

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A piece of New Farm history has recently been **SOLD!**



Record breaker: Brisbane's most expensive home sells for ???

One of Brisbane's finest homes, Heritage listed *Amity House* at 101 Welsby Street, has made history as the most expensive residential property ever to be sold in the city. Some history about *Amity House* can be found here:

<https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=600264>

And what was the eye-watering price? Go to page 7 to find out.

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NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023
Vol XXIX, No 5

REPORT ON MAY MEETING

By Jim MacDonald

It is my pleasure and honour—as one of the almost 90 attendees—to offer some notes on the wonderfully entertaining talk given by Fay Rayner, very ably assisted by her daughter, Janne, regarding Rayner's Butcher Shop. Why? Because as a child around 1940, I can remember being taken by my mother up to Mr Sid's shop, so as to order the family's requirements of fresh meat. Up until about 1941, we had only the ice chest to preserve our meats. After that we upgraded to an Electrolux electric refrigerator, and that meant less frequent visits were necessary.

A visit to the shop meant that I was seated on a hard wooden bench at the front whilst mum spoke with Sid and discussed things such as the thickness of the cuts of lambs' fry or liver. As I sat there, I tried to read and understand a very large sign on the wall, instructing 'No Expectorating'. Gosh, at that age, I was only up to five-letter words! The meat order was always delivered later by an employee pedalling on his pushbike to our house on Oxlade Drive.

My older brother Donald was about the same age as Ken, one of Sid's sons who later became Fay's husband. Ken and Donald served their country in the army and were posted overseas in conflict zones. I was not supposed to know what was going on when the boys—while at home on leave—would visit the shop. Ken's father Sid would take them behind the counter to a back room, where he had a bottle of rum planted—and he poured them one. Gosh, how soon can I get into a uniform and enjoy those privileges! By contrast, my father was a total abstainer and did not approve.

What wonderful memories I have of Rayner's butcher shop—and again, thank you to Fay and Janne on behalf of us all at the May meeting of the historical society.



Here is the link to the Vimeos of many meetings of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society. The latest one to be added is:

Rayner's Meats and the story of the family behind the business
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8485721>

Letter to the Editor

What a thoroughly engaging talk by Fay Rayner on May 20. I found it a delightful walk through some important 100-year generational history of New Farm told with humour, poignancy, and charm. Fay's interaction with her daughter, Janne, segued seamlessly and had us all on the edge of our seats. The resounding applause at the end was a testament to our enjoyment.

Margaret Yeates

The great newspaper crisis

A postscript by Jim MacDonald

This is a comment about a "crisis" probably faced by shopkeepers such as butcher Sid Rayner during World War II.

By 1942 Australia was running short of newsprint-quality paper due to the German control of the states around the Baltic. At that time Australia had no paper production of its own. All paper came by ship through those waters to Australia, and German submarines sank huge tonnages.

Queensland at that time had only one morning paper, *The Courier Mail*. It was printed as a broadsheet and had been reduced to one double sheet (ie, just four sides of print).

Up to this time it is possible that Syd Rayner wrapped all of his customers' purchases in three or four sheets of fresh white paper. His supply chain collapsed,

and he could only obtain enough to have one sheet of white paper. This was not much good for the housewife to carry home meat with its blood drips, etc.

He attempted to overcome this problem by offering cash for used newspaper which was brought in by enterprising people. He could use this to get over the 'blood drip' problem. He paid 4 pence per pound for good clean newsprint. You would be surprised to learn how many sheets it takes to weigh a pound. You had to try to collect from family and neighbours as much as possible to make your collection worthwhile. Remember that plastics had not yet appeared on the scene and housewives were loath to give away paper as this was the main medium for wrapping kitchen waste before dropping it into the rubbish bin. Nevertheless, we survived and won the war, and overcame the great newspaper crisis.

Contributors to the Oral History Collection



The May meeting presented an opportunity to acknowledge two members who have contributed the most recent Oral Histories to the Society.

