

THE EVER-CHANGING FACE OF BRUNSWICK STREET

Do you remember this building which was featured in an article in this publication exactly one year ago? Wait til you see it now! Turn to page 8 to see the transformation.



AND CROSS STREET

Does anyone remember this humble block which had been used as a location for the local TV production "Harrow"? See what it looks like now on page 8.



(Photos: Domain.com.au)



This month's newsletter features our very successful and joyful 30th anniversary celebrations as well as snippets from recent events and a look at what is coming up soon.

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**NEW FARM & Districts
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2024
Vol XXX, No 6**



REPORT ON THE JUNE MEETING

Celebrating 30 Years of the Society

When around 100 people arrived at Merthyr Uniting Centre on Saturday, 22 June, they were greeted by the sight of a splendid Anniversary Cake and balloons spelling out "30". Along with a cold drink and nibblies, this was the prelude to celebrating an important anniversary.



**REPORTER
Gerard Benjamin**



Denise Buckby, MC for the event, quipped that this meeting "took 30 years to prepare".

After recording apologies from around nine members/committee persons (illness/travel), a videoed "Happy Anniversary" message from local MLA Grace Grace was played.



Then, following a welcome from Councillor Vicki Howard, the meeting moved on to notices from Robert Allen (coming historical walks) then Stuart's *Movietone* presentation which took us all the way back to the Royal Visit of 1954.

President Desley Garnett explained that the new logo was yet to be finalised, and introduced the idea of the



Charter, an initiative (with its aims, objectives and principles) which will prepare us well for coming decades (see page 4).

Who were the longest-standing members present? George Cowin had joined in the era when Maida Lilley was president, and Gertrude Zaklikowski has lived for 74 years in the district, 71 of those in the same house in Mark St.

Holding the audience in rapt attention was the slideshow which Desley introduced. It outlined the achievements of 30 years, including the gift of more than 60 paintings of New Farm by Gladys Blundell, walking tours, the publication of books, and the installation of historical plaques at almost 20 locations.

the early days, the newsletter was all important, and Virginia showed a slide of the very first one, November 1994. It outlined heritage walks leaving from the library, a visit to the CSR refinery (then still operating), talks by Dr Ruth Kerr (RQHS) and architect Ron Baker, along with a dinner night at the New Farm Bowls Club (meal \$5, drinks extra).

At this point, the formality of the occasion required the Cutting of the Anniversary Cake, and an official photo, all to the accompaniment of "Happy Birthday".



<p>February 1994</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Historical Walk around New Farm lead by Councillor David Hinchliffe • Commenced at Holy Spirit School, up Brunswick St as far as Harcourt St, down Bowen Tce to Moreton St and back to the school. • Jan Power spoke about 'Early New Farm Days' • Seeded the determination to commence discussions about an historical society in the district 	<p>2000 - Art Show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held at Village Twin Theatre • Gladys Blundell generously donated 60 paintings of historical interest, mostly buildings • Postcards of paintings were sold • Sizeable profit put the society in a good place financially 
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Gertrude Zaklikowski, 96 (centre), assisting in cutting the cake

2012: Historical Plaques Project commenced with Grant from BCC

Tram Shelter Shed

The Arbour Walk

After this, Robert Allen introduced his panel of four long-time NF residents. Bev Bergstrum, now in her nineties, had grown up at 106 Villiers St in the days when there was still empty land on the riverfront at Macquarie St. "We walked everywhere," she said.



David Hinchliffe, painter and former local councillor for 25 years, is the esteemed founder of the society. He took the podium to point out that the peninsula once had many aboriginal trails, which became cow trails, and now they are car trails. "Every community needs its gathering place of history, since gathering history helps to shape the future," he said. David paid tribute to those of the society who had gone before, in particular Beattie Dawson, his predecessor on the Council. David himself was an early resident of New Farm, and as a boy delivered *The Telegraph* on his paper round. When he announced an historical walk around the suburb, with Jan Power assisting, 150 people turned up. "The legacy of that walk is You," he said.



Bruna Burello-Day arrived with her parents from Italy as a child in 1959. As with Bev, she attended Holy Spirit School. Bruna is once more living in the same house in Byram St which her parents purchased in 1962.



Virginia Balmain was on the very first committee in 1994, and "Walk, Talk, Eat," was her theme. Back in

Beryl Watson and her

husband came to New Farm to help look after grandchildren, and to decide where on the coast to spend their retirement. "We didn't get to the coast," she said. "That was 24 years ago. I love it here and couldn't imagine ever leaving."



In closing, Grace Grace explained (via another video recorded with interviewer, Robert Allen) that her family had moved from St Paul's Tce in Spring Hill to Merthyr Rd in 1972. "I've lived my whole life in the electorate," she said.

