



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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MAY MEETING

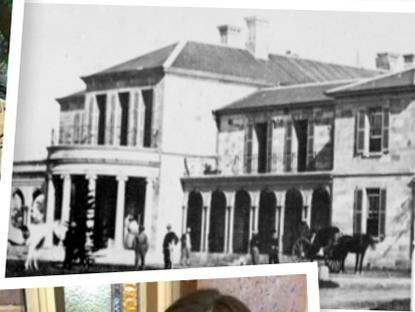
The legacy of Joshua Jeays

SOME 60 attendees enjoyed Beryl Roberts' talk about Joshua Jeays and his connection with Brisbane town from its early days. Beryl, a former teacher, is the author of many historical books, including the well-illustrated record of Jeays' life and activities in Brisbane entitled *He Made His Mark* (2009).

Briefly, the family arrived in Moreton Bay in 1853 after a 109 day trip from England, the 40-year-old master builder intending to begin a new life in what was previously a convict station.

The gentleman made his mark as a strong advocate for the separation of Queensland from NSW, he was a mayor of Brisbane, as well as being a businessman, quarry owner and stonemason — but his most prominent project was the building, in 1862 using local materials, of the new Government House in George St, now part of the QUT.

Several homes built by Jeays



Salute to Builder: Top left: Presenter Beryl Roberts; Above: Bobbie Jeays with her daughter Helen. Bobbie and her late husband David lived at Sandgate for 60 years. Top right: Old Government House, a signature construction project of Jeays.

were characterised by steep gables. These included Roma Villa on the corner of Upper Roma and Skew Sts, known as the house of the seven gables. It was demolished ca 1976.

In 1862, Jeays bought land along Simpsons Road and built a grand English-style home, using rough stone

and decorated with gables and casement

windows. He named it Bardon from his native Leicestershire, and this became the name of the suburb.

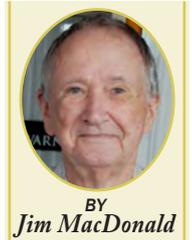
The home now stands in the grounds of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, The Drive, Bardon.

Joshua died at the age of 69 on 11 March 1881, and his remains are interred at Toowong Cemetery.

In 2009, more than 60 Jeays' descendants attended the impressive reopening of Old

Government House after an extensive restoration.

Thanks Beryl, for a most informative address—which can be viewed online [here](#).



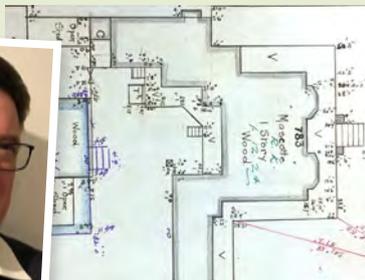
BY Jim MacDonald

JUNE MEETING

How Brisbane was sewered

“THE Long Story of How Brisbane was Sewered” is the intriguing title of our June meeting when our guest is to be Colin Hester (Head of Environmental Solutions, Environmental & Industrial, Urban Utilities) who is also a researcher and writer about local history and industrial heritage.

“Have you ever wondered why Brisbane was the last Australian capital city to be sewered?” asks Col, as he explains that the job started in 1912 yet it was not until 1980 that Lord Mayor Clem Jones could



claim to have sewered the city. Col will throw light on what you can do to look after the sewerage system that you own, and also offer some background about the hand-mined tunnel, dating from 1918, which crosses under the river from Norman Creek to Oxlade Drive.

The meeting (to be recorded) is to take place on Saturday, 26 June, beginning at the later time of 2.30pm. There will be room for 100 attendees, and afternoon tea will be available. All are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ross Garnett

Your chance to nominate...

SINCE 2010, New Farm & Districts Historical Society has had an on-going project to facilitate the installation of plaques at spots within the area so as to 'whet the historical appetite' of passersby about that particular location.

To date, 21 locations have been covered, and very soon the next one will appear in Teneriffe Park. This has kindly been supported by a grant from Brisbane City Council. These plaques do their part in encouraging residents and visitors to appreciate the value that history adds.

The looming end of the financial year is a reminder that our Annual General Meeting is just two months away. We have an amazing group of volunteers in our society—with some on the committee, others not, but all contributing significantly to the efficient running of the society.

At the AGM, all positions are declared vacant and so we look to our members to

nominate themselves or someone else (with their permission) for executive positions, or for committee member positions. The elections will take place at the August public meeting.

I am not re-nominating as President this year, but am happy to remain on the committee as the immediate past-president.

Please reflect again about how you can be more involved, and how your skills and experience could benefit the Society. Nomination forms will be available at the June and July meetings or by contacting the society at info@newfarmhistorical.org.au. Nominations must be in the hands of the secretary by Monday, 9 August.

