

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST!



The official address is 84 Merthyr Road, but this block on the corner with Brunswick Street would be very familiar to many New Farmers. What was here and what is to come? Do you have any memories of the area? Read more on **page 6**.

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**NEW FARM & Districts
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2024
Vol XXX, No 7**

REPORT ON THE JULY MEETING

Greetings!

It's a charming term from another time and all but lost to everyday usage. But that simply will not happen while ever Brisbane Greeters are introducing visitors and locals alike to 21st century Brisbane, its art, its secrets, quirks and histories.



REPORTER:
Maria Shaw



Society member Joanna Phillips, who became a Greeter after retiring from medical practice, shared some favourite places and Brisbane secrets. For instance, there's an ex-WW II American consular crest in Langshaw Street. And, out of sight and out of mind, embedded in the riverbank below Julius Street, lie the remains of two early lime kilns! We think we have 'local knowledge', but who knew?

From small beginnings in 2012, the now 70-strong Greeter Program offers tours of precincts and places like the City, Fish Lane and West Village, Teneriffe, New Farm and Fortitude Valley, Bulimba, Chelmer, Nundah and the Walter Taylor Bridge. Tours are free, take no more than six people, and they're private.

You'll find individual Greeters most responsive to special needs and interests. With characteristic Greeter communication skills and enthusiasm, Jo opened our eyes to the rich offerings of the program, highlighting this jewel in the city's crown. Her delightful and enlightening 'tour' advised that "there's art everywhere" and a host of enticing tour options within our city.

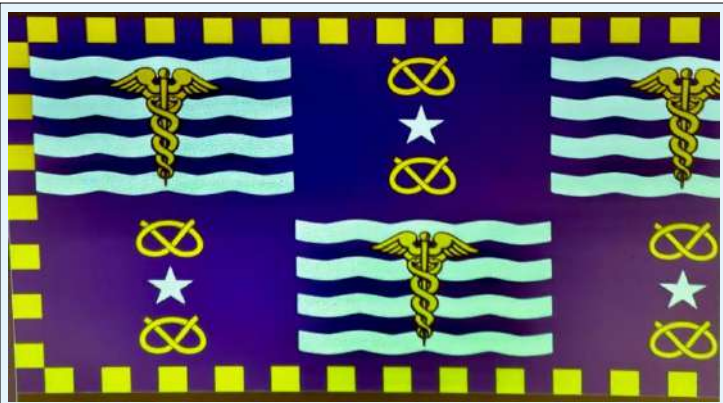
This excellent program is the proud recipient of the 2024 Tripadvisor Choice Award. Millions of travellers' reviews placed Brisbane Greeters in the top 10% worldwide.

You'd have to think that, with the Olympics in mind, Greeters will surely feature in our plans to welcome the world.

ART IS EVERYWHERE
GREETERS ARE THEMED TO HAVE A PURPOSE
HOWEVER YOU WILL FIND ART IN VARIOUS DEGREES ON EVERY GREET

WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE A LOT IN BRISBANE

Street art
Religious art
Gerard & Gloria
Comerant



What or where does this flag represent?

Find the answer to this and an explanation of the symbols by watching the Vimeo of the presentation [here](#).

Editor's Note:

