



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

Vol. XXVI, No. 8

AUGUST MEETING

History-making meeting

FIRSTLY, CONGRATULATIONS to our wonderful committee for everything that they do, but especially for not only welcoming us back for our first meeting in six months, but also for arranging to have the meeting recorded for those who could not attend.

THANK YOU!

What a meeting with so much chatting and so many happy faces before we were seated like 'chess pieces', as Denise described us, ready for the incredible story of a Japanese house in New Farm as related by Jill Barker (pictured below).

This proved to be another extraordinary episode in the history of New Farm. District Court Judge George Paul imported the house in 1887 in flat-pack style (yes, long before Ikea), along with five builders who would erect the structure.

It was located on the corner of Langshaw St and Bowen Tce and the land sloped towards the river with wide views of the area and of Brisbane.

"Why a Japanese house?" you ask. Well, Jill is sure that the judge intended to build a business around the importation of such houses, believing that its flexible and airy design would be ideal for our tropical climate.

Though it had wide verandahs and many beautiful features such as typical Japanese vistas painted on the doors and carved fretwork scenes in the ventilation panels, when it was put on the market, it did not sell. It seems that with its sliding doors and no formally described rooms, people did not see it as a 'home'. Even the white picket fence did not persuade people that it was sufficiently homely.

Jill also explained that there had been a fascination with Japanese architecture worldwide, especially in America and France.



BY
ANN SARGEANT

Because there were insufficient roof tiles, our local manufacturers, James Campbell & Sons, made replicas but with identical Japanese branding. It seems that the tiles were from an original house and, of course, some may have been broken during transportation.

Judge Paul lived there for several years and the house became a centre for his social activities. Many important guests enjoyed his hospitality. Indeed, it was intriguing to hear that members of the D'Oyly Carte Company attended his social gatherings while performing *The Mikado* in Brisbane in 1887.

After Judge Paul's death in Townsville in 1909, the house was sold. A later owner was the bookmaker George Maxted, then in 1947 the Queensland Country Womens Association (QCWA) used the house as their state headquarters. Its flexible spaces proved to be well suited for their uses.

After a developer bought the site in 1960, Dr Pam Markwell rescued the house from possible demolition and had it shipped to Ingham. Jill believes that Judge Paul would be well pleased that the house is still in the Markwell family and that has been so well cared for. Jill showed a video about the extensive renovation work undertaken by the owner.

Jill is continuing her research about Judge Paul and the house—so perhaps there will be another enthralling episode in the future. Following her talk Jill answered many questions, some of them submitted online. Thanks, Jill, for being the brave inaugural speaker as the Society enters this new era of monthly presentations. There is much more to be enjoyed about Jill's presentation so you are most welcome to view it here: [<youtu.be/cBfb_uFewo8>](https://youtu.be/cBfb_uFewo8).



Unique heritage:

Now located at 5 Lynch Street, Ingham, the house, purchased by Judge Paul, is thought to be the oldest traditional Japanese house of its kind outside of Japan.





WAXING POETIC

George in London, '66



Our meeting in August ended with something for the funny bone, kindly provided by jovial

Newstead local George Symons who recited a ballad which began, "London, '66, and I was standing in the deli, and in she walked..."

The 'she' was none other than budding actress Annabel Leventon who happened to ask the handsome Aussie for street directions. A few years later she and two friends would form 'Rock Bottom', a three-girl rock band whose first gig was a sell-out.

Unfortunately, the concept was plundered by a TV company and 'relaunched' as an award-winning series called Rock Follies.

Unwilling to be cowed by the media moguls, but told to "forget it", the girls took the company to Britain's High Court – and won. Annabel's book *The Real Rock Follies* (2017) details the David and Goliath battle.

George's entertaining ballad celebrates the fact that he and Annabel have been 'mates' for more than fifty years. Thanks, George, for a humorous finale to this historic occasion. Top marks for content and delivery.

