

MYSTERY PHOTO COMPETITION



Could you have guessed what and where this photo represents? Here is a clue: *It has been a meeting place on James St for roundabout 120 years.*



The image might have stumped a lot of us, but it took only a handful of attempts to find the first correct entry. All will be revealed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also in this issue

March Meeting Presentation..... 3
 Upcoming Events..... 3
 President’s Message 4
 From the Membership Secretary ... 5
 Report on Chandler: Bushwalk 6
 Can you Help? 6
 Tribute 7
 Letter to the Editor..... 7
 Photos and more..... 7-8



**NEW FARM & Districts
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
 NEWSLETTER
 MARCH 2024
 Vol XXX, No 2**



REVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Our first meeting of the year was a jam-packed affair in every way. There were well over 100 attendees and the program itself was action-packed.



REPORTER:
 Maria Shaw

Preliminaries:

Following her warm welcome and acknowledgement of the first storytellers of this land (the Juggera and Turrbul people who traditionally met in this area), our President, Desley Garnett, thanked our considerable team of volunteers. She also introduced the new Pastor of the Merthyr Uniting Church, the Rev David Busch (right) who delivered a hearty welcome and brief address.



Bruna Burello-Day then introduced Bruce Collins who is the founder and proprietor of HeartFIT - a fitness program especially designed for the more mature person. In his brief but succinct address, Bruce outlined the aims and objectives of the program and advised that, rather than needing less exercise as we age, “older people actually require more!”



Actions speak louder than words, so we were

soon urged to get up and try the “sit to stand” exercise (aka squats) aimed to see just how easily and smoothly we can do this everyday activity! Then, music played, the HeartFIT Flash Mob were out there a-movin’ and a-shakin’ with the beat, encouraging us to join in. It was fun. It was stimulating. Any sense of intimidation could be left behind – there were lots of smiles throughout the room. Bruce says, “this is the key to living independently”, a Fit for Life program, enthusiastically endorsed by the ten members of the “Flash Mob” from the Bulimba and Cannon Hill teams. For information about HeartFIT, click [here](#).



And then it was straight into 1934 with the *Movietone News* – back to the Melbourne Empire Games, images of Bradman and Ponsford making 451 runs in the Ashes series and other snippets. Quiet groans of disappointment elicited by *The End* were clear testament to Stuart’s skill and generosity.

At last, it was time for the much-anticipated **Main Event** (see next page).

In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.
 Abraham Lincoln



PRESENTER:
Robert Allen

A HIDDEN JEWEL

Refreshed, we headed to Centenary Place for a walk in the park with our very own historian and committee member, Robert Allen. Robert began with a clarification – we were, in fact, celebrating the ‘not-quite’ centenary of that lovely place. Despite certain records, the park was not officially

opened until 1925, though work had indeed begun in 1924. We joined him in marking the mere 99 years of Centenary Place! The park is a rare oasis of unbuilt space and vibrancy in the super-trafficked area between the City and Fortitude Valley; it forms a distinct natural landmark. But how many of us really see or use the park these days? As an audience member noted, it’s all but impossible to safely cross the buzzing roadways to access it.



Centenary Place, Centenary Park, Centenary Place Park, or Centennial Park – take your pick! This is the place intended to mark one hundred years since the landing of the convict settlement party at Redcliffe, Moreton Bay, on 13 September 1924. There was much else on the minds of civic officials when they made their decision to establish it here.

First up – the amalgamation of Brisbane’s cities, shires and divisional boards into a Greater Brisbane. Amalgamation* was achieved only in 1915 with the election of the T J Byrnes’ Labor Government with a more ambitious policy. Elections for the newly created and unusually vast Brisbane City Council were held on 21 February 1925. Where should the new Town Hall be sited? (You can imagine the heated partisanship in debate.) Should there be a bridge between New Farm and Kangaroo Point? Or ring roads to link industrial areas and main roads? Would Catholic Archbishop James Duhig’s vision for the largest cathedral in the southern hemisphere be erected on the site next door?

