

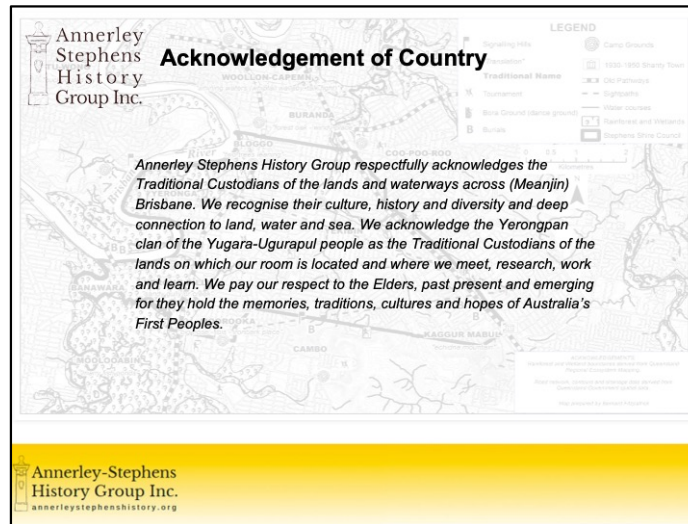


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Stephens  
History  
Group Inc.

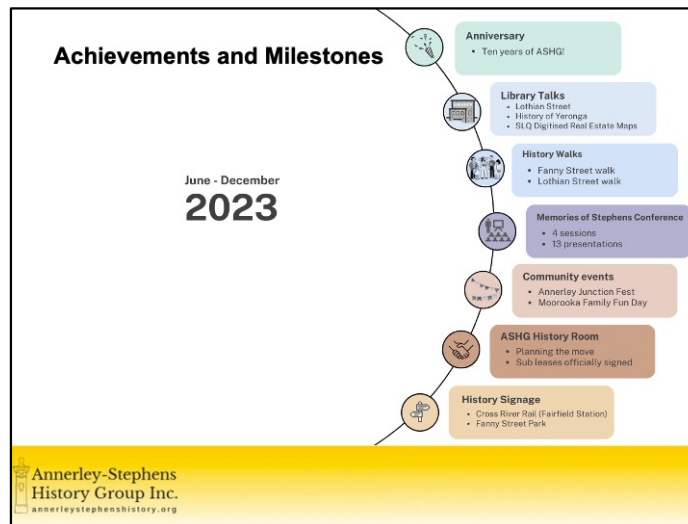
## Annual General Meeting - 4 November 2024



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Annerley Stephens History Group respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways across (Meanjin) Brisbane. We recognise their culture, history and diversity and deep connection to land, water and sea. We acknowledge the Yerongpan clan of the Yugara-Ugurapul people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our room is located and where we meet, research, work and learn. We pay our respect to the Elders, past present and emerging for they hold the memories, traditions, cultures and hopes of Australia's First Peoples.



2023 seems so long ago!

2023 marked the 10th year in the life of the Annerley-Stephens History Group. Between **July-December 2023** there was considerable emphasis on finalising the plans for the ASHG History room in the new Yeronga Community Centre whilst continuing to run a successful events program. The *Memories of Stephens* conference was held in October 2023 at Our Lady's Annerley to a receptive and packed audience. Thank you Stephen and Glenda Sheaffe for convening and all the speakers and volunteers. Thanks also to Brisbane City Council through our local Councillors for financial support and to our local State and Federal representatives. We convened 3 very successful library talks at Annerley Library (Lothian Street history, Fiona Petty), Fairfield Library (History of Yeronga, Michael Macklin) and Holland Park Library (SLQ digitised maps, Stephanie Ryan). There were two history walks (Fanny St, Denis, Kate and Pauline) and Lothian Street (Fiona Petty). The Fanny Street Park, Annerley signage based on research by members Kate, Denis, Jeff and Pauline was installed by Brisbane City Council. Thank you Cllr Johnston for commissioning ASHG to produce the signage. The research for Fairfield

Station was provided to the Cross River Rail team. We had stalls at Junction Fest and Moorooka Fun Day.