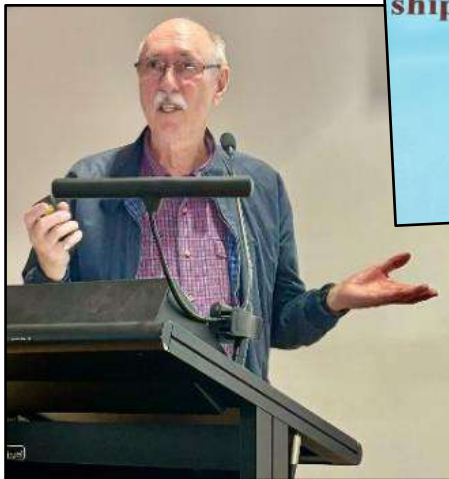
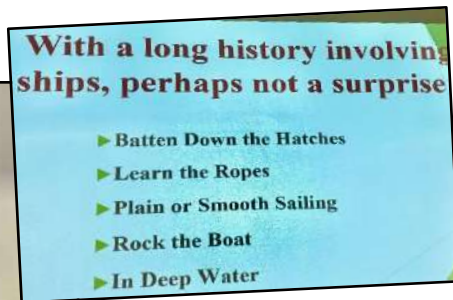
Finding myself in South Brisbane recently, I was inspired by Joanna's talk to visit [Fish Lane](#) which stretches from South Brisbane to West End. Just outside the entrance on Grey Street, I encountered this sign (at right) and immediately

thought "How nice to find a tribute to Austin Adams". It is just the name of an apartment block, of course, but how coincidental that, as Joanna had pointed out, Austin was one of the earliest Brisbane Greeters after seeing them in action very early in the program. While Austin is no longer participating, Joanna has been a Brisbane Greeter for about eight years and loves it! Most will know Austin as the Society's Videographer (sometimes assisted by new member Christien Duffey) and produces the Vimeo recordings of the Society's monthly presentations. Well done, Austin!



An Interesting Interlude

Our globe-trotting AV Guy, Stuart Wallace (who is usually seen at the back of our meeting hall with Austin), gave a surprise presentation about some interesting facts he learned while on a cruise during his last overseas holiday. He shared how



many common terms we use today have a nautical origin.

The above examples do show some connection to seafaring, but

others are not as easy to fathom. Following are just two of the terms Stuart illustrated, showing their current meaning and their origin:

What about Scuttlebutt?

For example:

The scuttlebutt says they planned to take their clients with them to the new office, but the boss found out and fired them for ethical violations.

Scuttlebutt?

The barrel containing the fresh drinking water was called a scuttlebutt and became a place for sailors to gather, talk, and pass on information. The term scuttlebutt became synonymous with information.

... and Bottoms Up

For example:

We bought him a celebratory beer on his birthday and all cheered, "bottoms up!" as he drained it off!

Bottoms Up?

The term bottoms up became a way to warn people to check for a coin at the bottom of their drink. The British Navy used to con people into joining the Navy and would buy them a beer with a coin on the bottom. If the beer was finished off, the Navy considered this as accepting payment and would press them into service.

For more information and examples, Google "Nautical terms used in everyday language". Examples used by Stuart are copied from [55 Sailing Phrases and Nautical Terms Used in Everyday Language](#) (grammarist.com)

In addition

Stuart's compilation of the ever popular *Movietone* newsreel segment, this time featuring the year 1959, provided more entertainment with topics which included a tribute to Albert Namatjira; Australian population reaches 10,000,000 (It's nice to know that the four members of the Burello family who arrived from Italy in February 1959 and settled in New



Farm contributed to this historic milestone!); Herb Elliot easily wins the One Mile race; and the highly amusing Police raid on a pyjama party at the Gold Coast! Those were the days!

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
August 15	President's welcome afternoon tea
August 16	Memorial Service for Jim MacDonald
August 24	Public Meeting and AGM
September 5, 12, 19 and 26	Regatta Hotel Tours
September 7	RHSQ Bi-Centennial Commemoration, Redcliffe
September 8	Holy Spirit School Fete
September 14	Art Deco City Heart Walk
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 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:

Bruna Burello-Day

editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au

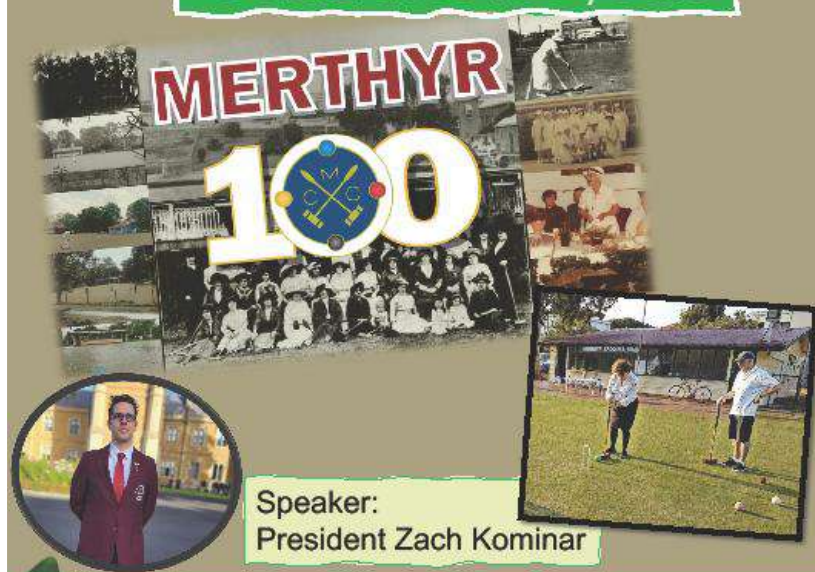
Photos taken at meetings by our photographer, Maria Shaw, can be viewed on Instagram, or [here](#).



AUGUST MEETING PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society presents:

Merthyr Croquet Club Celebrates 100 years



Speaker:
President Zach Kominar

Saturday 24th August 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

Enquiries: 0409 498 403

Thanks to Grace Grace MP for printing this poster

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 celebrated its 100 years in July, and President Zach Kominar will be telling us about the history of the club - how, where, when, and why it started, its perilous times and its activities today.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER



Newstead House was once the finest home in the colony of Moreton Bay, boasting a reputation for hosting lavish parties – the heart of Brisbane's social life. Built in 1846, it is now Brisbane's oldest standing European residence and tells the story of early colonial life in Brisbane.

The grand 1846 building was home to the fabulously wealthy merchant George Harris from 1862 to 1890. He decorated the house with lurid floral and pineapple wallpaper and this 'party period' was the one chosen for this renovation. Claire will share some of the joys and challenges of this \$6.6 million renovation over the past three years.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST 2024

*Desley Garnett
President*

I hope you enjoyed the diversion from history about a particular topic to being challenged about your knowledge about particular parts of Brisbane last month. Did you learn something new? Were you stimulated to "google" for more information? Had you seen the lime kilns from the river walk and wondered what they were? Did you know they are a State Heritage place? Check out more information about the lime kilns [here](#).

I certainly learned just a little about a lot of historical places in our city – a great taster to lead to searching for more information. Maybe you have been encouraged to go on a walk with a Brisbane Greeter.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the start of our August meeting before we hear about 100 years of



croquet in New Farm. There is still time to nominate to be on our active committee – please give me a call if you can contribute to the society in this way. We have many projects on the go! At the AGM we will receive the Annual Report from the President and the Audit report

from the Treasurer and then hold the election of officers for the next 12 months. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the committee, but it would be helpful if you could submit them before the meeting to ensure we are able to effectively answer your query.

Please call in and visit us at the office one Thursday afternoon between 2 pm and 4 pm if there is something you want to know or come in just for a friendly chat and a cuppa!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bruna Burello-Day

Membership numbers are steady and the current tally is 229. New members are always welcome. Look out for special offers for lapsed and new members in next month's Newsletter.

MEET OUR MEMBERS



I am **Maureen Ann Fries** and I moved into New Farm a little over twelve months ago, on July 26th.

A friend once commented of skydivers, 'Why jump out of a perfectly good aeroplane?' In the last year, I have often wondered why I decided to leave a lovely home and a successful, comfortable

life in Sydney to move to Brisbane. Probably Here are just a few of the 75 attendees enjoying afternoon tea after the presentations.

like those skydivers, I was seeking a challenge and the exhilaration of not stepping but leaping out of my comfort zone.