With industry surrounding the proposed parkland, wharves and warehouses situated in Petrie Bight, and the booming retail life of The Valley, the present Centenary Place site was finally selected. Resumptions and demolitions ensued before Superintendent of Parks, Henry Moor, laid out his formal design of curved pathways, poinciana, Canary Island date palms, queen and wine palms, weeping and white figs. (Interestingly, all of the 1925 tree plantings were saplings! Mature tree plantings were not yet the thing.) This is the same Henry Moor who designed both Newstead Park and our much-loved New Farm Park.

Did you know that, beneath all that now fully-developed green life, two great men are commemorated? Perhaps only an historian might know that, to this day,

Access the recording of Robert’s talk on [Vimeo](#)

Thomas Joseph Byrnes and Robert Burns stand here in dignified bronzed

silence. T J Byrnes, born in 1880 in Spring Hill, educated by Scholarship at Brisbane Grammar, successful barrister and later Premier, Chief Secretary and Attorney General at just 37, was one of our most capable colonial administrators. Bertram Mackennal created the Byrnes statue after high dramas over selection rivalries and costs (what’s new in the zoo?). Governor Sir Herbert Chermerside unveiled it in August 1902. The Bard, Robert Burns, celebrated Scots poet and lyricist, was sculpted by Samuel Wills and unveiled by Governor General Lord Stonehaven in August 1929. Now, here’s the thing! Given his ethos, Burns’ statues all over the world are traditionally positioned with the back turned towards the church! And so it would have been here if the Holy Name Cathedral had been built, as planned, on the nearby site. Who knew?

Before we leave the park, let’s also note the now absent features which older members of the community might recall: the 1938 tram shelter and Tramways Office, the 1942 Air Raid Shelters, and Speakers’ Corner from 1960 to the mid-1970s. But that’s a tale for another day.

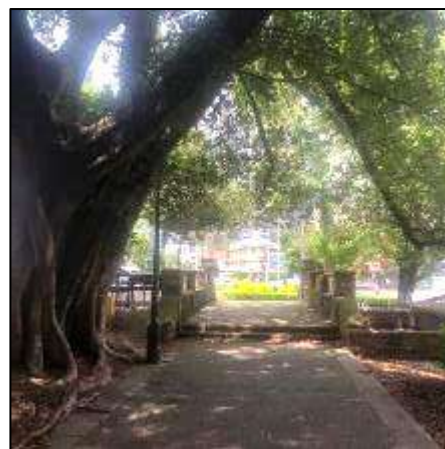
Today, Centenary Place remains a testament to its early superintendents, Henry Moor and Harry Oaken. It is a place of both aesthetic and cultural significance and demonstrates the evolution of Brisbane’s own history. Acknowledging BCC Archivist Annabel Lloyd, Robert summed up the park this way – it is “a hidden jewel with a rich history”.



T J Byrnes



Robert Burns



* The 1920 *Local Authorities Act* and three-yearly election by popular vote by all adults.

The 1924 *City of Brisbane Act* which amalgamated 20 cities, shires and divisions.

Photos top right and at left are by Robert Allen.

The image of the Robert Burns statue is from the *Brisbane Times* article *Centenary Place: How it Burns, Byrnes, Beirnes*, accessible [here](#).

The All-New Mystery Photo Competition completed the formal proceedings after which many enjoyed the always excellent afternoon tea. Photos from the afternoon can be seen on pages 7-8.

DATE CLAIMERS

Public meetings are normally held at 2.30pm at the Merthyr Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm, on the fourth Saturday of each month from February to November, unless otherwise advised. Entry fee is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Other events are also planned throughout the year.

Please save these dates in your diaries.