In preparation for the new History room ASHG successfully applied for a grant from the Brisbane City Council Brisbane Living Suburbs program (thanks Jeff and the team). A History Room transition team was formed to make recommendations about signage, furniture, displays etc. thank you Jeff, Denis, Pauline, Kate, Mark, Janis.

**Yeronga Community Centre – ASHG History Room  
under construction 2023**



Here we are at the end of 2023 - the Yeronga Community Centre and the History room is nearing the end of its construction.

### YCC, the History room and All Gauge Model Rail Group



From left: Nancy (YCC), Mel (YCC); Dennis, Bruce (AGMR); Jeff, Denis (ASHG)

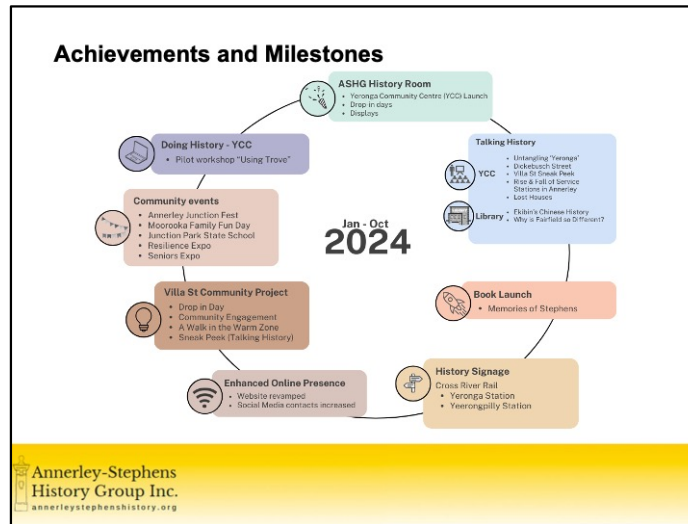
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Achieving a significant milestone like the YCC takes years of work. ASHG and All Gauge Model Rail were selected as co-locators in the YCC with Community Plus+ as the head lease several years ago. Since about 2019 representatives from YCC, ASHG and AGMR representatives have met regularly with architects, designers, Economic Development Qld and the Department of Communities to finalise the design and the logistics of leases etc. Mel (Manager, YCC), Dennis (AGMRG) and Denis (ASHG) were part the process from the beginning. Thank you to them and all the team for your efforts. The photo above shows a very happy team of people celebrating the completion of the YCC.

**Yeronga Community Centre Launch – 30 May 2024**



The YCC was officially launched by Mark Bailey the MP for Miller in May 2024. Aunty Debby Sandy wished us all Wei Bulka (welcome).



Now we come to 2024. This diagram takes you through aspects of our achievements this year each of IS dealt with in more detail in the relevant slides. The most significant milestone was the **opening of the History room** in January 2024. Having a home has transformed how our history group operates. It has created many opportunities for ASHG to connect and engage within and external to the organisation.

**Jan- October achievements in a nutshell.**

- The ASHG History room was established, equipped and ready to go in January 2024 with weekly drop in days and displays.
- 6 *Talking History* talks at Yeronga Community Centre - with an average 40/45 attendees
- 2 library talks - both fully subscribed
- 5th ASHG publication *Memories of Stephens* Conference launched Sept 2024



- Villa Street project - connection, research, oral histories
- 1 new walk (2 presentations) Walking in the Warm Zone (fully subscribed)
- Participation in 5 external community events
- Participation in preparations for the 1925 Centenary of the amalgamation of formers shires into a unified BCC.
- Our online presence has been greatly enhanced with a revamped website and Facebook.
- Distinctive graphics thanks to volunteer designer Kerry Forsythe.

