GOING...



Photo Credit: Brisbane Times

GOING...



Photo Credit above and below: *Stills from* videos by David Harvey posted on Facebook New Farm/Teneriffe/Newstead Community page.



GONE!

A long-standing community establishment has been uprooted due to the march of progress and changing times. See Page 6 for details.

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NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024 Vol XXX, No 8

REPORT ON THE AUGUST MEETING

MERTHYR CROQUET CLUB MARKS 100 YEARS!

For anyone whose knowledge of croquet was previously confined to *Alice in Wonderland*, the society's August meeting proved a revelation.

The Merthyr Croquet Club in New Farm Park turned 100 in July and president, Zach Kominar, and life member, Greg Kerswell, provided an entertaining double



REPORTER Robert Allen



Greg Kerswell and Zach Kominar

act. Zach outlined the club's history while Greg demonstrated the equipment used and explained the finer points of the game.

The rules of croquet - a French word meaning 'a crooked stick hitting a ball' were codified in Wimbledon (yes, *that* Wimbledon) in the late 19th century. Some of its traditions influenced modern tennis: both games are played

on grass and players wear white. Several terms have also crept into modern English, such as 'pegging out' and 'all over red rover'.

Trivia buffs will be interested to learn that a croquet ball is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide while the hoops are just a fraction wider at $3\frac{11}{16}$ inches. It is therefore a test of finesse, not strength, making it an ideal game for anyone regardless of age, fitness or gender.

The Merthyr Croquet Club began life as a co-tenant of the New Farm Bowls Club before moving to its present home. The game was originally played exclusively by women, until men joined in during the early 20th century.

Zach says many people have croquet on their 'bucket list' and the club offers a \$50 trial membership which includes coaching and equipment for one month. The game is clearly addictive, and the club's busy schedule of fixtures and social events is testament to its collegial spirit.

Not that it's always been plain sailing (to mix a sporting metaphor). The club has had many setbacks over the years, including a fire which destroyed the old club house in 1961; the 1974, 2011 and 2022 floods; a dwindling membership - since reversed; and the Council's resumption of two of its four lawns to make way for tennis courts in 2001.

Having weathered such trials, consolidated its organisational structure and celebrated its first century, the club seems well placed for whatever the next hundred years may bring.



(Continued next page.)

NFDHS SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



The video recording of this presentation may be viewed on Vimeo here.

CROQUET - WHAT'S THE POINT



He is Mr. C. Gurney, of Merthy tth Queensland Croquet Association officials last night knew nothing of Association junior A player Last year's sole male representa-1250 Indian Army, won several events and was runner-up in the singles championship. The colonel has now returned to England Croquet officials said last night that male players were no novelty in other countries. England's Prime Minister. Mr.

Continued on Page 6.

England's Prime Minister tiee, played frequently,

Above Photo Credit: Santina Musumeci

OVERVIEW OF 2024 AGM

As AGMs go, we were fortunate to have about 70 members and friends attending! MC Desley Garnett welcomed all members and visitors, and especially honoured guests - Vicki Howard, Councillor for Brisbane Central Ward, and the Honourable Grace Grace, MP for McConnel. A summary of the 2023 AGM Minutes was provided by Secretary, Tracey Hurren. Desley then presented a summary of the President's Annual Report, the full version of which can be accessed here.

Some of the highlights for 2024 were:

As at July, membership stands at • 225 financial members plus 4 life

members. The society has attracted 48 new members in 2024.

- Monthly public meetings remain a key feature with 10 meetings held across the year with attendance of more than 100 members most months.
- Newsletters continue to be emailed to approx 1200 • people.
- 16 Walking Tours of historical interest were led by society members through the year.
- Projects: Collaboration with Brisbane Open House for the 2024 BOH events was successfully completed.
- Christmas donations of money and non-perishable food were made pre-Christmas 2023 to the Trinity Pantry.
- Future projects of note include oral histories, digitisation of the archive and the introduction of a new logo. Desley expressed appreciation to all society

volunteers and thanked Councillor Vicki Howard for her ongoing support, as well as the Hon Grace Grace MP for support in printing the monthly newsletter.



Treasurer Denise Buckby then tabled the NFDHS financial report for 2023-2024 and noted a surplus this year, largely due to an increase in membership fee to \$20 per person (the first increase in 30 years).

Income: \$23,822.41 Expenditure: \$18,220.39 Surplus: \$5602.02 See here for the full report.



From the floor, a member noted the amount of \$65,000 in the Term Deposit and suggested that the committee should have a plan for using these funds for particular projects or donating to another historical society.