Date	Event
March 9	Princess Theatre Tour
March 14	New Members' Welcome A/T
March 16	Council Elections – NFDHS Display at MUCC
March 23 am	Historical Walk – Heart of New Farm
March 23 pm	Public Meeting
April 13	Historical Walk - Oxlade Drive
April 20 (new date)	Historical Walk - A Wander down Wickham Street
April 27	Public Meeting
May 18*	Public Meeting
May 25	Teneriffe Festival
June 22	Public Meeting – 30 th anniversary celebration
July 27	Public Meeting
August 24	Public Meeting
September 28	Public Meeting
October 26	Public Meeting
November 23	Public Meeting – Final for 2024
October-November	Membership Renewals will be accepted for 2025

*adjusted due to Teneriffe Festival

Further events and information will be supplied in subsequent newsletters and notifications.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Postal Address:

PO Box 1141, New Farm Qld 4005

Email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Website: www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

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

Office Opening Hours:

Every Thursday 2-4pm, February to November

Honorary Office Bearers

President: Desley Garnett
0409 498 403

president@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Vice-President: Malcolm Godfrey

Secretary: Tracey Hurren

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members:

Immediate Past President Ross Garnett, Robert Allen, Rosalinda Pike, Ben Pritchard, and **Membership Secretary** Bruna Burello-Day

membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au

2024 Membership Fee:

\$20 per year or part thereof.

Apply for or renew membership:

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

Newsletter Editor:

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MARCH MEETING PRESENTATION

NEW FARM AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

TRADECOAST HERITAGE PARK

The site of the Convict Women's prison and factory;

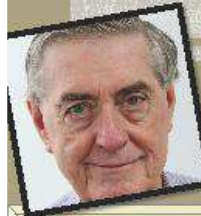
AND FEATURING:

Secret United States/Australian Intelligence Operations in Eagle Farm and Ascot 1942 to 1945

Hangar no 7



The original base in Ascot for the joint US - Aust code breaking operation



Speaker:
Bob Tucker

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2:30 PM

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

Enquiries: 0409 498 403

TradeCoast Central Heritage Park Interpretive Centre is at the heart of three heritage sites at the location of Brisbane's former Eagle Farm Airport - the heritage-listed convict era Women's Prison and Factory Site, the World War Two Allison Engine Testing Stands and Hangar 7 - the igloo-shaped building where diligent intelligence work on Japanese aircraft cracked the secrets of the Zero fighter plane, giving the Allies ascendancy in the air over the Pacific.

Eagle Farm and Ascot were very important at a time when Australia was under threat and Brisbane was in danger of becoming the frontline in World War Two. A grand home in Ascot, *Nyrambla*, which still stands today, was the original headquarters for a code-breaking operation that had a significant effect on the course of the war'

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reminders:

Saturday, 9 March, 10am

Historical Tour – Princess Theatre

Tour Guide: Robert Allen

[Tour the historic Princess Theatre Woolloomgabby Tickets, Sat 09/03/2024 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tour-the-historic-princess-theatre-woolloomgabby-tickets-sat-09/03/2024-at-10:00-am)

Saturday, 23 March, 8.30am

Walking Tour: Heart of New Farm

Tour Guide: Gerard Benjamin

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/walking-tour-heart-of-new-farm-tickets-816080347287>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2024

Desley Garnett
President

What a start to our 2024 year! We were treated to pre-meeting music by Stewart, energised physically by Bruce from HeartFIT and then stimulated historically by Robert – thank you!

If you were at the meeting, you had the opportunity to participate in the Mystery Photo competition that will be a feature of our meetings in this our 30th anniversary year. Congratulations to Gayle Martin who correctly identified the photo of the tiles on Petersen's butchers building.

Each month the mystery photo will be displayed prior to the meeting along with a cryptic clue. It's worth entering your guess as you might be the first correct entry opened and receive a double pass to the New Farm 6 Cinemas – thanks to Peter Sourris for this sponsorship of our competition.

We are also grateful to Coles New Farm for donating \$50 each month to sponsor our afternoon tea. Please say a grateful thanks to the Manager Annalijsa if you see her in the store.



