



NEW FARM AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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May 2025

NEWSLETTER

Vol XXXI, No 4

REPORT ON APRIL MEETING

Commemorating and Celebrating the Courageous

"Courage is the mother of all virtues ..." Aristotle (384-322 BC)



**REPORTER:
Connie Hamer**

As usual, our monthly meeting began with the well-chosen and much appreciated musical compositions of Stewart Free, played on the keyboard. Robert Allen, Vice-President, then welcomed all in attendance to the April meeting and acknowledged that a busy April-May commemorated ANZAC Day, hosted a federal election and celebrated the achievements of the 75-years-strong Queensland Women's Historical Association (QWHA). Prominently displayed, and admired, was our society's new logo due to the recent acquisition of a large retractable banner.

Aptly, the 1940 *Movietone* newsreel, expertly crafted by Stuart Wallace, paralleled current events. The news excerpts showcased the bravery of WWII service men and women, featured ANZAC Day ceremonies and even promoted the wartime Australian federal election vote! All present took great delight in the knowledge that society member, Bev Bergstrum, was actually present at the opening of Brisbane's Story Bridge, 6 July 1940. Some stills from the newsreel are shown below.



Commemorating ANZAC Day 2025, Keith Harrison, society member and local resident, paid respect to and celebrated the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of beloved family member "Uncle Frank" - Francis Nathaniel Day.

Keith's presentation gave a very personal and heartwarming account of Frank's life and explained that although "fortunate to return home from war ... he did not lead a full life". The human cost of war was made vivid when we heard that Frank was



gassed twice during the war and that while he married in February 1931, he died in November 1931. Sadly, it was also revealed that his mother contracted tuberculosis from Frank, whilst caring for Frank, and predeceased him.

*** We will remember them. Lest we forget. ***



Francis Nathaniel Day
*Born - Stanthorpe,
3 August 1895;
Died - Brisbane,
7 November 1931.
Service number, 3274.
Rank - Sergeant.
15th Australian Infantry
Battalion,
WWI, 1914-1918.
Meritorious Service
Medal.*



(Continued on Page 2)



Miegunyah House Museum guest speakers, Robyn Wallace (at left) and Joanne (below right), similarly paid tribute to women whose dedication, hard work and forward-thinking demonstrated much courage and other admirable virtues.

With enthusiasm and gentle authority, Robyn (secretary, committee member, guide)

and Joanne (committee member, guide) clearly unravelled the history of the QWHA, made mention of notable women and lovingly highlighted some museum collection pieces.

Understandably, the personal qualities and contributions of Martha L Young OBE, an association president



Mrs Martha Young

compendium of 1313 letters preserved.

Other women revered for their "trailblazing" and independence of mind and spirit included Dr Lilian Cooper (1861-1947), a medical practitioner, Sister Marian Winifred Croll (1886-1954) and Matron Sarah "Sadie" Macdonald (1886-1966). The influence of Lady Diamantina Bowen (1832/1833-1893) and her collection of "treasures" were also honoured.



Dr Lilian Cooper



Lady Diamantina Bowen and her children



Sister Marian Croll

It was intriguing to hear about and see images of various historical objects and artefacts. We were

invited to visit Miegunyah House, the house being "the largest item in the collection", and to seek out our own personal favourites. Will you find the Davenport cabinet, crafted in 1873, using 37 Queensland timbers? Will you find the Kent Quilt made c1808 in England by the mother of Major John



Kent? How about the well preserved taxidermied male red winged parrot, adored pet of Frances Jones?

Without doubt, and as stated on the association's website, the QWHA "is an organisation with a passion for preserving Queensland's colonial and post-Federation heritage particularly as it relates to women." Indisputably, you will "discover a unique slice of Brisbane's architectural and social history" when you visit Miegunyah House and view its extensive collection of significant artefacts dating from the colonisation of Brisbane, circa 1840, until 1945.

We were encouraged to visit the museum's [website](#). Highly recommended, the website is informative, comprehensive and a visual delight! Quite exquisite! Bookings are essential for special events, visits and guided tours. Opening hours: Wednesdays 12.30pm-3.00pm; Saturdays 12.30pm-4.00pm; Sundays 12.30pm-4.00pm. Devonshire teas are available before or after a tour and are served on the verandah.

The general public can make use of the QWHA's online web-based cataloguing system. An [eHive link](#) allows you to view aspects of the museum's collection

Robert concluded the meeting by thanking guest speakers for their time, expertise and passion and appropriately gifted speakers with one of our society tote bags. Gazetted events at Miegunyah, involvement in QWHA activities and our own upcoming endeavours were cheerfully promoted.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

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Every Thursday 2-4pm, February to November

Office Bearers

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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

2025 Membership Fee:

\$20 per year or part thereof

Add \$15 for posted newsletter.