Denise then moved appreciation and adoption of Cowlishaw & Co Chartered Accountants Auditor's Report and recommended they be appointed for 2024-2025.

The Chair, Cr Vicki Howard, declared all Committee positions vacant and noted that nominations have been received for all but one position of a committee member. A request was made for a final nomination during the meeting with George Cowin nominating. As a result, the following committee positions were declared as filled:

President: Desley Garnett

Vice President: Robert Allen

- Secretary: Tracey Hurren
- Treasurer: Denise Buckby
- Committee Members: Bruna Burello-Day, George Cowin, Rosalinda Pike, Ben Pritchard Past President: Ross Garnett

Vicki advised that no further ballot was required as all positions had been filled and declared the new committee as above.

Our gratitude is extended to Vicki for her efficient chairing of the formal proceedings.

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 nonmembers.

Please save these dates in your diaries.

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| September 14 | Woolstores and Warships |
| | Walking Tour |
| September 19 | President's welcome afternoon tea |
| September 21 | Gasworks to Teneriffe Hill Walking Tour |
| September 5, | Regatta Hotel Tours – SOLD |
| 12, 19 and 26 | OUT |
| September 28 | Public Meeting |
| October 26 | Public Meeting |
| October- | Membership Renewals will be |
| November | accepted for 2025 |
| November 23 | Public Meeting – Final for 2024 |
| | Empty Christmas Tree |
| | |

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

Video recordings (Vimeos) of Monthly Presentations are available on the website. The Vimeo archive can be accessed <u>here</u>.

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: Robert Allen Secretary: Tracey Hurren Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members:

Immediate Past President Ross Garnett, George Cowin, 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: <u>https://newfarmhistorical.org.au/membership/</u> Newsletter Editor: Bruna Burello-Day

editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Photos taken at meetings by our photographer, Maria Shaw (unless otherwise credited), can also be viewed on Instagram, or <u>here</u>.

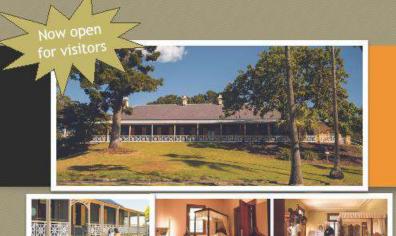


SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society

We welcome Claire Moore and "Friends of Newstead House" to tell us about:

Brisbane has "our house" back



Saturday 28th Sept 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

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

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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

Hiding in Plain Sight – the Emergence of Miss Martha Burns

by Miriam King



Uncovering the fascinating story about a trailblazing young woman was initially and literally like "pulling teeth"! Martha Burns, who was born and bred in New Farm, was relatively unknown in 2013; her inclusion on a WWI Honour Board in Saint Andrew's Uniting Church, however, prompted a fascinating research journey.

Who was this woman named on the Honour

Board? Why was her name there? What did LDQ after her name mean? Where did she fit into Brisbane society? What happened to her after the war? How? When? There were so many unanswered questions until, slowly, the research began to unravel the mystery and the remarkable Miss Martha emerged

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2024

Desley Garnett President

Thank you to all the members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 24 August. Thank you for your trust in electing me as President for one more year. The new committee has met for the first time – just one change – Malcolm has retired and George has joined! We welcome George Cowin whose family has a long connection to New Farm. Even though he no

longer lives in New Farm, his connection is strong. I think New Farm and the nearby suburbs hook many people like that – there is always the 'pull' back to this community.

We would love to read more stories, like the one on Page 5, of your connection to the New Farm peninsula in our newsletters.

Thanks to Denise for a comprehensive overview of our finances (her 14th report as treasurer), and to the Auditors Cowlishaw and Co for accepting our nomination as the auditors for the next financial year.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bruna Burello-Day Membership numbers are steady with the current tally being 231. New members are always welcome. From October, we are offering a **special deal** for new and lapsed members. You may apply for 2025 membership at our September public meeting or anytime afterwards and receive free membership for the remainder of 2024. That means halfpriced entry for the September, October and November public meetings as well as eligibility for discounted prices for walking tours and other events.

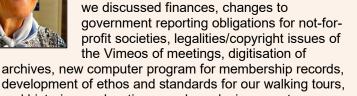
To take advantage of this offer, after checking in with Phil at the Entry Gate, simply sign in at the Non-Members Welcome Table and then proceed to the Membership Table where one of our friendly volunteers will assist you.

