



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

Vol. XXVI, No. 3

NEW BOOK

Amble past Kangaroo Point's past

Putting an historical edge on a leisurely walk around Kangaroo Point will be a breeze with this new edition of the *Kangaroo Point Heritage Walk* booklet.

The well-illustrated 90-page volume will guide you on a two-hour amble around the locality's heritage buildings and places. You will not only glean important facts but also be charmed by the 20 short stories from people who lived and worked there.

As the eight-year-old granddaughter of Arthur Deakin, Jane Deakin remembers the huge chains that held the ship back. "When it was launched these enormous chains pulled out to hold the ship in the river. The incredible noise was like thunder."



Kerry Geraghy lived with her parents above the family store (Reddels, where the NightOwl is now).

"Mum did lunches for workers from Evans Deakin, Pullens Towing, Robb and Brown, and Peters Slip to name a few—all from the little kitchen on the premises at 188 Main Street," said Kerry.

Long-time resident and retired architect Robin Spencer remembers an elderly Pixley Street woman who, in the days before ferries, needed to whistle for a boatman to row her across after dark. Being such a rough area they wouldn't come for just anyone, but, she said, "They knew my whistle and would always pick me up."

"The walk and the stories bring to life what many see as a foremost bedroom suburb of our river city," said Austin Adams, NFDHS member and the Kangaroo Point local who has provided the impetus for the project.

Copies of this attractive publication are available from Mary Ryan's in New Farm, and from Medley Fresh Market & Garden and the Story Bridge Hotel in KP. For more information, email Austin on rasadams@gmail.com.

A YEAR AGO...

Remember the 'Under the Lino' talk?

WHEN our first speaker for 2019 was Caylie Jeffery, that Under-the-Lino lady (pictured), none of us had an inkling of what was around the corner—even though it was the centenary of the Spanish Flu epidemic, which came ashore in Australia in January 1919.

Caylie has been in contact with the society about the community project she has been managing called Under the Lino.

You will remember from her talk in February 2019 that she found money and bank books from the 1940s/50s under the floor of her 1912 Queenslander. What ensued was an investigation involving online methods of communication and the assistance of thousands of amateur 'historical detectives'.

If anyone would like to revisit Caylie's presentations (a great way to wile away those self-



isolated hours), you'll be interested to know that they are available online.

"I was a guest speaker at the Fraser Coast Writers' Festival last October, and they were kind enough to film my presentation," said Caylie.

For the Fraser Coast talk, go to tinyurl.com/wpcpqu8. You may also like to watch Caylie's TEDxBrisbane talk tinyurl.com/yx8x9cbl, and see her receiving the John Oxley Award in 2019: tinyurl.com/rafyfqw.

In case you are using your isolation time to work on your family history, you might appreciate a copy of Caylie's *History Writing/Journaling Workbook*, which promises to help people with their own family history and autobiographical writing. Request a copy from her by emailing: underthelino@hotmail.com.

Lastly Caylie has around 200 copies of her book remaining, available for purchase online, if anyone wants some good reading during this period.

You may order *Under the Lino: The Mystery, The History, The Community* at www.underthelino.com.au/book. The cost is \$35 and it will arrive by post within a week.

"If anyone has questions or comments, I can be reached at underthelino@hotmail.com," said Caylie.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ross Garnett

Society on hold as history repeats itself

I AM writing this on April Fool's Day, but there are no tricks in this message! It seems as if history is repeating itself—a pandemic just 101 years after the Spanish Flu contagion of 1919. Luckily, we are in a very different world. We understand more about how diseases are spread; we live healthy lives, and are not nutrition-depleted as after WWI; we have an excellent health system with ICUs and ventilators available; plus, we are in a digital age which delivers news and information in many ways and can keep us entertained in our homes. Nevertheless, many things remain the same: isolating, wearing masks, washing hands regularly, food deliveries to households, and closing the borders.

