



### THEN AND NOW



### THE GLENFALLOCH STORY

Completed in 1962, and now 62 years old, Glenfalloch on Oxlade Drive was the first residential high-rise in New Farm and only the second one in Queensland. Read its story on **page 5**.



#### Also in this issue:

May Meeting Presentation .....	3
President's May Message .....	4
From the Membership Secretary .....	4
Recent Events .....	5
Upcoming Events.....	6
Meet Our Members.....	7
Village Voice Article Edward Lodge .....	8



**NEW FARM & Districts  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2024  
Vol XXX, No 4**



### REVIEW OF APRIL MEETING

#### A VERY HISTORIC OCCASION

At this meeting we celebrated our 200th NFDHS Member, quite a milestone given this is the Society's 30th Anniversary year!



Professor John Pearn of the Royal Historical Society Queensland alerted us to the upcoming Bi-Centennial commemorations of the Moreton Bay Settlement to take place at a conference at Redcliffe on 7 September. All welcome. Details are available [here](#).



**REPORTER  
Maria Shaw**



Our regular Christmas gifts to the Holy Trinity Church\* Pantry in Fortitude Valley were gratefully remembered by Rev Dr Rodney Wolff. He explained that these grocery, toiletry and cash donations enabled the church to provide essentials, financial support and kindness, in short "friendship and hope" to those in need. Potential soup-stirrers and greeters amongst us are invited to volunteer for a future Community Meal program. "God Bless and Thank You," he concluded.

(\*The parish dates from 1856, prior to the Proclamation of Statehood in 1859.)

#### TAMSIN'S TALK

The day's associated activities and Tamsin's talk drew over 110 participants despite, or because, of its title "**Unpropitious Beginnings - The Brisbane Centenary Celebrations of 1923-24**".

Vital though history is, it's not always easily digested. We were fortunate in that Tamsin, a University of New England Adjunct Lecturer, skilfully interwove her rich family history to illustrate differing thoughts and attitudes of the day. Drawing on both Watson and O'Connor family members' views, she gave us access to the predominantly Anglo-Protestant as well as Irish Catholic positions. This was an intimate lens, a ready access to voices and events of the previous century.



**PRESENTER  
Tamsin O'Connor**

(Continued on page 2)

*Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.*  
Paul Boose



Tamsin's Grandmother, Muriel Watson, was 20 in 1924 and according to the social pages, she and her sister Doris had a very jolly time celebrating Brisbane's centenary year.

Tamsin defined mass transportation of penal labour as a global, destructive and foundational part of our colonial history, thus recognising the brutal convict beginnings of this State of ours. (Convicts were here as

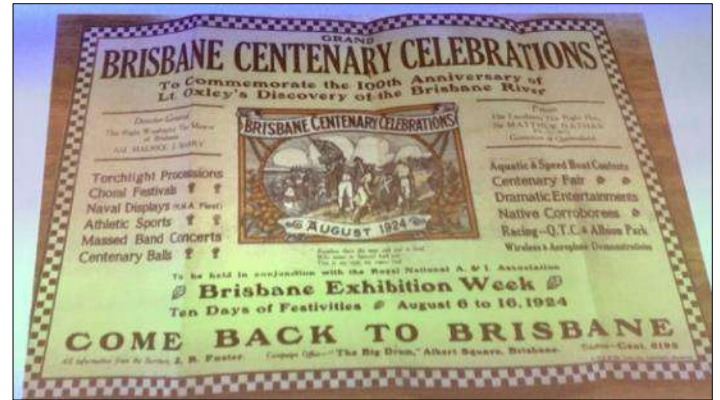
"the worst of the worst" and Captain Logan himself was notoriously brutal.) The good citizens of the time, however, celebrated the "discovery" of the Brisbane River by John Oxley in 1823! (This 'discovery' was only made possible by the knowledge of escaped convicts whose own lives had been saved by, and who lived with, local indigenous tribes!)

It's easy to look back with critical eyes. There might be much we would like to change – for example, the requirement that 'dispersed' indigenous peoples re-enact a *Corroboree* and a raid on a shepherd's hut on dispossessed lands. But let's remember that the prevailing narrative revolved around "the treachery, cruelty and savagery of the blacks" versus "white civilisation". Among those celebrating the Centenary were older members of Tamsin's family who could recall a time "long ago, when the blacks were bad".