Membership forms will be available at the meeting and via our website from 28 September. Current members are encouraged to renew their membership for 2025 as soon as possible, and preferably before January 31, 2025.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025



Cr Vicki Howard introduced the outgoing committee who are pictured above (I to r): Ross Garnett, Rosalinda Pike, Desley Garnett, Robert Allen, Tracey Hurren and Denise Buckby.



The agenda at our committee meeting on the

first Monday of the month was jam-packed as

development of ethos and standards for our walking tours, oral histories, podcasting, new logo design, grant possibilities – whew! That was a lot to cover in 90 minutes before the next group booked into the Ron Muir Room arrived.

Do any of these projects catch your enthusiasm and interest for involvement? These are projects of the Society, not just the committee, so please "put your hand up" (figuratively speaking!) if you see there is somewhere you can be involved and/or have some expertise to share. I look forward to hearing from you!

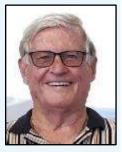
Old and new members alike, let's welcome Spring!



Inset are members who were not able to attend: Bruna Burello-Day, Malcolm Godfrey and Ben Pritchard. All were re-elected with the following exceptions:

Robert Allen has taken on the role of Vice President replacing Malcolm Godfrey who did not stand for re-election this year. We thank Malcolm for his invaluable contribution to the Committee and to the Society and wish him well for the future. Thanks also go to Robert for stepping up to the VP role. We welcome his continuing valued contribution

New Committee member, George Cowin, has had a very long association with New Farm, being a former long-term resident and Society member who was also on the Committee in its early years. George brings further experience in having been involved with the Queensland Manx Society, the Queensland Renal Association and the Queensland



Road Transport Association, all of which will stand in good stead as he brings a fresh perspective to the team. Welcome aboard, George!

OUR HOUSE AT 80 OXLADE DRIVE

By Stephen Glanville* I spent most of my growing-up years at 80 Oxlade Drive. My dad bought the house in 1953/4 from a Mr O'Leary for about 4000 pounds. Mr O'Leary moved up to Turner Avenue as living by the river was not considered ideal and the house was a small, two-bedroom cottage with a sunroom at the back and a closed-in veranda which doubled as a third bedroom. The ships and tugs of the day were coal-fired and the soot from them and the Powerhouse was the bane of my mother's life on washing day.

We moved up from Victoria in the summer of 1953/54 and my dad lived in the house until his death in 2004. My mum passed away in 1994. When we arrived, the riverbank was overgrown, and it was difficult to walk down the slope to the river. However, the council eventually started mowing Merthyr Park and it became the attractive venue it is today, albeit without any trees along the foreshore.

Photo No 1, taken circa 1955, shows the house as dad bought it. I am standing with my sister Vivienne. Behind me is my mum, Connie, and my dad, Douglas, and my aunt Lilly Abrahams is on the right. It was common to name houses back then and ours was called "Hackering". We don't know the origin of the name but my dad thought it was ridiculous and removed the name plate. In 1960/61, dad renovated the front of the house. Photo No 2, taken from 82 Oxlade Drive, shows the old fibro garage being taken away.

A new rumpus room and garage were added to the front of the house making it appear very modern at the time. In front of the windows is a wide concrete patio with two steps down to the grass. The renovations were not quite legal, I believe. An easement actually ran through the property above a tunnel under the river which serviced the sewerage mains. The garage in photo No 3 (the striped door) was built on the easement as was the wide, one-piece driveway. As far as I know, the council did not object to the rebuilding of the garage or maybe they were not told about it! On the road outside 80 Oxlade Drive was a manhole and, periodically, council workers would use it to descend into the tunnel. It may have been the first tunnel in Brisbane to traverse under the river. The gap between the towers of the new Oxlade complex may be the site of the easement.

Two more photos (Nos 4 and 5) show the neighbouring properties at Number 82 (white building) and 84 (the red brick flats). Number 82 was built as two flats. The one next to us was occupied by Fred and Ella Cooper and the other flat was the home of the owner, a Mr Kerr. He was an optometrist in Brisbane, I think. The car is dad's Armstrong Siddeley Sapphire. All these properties were demolished to make way for the current unit complex. Note the original twopath driveway.

80 Oxlade Drive backed onto Merthyr Park and photo No 6 was taken some time after we sold it, and it was unoccupied and became quite dilapidated. My bedroom was on the left-hand side and faced the river, so I had a wonderful view of the boats on the river until my dad started building his boats there – that's a story for another time! The wire fence was a later addition after it was sold – my dad hated fences! The large windows were added by my dad in the 1970's. Originally, the house had small windows and weather board walls.

