

**DO YOU KNOW THIS PLACE?**



In contrast to last month's articles by Maria Shaw about older building styles in New Farm, Jessica Yule, an architect and one of our youngest members, gives an overview of a more contemporary building in Teneriffe the existence of which many of us would be unaware. See Jessica's story in **Meet our Members on page 5** and her article on **pages 5-6**.

Coming up very soon on **Saturday, 11 November, New Farm State School** will be holding its biennial Fete, at which the Society will have a marquee displaying photos of the district as well as the school, including class photos from its earliest days. Come along and enjoy all the fun of the fair. More **details on page 4**, as well as a story of several generations of the Dyne family who attended the school, on page 5.



**Also in this issue:**

- Recording our Talks for Posterity..... **2**
- November Presentation and what's ahead in 2024 ..... **3**
- President's Message..... **4**
- From the Membership Secretary ..... **6**
- Recent tours and upcoming events . **7**
- Gerard's Village Voice Article ..... **10**

As this is the last issue of the NFDHS Newsletter for 2023, with the next one due to be issued in February 2024, we thank all our contributors sincerely and wish all our members and friends a restful break and all the best for the season!



**NEW FARM & Districts  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2023  
Vol XXIX, No 10**

**REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING**

*by Tamsin O'Connor*

**OLD FROG'S HOLOW AND THE "NINE HOLES":  
*Unearthing Brisbane's Early Chinese Quarter***  
Presenter: Dr Kevin Rains



On the last Saturday of October over 100 members and guests attended a fascinating talk by Dr Kevin Rains. Kevin is the consulting archaeologist on the Cross River Rail Project. His presentation focused on one of the more promising sites at lower Albert Street – in the once swampy ground known as Frog's Hollow.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries this was a thriving and culturally diverse working-class enclave, typical of the communities that congregated in close proximity to city docks and wharves. It was also the site of Brisbane's first Chinatown coalescing around an unprepossessing set of small shops known as the "Nine Holes".

The old adage that one man's trash is another man's treasure could not be more apt in the context of urban archaeology, where the richest pickings are often retrieved from old rubbish dumps and drains. Kevin was at pains to describe the unglamorous working conditions of the team who were dressed in protective moon suits while labouring in hot and humid pits of contaminated mud and debris. But he also conveyed the enthusiasm they felt as the swampy ground gave up the remarkably well-preserved detritus of everyday life.



Animal bones reveal more about cultural distinctions in food preparation than you would expect, while giant oyster shells tell a story of environmental and economic change. The once plentiful oysters of the bay have shrunk in size and escalated in price. Bottles of booze, gambling tokens, clay pipes and the paraphernalia of opium smoking reveal that some human habits don't change, while ceramics and other decorative items, as well as the odd bottle of cologne, reveal aspirations beyond the basic necessities of life.

Perhaps the most charming find was an old concrete slab complete with the ghostly paw prints of a naughty puppy. The meticulous order of the archaeological record brings fresh meaning to the forgotten lives of the men, women (and puppies) of Frogs Hollow.



The Vimeo of Kevin's talk can be accessed here:  
[2023-10-28: Kevin Rains, Cross-River Rail Archeology on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/781234567)

*A generation which ignores history has no past – and no future.*  
Robert A Heinlein

Our Vimeo recordings don't produce themselves! Quite a bit of work goes on behind the scenes. Here, Austin Adams describes the process.

### Recording our talks for posterity

It's three years now since we started recording our monthly talks to make them available online for members, and indeed anyone, to view at leisure. It all started when the Covid-19 restrictions meant we couldn't have more than 50 people in the hall. We thought of broadcasting proceedings to the overflow audience in the courtyard but, despite such occasional ingenuity, Covid-19 severely reduced our attendance numbers.



*Austin Adams, who records the talk, conferring with Stuart Wallace who looks after the sound and projector. It is Stuart who has prepared the historical Movietone segments we so enjoy each month.*

Our solution was to record the talk and then make it available online. Professional services were initially employed but the expense was unsustainable. The professional, Brett Grieg from Synergy Video, was generous in giving Austin a brief tutorial enabling him to take over the recording and video editing, thus allowing us to do it all in-house.

Once Austin gets the raw video recording home there is some minor editing with the app *Filmora* to trim the start and end of each talk and often to add the speaker's original slides to overlay the poorer images of the slides as recorded. Sometimes, when there are long silences and hesitations, it is possible to remove them thus tidying up the talk considerably. The final product is then uploaded to the Society's Vimeo space.