It is no surprise to anyone that our regular monthly meetings remain cancelled until at least July and we expect on current information that it could be longer. We missed our movie afternoon—and the Anzac Day meeting was to be a talk about men from New Farm whose names are on the honour board at St Andrews Uniting Church in the city. In May we were to hear about the history of sweets, and then in June the Japanese house built in Langshaw Street.

We are grateful to the speakers who were booked for those meetings for their willingness to reschedule when this crisis eventually passes.

Thank you to Gerard for agreeing to keep our contact with you through the newsletter. There will be no meeting reports or information about the upcoming meeting, so Gerard needs your help with your interesting historical photos and stories.

We all have memories and we all have a bit more time available with the curtailment of our regular activities, so why not get to work with pen or keyboard, and email or post your offerings, short or long, to info@newfarmhistorical.org.au or PO Box 1141, New Farm Q 4005. — *Stay well, stay cheery...*



Same old, same old...: (Top) Stranded Queenslanders at Tweed Heads in March 1919. (Above) Business under quarantine: the Tweed Heads butcher receives orders from Coolangatta women.

TO THE EDITOR**Catalina sightings near New Farm?**

THE Society received an enquiry from member Ken Hoy, a former airline pilot (Air Niugini, Ansett, Cathay Pacific, Qatar Airways) who has retired to the Catalina development in Teneriffe.

Ken edits the newsletter for the Australian Retired Pilots and Aviation Professionals Association (AARAP) and wished to follow up on a comment made years ago by one of their late members that Consolidated Catalinas (PB2s or 5s) operated along the stretch of river between New Farm and what is now Portside.

“The aircraft (as pictured above) was used during WW2 on long-range patrols and was noted for its ability to stay in the air long enough to see two sunrises on its Indian Ocean operations,” wrote Ken.

“Whereas I’ve been able to track down the stories of Sunderland Flying Boats operating on the river, I’ve been unable to find anything about Catalinas, if indeed they did operate from here.

“Would any readers of your newsletter be able to help me to discover something about their operations, not just for inclusion in our AARAP newsletter, but also from the personal point of view of living in Catalina South?”

If you are able to assist Ken, please contact the Society via: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

PLAQUE TOUR**#12 — New Farm Park Rotunda**

SOON after the park was opened in April 1916, the first Sunday afternoon concert was held in the new bandstand.

For the last 104 years, this beautiful ‘Federation Queen

Anne’ style structure has hosted myriad gatherings. The plaque just near it records lots more details.



HARKING BACK**Moray Street, 1912: Auction & Arcadia**

THREE dates in 1912 stand out for chroniclers of Moray Street. On Monday 15 April came a tragedy that would be met with fascinated incredulity for decades to come—the sinking of the Titanic.

Hawstead Estate

Just over a month later on Saturday 18 May, an auction was advertised which would have been the talk of Upper Bowen Terrace.

On offer were 36 “top notch allotments” including two historic residences (*Hawstead* and *Ravenswood*) on almost an acre each.

The subdivision was made possible by extending Moray Street northward from Barker Street then joining it with Bowen Terrace.

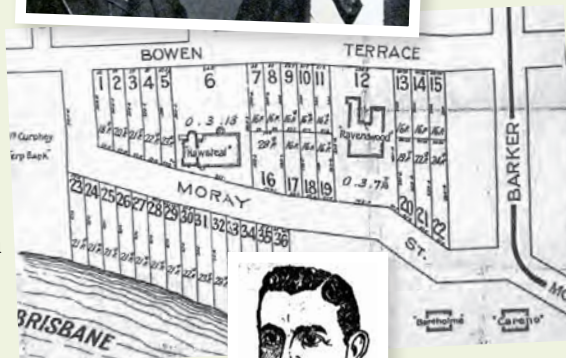
The land was part of the estate of Walter Russell Hall who had died the previous year. Hall’s name was connected with that of William Knox D’Arcy since they were both shareholders in the legendary Mount Morgan Gold Mine.