You will be aware that Council Elections will be held on 16th March, and we will again have a display at the Merthyr Polling Booth at the Uniting Church where we meet each month. Please come along between 8 am and 2 pm if you can assist with engaging with the voters to share your passion for the history of New Farm and the nearby suburbs.

President's
"Welcome to new
members Afternoon Tea"

Thursday 14th March, 2:30 pm
Ron Muir Room
New Farm Library
135 Sydney St, New Farm

An opportunity to meet other
members over a cuppa

Please rsvp to
president@newfarmhistorical.org.au
0409 498 403

We want to
meet you



I hope to meet you
there
Desley Garnett



THE MYSTERY PHOTO

Thanks to Robert Allen for organising the competition. The correct answer and the winner are given in the President's message above. Robert reveals a bit more about this building:

A butcher's shop has been a landmark on the corner of James and Kent Streets for 123 years. It was built in 1901 for the Baynes Brothers and was then run by T & A Scarborough between 1913 and 1918.

Between 1918 and 1929 the shop was owned and run by the Queensland Government as part of a policy of providing greater competition and thus lowering prices for basic foods such as meat, fish, and sugar. When the state-owned policy ended the butchery was sold to the Burrows

family who owned it for more than 80 years and leased it to various tenants.

The shop was remodelled in 1933, 1952 and 1963 and still retains its classic features of patterned tiles, stainless steel doors and large plate glass windows.


The Petersen family, who have a long pedigree of running butcheries around Queensland, were the most famous tenants in recent decades.

The shop was added to the BCC's City Plan Heritage Register in 2000.

Source: BCC Local Heritage Register

And here's a nice 'before and after' comparison from an ad from Campbell & Sons, the company which did the 1933 renovations.

FOR BIGGER RENTS AND MORE COMFORT—MODERNISE THE CAMPBELL WAY



BEFORE

J. J. BURROWS
FINE CASH BUTCHER

AFTER

QUALITY BUTCHER

How Modernising can assist Business

JUST compare the photographs "Before" and "After," of this butcher's shop situated at New Farm.

The former building had nothing attractive about it, and as a butcher's premises should be clean and hygienic in appearance, the owner decided to modernise it the Campbell way.

The old awning was taken down and replaced by a parapet awning panelled with "Endurite Asbestos Cement" sheets. The old windows and doors were replaced with plate glass windows and swing doors. To a section above the plate glass windows, a margin of leadlight was added, and the balance tiled as shown in the photograph of the finished building. Naturally this shop will now attract more customers because it is more inviting. This is one of the many cases in which modernising can be used to advantage for increasing business patronage.

JAMES CAMPBELL & SONS PTY. LIMITED



Current logo

A NEW NFDHS LOGO IN OUR 30TH YEAR

You are invited to put pen to paper to design a new logo for NF&DHS



A previous logo

For quite a number of years the society has been using an historic photo of a picnic near New Farm Park rotunda as our logo. In this our 30th year, we would like to have a new logo – “a graphic mark, emblem, or symbol used to aid and promote public identification and recognition. It may be of an abstract or figurative design and may include the text of the name that it represents as in a wordmark”. ([Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logo))

How would you depict a historical society called New Farm and Districts – Teneriffe, Newstead, Bowen Hills, Fortitude Valley - in a logo?

We are looking for a simple, clear line drawing in colour or black and white that depicts our area and includes the words *New Farm & Districts Historical Society*. It may include “since 1994”.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bruna Burello-Day

Many subscribers to our emailed newsletter service might have been surprised to find February’s newsletter in their inbox rather than in spam. This was a bugbear for a long time, and we thank our Webmaster [AsiaWeb](https://www.asiaweb.com.au) for sorting that out. We hope you continue to enjoy receiving and reading the newsletter each month.

It was another very successful afternoon at the Membership Table. Congratulations to Rosalinda with help from Jenny Cobbin (who joined Rosalinda after working in the kitchen) for handling the numerous new and continuing applications. It was a rush again, but they managed the task gracefully. Thanks to Sue and Tracey for their help with book sales and, of course, to all the other lovely “front of house” volunteers. You know who you are!