YouTube is the obvious go-to free location for such presentations but YouTube subjects the viewer to advertisements. The Vimeo alternative involves a small annual fee to enable advertisement-free viewing. Some minor editing of the online title and the brief talk description completes the monthly recording.

Our Vimeo "showcase" now includes 36 talks, several from early days. There's also a bonus talk by Austin himself giving a historical tour of Kangaroo Point. Here's the link giving access to all our talks: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8485721>. Feel free to rummage and to savour some of our earlier talks.

If you would like to help, perhaps as a backup person, catch Austin or Stuart before or after a talk, or email Austin at: [rasadams@gmail.com](mailto:rasadams@gmail.com).

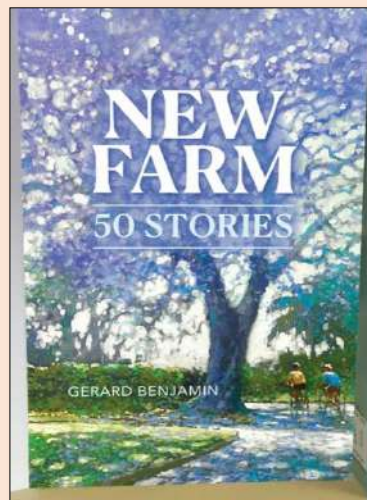
Each month one of us - it's been Austin Adams most of the time - mounts a tripod at the back of the hall and fits

a smartphone to the top. The video quality from a modern smartphone is perfectly adequate for our purposes. The sound that's picked up by the smartphone using the normal smartphone built-in microphone is not adequate, however. Our solution has been to purchase a small microphone which can be pinned to the speaker's lapel with an equally small receiver feeding the smartphone and giving a highly superior sound.

### A new book about local history in our 29th year...

When people heard that there was a new book about New Farm history in the pipeline, there was plenty of encouragement, along the lines of "Good old New Farm! Keep up the good work."

As a result, it is pleasing to announce that Gerard Benjamin's new book entitled "New Farm: 50 Stories" is expected to be available at our last meeting for the year on 25 November.



The chapters have been selected from the many history columns that Gerard has written over 15 years for the local New Farm magazine *Village Voice*. The book will include extra notes and over 200 illustrations.

The vibrant scene on the front cover (a Jacaranda in Newstead Park) was painted recently by local artist David Hincliffe, who has also penned the Foreword. This generous double contribution comes from the man who initiated the setting-up of the New Farm & Districts Historical Society 29 years ago.

The author looks forward to being on hand to sign copies at the meeting on 25 November.

**Some of the 105+ attendees at the October meeting** are shown here, including the enthusiastic regulars below, and scattered throughout these pages. Thank you, Maria Shaw, for the excellent snaps!



## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

### Monthly public meetings

are held at 2.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@newfarmhistorical.org.au)

Please add this address to your Email Contacts.

### Website:

[www.newfarmhistorical.org.au](http://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](mailto:president@newfarmhistorical.org.au)

**Vice-President:** Malcolm Godfrey

**Secretary:** Tracey Hurren

**Treasurer:** Denise Buckby

### Committee Members:

*Immediate Past President* Ross Garnett,  
Robert Allen, Joanna Phillips, Rosalinda Pike,  
Ben Pritchard, and

*Membership Secretary* Bruna Burello-Day

[membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au](mailto:membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au)

### 2023 Membership Fee:

Is free for the remainder of the year if applying or renewing for 2024 from now on

### 2024 Membership Fee:

\$20 per year or part thereof.

Apply for or renew membership

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

**Newsletter Editor:** Bruna Burello-Day

[editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au](mailto:editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au)



## NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society presents:

LAUGH ALONG WITH  
DENIS STIRLING

WHIMSICAL MEMORIES OF THE EC  
(EARTH CLOSET) –  
OUR BACK YARDS BEFORE SEWERAGE

AND A  
BIT MORE  
FRIVOLITY!



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

[www.newfarmhistorical.org.au](http://www.newfarmhistorical.org.au)

Enquiries: 0409 498 403

## Looking ahead to the new year 2024

Save the dates and mark your diaries for our meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month except May when we will be at the Teneriffe Festival. The meeting date has been brought forward to 18<sup>th</sup> May. Our first public meeting will be on 24 February and the last on 23 November. Our Office will be open on Thursdays until 28 November and reopen on Thursday 1 February 2024.