New

member, Bev Bergstrum, assisted by her daughter, Elaine, recently completed her memories of growing up in the Kingsholme Street end of Villiers Street in the 1930s. Bev was featured in a recent article by Gerard Benjamin in

My Village News <https://myvillagenews.com.au/april-2023/> (p 30) and this was reproduced in our May Newsletter.

Long-standing member, Jim MacDonald, recorded his memories in audio mode on a road trip with Gerard and these have been transcribed by Gerard in digital form as well. Jim recalled living in Oxlade Drive, and he was able to remember many of the buildings that once stood in various locations, along with the people who resided in them.

We thank Bev and Jim for the time and effort they have put into recording their memories and we encourage everyone to have a go at writing their own memories of New Farm. They could help present and future historians, not to mention being a wonderful memento for your families.

Pictured are Gerard with Bev and Elaine. They met for the first time at the May meeting after collaborating via phone, text, email, and post.

Some snaps from the May meeting



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Monthly public meetings

are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Saturday of each month, February to November, at the Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm. Entry Fee (cash preferred):
\$5.00 members
\$10.00 non-members
includes afternoon tea.

All welcome!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Postal Address:

PO Box 1141
New Farm Qld 4005

Email:

info@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Please add this address to your Email Contacts.

Website:

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

Office:

Ron Muir Room, next to
New Farm Library
135 Sydney Street
New Farm

Office Opening Hours:

Every Thursday 2-4pm
February to November

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Desley Garnett
0409 498 403

president@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Vice-President: Malcolm Godfrey

Minutes Secretary: Virginia Balmain

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members:

Immediate Past President and

Life Member Ross Garnett,
Robert Allen, Ben Pritchard and
Membership Secretary

Bruna Burello-Day

membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au

2023 Membership Fee:

\$10 per year or part thereof.

Apply for or renew membership

<https://newfarmhistorical.org.au/membership/>

Newsletter Editor: Vacant

editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au

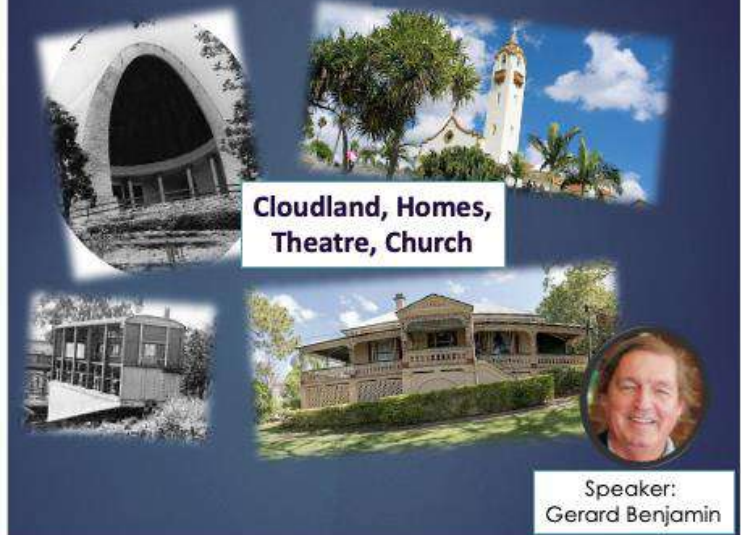


JUNE MEETING PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society presents:

HIGHLIGHTS OF A WALK OVER BOWEN HILLS

Come for a virtual walk with
Gerard Benjamin



Saturday 24th June 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

Enquiries: 0409 498 403

For a certain generation, Cloudland ballroom evoked magic, being renowned for its dances, romances, music—and for some, meeting their lifelong love...

Well before Cloudland, the spot was called Mt Pleasant, then O'Reilly's Hill, and was the site of a grand home named Montpelier. There's even a tiny Mary Poppins connection...

Our virtual amble will also pass by the Twelfth Night Theatre, Cintra House, Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, the house where aviatrix Loes Bonney lived, as well as historic Miegunyah.

Your virtual tour guide will be **Gerard Benjamin**, author of *Reflections on New Farm and Homes with History*.