Two of my passions are writing and history so I immediately joined the Society of Women Writers Queensland and the New Farm & Districts Historical Society. Both of these organisations have welcomed me and expanded my experience of living in Brisbane. I still have pinch me moments when I step off the 196 and glimpse the river through flower-laden trees or wander down an as yet undiscovered street. I feel truly blessed to live in New Farm.

Each month I look forward to the NFDHS meeting to learn more about my new home. The smiling faces and the budding friendships have provided a very soft landing for me.

So, thank you, New Farm!

Here are just a few of the 75 attendees at the July meeting:



Getting to know you Afternoon Tea

Thursday 15th August, 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



I hope to meet you there
Desley Garnett



A Big Thank You from Maureen

The Society of Women Writers Queensland would sincerely like to thank **New Farm & Districts Historical Society** for their invaluable support of the literary Art Deco Experience held on July 13th at The Elizabeth Street Picture Theatre.

Special thanks to **Desley Garnett** and **Stuart Wallace** for providing the rare, historical Cinesound newsreel footage



and to **Santina Musumeci** who attended the event and took some excellent photos.

Maureen Ann Fries



The last Society meeting Jim attended was in May 2024

Jim MacDonald had an almost endless supply of stories about New Farm, dating from his childhood in Oxlade Drive and schooling at New Farm State School. He wrote a memoir in 2014 in which he explained that his father via his building firm had constructed several buildings in New Farm including the offices on the corner of Brunswick Street and Merthyr Road. Jim followed this up with many little

snippets of topical historical detail, which regularly appeared in the newsletter under the heading “Nicely Nostalgic” (as per the example, right, from the newsletter of May 2020). He had joined the History Society a few years after his wife had died, and often reflected on what a happy decision that had been because of the marvellous sense of community he had found in the society. I’m sure we will be thinking of Jim and his stories for many, many years to come.

Gerard Benjamin

For your enjoyment, here are two excerpts from his Family Memoirs:

On school days during WWII, post 1941 -

School and the nation went into “watch” mode. We were told to be more careful about our usage of food and clothing, petrol and the like. It was at this time the school first recognised that I had managerial skills. I was appointed “Rubbish Bin Monitor”. I stood beside the bins at lunchtime and made sure that all those little children put their papers in one bin and their food scraps into the other. The scraps were picked up by a pig farmer with whom I became associated as he recognised my skills in making sure that this went with that and that no paper went into the food bin.

On adventures in New Farm Park -

I was walking home from school and took a short cut through New Farm Park which was on Mother’s instruction, not to be done. Well, in the park I became aware that there were US servicemen holding rifles standing beside the trees. “Oh boy, I’m in trouble,” I thought. The Japs have landed. I’ll never reach home to save Mum.” I came up the hill and there were two big black cars and a couple of military vehicles and a number of people. I had to walk close to this group to exit into Oxlade Drive.

*Then a tall white lady spoke to me. “Hello,” she said. “My name is Mrs Jean and this is my son, Arthur. * We have come down to have a play in your beautiful park. Would you like to say Hello?” I did, too, cementing the US-Australian relationship. The meeting was repeated a number of times in the future. Not a word to Mother!*

[* Mrs Jean was Mrs Douglas McArthur and her son, Arthur McArthur.]

An oral history, compiled by Gerard Benjamin of Jim’s memories of Oxlade Drive, is available from the Society.

And the last word must go to Jim whose motto was: *Never let the truth get in the way of a good story.* He will be greatly missed.

NICELY NOSTALGIC

Jim MacDonald

Who remembers ‘the telegram’?

IN its day, before e-mail and the like, the telegram was the fastest way to send a written message between two points in Australia.