Your Committee have been busy planning another excellent lineup of speakers and presentations for our public meetings. Our historical walks and tours have been so successful this year that we hope to expand our range of offerings in the new year. All will be advertised in our newsletters, the first of which will be distributed in early February.

Of course, our big 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up next year. We are planning a month of events, culminating in a celebration at our public meeting on 24 June. Stay tuned for developments!

In the meantime, if you are looking for other events historical until February, here are some online resources to explore :

Exhibitions and Events at:

slq [What's on | State Library of Queensland \(slq.qld.gov.au\)](http://slq.qld.gov.au)

National Archives Australia [Home page | naa.gov.au](http://naa.gov.au)

BLH [What's On In Brisbane | Brisbane Living Heritage](http://www.brisbanecity.gov.au/whatson)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2023

It's a bumper issue for the last one of the year! Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue and others throughout the year – it is good to have different “voices” speaking to us through the newsletter and sharing your interest in a particular aspect of history – buildings, people, events ...



If you receive this newsletter electronically, you will still have a couple of days to consider volunteering at the Society's history marquee at the New Farm State School Fete. You will also have the opportunity to see the recent new buildings at the school and how playgrounds have changed over the years. It will be good to have the opportunity to engage with younger generations and open their eyes to the rich history of our area. And, of course, you can support the school by making purchases while you are there!

Our meeting this month will be a bit more light-hearted than usual with several surprises lined up so I hope you will join in the fun.

As the 2023 year for our society ends and we take a break over January and February, I want to say thank you to everyone for being part of our vibrant and active society. The large numbers of people at our monthly public meetings is a testament to the interest in history – 105 at the last meeting enjoyed hearing about the archaeology involved with the cross-river rail project and about the early Chinese community in Brisbane. What's on the agenda for 2024? Stay tuned for another interesting line-up.



Ross and I wish you all a magical Festive Season. May the light of the Christmas star shine on you and your families with great warmth, wonder, guidance and clarity, and may 2024 mark the beginning of a tidal wave of love, happiness and bright futures.

*Desley Garnett  
President*

## Empty Christmas Tree

EACH year, our members give very generously to our Empty Christmas Tree to support those in our community who are finding the going tough.

This year we will again support Holy Trinity Pantry in Fortitude Valley who assist the disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community by providing every day and emergency relief through food packages. Let's help to make this Christmas an uplifting one for everyone in our community.



Please bring your gifts to the November meeting. The ones most appreciated include:

- non-perishable Christmas food—tinned ham, tinned fruit or vegetables, long life milk or custard, Christmas puddings, party food.
- Non-perishable everyday pantry items
- Toiletries (male and female)
- Supermarket gift cards, or Cash (envelopes will be available at the meeting)



## Petition for a Memorial to Australian Coastwatchers

Last month we alerted our readers to a petition for a permanent memorial to be erected to honour a special group of Coastwatchers led by Commander Eric Feldt who was the subject of a book by his Great Niece, Dr Betty Lee. Supported by members of her family, as well as John Gates (Principal Petitioner) at the September meeting, Dr Lee gave an overview of what they hoped to achieve. At time of writing there were 746 signatures. There is still time to add your signature to support this most worthy cause, with the petition **closing on 11 November**. The family have expressed their gratitude to NFDHS for its support of this request. To participate, please go to:

<https://www.epetitions.brisbane.qld.gov.au/petition/view/pid/124>

## New Farm State School Fete

Also coming up on 11 November is the New Farm State School Fete. Look for the Society's marquee where you will be able to pore over a display of old maps and photos of the area and chat with our volunteers who will be happy to share the history along with photos of the school from its earliest days, including class photos, and class lists. All are welcome to attend.

No doubt there are many members and others who have attended the school. If you have not visited the school in the last couple of years, you will see a huge transformation, while still being able to recognise the original school!

Long-time Society member, Lynette Dyne, shares her family's connections to the School which was attended by members of the family of her late husband, Ken.

