

### AT A GLANCE...

- *President's report*
- *Redcliffe Remembers*
- *Sandgate & Redcliffe*
- *Research report*

### DATE CLAIMERS...

- 12 June Bribie Bus Trip*
- 5 July Monthly Meeting*
- 24 July History Den Open Day*
- 2 August Monthly Meeting*
- 7-14 September Redcliffe Remembers Festival*

**REDCLIFFE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

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## President's REPORT

It is exciting to see that work has finally begun on the development/upgrade of Corscadden Park (cnr Hutchison St and Anzac Ave). Corscadden Park was named after George Hiram Corscadden in 1994. George was an active citizen of Redcliffe. He was a trustee of Redcliffe AH&I Society. He was a Rotarian for 30 years and one of four founding members of the Moreton Bay Boat Club. George was a founding member of Redcliffe Probus Club, President of Redcliffe Bowls Club and a Justice of the Peace. Corscadden Park has been used for many recreational activities over the years.

Ten years ago, the then Rotary Club of Redcliffe City, proposed that the area be developed as a History Walk with various information boards, shady trees and seating, hopefully stimulating an interest in Redcliffe's history and leading folk into the Museum. History Redcliffe were asked to be involved, with Pat Gee and Margaret Harding providing the historical information. For approximately 8 years meetings were held variously involving History Redcliffe, Rotary and council. Council staff changed; council elections were held. Then, the pandemic delayed things further. Finally, in 2023, History Redcliffe were invited to meet with Council and Rotary and a final plan was agreed by all parties. Compromises had to be made as City of Moreton Bay Council insisted the principal focus be more a sense of Place, for all of the community to enjoy rather than be purely History focused.

All non-indigenous plants will be replaced by natives and a mature Moreton Bay Fig will be the centrepiece. This major project is a celebration of two community groups working harmoniously with Council. It would not have happened without the determination and persistence of Rotarians Bob Blanch and Ian Sutherland. History Redcliffe is proud to have played a role in this project coming to fruition. The park will be known as *Humpybong Trail*.

City of Moreton Bay has a protocol that they do not have 'openings' of public infrastructure projects. However, we have received the Mayor's blessing for the Humpybong Trail to be 'opened' at our Redcliffe Remembers 1824-2024 Picnic in the Park commemoration day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

*Janet*



# Redcliffe Remembers

7<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Wunya Ngulum - Moreton Bay Bicentennial Commemoration Conference @ The Komo  HR Launch of 10th Medallion & Commemorative Pamphlet.
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Escorted tour of Humpybong Trail by Steve from Redcliffe Visitor Information Centre. 10.30am - 11.30am
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	MBCC History Talk Redcliffe Library. See MBCC website to book
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	History Redcliffe "History Trail Walk" with morning tea – \$10 per head
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Afternoon tea and talk in CWA hall Redcliffe – \$15 per head, bookings required. Topic: Sarah Phoebe Tubbs
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Descendants Morning tea Old Fire Station, invitation only.
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Check out Jetty and Cominos Arcades and enjoy the historical photos and movies on display open every day
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	10am – 3pm Picnic in the Park @ Corscadden Park Food stalls, all day music entertainment, workshops, demonstrations, children's activity precinct and more

***Make sure to check our website and social media for updates and to be notified of any changes.***

# Sandgate & Redcliffe (Part 2)

## by Morton Howes

*Editor's note: One of our members, Mort Howes, has generously shared one of the chapters of his memoirs. We present chapter 3 which will be serialized here. We thank Mort for his contribution and hope you enjoy reading his story.*

In January 1943, John became a boarder at Church of England Grammar School. He passed Senior at "Churchie" in 1948 when he was sixteen, too young to enter University had to repeat Senior the following year. My father had a habit of overstating all his children's ages to get us into higher grades at school, which did us no favours. John was mostly at home during the school holidays, but he had his own circle of friends at school and spent most of his time with them. Hal and I spent our spare time on the beach, he started at Humpybong in 1946 and we caught the red bus to school. We squabbled as brothers do but stood up for each other when it counted. John

and I got on well, he was four years older than me and "big brother," he could reach the pedals on Pop's Malvern Star bicycle and occasionally "doubled" me along Flinders Parade which I enjoyed more than the riverbank at Goondiwindi! I settled into a happy lifestyle and was in the top half dozen of my class at school.