Wrapping up the meeting, Councillor Vicki Howard offered more words of commendation before all were invited to move to the courtyard for an uber-sumptuous afternoon tea (including a slice of Anniversary Cake) which was complemented by the soothing sounds of the saxophone, courtesy of Elaine, Bev Bergstum's daughter.



Cake purchased from The Bakeologists, Merthyr Road, New Farm



The delights (above right) were made by Ellie Gordon and arranged by partner, David Sneesby (Elaine's son and Bev Bergstum's grandson). How wonderful to have the family so involved!

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on [Vimeo here.](#)



More photos may be viewed on line [here.](#)



More photos from the happy event





New Farm and Districts Historical Society

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

'Gathering information from the past ... preserving it for the future.'

CHARTER

AIM

Research, record and promote the history of the New Farm, Teneriffe, Newstead, Fortitude Valley and Bowen Hills district.

GOALS

1. Celebrate and foster interest in the rich and diverse history of the district.
2. Educate society members and the wider community about our history.
3. Support the conservation and sharing of historical records through physical collections and digital databases.

OBJECTIVES

1. Research, record and tell our stories of people, places and events for current and future generations.
2. Recruit new members and encourage their involvement in all aspects of the society.
3. Explore new and innovative ways to record our history and tell our stories.
4. Identify and collaborate with partners on joint history activities and projects.

PRINCIPLES

1. Undertake all society activities in a manner which respects past, present and future residents.
2. Ensure the history of the district is accurately recorded and represented.
3. Ensure the society represents the diversity of the community in the district.
4. Maintain the ongoing viability and financial stability of the society.
5. Plan for change and drive innovation in everything we do.

4th March 2024

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
until July 31	NFDHS Historical Display at New Farm Library
July 13 & 14	Brisbane Open House
July 14	BOH Speakers Series, NF Powerhouse
July 27	Public Meeting
August 3	Gasworks and Quonset Walk
August 17	Oxlade Drive Walk
August 4	Caboolture Historical Village Heritage Day
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.

Video recordings (Vimeos) of Monthly Presentations are available on the website. The Vimeo archive can be accessed [here](#).

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 Buckley

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:

Bruna Burello-Day

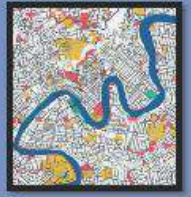
editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au



JULY MEETING PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society presents:

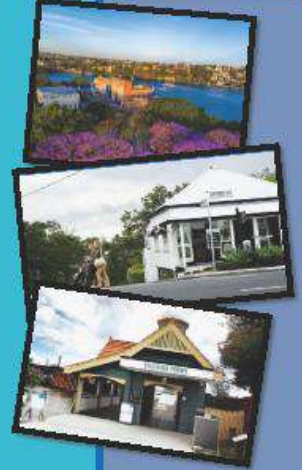
BRISBANE GREETERS
SHOWCASE BRISBANE
... to visitors and locals



- Brisbane city
- Brisbane precincts
- Walter Taylor Bridge



Speaker:
Greeter Joanna Phillips



Photos: Brisbane Greeters Website

Saturday 27th July 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au
Enquiries: 0409 498 403

Brisbane City Council's Brisbane Greeters program connects residents and visitors with enthusiastic locals who lead free walking tours. It's a fantastic opportunity to discover the city through the eyes of a friendly volunteer. These passionate Brisbane experts can guide you through the city centre, key neighbourhoods like Fortitude Valley and Paddington, or even offer a unique perspective on, eg, the Walter Taylor Bridge. Brisbane Greeters are dedicated to inclusivity, with over 75 volunteers offering tours in multiple languages and catering to all ages and abilities. Whether you're a lifelong resident, visiting family, or new to Brisbane, there's a Greeter tour waiting to share the city's hidden gems and stories.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST

Merthyr Croquet Club Celebrates 100 years



Tucked away at the back of New Farm Park, in the area behind where the kiosk once stood, is the place you can expect to find people using a mallet and balls for a sport that is not as well known as lawn bowls, but was equally popular with the early

residents of Brisbane. The Merthyr Croquet Club is celebrating 100 years this month, and President Zach Komisar will be telling us about the history of the club at our meeting on 24th August - how, where, when and why it started, its perilous times and its activities today.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JULY 2024

Desley Garnett
President



So ... having celebrated our 30 years in June, we are now in our 31st year and our membership keeps growing! Currently the number stands at 222 financial members. If you missed the meeting, you can catch highlights in the recording at <https://vimeo.com/965680532>. Thank you to everyone who contributed memories, decorated the venue, cooked some special goodies, Marcus who managed the sound and visuals and a special thanks to Austin who has made a coherent Vimeo from what was at times a little chaotic.