(continued on page 5)

## Brisbane History Group's next event - Brisbane Icons – Sunday, 26 November 2023

The seminar looks at several Brisbane figures of the past century or so who have made their mark in various fields. For further information see

<https://www.brisbanehistorygroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EVE-Sunday-26-Nov-2023-Icons-2.pdf>

## Dyne family members who attended NFSS

by Lynette Dyne

This year the School has kindly invited the New Farm & Districts Historical Society to have a presence at their Fete on Saturday 11 November which I believe is a first.

Upon my mentioning to our President, Desley, that there were many members of the Dyne family who attended the school from 1916 to 1962, I was thereupon asked to do a piece for the newsletter.

During research for a book, I discovered that there were in fact seven with the Dyne name listed as pupils which included (my late husband) Ken's father, aunt, uncles, cousins, great-uncles etc.

With thanks to the Queensland Family History Society Inc, I have been able to obtain a list of these pupils [Table at right] as well as a Register dated 1918 plus a Register of dental appointments at the school dated 1932. The Register also included their parents' names and addresses in New Farm with a few from neighbouring suburbs.

The addresses of some of the immediate family members were at River Road (Oxlade Drive), Sydney Street and Maxwell Street.

Prior to the School being opened in the early 1900s, from 1869 onwards members of the Dyne family, including Ken's grandfather, attended schools in Brisbane including Brisbane Central Boys State School, Brisbane National School, Kangaroo Point State Infant School, Kelvin Grove Boys State School, Kelvin Grove Girls and Infants State School and East Brisbane State School. Because of future development in the city, some of these schools may not now exist.

| Name                     | Enrolment Year | Relationship                   |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Myrtle Dyne ) sister &   | 1916           | Aunt of Kenneth Dyne           |
| Cyril Ian Dyne ) brother | 1918           | Father of Kenneth Dyne         |
| Clifford Vernon Dyne     | 1929           | son of Percy Albert Dyne       |
| Errol Sidney Dyne        | 1932           | son of Sidney James Dyne       |
| Violet Hodgson           | 1936           | Daughter of Robert Wilson Dyne |
| Geoffrey Robert Dyne     | 1959           |                                |
| Janet Carolyn Dyne       | 1962           |                                |

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

Dad and daughter duo, Robert and Jessica Yule, are regular attendees at our monthly meetings. Here, Jess explains how they were drawn to the Society.



When I was living in New Farm (2018-2020), a friend lent me Gerard Benjamin's book, *Reflections on New Farm*, which I pored over with interest. That's how I found out about the society and was interested in becoming part of the community. It wasn't until last year that I got around to asking Dad if he'd be interested in joining me in attending the monthly meetings. We both have a keen interest in history, community and people. I am an architect, and have worked at practices located on Doggett St, and on Robertson St (opposite the cinema), and have also been involved in architectural projects in the area

I grew up in Bardon and now live in Rosalie. Dad grew up in Fig Tree Pocket, has lived in various places throughout his life including Townsville, but now lives in Bardon with Mum (family home where I grew up). He spends a lot of time looking after the house and garden but enjoys playing tennis and travelling most of all. We hope to meet many more of you at future meetings.

Jess and Robert

And here is the article contributed by Jess.

## The D House

by Jessica Yule

Many of you may have walked past this house but I would guess that few knew what architectural delights were hiding behind the front door...

Introducing the D House, which was designed by Donovan Hill, revered Brisbane architecture firm, and completed in 2000 for their client and friend, Geraldine Cleary.

Situated at 215A Harcourt Street, this unassuming gem of contemporary architecture is well known and highly regarded within the architecture and design communities and has been widely published.

A consciously modest project, this is a house behind a garden wall. It is small yet feels perfectly and elegantly proportioned when you're inside. There is a deliberate play on scale, recognised in details such as the sizes of the openings, heights of walls and sizes of passageways. For example, the doors to the private rooms (such as bedrooms) are unusually narrow, particularly in comparison with the large wall-like pivot doors at either end of the main room.

One of the most interesting and experiential parts of the house is the elongated entry path and the connection between the street (public domain) and the private dwelling. A generously large window sits adjacent to the path to the front door and sets up a relationship between



footpath and private space. In the same way people at a café might be drawn towards sitting at the window to partake in people-watching, this house plays on a similar concept. (In fact, the house was designed to be able to accommodate many other uses besides a private residence - café, office, gallery, the options are endless!) However, one never feels too exposed in this room as there is still a level of privacy achieved through the use of a sliding timber screen with spaced, angled blades that adjust to completely close off views from passers-by looking in, while still allowing occupants to look out. A grove of Tuckeroos, planted in the private frontage and whose foliage has become very dense, adds another level of privacy, as well as climate control and shade.