I started playing hockey. Pop would have preferred rugby but that wasn't a choice. I played left inner for the Humpybong "B" team in the North Brisbane primary schools competition, we reached the Brisbane Primary Schools hockey finals in 1947 losing the final in our division to Kalinga at Victoria Park and Pop was ecstatic. Most of our games were played at the Redcliffe Showgrounds wearing sandshoes, shin pads were unknown, and I still have lumps and bumps on my shins!



Redcliffe Business Centre (Redcliffe Esplanade near Jetty) circa 1945.  
Image courtesy of City of Moreton Bay RLPC-001\001615

The Leslie Wilson Home next door was run by the Queensland Government Bush Children's Health Scheme, and they provided holidays for children from remote country areas some of

whom had never seen the sea. Next door to that was a two-storey house owned by Legacy, which provided holidays for children who lost parents or family in the War. The kids in both places were around our age and we never lacked company. I was an avid reader and spent hours soaking up "Biggles" stories but my favourite was "Tony Beats The Band" by Anton Lind, which I read many times about students at an English Public School.

Saturday afternoons were split between the pictures, ("flicks") and roller skating. I received pocket money of ninepence a week, the flicks cost sixpence plus an ice cream for thrippence while roller skating on the rink next to Redcliffe Jetty cost ninepence including skate hire but no ice cream, a difficult choice! The Rainbow Café down the road, next to Comino's Arcade sold chocolate flavoured ice cream in cones which you couldn't buy anywhere else, but they cost a penny more. The flicks showed two full length movies plus cartoons and a Buck Rogers serial, they usually won depending on the movie, but I enjoyed roller skating and became a capable skater. There was a predominance of propaganda which we gleefully soaked up, the Japs had no

chance of winning the war while the Yanks were there! I had a vivid imagination and war movies sometimes gave me nightmares, I preferred westerns with Roy Rogers, Tom Mix and Hopalong Cassidy. Gene Autry was popular with the girls but there was too much singing and kissing for my liking! The picture theatre burned down early in the war and was rebuilt with rows of canvas deck chairs which were very comfortable and popular with kids. The theatre succumbed to television in the seventies and is now a retail outlet, but the

“flicks” are full of memories. The skating rink was demolished after the war and the Penny Arcade in the halfway house on Redcliffe Jetty is no longer there, it was popular with the Yanks and we were forbidden to go there but that didn't stop us.

Two bus companies shared local bus services before 1943, after that the green bus co-ordinated with train services from Sandgate to Brisbane and the red bus handled all local traffic, operating from Elson's garage next to the Catholic school in Anzac Avenue. A red bus service to Brisbane via Petrie was further and cost more than the train, but it went past the Brisbane



Redcliffe Picture Theatre circa 1950.

Image courtesy of City of Moreton Bay RLPC-001\001547

General Hospital. The green buses numbered 1 to 24 were housed in a shed next to Sandgate railway station and number 12 was my favourite, a Leyland diesel which emitted a satisfying roar as it bounded over the Hornibrook like a kangaroo. New vehicles were unobtainable during the war, some of the older red buses had canvas shutters instead of glass windows making them dark inside in wet weather. The fare to school was a penny, but I could buy eight boiled lollies for that and walk home along the beach in half an hour, a comfortable eight lolly walk!

Brisbane's population doubled in 1942 after the United States entered the war. More than 200,000 American troops a year passed through the Port of Brisbane, they were in transit camps in the bush from Canungra to Gympie before heading to North Queensland and the Pacific islands. The 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF arrived home from the Middle East in March 1942, and 25,000 Australian troops were camped from Goondiwindi to Wacol, Greenbank and Canungra to re-equip. They were seasoned war veterans, and relations with the Americans were initially not good. The Aussies in well-worn khaki desert shorts were less than impressed by GI's in smart new uniforms, who had never fired a shot in anger bragging to the local girls they were here to save Australia. The Yanks were paid twice as much and won the girls with luxury goods like nylon stockings and

cosmetics through their PX (canteens) which were unavailable to our troops. The Diggers called them Show Ponies, “Over-dressed, Over-paid and Over-here!” and there were frequent stoushes, culminating in what the newspapers called, “The Battle of Brisbane.” A group of Aussies tried to “gate crash” an American PX in Creek Street and an Australian soldier was shot dead by a panicky U.S. military policeman, the subsequent brawl ended up in Fortitude Valley and the Australians were subsequently granted access to American PX canteens.