Pleasing result: The chairs were indeed set out like a 'chess board', to quote committee member Denise Buckby who was compere for the event. So as to ensure that physical distancing was strictly observed, Jim MacDonald (pictured below with Desley Garnett, left, and Ann Sargeant) was on hand with the official NFDHS 1.5m Measure. Operating two cameras as well as a laptop was Brett Greig of Synergy Video. Questions came from the floor as well as from online. Unfortunately afternoon tea was not able to be provided. The informal verdict had the event being declared a success.



SPEAKER'S POSTSCRIPT

Genuine wit...

FURTHER to my talk in August, I would like to add a little more in answer to the question about whether there were objections when Judge Paul (pictured in 1874) brought Japanese labourers to Queensland in order to build the house in New Farm.

As I said, there were none that I know of in relation to those Japanese builders, only that their work was of better quality than that of the local builders who completed a few of the non-specialised parts of the house.

Comments about Chinese and other workers who laboured for lower pay in the 1880s were not extended to the few Japanese in Brisbane at that time.

I also should have mentioned that there had been, of course, strong organised workers' movements in Brisbane, leading up to the more



famous 1891 shearers' strike.

Judge Paul was always sympathetic when workers, trying to get by on inadequate wages, ended up in court. *The Worker* newspaper referred to him as "The most humane, and up-

to-date common sense judge on the Queensland bench to-day".

He also gave very short sentences for certain offences, e.g. 'till the rising of the court' for failure to register a birth; or 'one minute' for attempting to commit suicide.

Journalists appreciated his acuity in the courtroom. Archibald of *The Bulletin* described him as "the only genuine wit on the Australian Bench". On one occasion when a lawyer referred fervently to a witness as "the most unmitigated liar that ever stepped into a courtroom", Judge Paul remarked mildly, "Sir, you forget yourself."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ross Garnett

Experimental meeting a success

ONE good thing to come from this current pandemic has been the opportunity to 'think outside the square' with respect to extending the reach of our public meetings.

Our first 'experiment' in conducting a meeting both in person and live-streamed was considered a success, so now we need to extend our thinking about how we can do this for every meeting.

This time we paid a professional (Brett from Synergy Video) to do the filming of the meeting and other things technical. Now we are looking for several members who will be able to learn these skills from Brett, so could you please contact me if you are able to assist the society in this way. It would be great to have at least three people with the know-how so we will be able to video all of our meetings.

The big advantage of recording on YouTube is that it can be available on our website for people to view at any time. The committee is working on finding a way for this to be sustainable financially.

By way of feedback, Shona from New Zealand emailed, "I enjoyed watching the NFDHS talk.



Amazing how covid has stretched our horizons...", plus the speaker, Jill Barker, tells us that viewers in Japan have asked if there's any chance that the talk could be sub-titled/dubbed into Japanese.

Will we ever be able to have 130 people meeting in the hall again? The answer is that we don't know, but we do hope that, in time, we will be able to serve a modified afternoon tea and offer a time of friendship for the limited number of people who attend in person. This month we can have 45 people in person again, so please see the Meeting Plan below.

When I was a young lad growing up in a grocery shop, lollies of all kinds were readily available and the school children called in on their way home to spend their penny or threepence on a bag of lollies. When my Dad went to meetings, he always took a bag of boiled lollies to share after the meeting.

Maybe we will do the same at our September meeting when Dr Toni Risson discusses the history of sweets. Perhaps you have some details about lolly makers in New Farm?

We convey our condolences to Colin Anderson on the loss of his wife Eunice, as well as to Wanda Davis on the passing away of her husband Mike.

Lastly, please be sure to read the information about the AGM which appears on page 7.

MEETING PLAN

HERE is the plan for the 45 people to attend the meeting in person on 26 September:

- To book your seat, please ring Desley on **0409 498 403** or email **drgarn@bigpond.net.au**
- Wear a mask if you feel more comfortable that way – not compulsory
- \$4 entry fee for members, \$5 for non-members. Please bring the correct money if possible. You may use your ticket from the cancelled picture show for entry if you wish.