You might remember that we planned to launch a new logo at the June meeting. I apologise that this has not yet been achieved. We have taken inspiration from the entries to the competition and have been working to achieve something simple that will signify New Farm, but realised that we need more time to present something to our membership. Watch this space - it will happen this year!

This month is something a little different as we learn more about how Brisbane City Council shares history and special features of Brisbane with locals and visitors through

the free Brisbane Greeters program. It is surprising how little about our city centre we locals know, especially now that so many of us visit the CBD area very infrequently. Maybe Joanna will revitalise our curiosity and our enthusiasm for exploring our own very liveable Brisbane *Meanjin*. You are sure to discover something you did not know as I did in conversation with Joanna about art in Tenerife – I'll not tell you yet what I learnt!

Then in August it will be our Annual General Meeting so I am asking you to think about how you would like to be more involved with the society. We look forward to some fresh volunteers to join the committee. Everyone has different skills to bring so please talk to any member of the committee about how you think you can contribute to our projects. Of course, you do not need to be a committee member to be a volunteer and as we are ramping up our digitisation project, there will be plenty of small tasks to share out. You just need two members to nominate you for the committee. Nomination forms will be available at the July meeting and must be in the hands of the secretary, Tracey, by 5th August. secretary@newfarmhistorical.org.au

I hope to see you (wearing your name tag so it is easy for me to remember names!) at our meeting on 27th July.

RECENT EVENTS

Tour of Fortitude Valley Historic Pubs

Robert Allen

Around 30 society members and guests joined historian Robert Allen on 29 June for the latest of this year's Fortitude Valley Historic Hotels walking tours.

Hotels are amongst some of the Valley's oldest surviving buildings, and their histories help tell us much about the area's birth, growth, decline and renewal.

Starting at the top of the Brunswick Street Mall, the tour heard from Les Pullos, the owner of the Royal George hotel. Les is one of the Valley's more established publicans, and it was interesting to hear his insights into how pubs seek to cater to new and existing audiences and changing consumer demands.

The group then passed several more hotels and stopped for tours and refreshments at the Prince Consort and the Wickham hotels in Wickham Street before sampling the pinball machines and craft beers which characterise Netherworld (formerly the Shamrock Hotel) on St Paul's Terrace.

Robert plans to run more historic hotel tours through the Valley later this year.



A Happy Trek over Bowen Hills

Gerard Benjamin

On our Bowen Hills Walk on Saturday 6 July, one of the first stops was the Memorial to Cloudland Ballroom (1940-1982). Everyone was amused by the quote from Barry Humphries on one of the information boards: "Brisbane is only one-hour's flight to somewhere interesting..."

No matter how parochial Brisbane may have seemed in those days, people loved Cloudland, as evidenced by the messages on the tiles at the memorial, such as: "When I was 14, I teased a girlfriend about going to Cloudland because it was boring. Her mother overheard and said, 'You're coming with us. I'll show you ballroom dancing isn't boring.' I loved it and went twice a week for years. I moved back to Brisbane on the Saturday—and on the Sunday, Cloudland was pulled down."

After trekking past Twelfth Night Theatre, Cintra House (home of Premier Boyd Morehead) and Our Lady of Victories Church (masses are in English and Polish), then a welcome rest stop at a café in Ross St (where we were joined by Bruna), we arrived at Newstead House,

There were 19 of us on this happy jaunt. Sincere thanks to Rosalinda for being 'Tail End Rosy', and for handling enquiries from those wanting to join the Society.



LAUNCH OF BRISBANE OPEN HOUSE

Several members of the Society attended the gala launch of the Brisbane Open House program which took place at the Powerhouse on 19 June. With New Farm being this year's "Village of Brisbane, the event supports our Society's 30th anniversary celebrations. Event patron Her Excellency, the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young, was among the speakers. Local offerings include walks and tours led by Santina Musumeci, Gerard Benjamin and Robert Allen. Gerard and Robert will also be participating in the full-day Speaker Series at the Powerhouse on 14 July. Others in this series will be David Hinchliffe, Norma King Koi and Edward Haysom, among many others.

THE OPEN HOUSE

The BOH website can be accessed [here](#).



Photos by Maria Shaw

RE-OPENING OF NEWSTEAD HOUSE

Desley Garnett

On a very windy Saturday morning, I joined a crowd of a couple of hundred people (including several members of the New Farm & Districts Historical Society) for the re-opening of Newstead House after its closure for three years for renovations. Several speakers talked about the meticulous work undertaken to bring the house, built in 1846, back to the time when George Harris and his family resided there. This period, from 1862 to 1889 was a time of much partying.

