



THE BRISBANE FESTIVAL – WARANA REIMAGINED?



And just like that it's September! Spring has officially sprung heralding the start of the Brisbane Festival, characterised by the spectacular *Riverfire* opening event. Those of us who live within cooe of the Story Bridge are lucky to be able to get up close and personal to *Riverfire*, and thanks go to Linda Zaklikowski, New

Farm resident and NFDHS member, for these spectacular pics, just two of the ones she captured from her vantage point at the Merthyr Road end of the Riverwalk. *Continued on page 7*



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NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023 Vol XXIX, No 8

REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING

by Kris Sullivan



POLICING THE PENINSULA

Presenter: Lisa Jones



We thank Lisa, Curator of the Queensland Police Museum, who gave an overview of policing in Fortitude Valley and New Farm as well as some snippets from 'the records' that gave a flavour of crimes across the years.

Most people will be familiar with the purpose-built and now Heritage Listed Police Station at 119 Brookes St, Fortitude Valley (Cnr Wickham St). This station was officially opened on 6 July 1936 when it was described as "the finest, most up to date and most comfortable Police Station in Queensland".

Prior to finding its long-term home at 119 Brookes Street, police officers were based at a variety of sites in the Brookes, Church, Brunswick and Alden cluster of streets. The first police presence in Fortitude Valley dates from 1863 when Church St was the site of the Police Gaol, mainly used as a transmission gaol for females before they were sent to Toowoomba. Despite the Report from the *1887 Board of Inquiry into Queensland Gaols* stating, "the building is in a very indifferent state of repair and the roofing shingles are rotten", the Police Gaol remained on this site until 1903 when the women were moved to Boggo Road Gaol. The building was revamped and in 1904 became the Fortitude Valley Police Station which replaced the Women's Gaol. Note the moustaches, beards and heavy-duty serge uniforms all of which were entirely unsuitable for the Queensland climate. This is the site where the PCYC stands today.



New Farm also had a purpose-built Police Station. The building still stands at 653 Brunswick Street New Farm on the site of a 30-year-old residence purchased from the LeBrocq Brothers. That building was demolished and the new station was built in 1939. With the increasing population and higher need for policing it was extended in 1943 and 1979. It operated as

both a Police Station and as a residence for the Officer-in-Charge.

In the 1990s the policing functions were absorbed into the Fortitude Division and the building ceased to house the Police Station. In 2000 the building was listed as a Local Heritage Place.

The earliest record of police activity in the Fortitude Valley/New Farm area was a "Constable's House" at 196 Arthur Street, New Farm, and it is believed the back of the premises next door at 198 Arthur Street provided the lock-up to hold prisoners from time to time. The first official Police Station in New Farm was established in Heal Street. A report in *The Telegraph* of the time –

"Residents of Heal Street feel bad about a quantity of foul language that has of late been promiscuously cast around. The New Farm police station is in close proximity but apparently without avail."

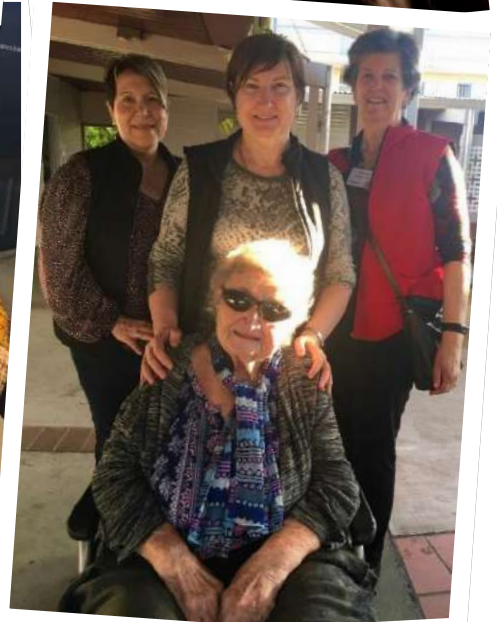
Continued on page 2

Snippets of Crime from the time

- In 1956 the murder of Mrs Thorpe was reported. Mrs Thorpe lived on the Cnr Doggett and Chester Streets and her body was found on a grass plot behind her house. Montague Davies, aged 34 years, was sentenced to life imprisonment for her murder and the murder weapon? – a block of concrete weighing 50 kgs!
- In 1870 two boys aged 9 and 11 years were found to have stolen a number of items including bread and brandy from Mr Thomas Le Trial of New Farm, but charges were not laid. Theft and missing persons took up much police time.