This main room is actually the largest space in the house. It is known by the architects and the owner as the "public room". It's small enough to not feel empty when just occupied by one, but not too crowded when the owner hosts events or parties. Helping to make this possible are two "outdoor rooms", which sit at either end and contribute to making the whole space feel like one continuous indoor/outdoor room. In the centre sits a beautiful suspended timber and leather sofa that also houses the owner's favourite artwork on a ledge behind it.

A ¾ height wall partitions off the kitchen from the public room and reflects light into it. A sense of intimacy and separation is achieved through the use of the angled entry into the kitchen and interestingly, the small and utilitarian layout of the cooking space feels just right. This kitchen space is part of what could be considered a service arcade, or passageway, from which you find the 2 bedrooms, bathroom and laundry, the most private spaces in the home.

The house succeeds in blurring boundaries between "inside" and "outside" in a very considered manner. Full height glass at either end of the main room allows light from the top of the wall to illuminate the floor and walls of inside spaces. Interior and exterior floor levels are exactly the same which makes the indoor and outdoor spaces seem equivalent (this is made possible due to an interesting drainage strategy which allows water to flow off the courtyard floor and overflow from the pond to recessed drains). "Outside-like" materials are extended into inside spaces and vice-versa, such as the use of pebbles and pavers placed at thresholds, resulting in a feeling of walking through a garden all the while being inside your home. It's a real delight of the senses! Due to the high garden walls blocking winds, even the outdoor courtyards can be furnished with items one would normally associate with the indoors, such as books, cushions and vases of



flowers (unless there is a cyclone brewing up from the North-East).

One of the most beautiful design outcomes would have to be the way the interior surfaces reflect light, making comfort without the need for curtaining.

Upon engaging Donovan Hill, Geraldine's focus was on creating 'a quality building – a flexible and enjoyable environment for me and others who might live here in the future'. She enjoys sharing her house with guests and frequently offers up the public room as a venue for friends to host events.\*

The D House was awarded Australia's most prestigious residential architecture prize, the Robin Boyd Award in 2001. What a brilliant example of contemporary Australian architecture at its best!



\*From time to time, in Autumn and Spring, Geraldine opens the house for tours of 6-20 people at a small cost. Please contact her via email if interested:

[gcleary6@gmail.com](mailto:gcleary6@gmail.com)

Photo credits: Jon Linkins and Jared Fowler

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We had a wonderful response at the October meeting which yielded 25 renewals and three new memberships, including Peter signing on at far right, making a total of about 50 members already subscribed for 2024. Our special Membership offer still applies: if you apply for, or renew, your membership for 2024 on or before 25 November (our meeting date), you will gain free entry to the meeting. (more photos next page)



Please make sure you become financial as early as possible to avoid delays at entry to meetings (and save on entry fees as well as on other Society events). As always, it would be very helpful if you have a completed form and cash or card ready to hand over to Rosalinda and Graeme. Or, you can transfer money online and just drop off your form at the Membership Table. Or, pick up a form at the meeting, take it home and follow the instructions for payment. Easy!

Forms can be downloaded here:

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



Whether or not you are a current financial member, you will still need to “check in” at the entry gate where someone (eg Phil at left) will direct you to where you

need to go and advise whether or not you will be eligible for free entry. If you do gain free entry, why not consider donating the money you have saved to our Empty Christmas Tree! It would make a big difference to, and be much appreciated by, the recipients.



I am looking forward to seeing a big crowd at our final meeting for the year. We will have our usual afternoon tea offerings. However, as this will be an extra special event, and given the diversity of

our cohort, attendees are invited to bring along a plate of their favourite Christmas treat to share (completely voluntarily of course). We are particularly keen to have

foods representing their nationality or cultural background. *Did someone say crostoli?*



May I wish all our members, friends, and readers a very happy and safe festive season.

*Bruna Burello-Day*

## RECENT WALKING TOURS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Next Princess Theatre Tour

A second tour, with a group of 18 participants, was held on Wednesday 27 September. **For those who missed out, there will be a third, and final one for the year, on Saturday 18 November at 10am.** Arrive early and/or stay afterwards to enjoy refreshments and conversation at the inhouse *Fables Café*. Members' price is \$15.00.