New Farm celebrated with the best of them. State School kids were let out early for a sailing competition replete with ginger beer and buns. A Garden Party and children's event boasted 2,000 buns and a De Havilland biplane fly-over, while local resident and Premier, "Red Ted" Theodore, reminded citizens of a "duty to ourselves and our nation". There was something for (almost) everyone!

Our thanks go to Tamsin for a rich reflection and exposé of the way we were. Her talk provides much food

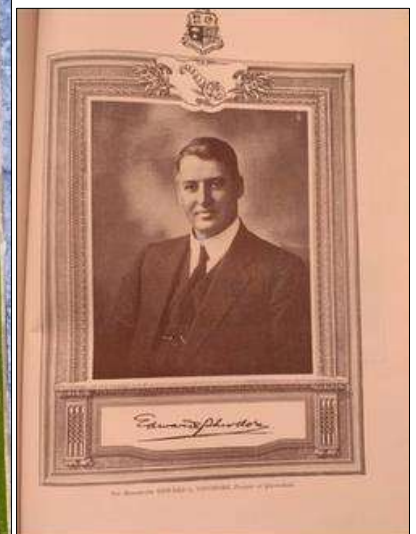
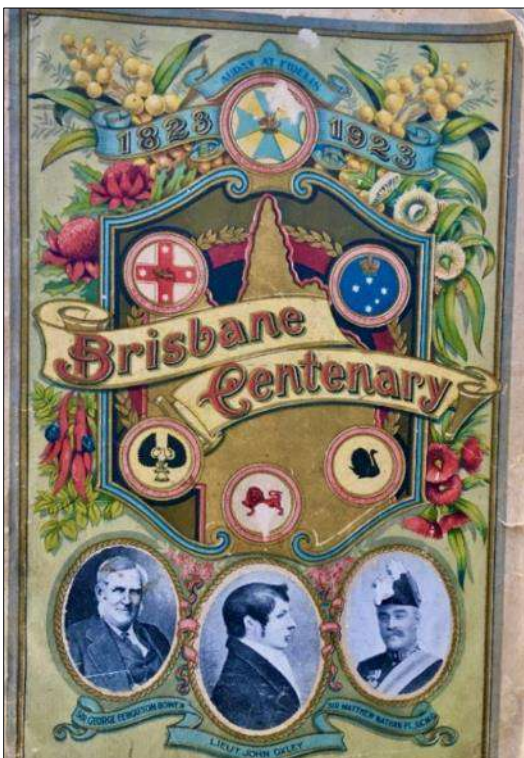
for thought as we approach the Moreton Bay Bi-Centennial commemorations this year (not to mention the Olympics).



Then, as now, ethnicity, religion, status, and experience shaped attitudes to the celebrations. Times change yet beliefs and attitudes prevail. Can we, with an insight and an awareness of history, do better next time? What might we emphasise, include or exclude?



To appreciate the many informative slides in this presentation, access the recording of Tamsin's talk on [Vimeo](#)



Queensland Labor Premier, Edward 'Red Ted' Theodore, as pictured in the 'Centenary Souvenir' (far left) in 1923. A New Farm local!

## 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. Entry fee is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Please save these dates in your diaries.

Date	Event
May 9 to June 30	NFDHS Historical Display at New Farm Library
May 16	New Members Welcome A/Tea
May 18	Historical Walk – Mainly Moray
May 25	Public Meeting
June 1	Historical Tour – Princess Theatre
June 8	Teneriffe Festival
June 22	Public Meeting – 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations
July 13 & 14	Brisbane Open House
July 27	Public Meeting
August 24	Public Meeting and AGM
September 7	RHSQ Bi-Centennial Commemoration, Redcliffe
September 28	Public Meeting
October 26	Public Meeting
November 23	Public Meeting – Final for 2024
October-November	Membership Renewals will be accepted for 2025

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](mailto:info@newfarmhistorical.org.au)