The ribbon for the official re-opening was ceremoniously cut by Her Excellency Dr Jeanette Young, Governor of Qld, Patron of Newstead House.

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Leanne Linard, whose Department was intimately involved with overseeing the spending of the \$6.65 million funding by the Miles Government, said: "I commend the Board of Trustees for the meticulous work they have done to ensure this renovation project aligns to the style of the mid-to-late 1800s."

Minister Grace Grace, member for McConnel, spoke passionately about her memories of visiting Newstead House as a child, and about the restoration. "Newstead House is a beloved part of my community here in

McConnel and as an advocate for the restoration I'm very proud to see the House not only returned to magnificence but preserved for generations to come."

Congratulations must go to Claire Moore, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and to her fellow trustees, for seeing this project through to completion. Claire will tell us more about the restoration project at our meeting in September. Claire expressed her passion for the project in the words "This labour of love has given this grand dame a much-needed facelift, well-deserved after 178 years, ensuring Newstead House is once again the life of the party"

I look forward to visiting this grand house, Brisbane's oldest European residential property, for a more relaxed tour and to hear more of the stories of the people who lived, worked and visited there. Maybe we will organise a group tour for members of NFDHS.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gasworks and Quonset Walking Tour

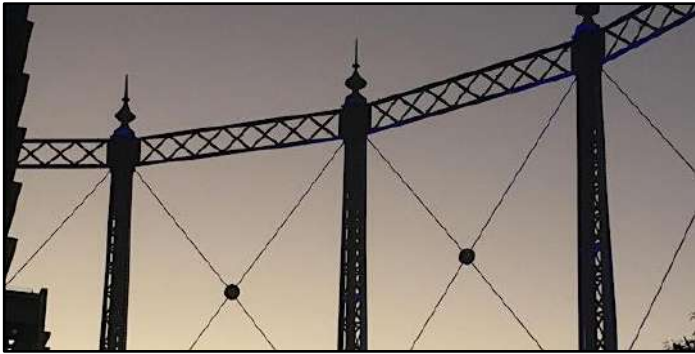
Saturday 3 August 2024, 10.00am

Gasworks Plaza

Tour Guide: Ben Pritchard

Join Ben for an interesting walking tour from Gasworks Plaza to Commercial Road. Explore the rich history of this area and learn about the industrial past and how it has shaped the suburb we know today.

Tickets can be booked at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Advance Notice:

Oxlade Drive Walking Tour

Saturday 17 August 2024, 8.30am

Tour Guide: Gerard Benjamin

Full details will appear in the August Newsletter.

NEW FARM REDEVELOPMENTS (from page 1)

844 Brunswick Street The former Radna Hall, now sports a new name, "Mythic", and comprises four two-level townhouses which appear to be for rental.



Brunswick Street frontage



Frontage on Adeline Lane (showing back and side of building)

New Farm Library Display

Our popular Library display has had some changes made. It is on until the end of July, so there is plenty of time to see some of the vintage items reflecting life in the area in bygone years. Items on show have been kindly lent by Rosalinda Pike (her father's fireman's helmet), James Delahunty (chemist's memorabilia), Gary Collett (family photos) and Archie Nahman (antique soft drink bottles). See if you can spot some interesting and quirky new inclusions (in the Library, not in the photos below!).



AROUND THE TRAPS

State Library of Queensland

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

Friends of Brisbane Living Heritage

[What's On In Brisbane | Brisbane Living Heritage](https://www.brisbanelivingheritage.com.au)

Family History Researchers

If you are embarking on or currently working on your family history, this link to the July Newsletter from the Family History Academy might be useful. [July Newsletter \(mailerlite.io\)](https://www.mailerlite.io).

Caboolture Family History Research Group

President Sue Battersby (E: cfhrg55@outlook.com) advises that **Caboolture Historical Village** is again holding their annual "Heritage Day" on 4 August 2024 from 9am – 3pm. There will be many activities, artisans, costumed characters, musicians, entertainers ie poets, bush bands, bush rangers, re-enactments etc and food stalls on the day. Something for all the family!



While on Cross St, one building (previously No 7) becomes two separate residences (No 7 and No 5).