- Please do not attend if you are unwell or if you have underlying health issues that could make you more vulnerable to infection
- There will be one entry door and one exit door
- Use hand sanitiser as you enter
- Sign in with your name, address and phone number as you enter
- Chairs will be spaced for physical distancing
- Afternoon tea will not be served at the September meeting.

NICELY NOSTALGIC

Jim MacDonald

Name of flats recalls WWI battle

HAMEL is a two-storey set of flats on the corner of Brunswick and Browne Streets. It was among the earliest flat developments in New Farm, and dates from 1930.

Sid and Gladys Rayner and their three sons and daughter occupied the top floor while the lower level was made into two flats. The children attended New Farm State School.

Sid and his son Ken (later deceased) conducted butcher shops in Merthyr Road and Brunswick Street.

Having survived a gas attack near the village of Le Hamel on the Somme during his WWI service as a signaller, Sid clearly felt inspired to ensure that the name was never forgotten.



ENQUIRIES

Kennedy, Carrying and Catalina...

J. KENNEDY, 1850s: SK was enquiring about her great-great grandfather John Kennedy who may have owned land in New Farm in the 1850s, after he and his wife Mary arrived in Brisbane on the *Genghis Khan* from Ireland in 1854. When he died in 1879 the family had (according to his will) land in Kent St, New Farm with three cottages, and land in Tamrookum St (now Heal St) with two cottages. S's great aunt Nell also owned a block of flats in Villiers St which she apparently left to the nearby Catholic Church when she died in the 1970s.

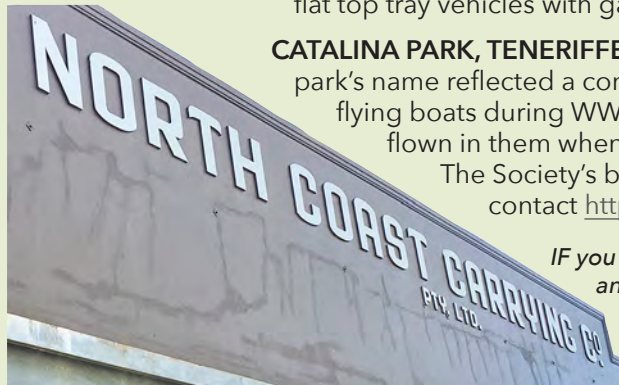
NORTH COAST CARRYING CO, 64 BROWNE ST: SS sought information about the North Coast Carrying Company since she believed that her great-grandfather and grandfather were connected with the business at 64 Browne Street (the facade remains but the

site is now a unit complex). The society was able to point out that the NCCC was registered to Andrew Lind and his son as a company in 1936, though Lind had earlier interests in transport, as well as house-building (as Linray Constructions).

Society member George Cowin added further useful information about members of the family who attended New Farm State School, and contributed this recollection: "In the fifties, my father carried out repairs to their vehicles as he operated a repair business just up the road in Browne Street. I think they had up to about 10 vehicles in the fleet, mostly flat top tray vehicles with gates sides."

CATALINA PARK, TENERIFFE: RM wondered if the park's name reflected a connection with Catalina flying boats during WWII, since her father had flown in them when going to New Guinea. The Society's best suggestion was to contact <https://www.hangar7.org.au>.

If you can offer more info about any of these enquiries, please email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au



ZOOM SEMINAR

Exploring Irish Ancestry 

THE Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) is pleased to announce that its annual seminar titled **Exploring Irish Ancestry** will be held on Saturday 24 October.

This will be a Virtual Event via Zoom timed for 9:30am-4:30pm AEST. The day will feature a Q&A live with presenters John Grenham and Chris Paton at 5:30pm.

Among the presentations will be: 'Accessing Republic of Ireland archives and online collections'; 'Irish land records, valuations and online collections'; and 'Northern Ireland archives'.

You are welcome to book online at www.gsq.org.au/event/annual-seminar-irish-ancestry/, and there is an attractive Early Bird Price if you register by 30 September. The event is open to 90 participants.