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

**Vice-President:** Malcolm Godfrey

**Secretary:** Tracey Hurren

**Treasurer:** Denise Buckley

### Committee Members:

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

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

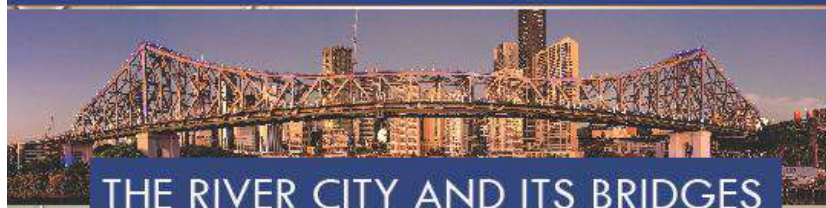
Bruna Burello-Day

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



## MAY MEETING PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society presents:



### THE RIVER CITY AND ITS BRIDGES

From no river crossings at the time of early settlement to 13 bridges for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. See the bridges from a new perspective. Meet Mark on [FB](#)



Speaker:  
Mark  
"Brizzypix"  
Coleman



Saturday 25th May 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

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

Enquiries: 0409 498 403

**Mark Coleman**, freelance photographer, gives a taste of what his presentation is about:

*Brisbane, colloquially and fondly referred to by visitors and locals as the River City, has enjoyed a period in recent years of new river crossings being built.*

*When Europeans first settled the Moreton Bay region, there were of course no bridges as the local indigenous tribes had no need for them - nor did the seafaring new arrivals...*

*It wasn't long after the opening of the town to free settlers that the number of people needing to cross from one side of the river to the other in some other way outgrew the capabilities of barges and ferries, which saw the fledgling town's first bridge being built - a rickety timber river crossing where we now see the Victoria Bridge.*

*In 1861 Brisbane City Council decided that a bridge connecting Queen Street with Melbourne Street was needed, and the first bridge in the city (named the Brisbane Bridge) was opened in 1865. Fast forward to late 2024, and we will see no fewer than thirteen river crossings carrying vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists from one side of the old brown snake to the other.*

*My presentation will in some part briefly describe the timeline and history of the city's bridges; however it will focus primarily on the bridges that have been built in more recent years, and how they have improved the liveability and beauty of our wonderful city.*

**NEXT MONTH – 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**  
Saturday, 22 June, 2.30pm. All Welcome!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2024

Desley Garnett  
President

Australia Day ... Easter ... ANZAC Day ... Labour Day ... All the major commemorations and public holidays for the beginning of 2024 have passed. Gone are the 'long weekends' until later in the year. Gone is the summer heat and humidity and we have welcomed the April showers and cooler nights and days.



At our April meeting, Tamsin reminded us that 2024 marks 200 years since the beginnings of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement. This month, on 26 May, is another special day in Australian Society. **National Sorry Day** is an Australia-wide observance held on May 26 each year. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps toward healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen Generations refers to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities. It is part of the ongoing efforts towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. It reminds us of the long history of the peoples of Australia, stretching back way beyond the penal settlement. The theme for National Reconciliation Week in 2024 (27 May – 3 June) is 'Now

*More Than Ever*', reminding us that the reconciliation process is ongoing and we can all play our part. Sadly, it is a part of our history about which many of us know very little.

This Society has another important commemoration coming up – on June 18 it will be thirty years since the first meeting of the Society and we will recognise that at our meeting on 22 June. We will take time to remember some things about its early days when meetings were held in people's homes, then amongst the bookshelves of New Farm Library. The new Ron Muir Room was a much more pleasant venue where the maximum number of attendees was 40. We outgrew that and moved the meetings to the Merthyr Road Uniting Church Centre in November 2008 for the launch of our first publication *Reflections on New Farm*. Numbers have steadily grown to where, today, for most meetings we squash in 100 or more people. That is something to celebrate – please plan to come to our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party meeting!

But ... before that – let's learn more about the bridges of Brisbane and see photos taken by Mark Coleman from a different perspective.

### Display at New Farm Library

If you happen to be in New Farm Library, please take time to view several items of historic or vintage interest which will be on display from 9 May to 30 June.

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bruna Burello-Day

**200 current members – what a milestone!** That's a wonderful result so far, but there's room for many more, especially all the 2023 members who are yet to renew! See the side bar on page 3 for information about how to join or renew your membership. Your Society needs you!

### Serendipity

Sometimes, forgetfulness can lead to some unexpected but delightful outcomes. Here's a case in point.