- In 1950, a 46-year-old man, known to abuse alcohol and beat his wife, was fined 5 pounds for striking his son! Thank goodness domestic violence is treated differently today.

Lisa also spoke of the murder in 1971 of Jack Henry Cooper, Manager of the National Hotel. Mr Cooper was shot when, coming home, he stopped to remove timber fruit boxes strewn across the road. There was a New Farm connection which assisted with solving the murder. The details of this along with other crimes can be viewed in the Vimeo [here](#).



Some snaps of a few of the nearly 100 attendees at the August Meeting
Photo Credits: Maria Shaw

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Monthly public meetings

are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Saturday of each month, February to November, at the Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.

Entry Fee (cash preferred):

\$5.00 members

\$10.00 non-members

includes afternoon tea.

All welcome!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Every Thursday 2-4pm
February to November

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Desley Garnett

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president@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Vice-President: Malcolm Godfrey

Secretary: Tracey Hurren

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members:

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

membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au

2023 Membership Fee:

\$10 per year or part thereof.

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



SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION

Speaker:
Lionel Hauritz

Saturday 23rd September 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm

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

Before multinational soda giants Coca-Cola and Pepsi dominated the market, Brisbane had its own thriving soft drink industry. Hauritz (or Horitz) drinks in Longland St, Newstead, was one of these, delivering to homes and businesses in the area. Lionel Hauritz, an “old boy” of New Farm State School, will tell us about his uncle’s business. Do you have any memories or photos about Horitz drinks? Please email them to us at editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

Looking ahead to our October meeting Saturday 28th, 2:30pm



Top-down view of various artefacts, such as bottles, that have been found whilst building the Cross River Rail project

Building Brisbane’s new underground has meant digging deep in the city at a variety of locations. During excavation, demolition and removing rubble from worksites, a number of items of archaeological significance have been uncovered that reveal what life was like in Brisbane at the turn of the 20th century at this location. At our October meeting, Dr Kevin

Rains, Historical Archaeologist and Heritage Manager from Niche Environment and Heritage, will tell us about some of these finds and what we can learn from them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2023

Thank you to some ninety members who attended our Annual General Meeting in August. I expect there are not too many community-based societies that can say there were so many members at their AGM!

We appreciate the efficient and friendly way our member, Claire Moore (former senator for Queensland), conducted our AGM in August. Claire is also passionate about preserving our heritage and is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Newstead House which is currently in the last stages of renovation.

Thank you also for the trust you have shown in me to continue as your president for one more year. We have a new committee that has just met for the first time, and there were three new people welcomed to the committee – we are so pleased to have “new blood”. You can meet all of the committee profiled elsewhere in this newsletter. These are the people who ensure the society stays true to our mission of “Collecting information from the past Preserving it for the future” and who oversee the financial viability and efficient administration of the society. We are all available to listen to suggestions from our 238 members.

I want to say a special thank you to Virginia Balmain who has been Minutes Secretary for the past two years.



Virginia served on the Committee in the very early days of the Society and she held various positions including that of President. We are grateful to Virginia for her excellent memory and her willingness to share historical papers of the Society in those early days.

I hope you have had a chance to read the annual report of the 2022-2023 year available on the [website](#). This gives you a good overview of the activities of the society for the past year. We look forward to this coming year during which we will celebrate 30 years since the inaugural meeting in 1994. How would you like to celebrate? We would appreciate hearing your thoughts that can be in the mix of suggestions.