If you needed to communicate, you presented yourself to a Post Office or a Telegraph Office, and wrote your message on an official P.O. form. Since you were charged by the number of words, keeping it brief and omitting all but the most essential words kept the cost down.

The official at the Post Office calculated your charges for payment in cash (this was the pre-credit card era). Next, the message was transmitted by ‘Morse code’ to the receival point — which happened to be the nearest Post Office to the location of your recipient.

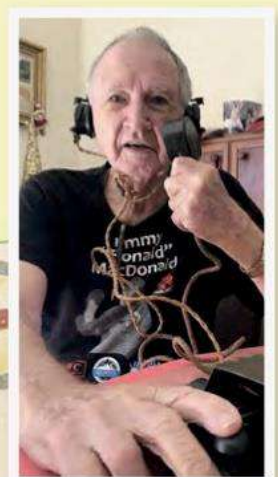
At that office, someone monitored a ‘receiving box’ then interpreted your message from the dots and dashes of the Morse code. He/she typed on a P.O. telegram form — which was given to a ‘telegram boy’ (just out of school) who, with your message in his leather belt pouch, would cycle to the addressee.

His pushbike was bright red and prominently displayed ‘PMG’ in metal letters so as to deter unauthorised borrowings.

During the war years, the telegram boy was the conduit for informing a family that their loved one was ‘Missing in Action, Believed Killed’. No wonder people were immediately worried when they saw a telegram boy in the street. How sad and how final.

On the other hand, the service could be used for happier matters. Weddings often generated congratulatory wishes. Remember being at a wedding reception when part of the best man’s duties was to ‘read out the telegrams’?

Finger on the key: The article’s author Jim MacD tries out an NZ military Morse key for transmitting messages over a network rather than through wires.



Note the senders of the congratulatory telegram!

A memorial service for Jim will be held on Friday 16th August at 2.00pm. For further details, please contact president@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

From Page 1 – Continuing the Theme of the Changing Face of Brunswick Street

From the Editor, Bruna Burello-Day

The corner of Brunswick Street and Merthyr Road is getting a makeover. The only information I can find on this property is on the [Chesters Real Estate](#) Site, which includes this rendering:



There are two applications listed on the BCC Development site, one for 841 Brunswick Street and the other for 84 Merthyr Road, the latter being the more recent. From that comes the intended use: Child Care Centre; Food and Drink Outlet; Office; Shop. If anyone has any further information, I would be very interested to know.

Who remembers what was there before? I remember frequenting the site since my teen years (and that was a long time ago!) when I visited my GP, Dr Edgar Moo, who had his practice in one of the spaces before moving to the Merthyr Village where he established the Merthyr Medical Centre. Other businesses that I remember were Arriva Restaurant, a chicken and chips shop, a newsagency which delivered the daily newspapers and was an alternative for finding just the right greeting card, and a health food shop. In more recent years there was a short-lived fish and chip shop and couple of pop-up shops, viz an art gallery and a dress shop, along with a bar which I understand is to be reinstated on the rooftop. Here's what it once looked like (from Real Commercial website):



We would be interested to hear our readers' memories of this site which would have featured substantially in their lives. Contact editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

RECENT EVENTS

Overview of Brisbane Open House (BOH)



On the weekend of 13 and 14 July, several Society members and associates participated in BOH events variously as organisers, presenters, panel members and observers. Congratulations to our historian, **Robert Allen**, for his significant part in collaborating with BOH personnel to secure New

Farm as a hub and to bring together a very successful event. As well as moderating sessions in the inaugural Speakers' Series at the Powerhouse on Day 2, 14 July, Robert also conducted a special tour, as reported here:

- Locals and visitors alike were treated to a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the heritage-listed **New Farm Six Cinemas** as part of the recent Brisbane Open House. Society member and professional historian Robert Allen outlined the iconic cinema's 100-year history, from its



early days as the Merthyr Picture Palace and then the Astor to its revival as the Village Twin from 1970 and its 2014 restoration under third-generation cinema owners Peter and Stephen Sourris. Running the tours prior to the start of the day's sessions allowed visitors to see inside several of the cinemas and soak up the '70s decor. Another tour highlight was a visit to the projection room, which includes one of Brisbane's few remaining 35 mm projectors.