In D’Arcy’s case, his windfall from the mine led to the discovery of oil in an area corresponding with modern-day Iran, and this in turn enabled the formation of one of the world’s greatest oil companies, British Petroleum.

Hall’s link with Mt Morgan came through his brother, Rockhampton bank manager T.S. Hall, who was approached by potential investors when they

had insufficient funds. Some of the great prosperity that W.R. Hall’s stake in Mt Morgan generated was invested in prize New Farm property.

If Mt Morgan’s wealth helped to give us BP, then it also gave us the famous Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research—since it was founded in 1915 through a substantial bequest from Eliza, wife of the late Walter Hall. Read more at: tinyurl.com/qodddu7.



Moray St: (Top) Pictured ca1885 are Walter R. Hall (left) and William Knox D’Arcy, original shareholders in the Mt Morgan Gold Mining Co. (Above) Hawstead Estate. (Above right) Entertainment entrepreneur Hugh Black.

The Arcadia Theatre

Fast-forward three months to Saturday 10 August 1912 (Ekka time) when a new ‘theatre’ came to Moray Street.

The Arcadia was an open-air venue

which was dazzlingly-lit using electricity (not gas), and offered comfortable seating for 2,000.

The opening attraction were Bletsoe’s *Crimson Ramblers* who had recently played record seasons at Manly, NSW. The second half featured “a series of strikingly interesting photo plays” (this was the pre-film era) which included *Far Erin’s Isle* (drama), *The Black Wall*

(drama), *A Quiet Boarding-house* (comic), and *Training Cossacks* (scenic).

The riverbank location could have corresponded with present-day Julius Street, since the setting was described as embracing

two acres overlooking the river, with a brilliantly-illuminated entrance abutting the tramline.

The instigator was ‘the Entertaining Scot’, Hugh Black, who had arrived in Brisbane 23 years earlier. He quickly got down to business by opening a hairdressing saloon and tobacconist’s emporium at Woolloongabba, then he moved to Queen Street. Here he took over a better-class saloon at the entrance to His Majesty’s Theatre. Perhaps that’s when he saw the potential of ‘pop-up’ open-air entertainment sites of which the Arcadia was just one. It seems not have lasted many years.

ANYONE REMEMBER?**Cosy ‘doll’s house’ long gone**

Do you remember when New Farm’s smallest dwelling stood on prime real estate in a front yard on the corner of Elystan Street and Lower Bowen Terrace?

If so, our readers would love to know the story behind this sweet little cabin. It looks as if it could have been a repurposed railway

hut (ca 1890s?) which had been given metal sliding windows and a split-opening front door, and came complete with a verandah and tiled roof. It possibly brought untold joy to the owner’s children or grandchildren.

The photograph was taken in 2008 and several years after that, the removalists had apparently been called. The quaint little bungalow was last seen travelling outbound on Breakfast Creek Road in the left lane on the back of a ute.



Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow...

5

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IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

REF.
BMT



The Officer in Charge
Base Records,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE, V.

Edwin Marsden Tooth (1886-1957) worked for Canada Cycle & Motor Co. Ltd before he enlisted in the AIF in 1915. In France, he won the Military Cross. On his way home to Brisbane, he studied the motor industry in the USA. In 1923 Tooth obtained the dealership for Dodge Bros motorcars covering the northern part of Australia. He formed Austral Motors Pty Ltd in 1924 and established his business in Boundary Street, Spring Hill. Queenslanders appreciated how the solid Dodge cars withstood long distances on outback roads. From 1928 Tooth's company expanded to include De Soto, Chrysler, Plymouth and Standard Motor Co. vehicles, making him a leader of the motorcar industry in Brisbane. In 1925, he and his wife Elsie lived in Bowen Terrace at 'Havrincourt', the name a likely nod to the Australian advance on Havrincourt Wood near Cambrai in April 1917.