For details and bookings, see

[Tour the historic Princess Theatre Woolloongabba Tickets, Sat 18/11/2023 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite](#)

### Valley Pubs Tour

Another very successful Valley Pubs walking tour led by Robert Allen was held on 21 October. There were 30 participants who were enthralled by Robert's commentary, complemented by historical images, and impressed by his wealth of knowledge. There was even an opportunity to stop for refreshments at one of the pubs along the way and, of course, to linger at the last one if so inclined.

This was the last pub tour for 2023 but there will be more in 2024, so look out for the next one which will be

published in the newsletter as well as on Eventbrite early in the year.



## Streets Less Travelled

On Saturday 7 October, a small group of nine, including tour guide **Gerard Benjamin** and your editor, enjoyed a different experience on this walking tour which started and ended with a bus ride and culminated with the whole group staying for refreshments at Savour Café. Our first stop was at the Dakota South Woolstores in Teneriffe where we were greeted by Society member and our AV guru, Stuart Wallace, who has recently downsized to an apartment there. Stuart took us into the foyer where he gave a brief history of the building, and then showed us down into the basement carpark where the forest of original concrete pillars supports the floor above and are echoed on every level. These pillars certainly make for challenging parking conditions! Thank you, Stuart!





(Streets Less Travelled Tour - continued from p 8)

A delightful and unexpected treat was when we were warmly welcomed into the home of Peter and Marina McCabe in Kingsholme Street. It was a drizzly morning so that made for a lovely respite in a tour which also took in Crase, James and Heal Streets, lots of steps and some hills.

We were able to sit down and listen to Peter recounting his history of the house which, when he bought it as a single man in early 1987, was in a very dilapidated condition. Peter, a recently retired architect, then described the improvements he made over the ensuing decades to accommodate the changing stages of family life but retaining as many of the original features as possible, even to the extent of blending the colour scheme to the environment. (Your editor just happens to be a former neighbour of the McCabes.)

Appreciative murmurs were heard at the café where one of the participants remarked how nice it was to have been invited into someone's home and to hear their personal history of living in that home. Thank you, Peter and Marina!



### MISS MIDGLEY'S PLAQUE

Last month, we published a letter from Dotti Kemp regarding her connection to Miss Midgley's. Space did not permit an image of the plaque, so it is presented here. If you happen to be strolling along James Street, why not stop and read it in person!

## Cairncross House, St Clair, Miss Midgley's – 135 JAMES STREET, TENERIFFE

In February 1869, if a gentleman wished to let a two-storey, eight-roomed stone villa at the higher end of James St, then the house offered by Mrs Elizabeth Cairncross (wife of Queen St businessman, William) may have suited perfectly. The property offered spacious grounds while at the rear, the stable, coach-house and dairy had access to Terrace St, thence to Brunswick St.

In earlier years, 'Cairncross House' had been let to the Sisters of Mercy for the care of children as temporary accommodation in anticipation of the opening of St Vincent's Orphanage at Nudgee in 1867.

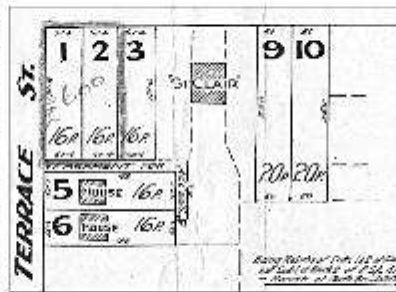
By 1871, the house was owned by D.R. Somerset, the Chief Customs Clerk of Qld, when it became known as 'St Clair'. The property had been added to so that it could now boast an extensive 'fruit and flower garden', planted with roses, cypresses, and other ornamental and flowering shrubs.



NEW FARM & Districts  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.  
www.newfarmhistorical.org.au



St Clair pictured in 1919 within its garden and surrounding trees. James St runs from top to bottom, and at the top (left) is New Farm State School. — 1919 QldSA



A portion of the poster advertising the sale of the 'St Clair Estate' in May 1870. By 1874, Annie Midgley had purchased the land upon which St Clair stood. — SLQ 89182346015162081



A class photo from December 1912 showing children from Miss Midgley's school. At right is Annie's sister Madeline. — Midgley family



Annie Midgley holding a nephew. Among her many accomplishments, she was also a talented painter and sculptor. — Midgley family

In 1882, the house was bought by Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer MLC, formerly a Premier of Qld, for letting to substantial tenants. For instance, from 1890, Miss Mary E. Woodon conducted St. Clair Private Hospital until ca. 1894.