American soldiers spent their leave in Redcliffe, and

they were friendly and generous especially with kids. “Got any chewing gum, Yank?” was a greeting rarely ignored. I had never heard of chewing gum but Mum said it was dangerous if swallowed and we were forbidden to ask for it. I guess she was worried about us being molested, but I never heard of anything like that in Redcliffe, at least not with kids. Perhaps we had safety in numbers, but girls were a different matter! Suttons Beach was a favourite meeting place for Yanks and their girls, it had an open-air dance floor and a giant Ferris wheel on Oxley Point. Sideshows were open six days a week (never on Sundays!) and the “Knock ‘Ems” displayed painted faces of Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo on canvas, with mouths of wooden “teeth” knocked out by throwing wooden balls. The “Chair-O-Plane had metal seats on a long chain which rotated at speed over the water until they were almost horizontal, sixpence (“a zack”) a ride was the going rate. Secluded nooks on the grassy slopes of Sutton's Beach were heavily populated during the day by Yanks under blankets with their girlfriends, spied upon by inquisitive kids!

Come back for Part 3 in the next issue...

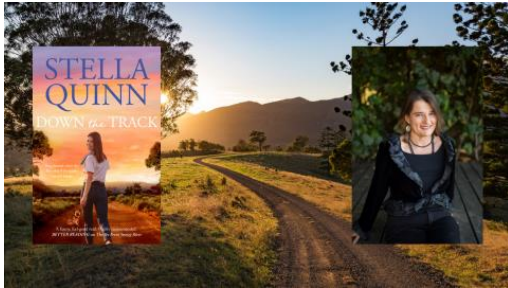
# Library Lines

What's on at Redcliffe Library . . .

## Meet the Author - In Conversation with Stella Quinn Sat 08 June 2024 | 02:15 PM to 03:30 PM

Join bestselling author Stella Quinn as she discusses her latest novel *Down the Track*.

Dr Joanne Tan is an expert in a lot of things. Love isn't one of them. Being thirty-something, broke, divorced and in a cold war with her ten-year-old son is a lot, but Jo's handling it. Just. At least she is until her job at the Natural History Museum is put in jeopardy. An invitation to dig up dinosaur bones on a remote Queensland sheep station arrives at just the right time.



Gavin 'Hux' Huxtable, helicopter pilot and reluctant sheep-shearer, has turned his broken heart into a secret (and successful) writing career. But running into Jo again, all these years down the track, stirs up a lot more than outback country dust.

A missing person, a fossilised legbone and a nosy country cop force Jo and Hux together and the sparks that start flying don't go unnoticed by the locals ...

Digging up the past isn't easy. Digging up the truth can be even harder.

Free. Bookings required.

## Family History Month - Pop Up Genealogy Help Mon 05 August 2024 | 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM

celebrate Family History Month in August by digging into your family history with free genealogy help sessions at selected Moreton Bay Region Libraries.

Using Library genealogy resources, Family History volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints will be on hand during these special pop-up sessions

to help with all levels of family history research - from beginners wanting to start their family tree to experienced genealogists needing specialist support.



Free. No bookings required.

## Dig deeper with FamilySearch.org Thu 08 August 2024 | 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Pick up tips on how to get the most out of the FamilySearch website with FamilySearch expert and genealogy consultant Karen Waples. FamilySearch Affiliate records are now exclusively available at all City of Moreton Bay Libraries. For adults.

Please note: attendees must have created their own FamilySearch account before the course - see library staff for assistance.

Free. Bookings required.

## Wombat meet and greet Thu 29 August 2024 | 01:30 PM to 02:30 PM

Why should kids have all the fun? Get the chance to hold Bumpy the wombat and ask all your questions about wombats and other Australian animals. Martin from Geckoes Wildlife will share his knowledge of the biology and ecology of these amazing creatures.

For adults. Free. Bookings required.



## Want more?

These are just a few highlights of what's on at Redcliffe Library. For the full list, go to <https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/libraries/Events> or drop in to the Library!

Gwen Neilsen passed away on 24 April. Her funeral took place on Friday 31 May at St Mary's Church of England in Sutton Street. Dr Reg. and Gwen became Society members in 1998/1999 year.

Dr Peter Marendy - 1932-2024 passed away on 8 May. A portion of his life's work was shared on *Moreton Daily* recently. (Read the article here: <https://bit.ly/Marendy>). The religious festival *Theofania*-the Blessing of the Waters plus the Greek food and dancing was part of the Greek presence in the CBD (now Anzac Place) from c1987 until recent times.