Meanwhile, the videos of our recent talks continue to be well received. After viewing "New Farm Anzacs" online (April meeting), Shona Fretwell from New Zealand, who once lived in Brisbane, wrote: "I have just enjoyed yet another excellent talk from NFDHS. It is SO interesting and I love that I can remember the streets and picture where places were..."



History on the box: In 2000, artist David Hinchliffe, then deputy mayor, launched an initiative to paint Brisbane's traffic signal boxes. The artistic project continues and here is a recent example on Breakfast Creek Road.

POST-ANZAC**Humour good for morale...**

At the Anzac Eve meeting (24 April), Lorraine Tomlinson brought along souvenirs of her grandfather's WWI army service – as well as some anecdotes.

Ernest Charles (pictured) served with the British Army in Belgium and France, and has relatives buried at Westminster Abbey. As oral tradition goes, being short in stature (he's in the centre of the pictured threesome), he



was given the task of being cook for his unit.

As he would jokingly tell his daughter Florence of Terrace Street, as a British soldier he 'killed' more of his own men than the enemy—since what most of his unit ended up with was a ten-day bellyache and dysentery. He reputedly was not even able to boil water!

His great sense of humour was much appreciated, and he

would take his granddaughter Lorraine to the Astor Theatre in Brunswick St most Saturdays.

TENERIFFE PARK DEN**Scouts, a prelude to AIF**

If you have ever walked through Teneriffe Park, you will have noticed at the bottom, adjacent to Beeston Street, a Scouts Hall. It was constructed with voluntary labour and opened on 6 December 1952, becoming the home of the 2nd Valley Scout Group.

Among those involved in scouting activities here was Francis Nathaniel "Frank" Day (1895-1931), pictured right, who later became a Scoutmaster of the New Farm Troop.

Frank was the son of Jessie (Wild) and Nathaniel Day who was manager of the Times Cash Store in Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead, opposite Newstead House. The Days lived in the shop-house until around 1907, then as the family grew, there were moves first to a cottage in Jeays Street, Bowen Hills, then just before the start of WWI, to Ross Street, Newstead.

Frank's scouting experience stood him in good stead for enlistment in the AIF at the age of 19. He served in France where he was badly gassed. This ultimately brought about his death – aged only 36 – after an illness of many years.

Scouting activities at Teneriffe Park ended in 1993. Meanwhile the Queensland Musical Theatre (established by Brian and Denise Cahill in 1984), had begun using the den as a rehearsal venue. – *Family history details and photo come courtesy of Keith Harrison of New Farm, whose wife Marilyn was a niece of Frank Day.*



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Artist's view from the bell tower

I MUCH enjoyed watching Noel Adsett's WWI Anzac talk (24 April) online. It reminded me of the time I met Noel at St Andrew's Uniting Church where I had some paintings on display. Having mentioned that my Dad's uncle J.J. Hilder (1881-1916) had painted a watercolour of Central Station in 1908 viewed from the church tower, I asked if there was any chance of visiting the spot from which the artist had made his observation.

Noel obligingly arranged for me to climb up three (yes, three!) very long ladders so as to reach the bell platform—a trek not for the faint-hearted and which I would not want to attempt today.

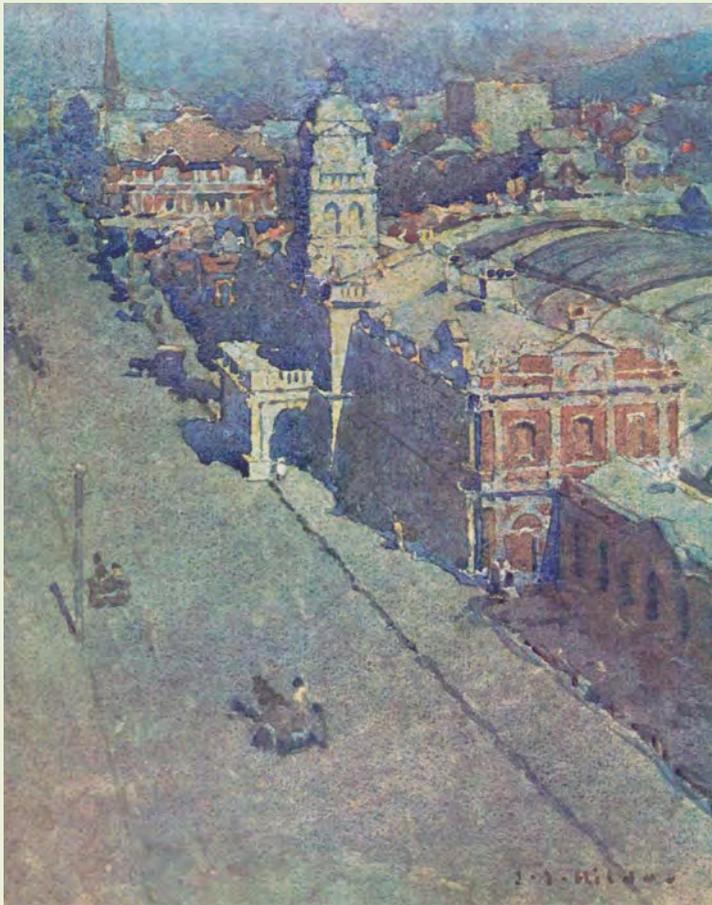
The objective was achieved. When I looked down towards Central Station, here indeed was the spot where