Looking ahead to our July Meeting

Our Guest Presenter in July will be Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM who is a specialist in language, communication and culture, and health communication. His topic for presentation to our society in July will be *Australian English – what it is and where it is going*.

Roly's talkback radio program *A Word in Your Ear* has been broadcast every week to Queensland on ABC radio since 1997, so you are sure to have heard him at least once in those 26 years.

His current research is focused on language, culture and society, technology, and, more recently, pain and health.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JUNE 2023

Desley Garnett

This newsletter comes to you very soon after the Teneriffe Festival and I want to thank all who assisted in promoting the Society at our marquee. It was a great opportunity to remind the festival goers that having a sense of history of place is important to understand how we came to have so many historic buildings in the suburbs of the New Farm Peninsula. Thanks to everyone who participated at the marquee or as guides on the historic bus tours of Teneriffe – I think all of the volunteers had a good time and enjoyed getting to know others in the Society and learning more about Teneriffe from the knowledgeable Paul and George!



I also want to sincerely thank **Emma Golder** for undertaking the role of newsletter editor since September last year. Emma is putting down the mantle and we are looking for another person to pick it up! Thank you, Emma! The editor has the role of putting it all together, but we can all contribute short articles to the monthly newsletter to simplify the editor's task. I am sure there are many stories worth sharing in the lives of our members.

Your contributions can be submitted to editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au. If you want to chat about this, please ring Desley on 0409 498 403.

While we are talking about putting down the mantle - Thanks to **Jack Wheeler** for taking photos for the newsletter at meetings for several months. We are looking for someone (or more than one) to take some snaps to indicate the activity of the afternoon. You do not need to be a photographer – snaps of groups of people taken with your phone are adequate to the needs of the newsletter editor.

I will also take this opportunity to thank **Natalie Blair** and her team for preparing a delicious afternoon tea for every meeting and thanks also to those who assist with cleaning up. Would you be able to be on a roster to assist with afternoon tea?



*The dynamic duo
Emma and Natalie*

We are very grateful to **Coles New Farm** for sponsoring afternoon tea – supplying the cakes and biscuits and the ingredients for the sandwiches. If you see the manager at Coles when you are shopping, stop and say thanks on behalf of the Historical Society – they need to know how much we appreciate their sponsorship.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to:

Grace Grace MP
Member for McConnell
(07) 3145 9100
for printing the newsletter



Coles New Farm
for the generous
supply of afternoon
tea at monthly
meetings



Brisbane City Council
for the use of the Ron
Muir Meeting Room,
New Farm Library

V
THE VILLAGE
news

Thank you, Emma!

Our grateful thanks are due to **Emma Golder** for diligently fulfilling the demanding role of Newsletter Editor since last September. Emma has brought us several interesting articles with photos about renovating historic homes and about the meticulous detail that the owners adhere to in order to preserve historic features whilst making the home suitable for life in the 21st century.



Emma has also brought her creativity to the meetings as she and Natalie worked together to create delicious themed afternoon teas. We also appreciated the extra little creative touches such as flags to recognise the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the new King's coronation, "best in show" signs for the Ekka and sprigs of rosemary with poppies attached for ANZAC Day and who can forget the strawberry ice creams! Thanks also to Andrew and Marc for bringing the fun conclusion to our meetings with a themed quiz – you gave us all a laugh after the seriousness of the presentation and sent us out to afternoon tea with a smile on our faces.



TENERIFFE FESTIVAL ROUND UP



Glorious Brisbane autumn weather enticed the crowds to enjoy an exciting array of attractions and activities at this year's Tenerife Festival. The Society had prime position to greet people as they arrived. It was a successful day with the opportunity to chat with many people about the history of Teneriffe. The display of photographs attracted quite a number of passers-by who were also particularly captivated by the ever-popular tram ride video. Many residents of the surrounding wool store apartments made a point of learning more about the history of their own particular residence.