At our meeting this month we will welcome an “old boy of New Farm State School”, Lionel Hauritz. Lionel will share information about the family soft drink manufacturer known as Horitz Drinks – a significant business located in Longland St, Fortitude Valley. It is always good to showcase local! Do you remember them? Let us know your memories that can add to the history of the business. I hope you can attend the meeting on Saturday 23rd September.

The date for the Referendum has just been announced as 14th October. The Society will have an information stand, including photos of old New Farm and book sales, at the Merthyr polling booth at the Uniting Church. Please let me know if you can volunteer an hour or two to represent the society on that day.

Desley Garnett

Here's something to make you smile, loosely relevant, and “borrowed” from the latest National Seniors New Farm Branch Newsletter (thank you, Frances Munro!). If you are not already a member of this wonderful group, please see their [website](#) for information. You'll get plenty more laughs from their [newsletter](#) as well!

SOME DEFINITIONS

- COMMITTEE** - A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
TOMORROW - One of the greatest labour-saving devices of today.
YAWN - An honest opinion openly expressed.

MEET THE MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR 2023-2024



Caricature by David Hinchliffe presented to Ross and Desley at Ross's Retirement as President of NFDHS in 2021.

I lived in New Farm all my life until moving to Yeronga in 2020. My boyhood and early adulthood were spent in the family grocery store in James St which operated for about 84 years. Soon after giving a presentation to the society about the shop, I found myself President in 2004 and stayed in that role for 17 years. New Farm is still “home” - you can take the boy out of New Farm, but you can't take New Farm out of the boy!

*Ross Garnett –
Immediate Past President*

I moved into New Farm in 1970 at a time it was not the salubrious suburb it is today. I have watched it change from an industrial area with many workers' cottages to the highly desirable suburb it is today. I love to hear the stories of New Farm and nearby suburbs over the years, but never did I think I would be the president of the historical society.

I am not an historian – simply a person who thinks knowledge of our past informs who we are today.

Desley Garnett – President



I am Malcolm Godfrey, and I am Vice President of the NFDHS (which seems to mean that I watch other people do the hard work).

I have lived in New Farm/Teneriffe since 1991. I previously lived in West End.

I studied medicine and graduated in 1976 after leaving Brisbane State High School in 1970. I worked in Mt Isa and far northwest Queensland with the Hospital Board and. Royal Flying Doctor in 1978/1979.

I started General Practice in Brisbane in 1981, after two years at Royal Brisbane Hospital.

In 1989, I purchased an apartment on Lake Como, Italy, with two friends, and have had some wonderful years learning that beautiful language and travelling in Europe at every opportunity.

I retired in 2018 and have been busy ever since. I am pleased to be a member of the committee and see the scope of the society grow year by year.

Malcolm Godfrey - Vice President



I have been a member of the NFDHS on and off over the last few years and in my previous career I spent a lot of time working for a number of large Financial Service companies in Project and Program Management roles.

I grew up in Brisbane and have lived in New Farm & Districts on and off for most of my adult life broken up by a couple of short stints living interstate and overseas.

I am a keen history researcher (amateur only - but learning a lot) and have completed studies at the University of Tasmania (Diploma in Family History) and, through the Society of Australian Genealogists, gained a Certificate in Genealogical Research. My research interests include the recording of Oral History and trying to decipher the mysteries of DNA and how this can be applied to genealogical research. I am really keen to look at ways I can contribute to the NFDHS and use some of those skills in a more practical sense and also, of course, in turn learn a lot more about the history of our area.

Tracey Hurren – Secretary



I have lived at Freshwater Apartments, New Farm since 2000 where I am the Onsite Manager. I enjoy attending the NFDHS monthly meetings and making new friends from my neighbourhood.

In 2010, I co-presented a talk on HMAS Moreton and Freshwater Apartments as they shared the same location on the river. This was the 10th anniversary of Freshwater Apartments. It was at this time that I was approached to join the NFDHS Committee. In 2011, I became Treasurer and I am still the current Treasurer in 2023.