Upon realising too late that I had left something vital in the fridge at the Ron Muir Room after the New Members Welcome Afternoon Tea on Thursday 18 April, I decided to return there the following morning hoping that said item would still be there. I was fortunate that the RM Room door was open (before Library opening time) and so I wandered in and, to my surprise, was met by NFDHS member, **Eileen Martin**, who immediately invited me to stay for a coffee and cake. How could I refuse! I also recognised the venerable **Mollie Jean Hunt**, among a small group of ladies busily knitting and crocheting.

Much chatting ensued. Eventually, conversation turned to the NFDHS and what we do, and this apparently caught the interest of the vivacious **Beryl Watson** who

decided then and there that she would attend the meeting on 27 April and join the Society.

True to her word, Beryl arrived and, as luck would have it, became our 200th member! Welcome, Beryl, and let me thank you and all the ladies who get together for the wonderful work that you do! A large variety of items is produced, and the quality of the work is outstanding. And, yes, I remembered to retrieve the item from the fridge, but I also came away with new friends and gratitude for my good fortune in discovering this group! (Continued on page 7 - Meet our Members.)



Beryl and friends enjoying their first NFDHS meeting.

## MYSTERY PHOTO



Seven out of nine entries were correct, but **Stewart Free** was the lucky winner of our Mystery Photo competition. Stewart, who regularly entertains us with his music ahead of our meetings, took home a double pass to the movies, courtesy of Five Star Cinemas. The photo is the view from the dining area through to the adjacent refrigerated cabinets at New Farm Deli and Café.



Be at the May meeting for another chance to win.

## RECENT EVENTS

### Report on Oxlade Drive Walks

*Gerard Benjamin*

Over successive Saturdays in April, more than 25 in all enjoyed a stroll along Oxlade Drive.



A bonus of the first walk was an invitation into the foyer of Glenfalloch. **Marcus Schmidt** offered remarkable architectural details about the 62-year-old high-rise. When Marcus was asked, "Why do the apartments overlook New Farm rather than the river?", his short answer was: "Climate responsive reasons." [see following article.]

On our second walk, the first stop was the cream villa at No 1 Oxlade Dr, dating from 1939. This was of particular interest to Prue and her son Toby, since the architect was Prue's grandfather, George Rae.



1 Oxlade Drive, photo from BCC  
Brisbane Heritage Register

Time did not permit walkers to view other examples of Mr Rae's work in New Farm, namely Green

Gables, Julius St; Casa del Mar, Moray St; and the Astor Theatre, now New Farm Cinemas.

Also joining the second walk was financial whiz Noel Whittaker who was devoting time for history, now that his new book "Wills, Death and Taxes Made Simple" is doing so well.

Sincere thanks to NFDHS members, Bruna, Maria, and Ann, for their kind assistance on the respective days. Gerard's next walk, "Mainly Moray", is on Saturday, 18 May. See Upcoming Events on page 6.

### The Glenfalloch Story

*Marcus Schmidt*

Completed in 1962, Glenfalloch, at 172 Oxlade Drive, New Farm is Queensland's second residential high-rise. There were two substantial homes on the site where Glenfalloch sits and a sandy river beach.

The building is under a Company Title. This was the form of unit title in Queensland until strata title legislation in 1965 offered an alternative. This means when you buy into the building you buy a share and lease. This entitles you to occupy a specific unit.

It all started with Stanley Korman, an Ashkenazi Jew and Polish immigrant who arrived in Melbourne in the 1920s, penniless. He became one of Australia's most successful property developers of the mid-century period. He knew Robin Boyd, Australia's pre-eminent residential architect of the time alongside Harry Siedler. Boyd was based in Melbourne. He recommended to Korman that Peter Newell, of Lund Hutton and Newell, design the Glenfalloch. Boyd and Newell went to university together and co-authored a number of books.

JD Booker was the builder. LHN consisted of Neville Lund, Peter Newell and Theo Hutton. During the project the firm became Lund Hutton Newell Black &

Paulsen. Maurice Hurst, a well-known mid-century architect worked for the practice at the time and worked on the cabinetry design as well as other aspects of the design.