Also well-patronised were the three circuits of the vintage bus tour where passengers were treated to the knowledgeable commentary of the guides Stuart Wallace and Gerard Benjamin. Thanks to the Qld Omnibus & Coach Society and their drivers and conductors for an enjoyable ride around Teneriffe. Pictured at right with Gerard are Driver John and Conductor Nigel.

After about 2-2:30 pm, the demographics of the patrons changed - that crowd were more interested in the music festival than history!



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE

I am pleased to report that, at time of writing, there are 214 fully paid-up members on the Society's database. However, there are many more who have not yet renewed. If you're one these, it's never too late! \$10 paid now will get you into our monthly meetings for \$5 for the rest of the year, plus you will be eligible for a discount on the price of our historical walks. (Don't forget to bring cash for the entry fee if you can – keep some of the stuff handy, otherwise it might well become obsolete!) If you're not sure of your membership status, please enquire at the Membership Table, or email me at membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au



Membership cards may be collected at the meeting. If you are a member and have not yet received your card, please check with Diane when you pay your \$5 entry fee.

Name Badges will also be available for members to wear to meetings. They will be supplied once only and may be collected from Diane as well. If they wish, non-members may wear any name badge they have available from other organisations.

To join or renew your membership, please arrive early with your completed form https://newfarmhistorical.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/NFDHS_MemForm_10Nov22.pdf and payment (we accept cash or cards) and see one of the friendly volunteers at the Membership Table.

While you're there, why not check out **the Society's three books** for sale. With luck the author of two of them will be in attendance and only too happy to autograph them for you.

*Bruna Burello-Day
Membership Secretary*

Social media pages of interest

[New Farm History](https://www.facebook.com/groups/896121323791936)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/896121323791936>

[New Farm Park](https://www.facebook.com/NewFarmPark.com.au)

<https://www.facebook.com/NewFarmPark.com.au>

[Passing Time](https://www.facebook.com/Passing.time.qld)

<https://www.facebook.com/Passing.time.qld>



MEET OUR MEMBERS

New member and volunteer, **Kris Sullivan** writes:

When I moved to New Farm in early 2022 it already felt very familiar. For a short time in 1965 I lived in Moreton Street. Over the decades since, I've enjoyed regular Family celebrations in New Farm Park, firstly with my parents and now with my own children and grandchildren.



My latest move to the area has been wonderful. I am enjoying the extensive walking tracks through Teneriffe and Newstead or to the City and beyond to South Bank and the Arts Precinct. I am loving access to the City Cat and the New Farm Library has become a favourite spot. There is a very strong inclusive community spirit among the people.

An absolute bonus has been connecting to the very vibrant and active New Farm and Districts Historical Society. What I am enjoying is exploring the streets on daily walks using the historical knowledge I am gaining from the Society to enjoy both the architecture and the ways in which the suburb has evolved. It has made a huge difference to my appreciation of the area.

HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS

The Society will continue HISTORICAL WALKS in the local area during the remainder of the year. These will be advertised on our website <https://newfarmhistorical.org.au> and on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> (search under New Farm Historical Society Walking Tours).

You are invited to book and pay for the walks online via Eventbrite. Should you prefer not to use this method, please either email the Society on info@newfarmhistorical.org.au or enquire at the next meeting.

Upcoming Tour

June 17: **Newstead and Bowen Hills: Cloudland, Homes, Theatre, Church**



Join this historical walking tour over Bowen Hills, for a closer look at where Cloudland was once top spot.

Starting at the Plaza at Newstead Gasworks, join this 90-minute walk up and over Bowen Hills. (Read more [here](#)) For further information, contact the tour leader, Gerard Benjamin, on 0409 582 830.

Meet more members who are also volunteers

When you arrive at our meetings, you might see:

- Diane Gage and Eileen Martin who are shown here at the May meeting greeting early arrivals at the Entry Gate.
- Trish Ferguson and daughter, Kate Gibbons, who are tasked with looking after non-members.



- At the Membership Table, Rosalinda and Graeme Pike will accept your new applications or renewals, while Ben Pritchard will happily sell you our books. (These make excellent gifts!)

