph is the back of his battle jacket.

He is now asking the city for what the papers left out. Every week Breakbone posts an archive photograph of a Brisbane crowd with the question 'Were you here?', and the answers go into the book.

He lives in Brisbane and catches the bus.

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# Photographs

High-resolution files on request from breakbonezine@gmail.com.




Crowds leaving the Brisbane Stadium, Albert Street, about 1925. State Library of Queensland, negative 191871, out of copyright.



Coorparoo School of Arts and Memorial Hall, 2 October 2026. Photo: Iggy Bitburg / Breakbone.




A setlist from Coorparoo Hall on the Breakbone archive wall, 4 October 2026. Photo: Iggy Bitburg / Breakbone.