The interesting speakers, the fellowship of NFDHS members and working in a cohesive team keep me motivated and connected to serve NFDHS and the New Farm community at large.

Denise Buckby - Treasurer



I love researching our social and industrial history and have a particular interest in hotels and breweries. Recently I began running history tours through some of Fortitude Valley's older hotels, as well as the Princess Theatre in Woolloongabba. I have lived in and around New Farm for more than 20 years and currently live in the Valley with my

ginger cat, Thomas O'Malley.

Robert Allen – Committee Member



A dyed-in-the wool New Farm girl, I have lived in New Farm/Teneriffe for most of my life since arriving from Italy with my parents and little brother in early 1959. Aussie hubby, John, and I are now ensconced in our retirement home to which we moved ten years ago. It just

happens to be my childhood home bought by my parents in 1962. New Farm has always been my spiritual home and it is great to be back in the NFDHS Committee in which I have held various positions in the past after joining the Society circa 2003. My membership has lapsed on occasion, but I have always been interested in the progress of the Society which has gone from strength to strength in its almost 30 years. I feel privileged to be

working with the passionate and committed people at the helm. Onwards and upwards!

Bruna Burello-Day – Committee Member



I've been a member since I moved to New Farm in 2001, attending meetings and writing summaries of talks. I hope I can contribute now as a committee member. I also belong to the Royal Queensland Historical society, and am a Greeter with the Brisbane City Council, taking guests on free guided walks

around Brisbane. Besides Brisbane history, I enjoy reading, film, travel, live theatre, and most of all cycling.

Joanna Phillips – Committee Member



As a somewhat “newcomer” to both New Farm and the NFDHS, I am very happy to have the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful group of people, who are both proud and protective of our suburb, its history, and many precious stories.

Graeme and I both started our working lives at the fabulous McWhirters (Myer) in the Valley in the late 1960s early '70s....so

for us, The Valley and New Farm were our “hub and bubble”....and for those who can remember – there was always a lot going on.....!

It's a real pleasure for us to be back in this familiar territory to re-live, reminisce and re-educate ourselves through the NFDHS and share with our many like-minded members.

Rosalinda Pike – Committee Member



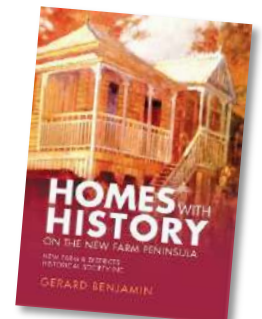
I am a recently retired Urban Planner who has lived in Teneriffe for the last 15 years. I worked in the Urban Renewal Team at Brisbane City Council and had a small part to play in the regeneration of the peninsula. That experience now provides me with plenty of stories to tell

as I conduct walking tours in the area on behalf of the Historical Society and in my own capacity as an Airbnb Experience.

Ben Pritchard – Committee Member

Almost Rare Book Status?

On eBay, a copy of “Homes with History” is being advertised for \$72, and it is signed by the author! Luckily, this book continues to be available at local bookshops and from the New Farm Historical Society - and the cost is still only \$35.



This book and our other very popular publications *Reflections on New Farm* and *Tides of Teneriffe* are available from Mary Ryan bookshop in New Farm, New Farm Editions, Ollie and Lloyd (Gasworks), Museum of Brisbane Bookshop and the State Library Bookshop as well as at our monthly meetings.

Study the past and you would define the future.
Confucius

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two recent articles have prompted memories from two of our members, the first one being Rita Malone.

I read with great interest your two articles in the August newsletter.

First the Rosenstengel one - On 11th August 1889 one Bridget Rosenstengel was a witness to the wedding of my Irish Grandfather, Michael Tobin, and his bride, also Irish, Marion Graham. The ceremony took place at St Stephen's Cathedral here in Brisbane. I don't know the connection between Michael, Marion and Bridget who had a very Irish first name. Note the name Marion. My Grandmother was Marion, Mum was Marion, and my first name is Marion also, but I was always known as Rita.