By 1903, the newest tenants were James and Elizabeth Midgley and some of their 14 children, including Annie and Violet (artists), Eve and Madeline (teachers), Harry (brushmaker) and Richard (timber salesman).

Annie, in her late 30s and the eldest daughter living there, offered schooling (assisted by family members) so as to supplement the household income and help support their elderly parents.

Annie's "preparatory and finishing school" was known variously as "St Clair's Boarding & Day School for Girls" (1910) and "St Clair High School" (1921). In 1924 when the St Clair land was subdivided by the Palmer family, and

since Mr and Mrs Midgley had died, Annie acquired the portion upon which the school stood.

The teaching establishment was to continue until Annie's death in 1943, and was fondly remembered by former pupils such as JK: "I started school here [in 1930] as there were only a few private schools and the State School. I always said that the Midgley sisters were two old maids but when you are only six, everyone else is old..."

Of her two brothers who served in World War I, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Midgley, who also went to the Boer War, had a distinguished military career.

The property passed to Miss Madeline Midgley in 1948, by which time it had been converted into five self-contained flats. It had passed out of the family by 1951. The stonework was covered up and the building became known as the 'Pink Flats.'

Come 2022, the newly-renovated property was converted into boutique heritage accommodation, and named to recognise the owner considered to have resided here for the longest time.

This QR code will link to the website of Miss Midgley's boutique accommodation.



archives



Gerard Benjamin

Charles Hope: Success Story of Fortitude Valley

A well-dressed, well-spoken man often pops into the Garnett store in James Street in the late 1950s. On one occasion, he pats his coat and realises that he has forgotten his wallet. "OK if I fix you up the next time I come in?" he asks the shopkeeper.

Young Ross Garnett was behind the counter and did not know that the customer was Charles Hope, an eminently successful business owner whose extensive manufacturing works was less than a mile



Charles Hope, 1939

away in Wandoo St, Fortitude Valley, within a block of today's James St Precinct.

In 1912, at the age of 20 and keen to make his mark, Lowther Charles Hope (1892-1969) had arrived in Sydney from England. The son of an illiterate gardener, he was imbued with his mother's maxim that hard work and an independent spirit would reap rewards. He attended night classes and became an engineering smith, soon finding employment in motor-body works.

One of his earliest jobs in Australia was 'tyring wheels', that is, fitting the metal band around a wooden wheel used on a sulky or buggy. News that he could manage this faster than anyone else in the factory soon spread "all over town".

By the time he had moved to Lismore, he could see that the coming wave of cars, trucks and buses would offer tremendous opportunities for anyone supplying components.

When he decided to start his own general blacksmithing business, specialising in car springs, he added to

his sign, "Established 1914". To those who laughed, he replied that the business would be around for a long time.

He sought contacts with the Ford Motor Co., and was able to show that his springs could be manufactured quicker and be more durable in local conditions than the American ones.

By now he had opened a factory in Brisbane and he met key people such as Fred Eager (of Eager and Son), distributors of the Willys Overland motor car. By equipping them with springs manufactured by Charles Hope (guaranteed for 12 months against bending and breaking), sales for Eagers doubled.

Charles Hope Ltd had commenced in Brisbane in a modest way, and by 1931, the firm had spread to practically the whole of one side of Wandoo St. It employed over 200 workers, dealing with every branch of motor-body building, plus repairs and spring-making. By 1938, the staff had increased considerably and the premises had expanded down Doggett St.



In the 1930s, Charles Hope Ltd employed hundreds and its factory occupied much of the block bounded by Wandoo and Doggett Sts. — SLQ 27329

While most car owners may have been unaware of the exact input of Charles Hope Ltd into the vehicles they drove, there was no missing the "Cold Flame, Charles Hope" emblem on the door of the (kerosene) refrigerators which the company manufactured in Fortitude Valley. In the 1950s, Charles Hope refrigerators were in countless homes around Australia.

By 1960, the company, now one of Queensland's largest metal industries, was sold to Australian Consolidated Industries Ltd. Charles Hope retired in 1962 then penned his autobiography, "Hope Springs Eternal", and yes, he did return to Garnett's store so as to square with Ross Garnett for the items taken on credit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go 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



VILLAGE VOICE