At time of writing, there are about 150 current 2024 financial members. Thanks to all those who visited the Membership Table at the meeting and thank you for your patience. We apologise for the delays which are unavoidable when there is a large crowd. Your committee is working on ways to streamline the entry process even further which will include the introduction of a new online membership management facility. This is still a work in progress with an end in sight soon. Please watch out for update notifications.


It is and will still be possible to join or renew your membership (at \$20 per year or part thereof) by the following methods:

- Bank Transfer: to New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc. BSB 034065 - Account Number 146217 – Reference: MEMB plus your surname and first name.


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the following for their generous support.

Grace Grace MP
Member for McConnel
(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




THE TIME FRAME:

We would like to be able to launch the new logo at the June meeting. Therefore, submissions need to be in the hands of the president by Saturday 20th April to allow the committee to choose the most appropriate design. Now is the time to allow the creative juices to run freely. Everyone is welcome to submit one or more entries.

THE PRIZE:

David Hinchliffe is kindly sponsoring this project by donating one of his paintings as a prize for the winning entry.

- cheque or money order payable to: New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc. Please post or email completed form (see side panel on page 3 for forms and addresses).
- Cash, cheque or eftpos at public meetings or Society Office.

If you wish to **renew your membership** and your details **have not** changed, simply send me an email at membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au with confirmation of your bank transfer (or if there are any changes, please advise).

For new memberships please print the form and follow instructions on the form for payment. As always, there will be some wonderful volunteers on hand to accept your applications at the Membership Table at monthly meetings or at our Office (see panel on page 3 for further details).

With regard to **membership cards**, if you have a 2023 membership card and you have renewed your membership for 2024**, please bring the card along to the next meeting where it will be updated. If you’re a new member or you’ve lost your card, please drop me a line and I will produce a new one to be collected at a forthcoming meeting. If you don’t have a **name badge**, please check to see if there is a name badge available for you at the Members’ Welcome Table. .

**When entering our meetings, please make sure you see Phil (or whoever is at the entry gate) to confirm your membership status and he will direct you to the appropriate personnel.

Last month in "Meet our Members" we featured **John Godfrey** who was the organiser of an excursion to a little-known Qantas crash site. Here **Gerard Benjamin** reports:

Chandler: Bushwalk to 1942 crash site

On Sunday, 29 October 2023, a party of 14 trekked half a mile through the bush from Prout Road, Chandler, to visit the spot where a Qantas Dragonair DH 86 crashed at Mount Petrie on 20 February 1942 with the loss of all on board including the two pilots and seven passengers.



Members of party examine point of impact



Crash site notice

Organising the visit was John Godfrey, long-time member of the Coorparoo Historical Society and recently of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society. Also attending was Gerard Benjamin. For more than 20 years, John has been closely involved in research about, and recognition of, the disaster. Among the party were Margaret Webb and John Seccombe of Longreach who placed a floral tribute and explanatory sign to a tree overlooking the site. This was to honour their great uncle and great aunt, Claude and Georgina Seccombe, of Kenya Station, Longreach.

Recent interest in the event came about because Fred Wimmer, who metal-detects in his spare time, became curious about the actual location. Cross-referencing a

sketch made at the time with a 1946 aerial map of Brisbane as well as a modern map, he sought to locate precisely the point of impact. Fred's mapping skills were spot-on because his metal detector quickly came up with a nametag belonging to First Officer Lindsey Marshall who was a second cousin of Kingsford Smith. Fred was able to display a great variety of small items which were found at the site. It is thought that structural failure was the cause since the tailplane landed round one mile away. The crash occurred on the day after the bombing of Darwin. Depressions caused by the impact are still clearly visible.