Design commenced c1958/59, concurrently with the firm designing the Gold Coast's first residential high-rise, Kinkabool, again for Korman, who also commissioned the legendary but now demolished Lennon's Hotel at the Gold Coast. The Glenfalloch is believed to be the first fully prefabricated concrete slab lift residential high-rise in the southern hemisphere. The garden building forming part of Torbreck, Brisbane's first residential high-rise completed in 1960 at Highgate Hill, was also built by the slab lift method; however, the main building at Torbreck is not.

The units in Glenfalloch face north for climate responsive reasons. Newell was a climate responsive expert. No windows face east or west to deflect direct sunlight and the building is long and thin so all important rooms, which include the lounge and primary bedroom, in those units face north. Because the length of the building is sited to face north it means in summer the sun goes directly over the top but in winter the sun enters up to two metres to passively warm the building. Because LHN had to follow the street alignment, the building isn't sited perfectly of north so the A and G units at either end do attract some summer sun. However, they're the only unit types that have windows facing the river and New Farm, so they remain desirable. The building's long thin design and expansive glazing allows natural light and airflow to each unit.

Theo Hutton contributed to the interior design (power points/lighting). The power points and light switches were the most expensive at the time - slimline Clipsal model 444 in grey. There are 98 units. Each cost approximately £2,500-£3,000 when sold new, except for the three penthouses. A basic house and land package at the time cost £2,700. The roof was originally planned to be a recreational area with a BBQ. The large BBQ was built and remains in Penthouse B. There are two penthouses on top, a third sits across part of level 13. Shops were planned for the concourse level, but units were constructed instead.

The quote to landscape the garden was approximately £2,500. The garden was designed by Arne Fink, a renowned landscape architect who immigrated from Germany. Fink was an early adopter of using native plants but, unfortunately, the landscaping was never completed. During the 1980s and '90s, like New Farm generally, the building's atmosphere deteriorated. It has had a resurgence in popularity and affluence over the past two decades.

The building has a flood mitigation system designed and constructed by the original inhabitants. It is one of the few buildings along this stretch of the river which does not get wet in extreme flooding, as a result of the flood mitigation system. The lobby walls are native (to Queensland) silver ash veneer on plywood. The lifts are original and retain their Bakelite push buttons. There are two basement levels of parking as well as storage units and a tool room. The pool was here originally but was repaved/tiled/changed in the late '90s. The original window glazing was steel framed, the windows were white, the fixed frames black and the panels underneath the glazing (externally) were staggered blue and white. The replacement glazing design is in the same form as the original.



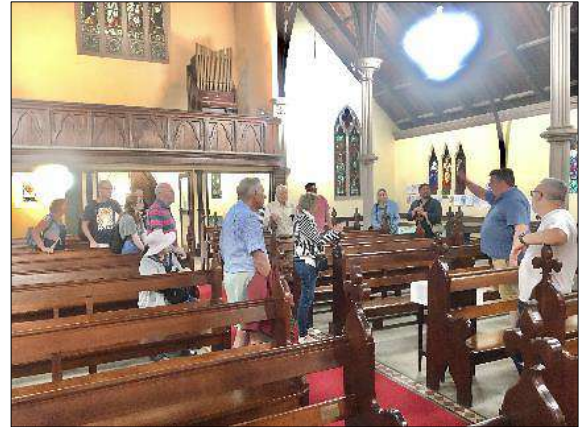
## Report on Wickham Street Walk

Robert Allen

Around 20 Society members and guests joined local historian Robert Allen on a guided tour through Fortitude Valley last month. Dubbed 'A Wander Down Wickham', the walk took in 20 historical points of interest between Centenary Place and Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

The focus was on the Valley's social and retail history, and the group called in to three locations *en route*: Les Bubbles Restaurant, which was the former home of a notorious bath house and casino, Stone & Wood Brewery in the old Trails Ice Works factory, and the historic Holy Trinity precinct, where the group was shown through the church and adjoining hall by the Reverend Dr Rodney Wolff.

Robert plans to run similar history walks through the Valley later in the year.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Historical Walk - Mainly Moray

Saturday, 18 May, 8.30am

Tour Guide: Gerard Benjamin



Meet at the bus stop adjacent to the **To Be Thai restaurant, 92 Merthyr Rd.** which is the starting point for a 90-minute walk which will focus on Moray Street, and also take in Merthyr Rd and Bowen Tce in New Farm.