One could say that, for such a small street, Cross St represents a microcosm of New Farm architecture. If not just Cross St, then the immediate area surrounding it would

certainly qualify in my opinion. We'd be interested to hear from anyone who lives in or near this street:

editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

COMMUNITY CORNER

HeartFIT in New Farm

It is now over five weeks since HeartFIT started in New Farm. The response has been amazing and the numbers keep growing. So much so, that there are now TWO SESSIONS being conducted every Tuesday at the Merthyr Road Uniting Church Hall. For the early birds, there is one at 8.00am to 9.00am and for the rest of us the second session goes from 9.30 to 10.30am. More information is available [here](#).

It has already become a regular feature that some of us meet for coffee afterwards at the Moray Café on the corner of Merthyr Rd and Moray St. Some of you may remember this site as The Carramar Corner. Perhaps there'll be a story about that in a future newsletter. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, see if you can spot the very keen NFDHS members and friends in this happy snap (by Bruce Collins)



New Mascots for NFDHS – cute tea cosies!

At the 30th anniversary party, our new “mascots” were introduced and displayed on the welcome table. How did these mascots come about?

As usual, it was entirely by coincidence! A couple of months ago, your editor was browsing a display in the NF Library of the handiwork produced by the very creative members of the Threads & Yarn group (not to be confused with the Stitch & Bitch group who have already been mentioned in a previous newsletter). These ladies meet every Thursday in the Ron Muir Room. And there they were - Gloria and Gerard Sheep, the tea cosies - amongst a veritable cornucopia of items created by this group. (See next page for the story about how the woolly structures the cosies represent came about.)

As luck would have it, I ran into one of the group members as they were leaving their session and I was arriving for our open office hours. This person, Barbara, also frequents the Bulimba HeartFIT sessions which I was attending previously. So I asked her for information and this eventually led to my meeting the duo's creator, Marianne Alcock, and requesting that she make the tea cosies for the Society. These were duly produced in time to grace our welcome table at the anniversary party. They also feature in the Society's current display which is on until the end of July in the Library.

In the meantime, our popular duo featured in a display of tea cosies at the Rendu Retirement Village in Newstead. Over 100 people attended to view the extraordinary range and variety of tea cosies, all of which (perhaps with another pair of G&G cosies) will be heading to the Jumpers and Jazz Festival in Warwick later this month.

Cute tea cosies re-create woolly duo in Teneriffe

Inspired by the landmark sheep (“Gloria and Gerard”) on the Teneriffe Riverwalk, Marianne Alcock has created these delightful tea cosies.


The original idea came about when artist (then local councillor) David Hinchliffe sought a whimsical way of celebrating the wealth of wool in the Teneriffe precinct. David sketched a design, and sculptor Mark Andrews went to work to bring it to life. What to call the pair? Why not name them after the co-authors of the best-selling local book, *Reflections on New Farm* (2008), which sparked an upsurge of interest in local history and contributed to the popularity of the New Farm & Districts Historical Society.



Marianne Alcock with some of the creations on display



THE STORY OF GLORIA AND GERARD




2019 2013

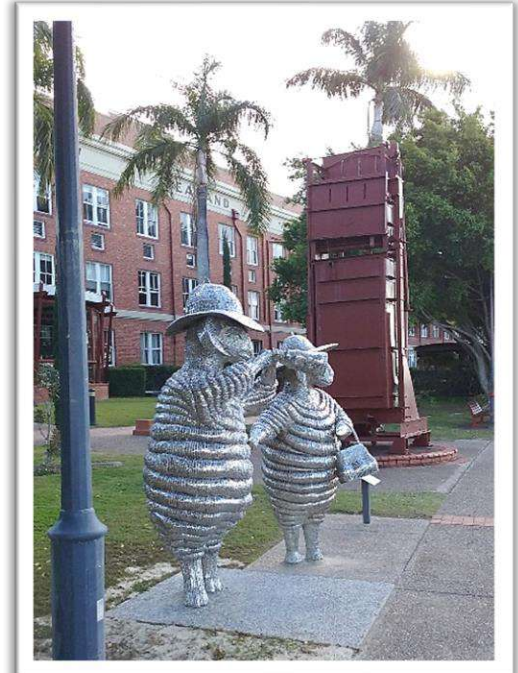
Gloria & Gerard, the sculptured woolly duo, patiently await the ship which will take their prized fleeces to overseas markets.

Sculptor: Mark Andrews

David Hinchliffe's original sketch for 2 sheep sculptures for Tenerife Boardwalk.



Ross made a whimsical comment "We should call them Gloria and Gerard" and so the names have stuck, honouring Gloria Grant and Gerard Benjamin, authors of *Reflections on New Farm*

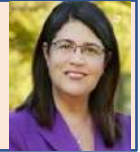


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sincere thanks go to:



Grace Grace MP
Member for McConnel
(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



Photo credits: Jenny Cobbin, Gayle Martin and Bruna Burello-Day.