Apply for or renew membership:

<https://newfarmhistorical.org.au/membership/>

Newsletter Editor:

Bruna Burello-Day

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Newsletter Editorial Assistants:

Connie Hamer and Rita Cleveland

Photography: Maria Shaw

DATE CLAIMERS

Public meetings are held at 2.30pm at the Merthyr Road Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm, on the fourth Saturday of each month from February to November.

Entry fee is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members (cash preferred).

Other events in coming months include:

15 May: Monthly Afternoon Tea

17 May: Historical Walking Tour
by Gerard Benjamin –
Heart of New Farm.

24 May: Monthly Public Meeting

7 June: Historical Walking Tour
by Gerard Benjamin –
Mainly Moray

26 June: Soiree

28 June: Monthly Public Meeting

Details of events will be published in the relevant month's newsletter. Please note these events may be changed without notice. We will endeavour to keep you informed.



MAY MEETING PRESENTATION

New Farm and Districts Historical Society Inc presents:



Painting 'Wynberg'
by Gladys Blundell

Living in a heritage home in New Farm

How has New Farm changed over the past 13 years?
Who passes by?
What is important in preservation of the home?



Speaker:
Archbishop Mark Coleridge,
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane

Saturday 24th May 2:30 pm

Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm



www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

Enquiries: 0409 498 403

May is an important month in the life of the Most Reverend Mark Coleridge. He was ordained in May 1974 and installed as Archbishop of Brisbane in May 2012. Now he will speak to our society in May 2025. How has New Farm changed in the past 13 years since he has been living at Wynberg, New Farm? What are the pros and cons of living in this ornate 19th century residence that is listed as a Brisbane City Council heritage place?

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE – RUSSELL TRANSPORT

Ever since Roy Bayley Russell founded the company back in 1925, the Russell family has remained squarely behind the wheel of Russell Transport Pty Ltd. By 1930, their fleet had expanded to include three trucks based in a warehouse on New Farm Wharf. Further expansion resulted in constructing a specialised workshop in Macquarie Street, New Farm. 100 years after the foundation of the company, it is now a group of companies delivering a range of logistics services. Member **Phil Russell** will tell us more about this family business that has adapted and thrived and grown over the past 100 years.



PRESIDENT'S MAY MESSAGE



Desley Garnett

Having heard about the beautiful historical home *Miegunyah* at the April meeting (very interesting!) and looking forward to hearing more about *Wynberg* in May, I was prompted to google for what other heritage-listed places there are in our locality. Would you believe there are 130 sites on the [Brisbane City Council list of heritage places](#) in New Farm! Add to that the many in

Teneriffe, Newstead, Bowen Hills and Fortitude Valley. Then there is also the [Queensland Government list of heritage places](#). We truly serve suburbs that are full of significant history and that it is our charter to preserve. It's easy to get lost in these searches to discover more about the area. Maybe you can do your own little walking/driving tour to check them out.

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted at our information display at the Merthyr Polling Booth (see photos at right). It was a busy booth and we were able to talk to many people. 15 books were sold, 4 new members signed up, 3 people renewed their membership. 4 tote bags with the logo were sold and many people heard about the historical society for the very first time. Look for new faces at the next meeting and please make them welcome.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge is a very busy man so we are grateful that he, as a fellow resident in New Farm, will make time to give us a presentation at our May meeting. I hope to see you there!

Desley Garnett

A Great Way to Start Exploring the District

Have you discovered Austin Adams' "A Walking Tour of the NFDHS historical plaques" yet? It's a fantastic way to begin exploring the history of New Farm.

There are two options available to navigate this self-guided tour of the many plaques in the area. Go to the home page of our website [here](#) where you will find instructions and suggestions on how to complete the tour either on foot via your phone or simply by sitting at home using your PC, tablet or laptop. If you have tried either method of doing the tour, please share your experience or give feedback to editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au. Enjoy!

A Soiree in June

At right is our invitation for this month's afternoon tea. For those who are unable to attend this daytime event because of work or other commitments, we propose to hold an evening event, or Soirée, from 5.00pm to 6.30pm on Thursday 26 June. Light refreshments will be provided. An invitation will appear in next month's newsletter. Please add this date to your diaries.

It is yet another opportunity for current, lapsed, and new members and friends to come together to connect with like-minded people and share their knowledge of the history of New Farm and surrounds.



Ann assists an enquirer while George and Gerard observe in the background



George helped set up and pack up the display and was available to answer queries, while Gerard was on hand to sign the three books that he authored.