Then, there are those beavering away in the background:



Our tech guys - young Patrick Eager assisting Stuart Wallace with the AV, and Stewart Free at the keyboard serenading the waiting audience.



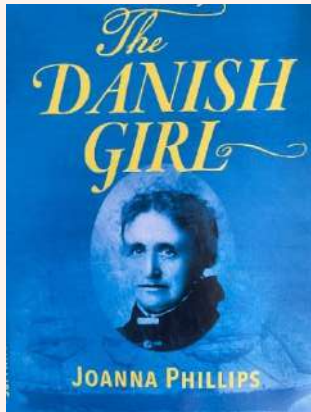
Other volunteers will be featured next month, including the hard-working afternoon tea helpers.

Two more of our members also conduct walking tours. Ben Pritchard showcases the wool stores of Teneriffe, via Airbnb Experiences. Check them out at <https://www.airbnb.com.au/s/Brisbane--Australia/experiences>, while Santina Musumeci focuses on Art Deco architecture and design in the area. Her events are listed on Eventbrite. (See item at left for more information on walking tours.).

PUBLICATIONS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Joanna Phillips

This is the true story of Julia, aged 20, who left a large family behind in war-torn Denmark in 1873. She endured a tough four-month journey on a sailing ship to Townsville, with no stops along the way. She had no cash, no



possessions, couldn't speak English, and had no hope of returning to her loved ones. This is a well-written story about one of the original backpackers, and one of the many migrants who have come to Australia. The book is available for sale at the next meeting where the author, Joanna Phillips, a member of the society, will be present.

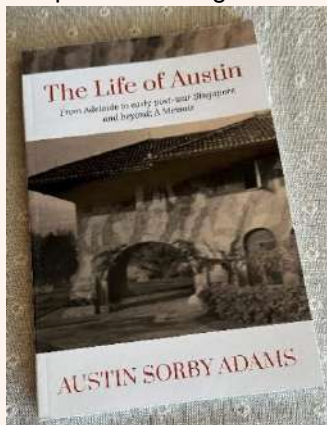
Austin Adams

You may have noticed standing at the back of the hall at each public meeting a gentleman with a tripod and a camera. That would be Austin Adams taking the monthly video recording of the talk to be edited and preserved for us on Vimeo. In case you have lost track, all the previous talks are here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8485721>



Austin grew up in Adelaide and Singapore and has written about his childhood in post-war Singapore and in Victorian Adelaide, as well as of his life afterwards. His book is a short Memoir which will be available at the next few public meetings. The cover photo you see here is of



the house in Singapore in which Austin grew up, the Principal's house at St Andrew's School, Singapore. It's painted in camouflage paint in what turned out to be a futile attempt to stave off the Japanese invasion of Singapore.

The book will be on sale for \$15 outside the hall, or contact Austin at rasadams@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We would very much welcome your feedback on any facet of this newsletter. If you would like to comment on any article or contribute an item of interest, please write to us at editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

If you have an enquiry of a historical nature, email us at info@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you, Emma!

Your energy, enthusiasm and innovation for our Society was much appreciated and gave a lift to the meetings.

We increasingly need youthful members to infuse new ideas and to carry forward the work of passionate volunteers who, over many years, have prepared the way with numerous hours of background work to make the Society so viable and worthwhile.

For any editor I speculate that many hours of effort are needed to search information, proofread, edit facts, check grammar and style usage, and furthermore, for this newsletter, also typeset and present. I know from preparing publications in another field that, given the strictures imposed, it is not a simple or stressless task no matter how much advice one is given. Your editing of the Monthly Newsletter enabled a means of reflecting on what has occurred in the district past and present. I keep my newsletters for years for occasional recollection and I, as a non-volunteer, am also grateful to all those who strived to prepare them in the past.

As well as the onerous task of editing you prepared a delectable afternoon tea, presented with flair and attention to the current theme. I looked forward each month to your delicious home cooking of various treats which enhanced the social aspect of the meetings.