Redcliffe has benefited from the business acumen, skills and personalities of Kytherians from the time of Chris Patrick (Patrickios) the Oysterer in the 1920s. Their generous donation towards the establishment of Redcliffe Museum is a fitting memory.

Enquiry about the Hornibrook Highway prompted a recall that next year will be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The last of four generations of commercial fishermen from one family at Scarborough, William (Billy) Michel retired in April after selling his licence and boat *Dreamtime*.

An enquirer about the builder of homes in Mein Street, Scarborough in the 1920s-was given the names of prominent builders and referred to the Local History Team.

Limited assistance was given re a question about Franklins Grocery Store at Clontarf –a photo of Skateland 1989-1990s, was sent along with advice to contact Steve Pronk of AIM LAB and the Town Planning Dept. of Council.

The 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Matthew Flinders' landing at Wood Point is on 17<sup>th</sup> July. See a story about the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this edition.



## Redcliffe Uniting Church 1880 – 1990 A Social History

By Margaret Harding

On Friday 17 May 2024, 33 people gathered in the new Local History meeting room at the Redcliffe Library for the presentation to Moreton Bay City Council of the completed works of Dr Margaret Henry's studies – a beautifully bound book of approximately 600 pages about the coming together of nine congregations within three denominations which, in 1977, combined to become the Uniting Church on the Peninsula.

The Reverend Paul Clark, The Mayor Cr Peter Flannery, Councillors Karl Winchester and Sandra Ruck, Senior Staff from the Redcliffe Library, two of Margaret's sisters, many parishioners and a few members of History Redcliffe celebrated Margaret's scholarly approach to the enormous task. MC Lisa Bateman, Library Services Manager and other speakers paid

tribute to Margaret's dedication and determination over eight years which resulted in the documentation of many aspects of Redcliffe's Christian history in this 'our' bicentenary year.

Her generosity and her example to us of the importance of documenting history are inspirational. One could add that another of Margaret's attributes is her diplomacy and general interest in 'Redcliffites'.

Hospitality to match the occasion was provided by the Redcliffe Library.

Today we acknowledge the vibrant Redcliffe Uniting Church community.

# Celebrations of the past

By Margaret Harding

In keeping with this year's Bicentennial theme, below are edited excerpts from the Annual Presidential Address by Mrs H. Y. Robertson on 16 September 1949 – from *Queensland Geographical Journal* No 39, V53-session 1948-1949.

## A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW FLINDERS WHEN AUSTRALIA CELEBRATED THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DISCOVERY AT REDCLIFFE – 1949

A celebration Committee was formed at Redcliffe with The Mayor Ald. R.T. Bradley as Chairman and a committee comprising Mrs M.I. Court, Mrs Martha Bradley and 25 gentlemen.

According to The Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Qld)...

“the greatest triumph in Redcliffe's history with a successful series of functions, doing the utmost credit

for the honouring of Flinders, commenced on July 10th with religious services in all the churches at which members of the committee attended according to their respective faith, and terminated on July 31st with the presence of 5,000 motor cars and an attendance of over 30,000 people, making it the greatest day in Redcliffe's history as predicted at the commencement of the celebrations.

The Redcliffe Shire Council generously donated a £250 subsidy towards the celebrations and donations came from the citizens of Redcliffe and the merchants of Brisbane to carry out the celebrations. The Brisbane City Council presented six *Flindersia* trees to the Council which were planted in the recreation reserve at Redcliffe by the Mayor and Mayoress, officials of the Royal Geographical Society and the Celebrations Committee.

The Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Qld) issued 5,000 souvenir envelopes to honour Flinders and donated 1,000 for official use. The Society posted 4,000 to all parts of the world and advertised Redcliffe through its extensive publications”.

Vale

IN MEMORIAM

Edward “Ted” Rowe

1929 – 2024

Ted passed away on 19 April aged 95 years-he arrived at Steven Street Redcliffe as a youngster with the Rowe family from their Dairy farm at Dayboro – living in the family home until his passing. One of his sisters, Marjorie Walker urged Ted to join the Redcliffe Historical Society in 2002.

Ted was a Life Member of both Redcliffe Hockey Club and Redcliffe City Amateur Anglers Club. Don Argus AO former NAB Manager at Redcliffe, NAB CEO (1991-99) & BHP chairman rang nephew David Walker from Melbourne to pay his respects and mentioned that Ted was an excellent coach of the younger hockey players.