Getting to know you Afternoon Tea

Thursday 15th May 2025
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



MEMBERSHIPS

Our current membership is steadily climbing with the current tally at **220**. Your membership is vital to support our mission:

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

Thanks to our members, we are able to be active in

- educating the community about the heritage and the history of the New Farm Peninsula maintaining our archives and collections,
- producing an interesting and informative monthly newsletter,
- arranging interesting speakers at our monthly meetings,
- facilitating more walking tours of historical interest led by experienced and knowledgeable guides.

We have already achieved some goals for 2025, having

- submitted our first grant application,
- revised the website,
- launched a new logo,
- introduced new merchandise – tote bags.

But we still have more projects planned, namely

- digitising archival material,
- retrofitting QR codes to the historical plaques we have installed in the area, with extra information about the subject on our website,
- initiating other new projects.

So, please apply for or renew now! The sooner you are a member, the sooner you will be able to take advantage of the benefits, including half price entry to meetings, and generous discounts on walking tours. All the information regarding fees and payment options is available on the relevant form which can be accessed [here](#).

Next to the Membership Table, you will see our publications and "merch" for sale. The tote bags are very popular and are a steal at just \$10.00 each. They make great gifts, as do our books. We accept cash and cards here.

If you are a current financial member, collect your new name badge, sporting our new logo, at the Members' Welcome Table. If you have an earlier name badge, please bring that along and we will exchange the old one for the new one. Don't forget to wear it!

Bruna Burello-Day – Membership Secretary

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Here are just some of our wonderful volunteers who make our meetings run so smoothly. Thank you all!

Putting out the Welcome Mat



Phil welcoming Member, Maureen



Trish and daughter, Kate, signing in visitors



Bookseller - Ben



Supervisor - Anita



Kris taking membership applications



Connie chatting to Linda and her mum, Trudy



Behind the Scenes - Christien - standing in for Austin who was on leave



Did You Know?

- The ornamental railway lines in this avenue are symbolic remnants of a busy industrial precinct which included the CRS Sugar Refinery (1893) and the New Farm Powerhouse (1928).
- This part of New Farm was originally marketed in the 1880s as the *Racecourse Estate* housing development.
- The idea of a public park was discussed in 1887, but it was not until 1913 that the Brisbane City Council purchased the land which became New Farm Park.
- Prominent Queenslander Thomas Welsby (1858-1941) lent his name to the street which led to his historic residence *Amity* (1893).

Source: An historical plaque, *The Arbour Walk*, located at the intersection of Welsby and Gray Streets, New Farm.



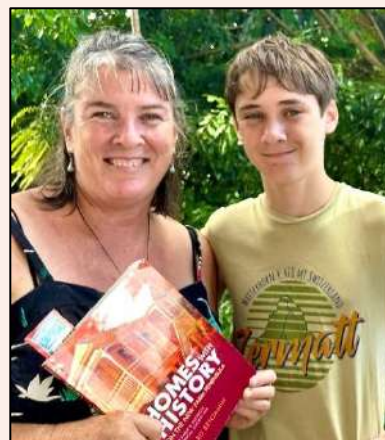
True or False?

1. The 'Duke of York's clan' was the name given to the indigenous people occupying Brisbane's inner-city area during the convict period.
2. James Campbell, a Scottish immigrant, acquired land on Moray Street during 1876-78, as part of his businesses to supply building materials including lime, cement, plaster and timber.
3. James Campbell opened the Langshaw Planing Mills and Joinery Works and built two lime kilns on the Brisbane River embankment. (These kilns are still visible behind 12 Julius Street.)
4. New Farm's first fire station was built on the corner of Moray and Langshaw Streets.

Answers: True! True! True! (True!) True!

Source: Benjamin, Gerard and Grant, Gloria, New Farm and Districts Historical Society Inc., *Reflections on New Farm*, Brisbane, 2008. (Chapter 3 – *Julius Street*)

(Compiled by Connie Hamer)



Jo and her son, Llewie, came all the way from Russell Island for the April meeting. Their New Farm connection is that Jo's grandparents met in Kent St. Many local babies were born at the private maternity home that Jo's great-grandmother (Nurse Williams) directed for more than a decade from 1907.

COMING EVENTS

Historical Walking Tour – Heart of New Farm

Saturday, 17 May 2025
8.30am-10.00am approx
Guide: Gerard Benjamin

Meet at New Farm Library (135 Sydney St) for a 90-minute walk exploring Brunswick Street, Bowen Terrace, Merthyr



Road, and glimpses of Langshaw, Moray, and Moreton Streets. Discover architectural gems like Holy Spirit Church, Wynberg, Hamel, and "Red Ted's" house, and remember lost homes including Coolden, the Japanese House, Linden, and Tullibardine. This walk offers insights into New Farm's social history and prominent former residents, concluding at Savour Café, Merthyr Village for a well-earned refreshment break. For bookings and further details, see Eventbrite [here](#).