For more info, please email Maureen Cavanagh at mncav@hotmail.com or go to 'Genealogical Society of Queensland' on FB and Twitter.

The other key event on this date is the AFL Grand Final.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Sweet talking from Toni

THE sweet history of lollies – Hoadley, MacRobertson and Sweetacres – were once household names, and rolling Jaffas down the aisle was the highlight of a young baby boomer's life.

We're pleased to announce that this is to be the subject of our meeting on Saturday 26 September at Merthyr Road Uniting Church Centre, when 45 people can attend.

Join Dr Toni Risson, historian



and world expert on lollies, as she explores the products that put the magic into Australian childhoods throughout the twentieth century, and the companies that created them.

It's worth remembering that sweets were made in New Farm — by the Tafe family at 68 Chester Street, and the Bavas family at 119 James Street. Jim Bavas introduced salted peanuts to Queensland and later manufactured sugarcoated peanuts.

HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE



INTERESTED in learning more about the style and background of your house? The State Library of Queensland offers five very useful videos as a way of introducing you to the resources you'll need to help open doors to a house's hidden past. They cover topics such as maps, architectural styles, newspaper references and photo libraries. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y2rxpuhb>.



Meeting place:

Alas, afternoon tea was not on offer in August but that was no barrier to the good cheer present when familiar faces

popped up again after so many months of no meetings. See the details on page 3 if you wish to attend the September meeting in person.

Thursdays: Thursday afternoons 2-4pm at the Ron Muir Room beside the New Farm Library in Sydney Street offer the opportunity call in so as to ask questions, to present material, or perhaps become a member or update your membership, as well as to meet members of the committee. All are welcome.

SPIRIT OF NEWSTEAD

Gilbarco at the corner of Longland and Kyabra Sts was the home of superseded petrol bowlers. In 1928, locals considered the huge gasometer to be a hideous encroachment on what had been regarded as a pleasant residential area for the previous 50 years. So much has changed from when the photo (below) was taken in 2008.

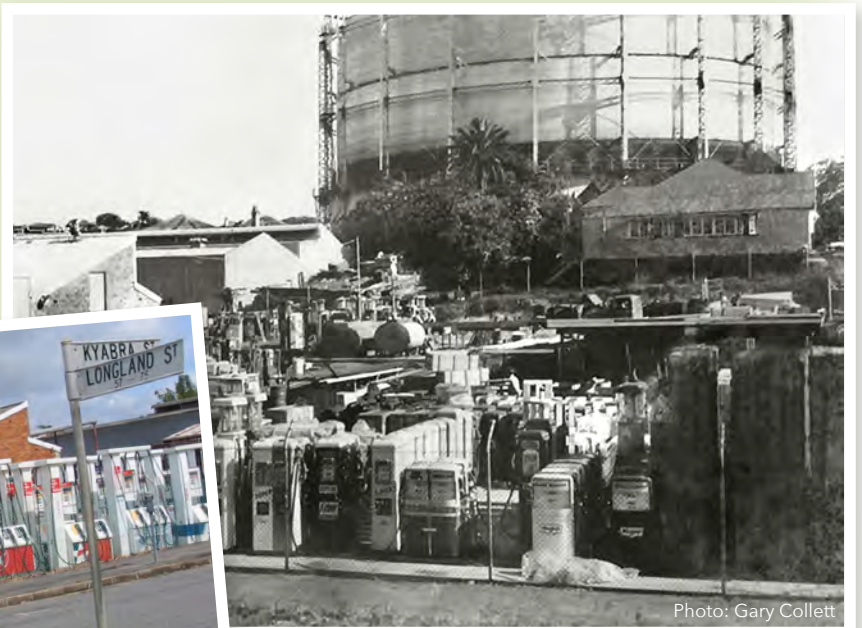


Photo: Gary Collett



Design, Layout & Photography: Gerard Benjamin



EDITION: 1721 (15)
VILLAGE NEWS

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

New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc • The Office is located at the front of the Ron Muir Meeting Room, New Farm Library, right behind the green bench @ 135 Sydney Street. • *Office Open Hours:* Every Thursday 2-4pm
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 Buckby

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

Perfect if you have just moved to the area!