- Other tours were conducted by Society member, **Santina Musumeci** under the auspices of the Brisbane Art Deco Society. Her tours were so popular that they were "sold out" within hours. As Santina states, the participants were captivated by New Farm's social history and diverse architectural legacy. A couple of comments: *This morning, we heard about how glamorous life was in Coronet Court and the other Art Deco buildings - it was all so fascinating.* PF *So amazing to learn more about the man behind the design and construction of Coronet Flats.* JD



- "Heart of New Farm" was the name of the walking tour offered by **Gerard Benjamin** at 9am and 11am as part of the Brisbane Open House program on Saturday, 13 July. A total of 25 walkers participated, most coming from outside the suburb. All enjoyed having a close-up view of the gardens around Wynberg. At the end of the walk, all were treated to free nibbles from New Farm Seafood as well as a sample bag from Merthyr Village.

Continued next page



BOH Heart of New Farm Tour Group

- On Sunday 14 July at the Powerhouse, the first session of the Speakers' Series was moderated by Robert Allen, and featured Gerard on the subject of local history. He explained that at the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement, the fact that prisoner numbers during 1826-1829 rose from 200 to 1000 was part of the urgency for Captain Logan to find a 'new farm' on which to grow crops. Thanks go to Bruna for handling book sales on the day.

Also in The Speakers' Series **New Farm's Past, Present & Future**, Society member, **Norma King Koi**, was an observer in Session 1, and a participant in session 2. Norma reports:

- Talks and presentations in session 1 were very well chosen, complementing each other in content and delivery from Indigenous history to the present. Ray Kerkhove, an expert in Indigenous archaeology, Gaja Kerry Charlton, a Traditional language and knowledge custodian, Gerard Benjamin, an author and an architect, Peter Roy (the architect of the repurposed Powerhouse) each shared their in-depth expertise with humour, empathy and respect. I personally learnt valuable information that I have shared with friends, eg the history of indigenous camp sites, the first regattas on the river and the ever-changing history, image and progress of our area.*
As a participant in session 2 it was a great experience, to be on a panel with David Hinchliffe and Edward Hayson. They had the "official background" of the area while I had the observer, resident perspective. Again, it was an enlightening experience hearing about the "behind-the-scenes" policies, bureaucracy etc that influence our environment and lives.
Both presentations shared stories, memories & snippets which a friend in the audience told me made it "local and personal".



Behind the Scenes at All Saints Anglican Church

Remember our May meeting guest speaker, Mark "Brizzypix" Coleman, who gave a fantastic overview (with magnificent photos) of Brisbane's inner-city bridges?

Well, he's been busy snapping Brisbane's not-so-hidden gems, and during BOH visited a historic site and wrote an article which has been published in the latest Brisbane Living Heritage Newsletter. He says:

One of the places that I visited during the 2024 Open House event across Brisbane was a place (and a person) holding a special place in my heart: All Saints Anglican Church.

The church, of course, is a special place simply as it is the oldest Anglican church in Brisbane, and is a magnificent historical building.....

In summing up, Mark states: *I love learning and experiencing new things, so Brisbane Open House is a wonderfully informative and interesting way of achieving that. See the article [here](#):*



Other Events

Gasworks to Quonset Tour



A small group made up of Society members and prospective new members gathered at the Gasworks gasometer to learn a bit more about the fascinating history of a small part of Brisbane. **Ben Pritchard** guided the



group around the two city blocks - from Gasworks Plaza to Stratton Street - that holds so much fascinating history. We learned about the production of gas from coal, visited the sites of two of the area's three gasometers and marvelled at the remnants of the area's engineering past that are still here. The tour also visited the Quonset hut on Stratton Street which now houses the Stratton Bar and Restaurant. And for

the curious, Quonset is the place in Rhode Island, USA, that lends its name to the 'crinkly' tin huts that look like a tin can and were erected by the US forces when they were posted in Brisbane during World War II.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert Allen's Hotel Tours