Mr Hilder stood for his rendering. When I peered through the grill surrounding the bell, it was 11am and the shadows were the same as in his painting.

The church had been opened just three years earlier. Though Hilder depicted the station with a front stone portico, this had been demolished in 1954 in order to widen Ann St and it had been replaced by a fancy Art Deco awning.

Since painting appears to run in the family, one of my contributions to the art form came in preparation for the launch of Gerard Benjamin's book *Homes with History* (2015). I painted the house in Annie St, New Farm (below right), which had once been occupied by an earlier member of the Downes family (ch. 6). — *Trevor and Diana Downes.*

BELOW LEFT: J.J. HILDER, Watercolour. Listed as "Central Railway Station, Brisbane" or "A Street in a Northern Town". 1908. 10"x 8", 252mm x 200mm. Scanned from *The Heritage of J.J. Hilder* written by his son Brett in 1966.



FAMILY HISTORY

Minshull family of Sydney St

The society has been kindly forwarded a publication entitled *The Minshull Family from Liverpool (England) to New Farm via Badu Island* which has been prepared by a family descendant, Mal Jordan of Strathpine.

From ca 1908, the Minshulls lived on the corner of Sydney St and Bowen Tce (now occupied by Edward



Lodge, pictured) where they later operated a laundry.

Mal had his own New Farm connection: "In the late 1960s, as a postman, my beat was Teneriffe. It was a walking run twice a day and Saturday mornings, from the depot in Merthyr Rd, opposite an earlier Post Office. The head postman was Norm Costin."

Mal's book may be inspected at the NFDHS office, next to the New Farm Library, on Thursdays, 2-4pm.

ENQUIRIES TO NFDHS

1. CJ enquired about his grandfather **Cyril Haworth** who married **Lily (nee Campbell)**. Cyril died in 1961 and may have been a hairdresser. The family lived at 10 Oxlade Dr.
2. RE, a fourth year pre-service history teacher, as a part of his research on World War II in Brisbane, sought any information about the **Central Intelligence Bureau at Nyrambla at 21 Henry St, Ascot** (pictured below).



If you can help with these queries, please email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

WALKING TOUR

I NTERESTED in a local walking tour along Moray St, including some Art Deco highlights? Come and

enjoy "Brisbane's most liveable street" and hear a little about its architecture and social history, from society member Gerard Benjamin.

The event is planned for Saturday 7 August, commencing at 9am and finishing at 11.00. The cost is \$22 (\$20 members). At the coming monthly meetings, book your spot at the Society's book table. Places limited.



Judy and Alan Morrison used to live at 40 Maxwell St. The house was removed in 2011 to a farm outside Mackay. Last year, they called in to see their old home in its new setting and to meet the owners...

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Maxwell St move...

We found the old house between Sarina and Mackay, and were so warmly welcomed by Caroline and Greg. They have done a really wonderful job in restoring it with love and respect.

It retains the main features of the architecture: panelled walls, lead-light windows, wooden built-in cupboards, moulded ceiling features—and stained wooden floors now featured right through, something so suitable for the northern climate.

The bathroom is still in the same place but has been tastefully modernised, and the kitchen has been re-designed from our day. The laundry has been transferred to a nearby out-building and they have a pool along the side of the house.

They have plans to add a deck at the back some day but meanwhile we enjoyed afternoon tea downstairs in the shade at a delightful outdoor setting.

The story of the arrival and restoration of the house was so fascinating. Caroline and Greg faced some enormous challenges which

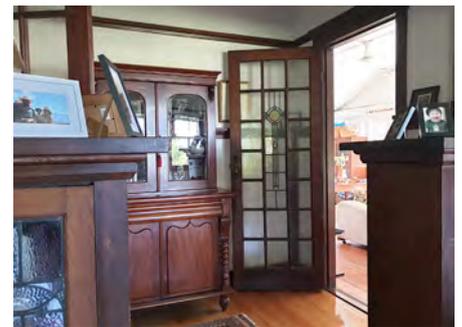
they overcame with determination and persistence.