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

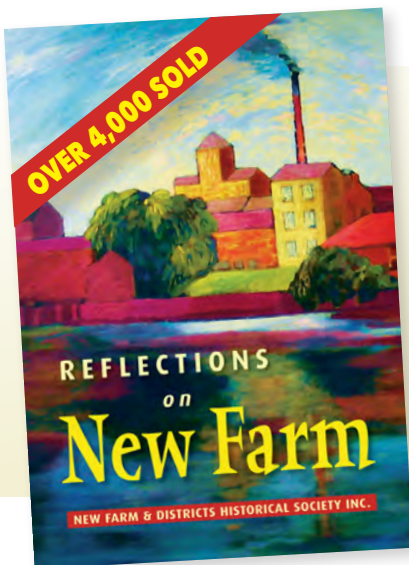
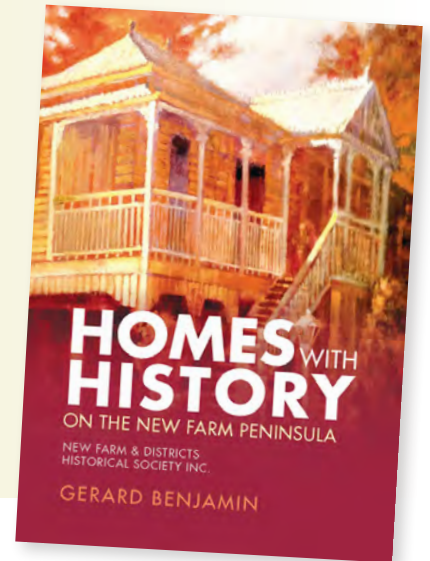
Homes with History — on the New Farm Peninsula

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 4,000 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

Go and wake up your luck... — Persian saying

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 AGM will of necessity (due to COVID 19 pandemic) be held differently while still in line with our Constitution. The meeting will be held on Saturday 24th October at the beginning of the public meeting. Our constitution states that financial members may nominate for a position on the committee and may vote at the AGM. I encourage you to pay your membership of \$10 as soon as possible. If you wish to nominate more than one person, please copy the form.

At the meeting we will receive the Treasurer's report and the President's annual report and then all committee positions will be declared vacant and the election of officers for the 2020/2021 year will be conducted.

You are invited to submit nominations for particular positions and for committee members on the form below. **Nominations can be emailed or posted or handed in at the Society office or at the public meeting by Saturday 26th September.**

The voting form will be included in the October newsletter. If you are unable to attend the meeting on 24th October, you can do a postal vote.



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 1141 New Farm Q 4005
info@newfarmhistorical.org.au

COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Position being nominated (please circle): President Vice President Secretary
 Treasurer Committee Member

Person nominated	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Nominated by	
Seconded by	
Acceptance by nominee (signature)	
Date	



NEW FARM & *Districts* HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Membership Form

Annual Membership – 1 September 2020 to 31st August 2021

Type of Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> contact info unchanged
			<input type="checkbox"/> updated info below
Name:			
Residential Address:			P/Code:
Postal Address:			P/Code:
Telephone:	Work/Mobile:	Home:	
Email:			
Photo permission	Photographs taken at public meetings may be published in newsletters and on social media		

I can volunteer in the following ways:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming at meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Collect Oral Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set up / clear up of room | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with archives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IT support at meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Write short historical items for website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with afternoon tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advise on new technology | |

Membership Cost: \$10

Signed:..... Date:.....

Payment method:

- Bank Transfer: to New Farm and Districts Historical Society Inc.
BSB 034065 - Account Number 146217 – Reference: MEMB and your surname. Please post or email completed form
- cheque or money order payable to: **New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc.**
- Cash at public meeting or Society Office

Post to: PO Box 1141
New Farm QLD 4005

Email to: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Office Use Only:		
Receipt No:	Date:	Treasurer:
Date Entered on Register:	Secretary:	