Historical Walking Tour – Mainly Moray

Saturday, 7 June 2025
8.30am-10.00am approx
Guide: Gerard Benjamin

Meet at the bus stop adjacent to the To Be Thai restaurant (92 Merthyr Road) for a 90-minute walk focusing on Moray Street, including Merthyr Road and Bowen



Terrace. The walk highlights the social and architectural history of the area, pausing at sites of significant historical and architectural interest, before taking in the panorama of the Story Bridge. It concludes at Merthyr Village by which time morning tea will have been well-earned. For bookings and further details, see Eventbrite [here](#).

See Page 8 for another planned walking tour in June.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rayner's Meats Relocates to Merthyr Village

After 100 years at its heritage-listed location at 822 Brunswick Street, Rayner's Meats has moved to premises adjacent to Coles at New Farm. The current owners are only the third since the business was established by Sid and Gladys Rayner who left it to their son Ken and his wife Fay. After Ken's untimely death, Fay took over the business and, employing innovative ideas and methods, saw it thrive. In many ways, Fay was a trailblazer in a predominantly male industry

The Society was fortunate to have Fay interviewed by her journalist daughter, Janne, as the focus at our May 2023 meeting. The Vimeo of that presentation can be viewed [here](#) and the report in the June 2023 newsletter [here](#). Sadly, Fay

passed away just a few months later on 2 August 2023, aged 93, but the Rayner legacy and history will be remembered and preserved well into the future.



Then and Now – What a difference 100 years makes!

New Farm HeartFIT Sprints to its First Anniversary

In a demonstration at our February 2024 meeting, Bruce Collins introduced his mature-age exercise program, HeartFIT. The positive reception led to its launch in New Farm in May 2024, with an initial weekly session at the New Farm Uniting Church Hall – conveniently in the same place our meetings are held. Within five weeks, strong demand necessitated a second weekly session. HeartFIT now runs two Tuesday sessions, one at 8.00 to 9.00am and the other at 9.30 to 10.30am, facilitated alternately by Bruce and Storm. An added bonus is that some participants enjoy informal post-session gatherings at a nearby café. As of May 2025, HeartFIT celebrates its first anniversary in New Farm, having significantly benefited the community's health and wellbeing in an enjoyable, entertaining and affordable way. Spot the NFDHS members in alternate-week 9.30am sessions below!



Happy First Anniversary New Farm HeartFITers with Bruce above and Storm below!



VOLUNTEERS! VOLUNTEERS! VOLUNTEERS!

Societies such as ours depend on many volunteers, and there are numerous sayings that remind us of the value of many contributors lightening the load. We don't always know what skills and passions our members have to be able to ask. That's why I'm asking you to willingly put up your hand without having to be tapped on the shoulder. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Contribute in some way to the newsletter. Write an article, contribute to editing, research a particular topic.
- Back-up the filming of the meeting.
- Catalogue the books in our reference library and summarise their contents. Currently many titles are sitting on the shelf and not being accessed!
- Assist with the social media presence of the society.

I look forward to hearing from you at
president@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Desley Garnett, President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

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



Coles, New Farm for a donation towards afternoon tea purchases



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

COMMUNITY NEWS (cont'd)

Brisbane Living Heritage members offer a number of events, with the following perhaps being of some general interest:

Qld State Archives Talks:

Remembering the 1974 floods with Dr Margaret Cook

Queensland State Archives –
435 Compton Road, Runcorn
22nd May 2025
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Free event – bookings required

Join environmental historian and Research Fellow Dr Margaret Cook (who was a speaker at one of NFDHS public meeting, as she revisits the 1974 floods, one of Queensland's most devastating natural disasters. For details and bookings, see [here](#).

State Library of Queensland:

- **Free guided tour of Anzac Square & Memorial Galleries**

Every day 1:30–2:30pm.
Free event -Bookings required.

Discover the people, places, and stories that illuminate the Queensland war experience on a free guided tour of Anzac Square & Memorial Galleries. For more details and bookings, see [here](#).

- **Caring for your collections: military medals and mementos**

Sunday 18 May and other dates
10:30–11:30am
Free event – bookings required

Join us at Anzac Square Memorial Galleries for a free talk on the care and preservation of military-related collections. For more details and bookings, see [here](#).

ADVANCE NOTICE

Look out for **A Walk around the Woolstores**, a tour led by Ben Pritchard, to be held mid- to late-June. Full details will be published in next month's newsletter.



APRIL MEETING

More snaps of some of the 90 attendees, including more helpers.