D. Walker



Ted Rowe on his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Image courtesy David Walker

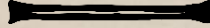
# MUSEUM MUSINGS — WITH SAM —

Greetings from the museum!

Winter has set in, and it is time to enjoy music at our venue.

We have been busy hosting school kindy and year 3 & 4 groups informing them about our local history. The feedback has been amazing, and we have more coming right through the year!

The new exhibition on Births Deaths and Marriages opened mid-May and we have locals who have contributed to making this such a special exhibition. Please visit us!



## ***Births, deaths and marriages*** 18 May 2024 – 4 August 2024



Births, deaths and marriages are major life events. How we view and mark them has been shaped by customs, changing fashion, social influences, and world events.

From how World War I changed mourning practices to the meaning behind silver baby gifts, this exhibition will shed light on the rituals, traditions and beliefs behind the experiences we all share.

It will feature a fascinating array of objects from our museum collection along with loans from the community.

Exhibition developed by City of Moreton Bay.

## ***St Benedict's college choir performance*** Saturday 15 June 2024 | 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Enjoy the musical stylings of the students from St Benedict's choir to celebrate World Music Day with a series of songs including- Morning and the tide is low, A World of our Own, Dirait-on, Dona Nobis pacem, Mamma Mia, Yesterday, Que Cera Cera, The Prayer, He lives in You – Lion King, That Swing - 40s, Give me a home among the gum trees. Wear your favourite music-related shirt on the day and enjoy the performance!



## ***Whistling Past the Graveyard: Live music*** Saturday, 29 June 2024 | 12:00 PM to 01:10 PM



Join Leah Cotterell and Narelle McCoy at Redcliffe Museum for Whistling Past the Graveyard, a live music performance! This talented duo will draw from their written accounts and research to share fascinating stories about death and funerals. Bury yourself in tales of the best and worst funerals in history, from the truly sad to the sublime and uplifting. The musical materials are as eclectic as the subject matter! Ranging from classical and folk to emblematic pop songs. Join us in song, as we sing "Amazing Grace" together! Accompanying the eclectic singing pair on guitar is world-class talent, Jamie Clark.

Please scan this QR code to learn what's on and make bookings for the workshops and events.





save the date

# Picnic *in the* Park

free event

**10AM-3PM SAT, 14TH SEPTEMBER  
MUSEUM PRECINCT**

Redcliffe Remembers  
1824 HISTORY REDCLIFFE 2024

History Redcliffe is grateful for the support of our sponsors. If you wish to become a proud sponsor of History Redcliffe, please contact us at [info@historyredcliffe.com.au](mailto:info@historyredcliffe.com.au) for a sponsorship prospectus.

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## JUNE 2024

WED 9:00am – 3:00pm

**12** Bus Trip to Bribie Island Museum

## JULY 2024

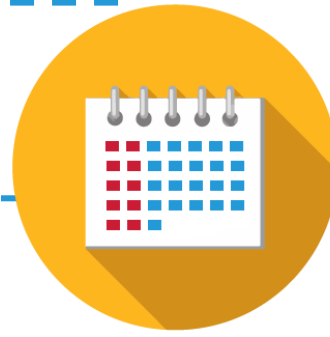
FRI 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**5** Monthly meeting

Dr Cliff Pollard – Rosemount Hospital

WED 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**24** Open Day at the History Den



**DATES**  
*for your*  
**DIARY**

## AUGUST 2024

FRI 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**2** Monthly meeting

Prof Marc Serge Rivière – True friendship knows no bounds:  
exclusive correspondence of Matthew Flinders and Thomi Pitot, 1804-1814

## SEPTEMBER 2024

**No monthly meeting due to bicentennial events.**

Please join us in commemorating this milestone in our history by attending the range of events planned. See page 2 for full schedule.

For more information, please visit [www.historyredcliffe.com.au](http://www.historyredcliffe.com.au).



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, meeting venues may be subject to change. All efforts are made to ensure that the information regarding meeting venues and speakers is correct at the time of publication. Members and guests should consult our website ([www.historyredcliffe.com.au](http://www.historyredcliffe.com.au)) closer to the meeting date to check for updates.



## What's your story?

Everyone has a story to tell, and we want to hear yours!

Submit your articles, anecdotes or images to the editor at [info@historyredcliffe.com.au](mailto:info@historyredcliffe.com.au) and you may find your story here in this very publication.



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