Their romance was a tragic one through religious bigotry and class prejudice. Took me years to get the whole story together as they were separated for years as young people. Michael left for Australia. Marion against family wishes followed him only to be brought back to Ireland as she was only 17 and her father a powerful man. Michael married and had children. He lost his wife,

so Marion returned to Australia and they finally married. Both are buried in Toowoomba.

Second article about Coronet Flats - In the 1950s I worked for TAA in Brisbane. One of my friends was one Rinda Mohr, and her widowed mother lived in those flats. Rinda and I ended up flatting in London and working for BOAC (International Airline). I came home on leave in December 1962 and stayed with Mrs Mohr.

They were business people/graziers from Roma. Mrs Mohr and I had a great time on my holiday. I loved those flats.

Mrs Mohr had a son, Johnny, Army man posted in Japan. I met him several times as he had returned to Australia, married and had a daughter. He lost his young wife to cancer.

After Rinda and I returned to Australia at different times, I worked at the RBH. Rinda lived at Hamilton. Then ill health ... brought her into Casualty one night as DOA. I recognised her name on our list and went straight to Casualty and filled them in that she had a brother, Johnny, and both parents were deceased. Sad, sad end to a long friendship. Rinda had lived in PNG also and loved travel.

Rita Malone

Our newly appointed Secretary, Tracey Hurren, writes about her connection to Radna Hall.

I am a recent society member and coincidentally was one of the last individual owners of an apartment in that building on 844 Brunswick Street, prior to its sale in 2021.

I can see you that have had a response to your question from another society member - Kay Thorpe - and I do agree with Kay's view that the building would have been newly built in 1941. When we were preparing the building for sale and trying to make decisions as owners on whether we should renovate the block or sell, I also did some research and was able to locate through a Griffith University PHD submission, "Flatland in Brisbane 1920-1941", that confirmed Radna Hall was completed in 1941. The Builder was noted as J Carlyle and the building was made of 'Timber, Fibrous-cement and stucco'. I don't know how long a career J Carlyle had, but there is only one other apartment building I am aware of in Brisbane - which also lists J Carlyle as a builder - and that is Dolmar Towers in West End (built in 1938). I would love to know if any members have heard of J Carlyle or know of any other buildings in Brisbane which might have that name listed as the builder.

Here are pics [at right] of the two buildings - you can see the similarities in style and colour themes.

While Radna Hall looks a little like an Art Deco block externally, by early 2000s internally there weren't a lot of post-Deco period style features left - no doubt given the number of renovations and different owners. I suspect, as it was built during war time, building materials would have been pretty scarce, and it probably never had the internal beauty and details of some of the other period apartments in New Farm. That said, the facade does have a heritage overlay and there were a number of other renovation restrictions on the property which have no doubt caused the new owner some headaches along the way. I guess Radna Hall is unique in that it was one of the last entire building sales in New Farm. While it was completed as a "group sale", individual contracts were drawn up on the auction day and were signed off by each respective owner. It was quite a challenging process to get it to that stage, agree on the overall terms and sadly acknowledge that with covid

looming at the time, plus the extensive costs of modernising the property, keeping it insured etc, that selling as a group was really our best option. The new owner was a Brisbane-based family who owned a successful retail seafood business and who were looking for an investment for their children. I think they probably picked up a bit of a bargain! Hopefully the finished building is sympathetic to New Farm and a really good investment for them!



I hope that helps provide a bit more information.

Tracey Hurren

A note from Member, Bruce Runnegar

I've recently published an article in the *Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History* that may be of interest to NFDHS members. Here is a link to the article, the first one in this year's volume:

<https://openjournals.library.sydney.edu.au/JSSH>

More Scottish news here: [GSQ Seminar \(mailerlite.io\)](https://www.mailerlite.io)

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bruna Burello-Day



At last count there were 238 financial members on our database. It is very gratifying that we are still getting a steady trickle of applications for new and renewing members. Please note that if you are still not a member, you may join for \$10.00 for the remainder of this year. From January 2024, the membership fee will rise to \$20.00 for both new

applications and renewals – still great value! Membership entitles you to half price entry to monthly meetings (including our famous afternoon tea) and discounts on the cost of our walking tours.