You will enjoy locations which are particularly rich in social and architectural history, such as Linden, the Knells, Julius St, the Moreton Club, and Casa del Mar, before taking in the panorama of the Story Bridge.

By the time we return to Merthyr Village, morning tea will have been very well-earned.

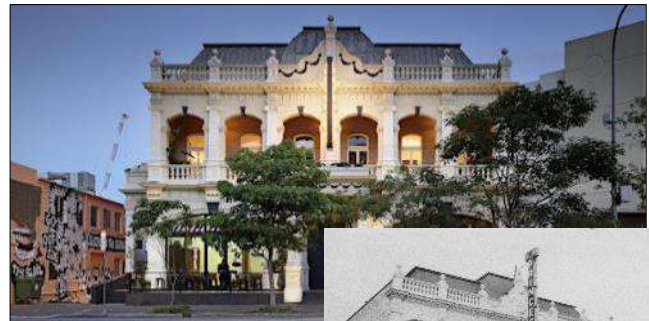
Your tour guide will be **Gerard Benjamin**, author of three wonderfully informative books about New Farm, including the current best-seller, *New Farm: 50 Stories*. Information and Bookings are on [Eventbrite](#).

If you missed out on previous occasions, there will be another **Welcome New Members Afternoon Tea** on **Thursday 16 May**, at the Ron Muir Room, next to the New Farm Library. All members, whether new or long-standing, are welcome to attend to share memories of, or connection to, New Farm and surrounding suburbs.

### Historical Tour - Princess Theatre

Saturday, 1 June, 10.00am

Tour Guide: Robert Allen



The Hollywood era of Woolloongabba's Princess Theatre will be the special focus of a public tour on Saturday, 1 June.

The date chosen is significant because it marks the anniversary of the date in 1912 when the former South Brisbane Public Hall was renamed the Princess Theatre and began showing silent movies for the first time. The theatre switched to talkies in the late 1920s and continued as a movie theatre until 1948.

Before 1912 and since 1948 it was used for a variety of purposes, including a clothes emporium, a factory and a live theatre venue. In 2021 it was reborn as Brisbane's premier performing arts theatre.

Each of these eras will be covered during the tour, which will be led by the theatre's historian and Society member, Robert Allen.

Tickets are \$20 for Society members and \$25 for the general public, plus a small booking fee. More information and booking details can be found [here](#).

# THE OPEN HOUSE

Robert Allen

**Brisbane Open House (BOH)** returns in July and this year there's a special focus on New Farm's heritage.

BOH is an annual weekend celebrating notable buildings and places, with dozens of properties across Brisbane opened to the public free of charge.

This year's BOH will be held on 13 and 14 July and organisers have announced New Farm as this year's 'Village of Brisbane', nicely coinciding with our mid-year 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

The New Farm Powerhouse will be a prime focus for events. Several historic local properties around New Farm will be open to the public and local walks led by our society's tour guides are also planned.

More information on local BOH events will be provided at the society's May meeting and in future newsletters. The BOH website can be accessed [here](#):

## AROUND THE TRAPS

Find something to see and do further afield:

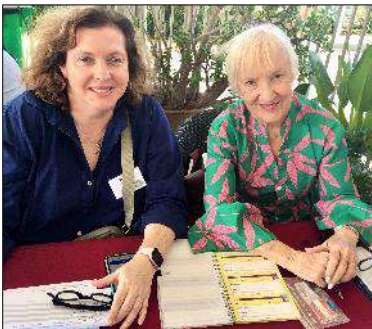
### State Library of Queensland

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

### Friends of Brisbane Living Heritage

[What's On In Brisbane | Brisbane Living Heritage](#)

## SOME OF THE 110+ ATTENDEES AT THE MEETING



## MEET OUR MEMBERS

**Beryl Watson** (pictured on page 4), our 200<sup>th</sup> and newest member, already has a huge involvement in the community, so apparently it was quite a coup to get her to join the Society. The group that I stumbled upon is but one of her many activities.

I asked Beryl to provide some information about this endeavour, which I now share as a tribute to her and all those who participate in it.

As she explained, the group dubbed "Stitch and Bitch" began nearly 10 years ago when a speaker at NF National Seniors spoke about the work *The Mercy Ship* does and the parts of the world where they perform surgery. Thinking it would be a good idea, Beryl, along with Frances (aka Francesca) Munro, assembled a group of women and started by knitting bright rugs which would be delivered to the staff who would take them on their voyages to far-flung lands. This was a huge success!