My sister and I attended New Farm State School where she was dux in 1961. Growing up In Oxlade Drive was a wonderful experience. Over 50 years, we watched the street transform from a lower-class avenue, flanked by an overgrown park and a dirty river, into the dress circle it has become today.

(*Stephen was a resident of New Farm from mid '50s to mid '70s and now retired in Toowoomba.)







Photo 4



THE END OF AN ERA



ANFE has been an Italian institution in the heart of Newstead at 10 Wyandra Street since its establishment in the 1980s and has been a meeting place for the Italian community from all over Brisbane.

From its beginnings in

Rome in 1947, *ANFE*, which stands for *Associazione Nazionale Famiglie Emigrati* [National Association of Migrant Families], grew to become an international organisation present in over 54 countries. The Association was founded in Brisbane in 1962 by Comm Carmelo Caruso OAM.

Prominent New Farm families, including the Calvisi, Castellano and Boccabella families plus so many others were instrumental in the foundation and establishment of the Association. A comprehensive history of the beginnings of the Association in Brisbane, and the people involved, can be found on the Club's website

https://www.anfe.com.au/club-history.

In 1981, ANFE celebrated its first 19 years of activity with the inauguration of their new centre "ANFE House" in Wyandra Street, Newstead, which was officially opened on 22 November and quickly became the hub of many Italian celebrations and events. Initially staffed by volunteers, it had in more recent years been transformed into a restaurant and function centre employing professional chefs and other staff catering to the wider community.

Volunteers are still very active in the Club. New Farm local, Maria Maruca, who is the daughter of the inaugural President, Comm Caruso (who still resides in Teneriffe) is now the current President and many of the children of the original committee are still involved in its management.

Steadily becoming surrounded and overshadowed by high-rise developments, and with parking almost impossible to find, the decision was made in 2020 to sell the property and relocate from this modest building to new premises. Another District icon has been uprooted by progress and the ever-increasing demand for residential property in this sought-after area!

Newstead's loss will be Stafford's gain as the Club will reopen in its new premises there late 2024/early 2025. For our Brisbane outer northside readers, information about the anticipated move can be found <u>here</u>.

Thanks go to Maria Maruca, current President of the Club for her invaluable input. Maria gave a presentation to the Society in October 2018 which was reported in our November 2018 Newsletter. The newsletter can be accessed <u>here</u>.



Not far from the above site is the latest local development at left. Do you know what and where this is?

Photo by Gerard Benjamin

Speaking of Croquet ...

(continued from Page 2)

One of our prominent Society members has shared this surprising find -

... amongst my photos I found these from 1968 when I visited cousins Babs and Charles Heffer in Cambridge, UK. We played croquet on their back lawn before attending the Cambridge May Ball. I was 26 years old. It was a memorable occasion.

Can you recognise this gentleman? Clue – he's the one on the right! (Answer at the bottom of this page)





A few of the 70 attendees and volunteers (more on next page)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Woolstores and Warships Walking Tour

Saturday 14 September, 8.30-10am Meet at the Teneriffe Ferry Stop at the end of Commercial Road for an 8:30 start. Tour Guide: Ben Pritchard



Come join us at Teneriffe for a fascinating event exploring the history of woolstores and warships. Discover the rich heritage of these iconic structures and the vessels that have shaped our past. From the bustling wool trade to the mighty warships that once visited here, this event promises to be a journey through the times that shaped our suburb.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to delve into the stories behind these historic landmarks. **Book on Eventbrite.**

Gasworks to Teneriffe Hill Walking Tour

Saturday 21 September, 8.30-10.00am Meet at the Gasworks Plaza within the Gasometer for an 8:30 start. Tour Guide: Gerard Benjamin



Our itinerary will offer a glimpse of Newstead's industrial and commercial past, and this will include a peek inside the woolstore on Commercial Road (now Teneriffe Apartments).

Next, our route takes us up Small Street to view Mareeba Flats and other notable residences including Roseville in Chester Street, a grand residence once noted for its wonderful wedding receptions.

From Little Chester Street, we'll enjoy a view over Teneriffe Park. Next, we ascend to the peak of Teneriffe Hill before rejoining the river. Here we will take a close look at an historic sculpture to wool.

When our tour ends in Vernon Terrace, you may choose to take the 199 bus with us (bring your *goCard*) to Merthyr Village for a well-earned cuppa together. **Book on <u>Eventbrite</u>**.

Advance Notice:

Oxlade Drive and Beyond Walking Tour Saturday 19 October, 8.30-10am

MEET at the **bus stop** adjacent to the **New Farm Park Ferry Terminal**. This is the starting point for a 90-minute walk along Oxlade Drive as well as Griffith, Maxwell and Moreton Streets in New Farm. Further information and bookings are on <u>Eventbrite</u>.