Continued from Page 1: Warana Reimagined

For me, your editor, the Brisbane Festival evokes memories of the Warana Festival, its predecessor. Most of my early life in the 1960s and 70s would find me at the McWhirters corner watching the iconic parade of spectacular floats, bands of every description, and marching girls among other sights, passing along Wickham St towards the City. Do you have memories of Warana or any photos to share? Why not send them to me at editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au, or to one of the social media groups featuring our suburb and environs, eg [New Farm Historical Society Facebook page](#) [New Farm History Facebook page](#)

Other Useful links

[History Queensland](#)

[National Trust \(Queensland\)](#)

[Brisbane Living Heritage - Discover Museums & Heritage Sites](#)

The vimeos of all the presentations at Society meetings can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8485721>

Upcoming Events

Walking Tour

Saturday morning, 7th October

New Farm & Teneriffe: Streets Less Travelled

Tour Guide: Gerard Benjamin

This tour begins and ends in Merthyr Village - and our goCard will enable us to make a first stop in Teneriffe before walking cross country to the cliffs overlooking the Story Bridge. A typical reaction is likely to be: "I've never walked along this street before."

Book on Eventbrite after 10th September.

RECENT EVENTS



Tour leaders, I-r Robert Allen, Santina Musumeci and Gerard Benjamin, have been very busy so far this year. We've featured some of Gerard's tours in previous editions. Here are the latest

led by Robert and Santina, with more scheduled to round out the year.

Princess Theatre Tour by Robert Allen



Ten people, including tour leader Robert Allen in his inaugural Princess Theatre tour for the Society, enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at this historic old building. Here's what a couple of very satisfied participants had to say:

Many thanks to Robert Allen for his very enlightening and entertaining tour of the Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba on Monday 21st August.

Little did our enthusiastic group know, as we came together that morning, what surprises Robert had in store for us, as we ascended that magnificent staircase at the theatre entrance.

This impressive building, dating from the late 1880's, has been beautifully restored after a number of different incarnations throughout its life, right through to its present stance today.

Robert was able to escort us through the building, inside and out, sharing a host of interesting facts and secrets contained within those walls.



The original neon sign now "rests" in the rear courtyard

An 'after tour' coffee at the theatre's Fables café with Robert and our group was a most enjoyable opportunity to share further stories of this interesting part of Brisbane and its past.

Please don't miss this tour when it comes around again.

Graeme & Rosalinda Pike

Robert has already lined up more tours as follows, with bookings on Eventbrite as highlighted.

Wednesday 27th September, 10am – Book [here](#).

Saturday 18th November, 10am – TBC.

Valley Pubs Tour by Robert Allen



The Valley was abuzz on the afternoon of Saturday 12th August when another of Robert's inaugural tours, this time of some historic Valley Pubs took place. It was the first day of the Ekka, the *Matildas* were just a few hours away from their historic victory, and there were many celebrations in progress including a post-UQ-ball shindig whose participants



were in various states of undress and embellished with green and gold paint! Despite the noise and the traffic, the event was very successful and many of the 25 participants stayed on at the last stop, Netherworld, formerly the Shamrock Hotel amongst other guises) for refreshments and a nostalgic spin at the pinball machines!



Do yourselves a favour and book Robert's **next Pub Tour on 21st October, 2-4.30pm**. Details are on Eventbrite [here](#).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the following:

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



Coles New Farm
for the generous
supply of afternoon
tea at monthly
meetings



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



Riverwalk Tour by Santina Musumeci

Below are just a few snaps from a tour held earlier in the year led by Santina for the Society and featuring some of the amazing architecture and sights that a stroll along the Riverwalk can reveal. Watch out for more such tours in 2024.