They then knitted jumpers and beanies for Nepal and organised for people who were travelling there to take the items with them. From there they have knitted toys and rugs for the Children's Hospital, Nursing Homes, and homeless people up and down the coast, as well as beanies for the Oncology units. During the last few years, they have been doing "twiddle" rugs, and "twiddle" sleeves which are used to cover intravenous drips for the Eat, Walk, Engage Unit at the RBWH. They also make rugs for the palliative care patients.

It was a big group when it started but numbers have gradually dwindled.

**Mollie Jean** has been with the group from the beginning and her beautiful beanies which go to the oncology area are gratefully received. The beanies in the photo are just three of the many knitted by Mollie Jean (coming up to her 99th birthday within months!). Beryl concluded that Mollie Jean "is amazing in every way and a great Mentor to all."



I congratulate and thank Beryl and her merry band of co-crafters for the wonderful work that they do. Group meetings are held on the first Monday and the third Friday of the month at the Ron Muir Meeting Room from 9.00am. Anyone wishing to find out more about this activity is encouraged to contact Beryl via me at [editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au](mailto:editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au). I will happily pass on any messages.

(Ed)

## Behind the scenes:



Cameraman, Austin, ensures the Vimeo of the presentations are prepared and available asap.



Apprentice AV Guy, Marcus, admirably took over the controls under the watchful eye of Master AV Guy, Stuart. Marcus will be taking over Stuart's role in the coming months.



Photos by Maria Shaw

**Edward Lodge celebrates 100 years.**  
 The article below, from the March 2024 issue of *Village Voice* is reproduced with permission from the author and publisher.

▼ | news

# The many lives of Edward Lodge

the house detective



**Marianne Taylor**

Marianne Taylor is "The House Detective", a freelance architectural historian who specialises in investigating the history of houses. If you have a house you want investigated, visit [housedetective.com.au](http://housedetective.com.au).

Last year, I was hired to research Edward Lodge, a luxury boutique B & B at 75 Sydney Street, New Farm. The land on which the building is today located was part of the Turner Estate, a 1901 subdivision of the grounds of the grand mansion, Kinellan.

By 1910, Alfred Minshull was operating the "Mirror Steam Laundry" on the site. Minshull also built a house there, which he christened Badu, after the Torres Strait Island where the Minshull family had lived on arrival in Australia. After Alfred's death at Badu in 1916, his wife, Lily, continued to run the laundry until about 1920.

Irishman, Thomas Healy became the new owner of the property in 1922. Thomas and his wife, Mary, renamed the house Baddow and continued to operate the laundry. Like Lily before her, Mary took over the running of the laundry after her husband died in 1924. However, unlike Lily, Mary owned the Sydney Street property, so she was now the proprietor of valuable real estate.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Brisbane, and New Farm in particular, were experiencing a boom in the construction of flat buildings. Mary likely recognised this would be more profitable than the laundry. Thus Mary began construction of a new

brick, two-storey building on the site. The flats were completed by May 1935, when Mary first advertised "furnished new brick apartments" for rent.

Mary christened her new apartments Rosslare, likely after the village in her hometown of Wexford, Ireland. It was designed in the popular "Old English" style. Many other examples of flat buildings this style can be found throughout New Farm, a number designed by prominent architects. Unfortunately, the architect of Rosslare remains unknown. Mary died in 1939 and the flats changed hands many times over the next 50 years.

Gary Martin and Grant Thorburn purchased the property in 1992 and converted it for use as a "gay only" guest house, known as Edward Lodge. Homosexuality had been decriminalised in Queensland in 1991 and it was one of the first specifically gay-orientated accommodation establishments in Brisbane.

In 2006, Gerald Searle and Phillip Curnuck bought Edward Lodge.

They continue to run it as luxury boutique accommodation, but with no restrictions on the type of clientele!



Mary Healy, who had the flats built in 1935



march '24 | VILLAGE VOICE

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** Our sincere thanks go to Five Star Cinemas for Mystery Photo Prize (page 4) as well as to:

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



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



Coles, New Farm  
 for \$50 gift card  
 towards afternoon  
 tea purchases