Thank you also to Andrew (Emma's husband) for your considerable work in the background and your presentation of a playful quiz linked to the historical era of the month. What a laugh we had as hands shot up to claim the prize of a bag of sweets decorated to match the theme. Almost like winning Lotto! I will miss having a second chance to win.

I am so sorry that unanticipated circumstances have prevailed. Thank you both for your time and very positive contributions as you interwove serious content, quality food and light-hearted fun. In my experience not all societies have that and can be as dry as dust.

Your love of New Farm is palpable. Best wishes for your future and for many happy days of living here.

Margaret Yeates

Did you know?

Coronet Flats (Marie Cotter's apartment) was used as a location for the 2014 movie *Parer's War*, the story of World War II front-line cameraman Damien Parer, whose work won Australia's first Oscar, and how his desperate efforts to return to the battlefield were thwarted by his own government. (Source: IMDb)



Answer to question on p 1 - \$20.5M

If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten. Rudyard Kipling

NONNAS OF NEW FARM

June is a significant month in the Italian calendar, with 2nd June being the Italian National Day (*La Festa della Repubblica*). It seems fitting to acknowledge the contribution of all the Italian migrants who have had a sizeable presence in the suburb. Here are a few ladies who stand out, as much for their longevity as for their community spirit and *gioia di vivere*.

A New Farm Living Treasure



Meet Mrs Anna Barbi, aged 103, who along with her family has had a considerable impact on the New Farm community and beyond. Here she is at left with Santina Musumeci, at her 103rd birthday celebrations in October last year and proudly receiving HM the Queen's card (right) on her 100th birthday in 2019.

Now residing in care in a nearby suburb, Mrs Barbi has not moved far from her beloved home of many years which was on the third floor of a walk-up unit block in Villiers Street where she lived until well over the age of 100.

An article in *My Village News* gives an

insight into the life of this remarkable lady. Go to page 23 of

<https://myvillagenews.com.au/october-2019/>



New Farm's newest Italian centenarian



Ginetta Intelisano has shared this story about her mother, Angiolina Cupo, who turned 100 on 17th March.

Angiolina Giorgio was born in Colliano, a town in the Province of Salerno, South Italy, in 1923. She married Alberico Cupo in 1945, then in 1950 Alberico came to Australia for a better life. Angiolina followed with two daughters and became a resident of New Farm. *As my mother told us she remembers there were only three cars, and my mother walked everywhere.* The family became Australian citizens in 1958. They opened a fish and chips shop on James Street across from the Queens Arms Hotel. By this time they had two more daughters and a son to carry on the Cupo name. They moved six times, but always in New Farm.

Angiolina is *Mamma* to five children Geradina, Vincenza, Ginetta, Carmelina and Robert, *Nonna* to 15 grandchildren and *Bisnonna* to 32 great grandchildren. She's a lifetime fan of the Broncos, and Alfie Langer surprised her with her own Club Jersey at Kedron Wavell Services Club on her birthday.

Very blessed to have lots of family and dear friends to be part of her life, Angiolina keeps herself busy with knitting and crocheting, loves doing word searches, and chatting on the phone. She still loves going out, always getting her hair dyed. She drinks Coke, wine and beer, loves cheese, and still lives at home with family caring for her.

Her motto: *To live a happy life is not to worry and to wish everyone good health.*



Queen of New Farm



Just about everyone in New Farm knows Mrs **Concetta Mazzocato OAM**, also known as *the Queen of New Farm*. Until a couple of years ago an enthusiastic member of the NFDHS, she has been very active in the Italian community. Amongst other things, Connie was the President of the New Farm Branch of Australian Red Cross, a unique and much valued part of the organisation, for nearly 40 years. This branch raised tens of thousands of dollars for the charity via bus trips and bingo mornings, while also providing a valuable social opportunity for the mostly

Italian group. She still watches over proceedings which have now been largely taken over by her daughter, Maria Kirby. At 96 years of age, she has only very recently reluctantly moved into care after living in her beloved family home in Abbott Street for many years. See a little of her story on page 19 here: https://issuu.com/newfarmvillagenews/docs/vn_march19_web.

