

BRISBANE *Symbols of the City*



THE LORD MAYOR'S CREST

The shield and crest sections of the city's coat of arms form the Lord Mayor's Crest. This is used exclusively by the Lord Mayor.



THE FAUNAL EMBLEM

The Graceful Tree Frog (*Litoria gracilent-gracilentia*) is Brisbane City's faunal emblem. The small and dainty frog can be found in thick vegetation and reeds, near creeks, billabongs and wetlands. The emblem symbolises the rich array of fauna throughout the city.



THE FLAG

Brisbane's official flag is based on the design of the city's coat of arms. It features gold Caducei, gold Stafford Knots, white stars and white wavy lines on a blue background. The flag flies daily outside City Hall in King George Square, Brisbane.



THE COAT OF ARMS

The coat of arms is made up of four sections. The shield symbolises all the activities of the city and the personage of Sir Thomas Brisbane from whom the city takes its name.

The blue in the chief represents the heavens and the parting line nebuly, the clouds. The two mullets indicate Brisbane's achievements in the field of astronomy. The Stafford Knot is the badge of the 38th Foot (Staffordshire Regiment) in which Sir Thomas Brisbane first entered the British Army as an Ensign in 1789. He had a highly distinguished military career serving under the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War where he fought with distinction, reaching the rank of General.

The Caduceus is the symbol of commerce and peace, and is the emblem depicted for Hermes in his capacity as God and Protector of Commerce. This symbolises the everyday activities of the city and is an appropriate symbol for a city of status.

Two gryphons support the design, together with the motto 'Meliora Sequimur'. The gryphon is one of the principal bearings in heraldry, and is frequently used as a charge or supporter. The chimerical creature is half eagle and half lion and it is said that when it reaches full growth, it will never be taken alive. The wavy blue bar around the neck refers to the city as a port on the river.

The palm leaves in the crest are a symbol of victory and are included as a compliment from Council to the courage of Australian fighting services.

Bold courage, patience and high-mettled attributes are conveyed by the leopard in the crest. The colours of the city, blue and gold, are indicated by the wreath at top.

THE TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COAT OF ARMS IS AS FOLLOWS:

ARMS – Barry wavy of six Argent and Azure a Caduceus Or on a Chief nebuly of the second a Stafford Knot of the third between two Mulletts of the first. **CREST** – On a Wreath Or and Azure, out of a Mural Crown Gules a Leopard's head couped Or Between two Palm Branches slipped Vert. **SUPPORTERS** – On either side a Gryphon proper charged on the neck with a Bar wavy Azure. **MOTTO** – 'Meliora Sequimur' (We aim for the best).

GLOSSARY OF HERALDRY TERMS

WAVY – Curved bars undulating like waves of the sea. **CHIEF** – One of the honourable ordinaries of a shield. **MULLETS** – Five-pointed stars. **ARGENT** – Silver. **AZURE** – Blue or Gold. **GULES** – Red. **VERT** – Green. **PROPER** – In its natural colour. **CADUCEUS** – A Herald's wand, usually represented with two serpents twined around it. **OR** – Gold.



THE LOGO

Brisbane City Hall is known as the community and cultural centre of Brisbane and forms the basis of the official corporate logo of Brisbane City Council.

For many Brisbane people, the classic style of City Hall represents the very centre of Brisbane, a place of stability, which has weathered the years of development around it.

The logo features the traditional city colours of blue and gold. A green palm tree is used to reflect the significant climate and lifestyle difference between Brisbane and other southern capitals.

The logo is one of the most frequently used icons in the city and can be seen on a variety of objects including Council facilities, vehicles, corporate publications, advertising and employer uniforms.



THE FLORAL EMBLEM

During his six-year term in office, Mr W.A. Jolly C.M.G., the first Mayor of Greater Brisbane, and the Brisbane horticultural societies decided that the city needed a floral emblem. After a conference of all the societies and a public survey in the Brisbane press, the red poinsettia was selected.

The poinsettia is indigenous to Mexico but it grows to perfection in Brisbane. The flower yields a wealth of greenish-yellow florets over large crimson bracts (leaves). In some varieties these are a velvety dark red and in others a slightly lighter shade.

The single and double red poinsettias are the most popular and are grown in gardens throughout the city. Their brilliant crimson bracts add a glorious splash of colour during the winter months of May to July.