Situated in the midst of cane country as it is, the home has a sense of light and space which just could not have been possible in the city.

Caroline and Greg have two young sons, Jonty and Max. It is a happy family home, and it was just lovely to see and feel it. It really was a highlight of our trip!

It was amazing to have made the connection with the house and its owners via the Garnetts. It will be interesting to know if any other former Maxwell St residents remember the house.

There are more details of this and other homes from Maxwell St in *Homes with History* (ch. 18).



Where were you in 1969? You'll recognise Brunswick St near Sydney St—but there are no overhead tram wires, so it must have been after 13 April 1969 when the last Brisbane tram ran. Thanks to Lindsay Cripps on FB, for this striking BCC photo (B54-32286).



Photos: Lorraine Nothing

Design and Layout: Gerard Benjamin



MANY THANKS TO
Grace Grace MP
Member for McConnel (07) 3145 9100
for photocopying the newsletter

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While life can only be understood backwards, it must be lived forwards... — Kierkegaard



GERARD BENJAMIN

Mrs Wilson, the songbird of Teneriffe House

In the early 1880s, when Tooth's brewery began making Bavarian-style beer on the Teneriffe waterfront, it was no wonder that wealthy grazier Robert Wilson began promoting the idea of a high-level bridge from Teneriffe across to Bulimba. It would supplement the busy Bulimba ferry without impeding shipping.

The energetic Mr Wilson – who was in business with his brother Gilbert (they were Scots from Stirlingshire) – had bought Teneriffe House in 1882 and began a major renovation.

The verandahs were widened to 20ft and wings were added including those for billiards and servants. Electric bells were installed and gas was laid on, plus a coachhouse, tennis court and fernery were added.

Before long the social set could read: "A ball is to be given at

'Teneriffe', the residence of Robert Wilson... Undoubtedly it will be a very brilliant affair."

Alas the Wilsons' zeal in splashing out ended with R.W. Wilson's insolvency. The judge's frank adjudication? "The business for several years... was throughout 'pure gambling'."

YOUNGEST OF FIVE DAUGHTERS

Perhaps Robert Wilson first espied Emma (Marie) Carandini in October 1881 when she, along with her mother Madame Carandini, sang at a concert in the School of Arts in Brisbane.

Emma Marie (pictured) was the youngest of the five daughters of Jerome Carandini, the 10th marquis of Sarzano, an Italian political exile with musical talent, and his wife Maria (Burgess), a London-born opera singer.

The eminently talented Carandini troupe had for ages been a household name amongst musical Antipodeans.

The Wilson brothers both married in Victoria in 1882. Robert wed Emma Marie, while Gilbert wed Emma's niece, Emmeline Palmer. Both women were almost the same age. The niece was the daughter of Emma Marie's eldest sister.



Left: Emmeline (nee Palmer), wife of Gilbert Wilson. Right: Cristoforo Palmerston Carandini.

SPLENDID MUSICIAN

Following the insolvency, Mr and Mrs Robert Wilson and their two young sons moved to England, and, by 1887, Teneriffe House was occupied by G.H. Green, a branch manager of a Sydney bank.

Mrs Robert Wilson had two brothers in Queensland and it is possible that one of them had a hand in the improvements at Teneriffe House.

Victor Emmanuel Carandini was an architect and was initially in partnership with Alfred Banks. Together they designed Moana at 88 Moray St (ca 1885), New Farm. Later in his own right, Carandini designed Centennial Hall in Brisbane, and undertook bank and hotel projects in regional towns.

He was considered a splendid musician and his sudden death in London in 1897 was greatly lamented.

Mrs Robert Wilson's other brother in Queensland was Cristoforo Palmerston Carandini, otherwise known as Christie Palmerston. He had gravitated to North Queensland when young, then prospected for gold and aided in exploration. He was an accomplished bushman and was on very close terms with the Aboriginal people. A man of mystery who seemed addicted to action and adventure, he was happy to let legends about his exploits and background abound.

TOUR WITH MADAME MELBA

After Mr and Mrs Robert Wilson's third child was born in England, Robert left for America and the couple divorced.

Mr and Mrs Gilbert Wilson had one child in Brisbane, and her continuing singing career included a tour with Madame Melba.

In 1934, C.E.S. wrote to the Courier-Mail: "Many times in my boyhood during the 1880s did we sit on the verandah of our home, at Bulimba ferry, listening to Mrs Robert Wilson's glorious voice, which could be clearly heard, although we were about a mile away. Then mother would tell us about the wonderful Carandini concerts when she was a girl."



MONTHLY HISTORY COLUMN from
MY VILLAGE NEWS JUNE 2021