Yours faithfully,
E.M. Tooth

BASE RECORDS
OCT 28 1920
RECEIVED

Design & Layout: Gerard Benjamin



my **VILLAGE** news

MANY THANKS TO
Grace Grace MP
Member for McConnell (07) 3145 9100
for photocopying the newsletter

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Postal Address: PO Box 1141 NEW FARM 4005 • **Email:** info@newfarmhistorical.org.au

President: Ross Garnett • Phone 3254 1449 • drgarn@bigpond.net.au
Vice President:
Secretary: Bernie Driessen
Treasurer: Denise Bucky

Committee: Austin Adams, Malcolm Godfrey and Ben Wieland
Newsletter Editor: Gerard Benjamin
• ggerardb@bigpond.net.au

If it won't matter in five years, then don't spend five minutes worrying about it...

V | news

archives



GERARD BENJAMIN

Mr Fahey goes to war

Having delivered countless letters from the front to the residents of Teneriffe Hill, it must have come as a grim reminder about the reality of the Great War when their well-regarded postman told them, "I'm heading off to it as well..."

As a result, someone organised several farewell gifts which included a leather wallet with a little booklet containing the signatures of the more than 60 recipients of the post run.

The presentation was made on Thursday, 30 March 1916, and among the names were Doggett, Exton, Fowles, Snelling, Abercrombie and Alderman McMaster. The following day, 34-year-old William Fahey, originally from Gympie, enlisted.

It would have made all the difference to him if Miss Agnes Bradley, also from Gympie, had said yes to his marriage proposal, but that was not to be.

After his initial training, Will Fahey graduated from the Signalling School at Chermside (site of current day Marchant Park, Aspley). Later in 1916 there was more training in England at Amesbury near Stonehenge, plus plenty to see with his mates on a four-day leave pass in London including museum and theatre visits.

By October 1917, Will Fahey qualified as an assistant instructor at the Army Signal School in Dunstable, and he remembered how one trainer had explained the need to be quick when finding a position on a map.

"If you take a long time finding it and you have English Tommies with you, they will go to sleep," he advised. "If you happen to have Aussie soldiers with you, they will go on leave."

Six months later Private Fahey was under battle conditions in France. As a signaller his duty was to keep lines of communication open; message orders or co-ordinates via signal lamp, repair broken telegraphic wires in trenches, or act as a runner, no matter the weather or battle conditions.

Luckily, he returned from France unscathed and attained the rank of sergeant. After the Armistice in November 1918 he stayed on in London to attend the British School of Telegraphy, then worked for another



Enduring foursome: William Fahey is in the back row, RHS.

year at AIF Headquarters before coming home.

Back at Chermside in 1916, Private Fahey's mates included George Brigham, Leslie Cutler and George Simpson. All survived the conflict, as did George Brigham's invaluable diary which offers graphic day-to-day details in the life of a WWI digger. Available on the State Library of Queensland website, it makes for fascinating reading (Search George Brigham on OneSearch at slq.qld.gov.au).

The four mates vowed that after the war they would meet in Brisbane for a photo. They did that in 1920 —

but another 30 years elapsed before their next reunion. This time their photo appeared in the Courier Mail accompanying a story entitled "Mates for 34 years" (29 August 1950).

After the war, Will Fahey had returned to the postal service, and one day in Queen Street he spotted Agnes Bradley. They renewed their friendship, and this time when he signalled 'marriage', she gave the green light.

They had two daughters and lived at Red Hill.

As chance would have it, Mr Fahey's great-grandson Ben Wieland and his wife Susan are Teneriffe residents and live but a stone's throw from the streets which made up Mr Fahey's old 1916 postal run.

Ben is the current custodian of his great-grandfather's wallet and the booklet of signatures from 104 years ago, as well as his medals.

"This will be the first time that I can't take his war medals down to the Anzac Day ceremony at the Submariners Walk in Teneriffe," said Ben.