Running a hotel is a huge undertaking. With all the day-to-day focus on maintaining food and beverage supplies, taking restaurant bookings and managing staff rosters, it's easy for milestone events to slip by. The team at Toowong's iconic [Regatta Hotel](#) are therefore to be congratulated for taking stock of their history and organising a series of public events this September to celebrate their 150th birthday.

I will be running heritage tours of the hotel each Thursday morning during September under the auspices of [Brisbane Open House](#). Tickets cost \$10 each and includes tea, coffee and cake afterwards.

The Regatta is also holding a laneway festival featuring food, music and beverages over the weekend of 13-15 September and a sumptuous 150th birthday dinner on Thursday 19 September.

The hotel is also asking patrons for their own favourite memories. Imagine how many people had their first drink at the Regatta, went there for Uni post exam drinks or met their future partner there?! Here's a link to the Regatta's full range of birthday activities during September, including booking info:

<https://regattahotel.com.au/celebrate-150-years-of-the.../>

Please note that advance bookings are required for the 150th dinner and the heritage tours so round up your friends and get in early....



AROUND THE TRAPS

State Library of Queensland

[State Library of Queensland \(slq.qld.gov.au\)](http://State Library of Queensland (slq.qld.gov.au))

Includes Heritage Talks on the '74 floods

Friends of Brisbane Living Heritage

[Friends of BLH - August 2024 edition \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Includes a comprehensive overview of BOH activities

Family History Academy

[August Newsletter \(mailerlite.io\)](#)

COMMUNITY CORNER

Holy Spirit School Spring Fair

Sunday, 8 September

10:00 am to 05:00 pm

Location: 36 Villiers St, New Farm

This year, it's Holy Spirit School's turn to host the fete, shared on alternate years with New Farm State School. Support your local community by attending this special event! More details [here](#):

From ANFE comes the news....



The time has come for us to say "Farewell" to our home of 43 years! On **Sunday, 18 August**. After countless activities and events, **ANFE Italian Club** at Newstead will **CLOSE its doors for the last time**.

So many memories and friendships have been built over the years at what was originally

called "ANFE House" - **your little piece of Italy right here in Brisbane** and we would like to invite you all back to join us one last time to say 'Arrivederci' while we wait for our new premises at Stafford to be completed!

Another Newstead icon is on the move! For more information about this event and future plans, see [here](#).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

Thank you to **Helen Gregory** who regularly brings something to the afternoon tea table. So popular was her chocolate slice at the last meeting that there were requests for the recipe! Helen has generously obliged by supplying the recipe which has been handed down from her mother.

Chocolate slice and a vanilla version

Mix together:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup SR flour
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup smashed weetbix (usually 2.5 weetbix)
- Generous 1/3 cup cocoa

Add 125 g butter, melted, and a little milk if mixture is not clinging together.

Press into tin 25mm x 40 mm – or thereabouts.

Bake 150 degrees, fan forced, for about 30 mins.

Ice when hot with chocolate icing (usually about 1 cup pure icing sugar, generous tbs cocoa and a little hot water). It seems to work best to pour the icing onto the hot slice and tipping the tin gently from side to side and end to end.

FOR A VANILLA VERSION, omit cocoa and replace with one teaspoon of vanilla essence, replace brown sugar with ½ cup white sugar (less sugar as the vanilla version is sweeter without the bitterness of cocoa. Omit chocolate from icing and replace with ¼ teaspoon of vanilla.

As always, thanks go to our wonderful meeting volunteers as well as to the following:

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



V

VILLAGE
VOICE



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