AROUND THE TRAPS AND USEFUL LINKS

Fancy a trip to Sandgate?

Do you remember Sandgate as a favourite beach destination growing up? Why not plan a nostalgic visit soon. It has come to our attention that the **Sandgate and District Historical Society and Museum** hold monthly morning teas, "Tea with History". These are held on the last Thursday of every month at 10.00am. For just \$15.00 come and enjoy a cup of tea with a historical twist. Bookings are necessary as numbers are limited: Phone: 3869 2283 or email info@sandgatemuseum.com.au.

State Library of Queensland

State Library of Queensland (slq.qld.gov.au)

Friends of Brisbane Living Heritage

BLH September 2024 Member Update (mailchi.mp)

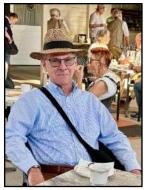
National Trust (Queensland) National Trust of

Australia (Queensland) :: National Trust Queensland (nationaltrustqld.org.au)

More photos from the meeting below and online here.







COMMUNITY CORNER

Historical Presentations and Tours

Community engagement is very important for our Society. To promote this, **Gerard Benjamin** recently gave a presentation at **Rendu Towers**, a retirement complex recently completed in Newstead. This was on the invitation of Society member and Rendu resident, Kathy Hedemann. Around 60 people heard Gerard's knowledgeable account of the history of the precinct on which the towers now stand. Accompanied by excellent photographic slides, his talk generated many comments and lively discussion over coffee afterwards, and created further interest in the Society. Several copies of the Society's publications were sold to avid readers, with the star attraction being Gerard's latest book, "New Farm: 50 Stories".



Gerard will be delivering a similar presentation at this month's **New Farm Probus** meeting which will be held on Tuesday 17 September. He is quite in demand as a speaker on New Farm and Districts history. What he doesn't know isn't worth knowing! Anyone wishing to engage Gerard for a similar community event, please contact him at ggerardb@bigpond.net.au.



Along with Gerard who has been conducting historical walks and tours for several years, **our new Vice-President, Robert Allen**, is also making a mark in this area. His specialty is the history of heritage hotels and theatres. We congratulate Robert on his latest venture, **Brisbane History Tours**, and his involvement with Brisbane Open

House which sees him giving tours of sites such as the 150year-old Regatta Hotel which sold out very quickly, but he anticipates these will be offered again in the future. More of his very popular Fortitude Valley Pub Tours are also planned. It pays to book early lest you miss out! See BHT's Facebook page <u>here</u>.

From *Village Voice*, September Peninsula Edition:

HeartFIT takes on New Farm

By Darcy Milfull

HeartFIT, a mature-aged fitness program that recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, had to add another class at its New Farm location just two months after launching to accommodate demand.

Founder Bruce Collins said he has built a strong "tribe" in New Farm, hosting HeartFIT's anniversary celebration at New Farm Park.

"We do exercises that meet the level of each member... if you can't jump, you don't jump, and if you can't run, you don't run," Mr Collins said.

"It's pretty simple, but very effective in keeping people strong,"

Mr Collins says his vision is to change the way people age so they can maintain strength, independence and ability.

While fitness is at the forefront of his mission, he said he considers the sense of community fostered at the weekly classes to be an invaluable dividend. HeartFIT, established in 2014, encourages all participants to exercise at their own pace in a friendly atmosphere aided by accredited exercise professionals.

The New Farm classes are held at 8:00am and 9:30am every Tuesday morning at Merthyr Road Uniting Church Hall.



Storm Walker and Bruce Collins at their 10th anniversary picnic

Congratulations to Bruce Collins on <u>HeartFIT's</u> 10th anniversary and on making it to the local paper! NFDHS members' and other locals' involvement keeps growing – how many of us are there now, I wonder? The celebration at New Farm Park was wonderful. It was a beautiful day, an excellent venue, an exuberant crowd along with curious onlookers, and the cake and coffee were delicious! Contact Bruce at <u>hello@heartfit.net</u> or just turn up to any class. See you at the Merthyr Uniting Church Centre on Tuesdays for New Farm HeartFIT!

Our very popular publications *Reflections on New Farm, Tides of Teneriffe* and *Homes with History on the New Farm Peninsula,* as well as Gerard Benjamin's latest book, *New Farm: 50 Stories,* are available from local New Farm & Newstead bookshops, the State Library Bookshop, the Museum of Brisbane Shop, the Society's Office, and at monthly meetings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

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