L-r Margaret Webb, Fred Wimmer and partner Ann-Marie Brown, and John Seccombe (brother of Margaret Webb)

John Godfrey is in discussions about locating a memorial in a prominent spot at Carindale Shopping Centre. John Seccombe has suggested that a plaque or cairn also be erected very close to the actual site so that bushwalkers can be informed about what took place here almost 82 years ago.

More details at

<https://www.ozatwar.com/ozcrashes/qld115.htm>

See the Channel Nine report at:

<https://9now.nine.com.au/a-current-affair/queensland-man-armed-with-metal-detector-uncovers-new-clues-from-81-year-old-qantas-crash-site/20ace97a-6ec1-4048-8b6f-69f83d52a63a>

CAN YOU HELP?

Member, Margaret Yeates, is looking for some information about an ancestor ahead of a family reunion. She asks:



Does anyone have any knowledge of **Mary Anne Carthew nee Lawless**, born New Ross, Ireland, 1857?

Our extensive Trove and library research cannot find when Mary Anne arrived in Australia.

Balmoral Cemetery

Her sister was my great grandmother Sarah Lawless, born 1859, who migrated to Australia alone in 1875 aged 16.

We are having a large family reunion on the Atherton Tableland at Easter to honour Sarah. We would like to know which sister arrived in Australia first. Mary Anne lived in North Queensland for many years before settling in Inner Brisbane. We have located her obituary and other articles on Trove. She had five surviving children at the time of her death. I think she had connections to New Farm and Kangaroo Point.

If anyone can help, please contact Margaret through the Society at editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

Marriage registration:	John James Carthew
Marriage date:	09/08/1881
Spouse's name:	Mary Anne Josephine Lawless
Registration details:	1881/C/1278

Vale Manfred Cross 1929 – 2024

A Tribute by Robert Allen



The passing of former Federal Member for Brisbane, Manfred Cross, ended a life of public service that began during Brisbane's post war era.

Born in 1929, Cross attended Rainworth State School, Brisbane State High and the University of Queensland, where he studied geology. He joined the ALP in 1946 and was soon helping run local campaigns.

In 1961 Cross was elected to Federal Parliament as the Member for Brisbane. He shared a small office in Parliament House with his friend Bill Hayden, and Hayden was best man when Manfred married his fiancée, Barbara, in 1969.

Cross was known for his innovative, grass roots campaigning. During one election, he asked his friend Caesar Pradella to translate his brochure into Italian to woo the migrant voters of New Farm.

In government Cross had a passion for indigenous issues and advised on the structural reorganisation of Australia's defence forces. He lost his seat in Malcolm Fraser's landslide win in 1975 but was re-elected in 1980 and eventually retired ten years later.

Cross always saw politics as an important vocation, telling one interviewer that "the sad part is that too few young people see politics as an honourable and worthwhile career."

Away from politics, he had a long association with the Scout Association and served as Chair of the State Library of Queensland Board. He loved history and amassed a huge personal library. In 1992 he was awarded an AM for his services to the Australian Parliament and the community.

In retirement Manfred and Barbara shared a love for bird watching and travelling.



Activity at Entry and Front of House



Letter to the Editor

Good morning, Bruna and others,
What another fantastic newsletter. Well done and congratulations!!

I loved all the quality photos, the stories and information. The paper seems different - nicer to hold.

Thank you for the great effort and time in putting this together for the members.

I so enjoy reading it !

Sincerely
Penny Brown



Thank you, Penny, for your kind words. It is very gratifying to get some positive feedback. Contributions are most welcome. Email editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

Afternoon tea activity at right

Below:
Some members of the Bulimba HeartFIT team

Photos by Maria Shaw



Bruce is keen to start HeartFIT sessions in New Farm. Let him know if you would be interested in attending: hello@heartfit.net



Bruce and Louise Collins



Just for fun – recognise these two above? Check them out in a craft display at New Farm Library.



Chinese Lunar New Year 2024 – Celebrations in Fortitude Valley – Year of the Dragon

Photos by Robert Allen