TO SHOW OLD SOLDIERS NEVER...



Mates for 34 years: Posing for their re-union photo after their first meeting for 30 years, are (from left) Messrs, G. Brigham, W Fahey, L. Cutler, and G. Simpson — all Diggers of WWI.

MONTHLY HISTORY COLUMN from
MY VILLAGE NEWS April 2020

BOOKS published by the New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc.

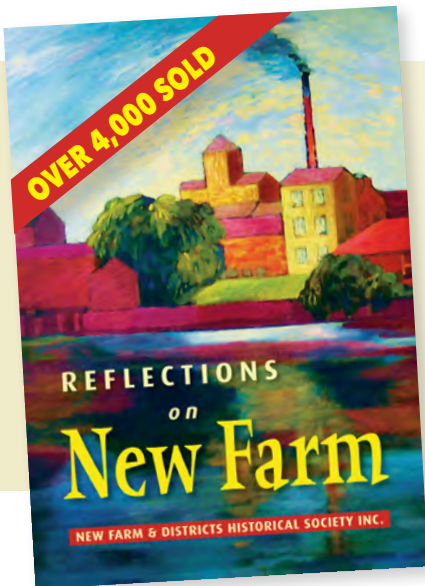
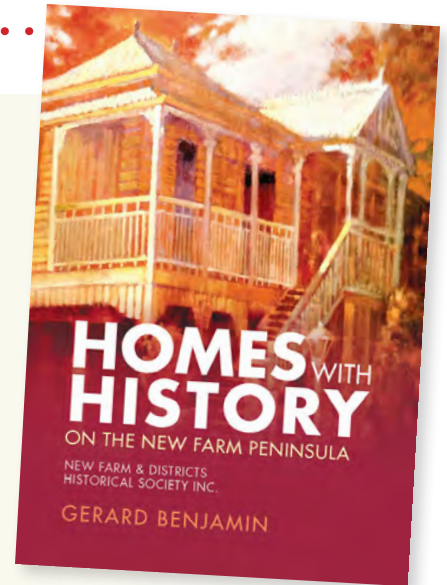
Homes with History — on the New Farm Peninsula

by Gerard Benjamin

This enthralling snapshot of more than 20 local homes notes architectural details, but its main focus is on *people*—those who built the houses, the architects who designed them, and the successive residents and families who occupied and adapted them.

When launching the book, the former Governor of Queensland Penelope Wensley said, “The individual stories are absorbing... All who take the time to read the book will enjoy the parade of personalities that passes through its pages...”

160pp, illustrated in colour; includes five letters (1848-52) of James Gibbon
PAPERBACK, \$35; HARDBACK, \$59.50.



Reflections on New Farm

compiled by Gerard Benjamin & Gloria Grant

This book has sold more than 3,000 copies, and is an indispensable reference about New Farm’s past, with enlightening insights about the suburb’s notable places, people, landmarks and events — particularly through the eyes of long-time residents who remember how it used to be... With 35 chapters and over 150 photos or graphics, you’ll relish these valuable personal recollections and wonderful stories.

PAPERBACK, 2008, 176pp. ISBN: 9780980586800 — \$25

Tides of Teneriffe

by Vicki Bridgstock

How Teneriffe has changed—from being a colonial outpost, when its wool and sugar wharves were the centre of Queensland’s economic boom, to being a bustling inner city suburb in its own right.

Vicki’s book puts you in the flow of Teneriffe’s past and local memories, and features historic images and never-before published photos of life in Teneriffe. Hear the hidden voices and stories behind this choice spot in Brisbane’s heartland.

PAPERBACK, 2009, 72pp. • ISBN: 9780980586817 — \$20



The three books are available from local bookshops in New Farm, as well as from the State Library of Queensland Library Shop. Alternatively, the books may be purchased from the New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc. Phone (07) 3254 1449 or email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au • www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library... — Jane Austen