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## History Room Snapshot

OPENED JANUARY 2024

**DROP-IN DAYS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY**

- Roster Team of 10
- Gathering oral histories
- Making connections
- Attracting new members and volunteers

**DISPLAY WINDOW**

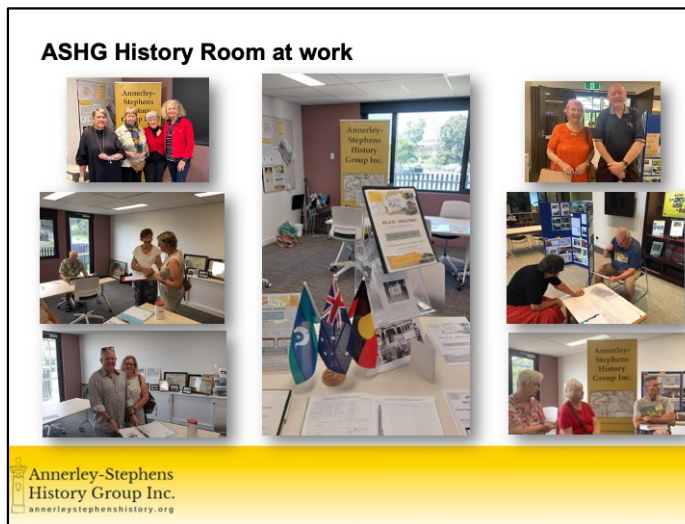
- Who are ASHG?
- ANZAC Day
- Reconciliation Week
- Frank & Eunice Corley
- Rise and Fall of Service Stations of Annerley
- Brisbane Golf Club - first 5 years
- Threads in Time
- It never floods in Brisbane, does it?
- Behind the gardens

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This slide speaks for itself. With the history room has come visibility, connections, engagement and opportunity.



We were successful in receiving a Brisbane City Council grant to set up room. The grant has enabled ASHG to create a flexible, well resourced history room that is fit for purpose. Thank you Brisbane City Council. Mark Baker created a display of maps and resources for the interior walls. The display takes advantage of the tracks system that are installed in the room. A library of donated books has been established by Susan and Kate McGuckin and is housed in the History room library cupboard. The room has a terrific projector and extensive cupboard space and tables and chairs. In addition ASHG has their own storeroom downstairs where the books, the marquee and other material is housed.




The history room drop in days each Wednesday have been staffed by a team of 8 volunteers: Kate McG, Susan, Jeanette, Pauline, Ollie, Sue, Denis with ongoing support from Les. Kate Dyson helped out with history window display and other ASHG business as it arose. The volunteers have opened up, hosted and welcomed people, heard local stories, sold books, enlisted new members, monitored the history window displays each Wednesday. A library comprising member donations is being catalogued by Kate and Susan McGuckin. Occasional additional drop in days were held throughout the year. The room has also hosted other history groups and been used from time to time for members as a place for quiet research. Two laptops are owned by ASHG including one donated by member Timna Green.

### ASHG History Room – Display Show Case



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A major bonus for ASHG is the history display window and has enabled rotating displays including: Kate D and Pauline Peel (coordination and occasional displays including Frank Corley, Reconciliation Week) member Deb Kember (first five years of the Brisbane Golf Club), member Sue Rowan (Threads in Time, Domestic Art and; It Never Floods in Brisbane does it?), and the current display *Behind the Gardens* curated by Janis Hanley and Jan Richardson which features the Young and See families, descendants of Chinese market gardeners. We see exciting possibilities for 2025.



**Talking History:  
a program of outstanding  
talks in 2024**

**6**

**Talking  
history @  
YCC**

Average 40 attendees

**2**

**Talking  
history @  
Libraries**

All fully subscribed

**TALKING HISTORY**  
**FEB - OCT 2024**

- FEBRUARY** HISTORY OF COMMUNITY PLUS - YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE  
Mel Mitchell, Melissa Mitchell
- MARCH** UNTANGLING 'YERONGA'  
Dr Michael Moulden
- APRIL** DICKEBURGH STREET - A CLIFTON HILL STREET WITH NO FRONT DOORS  
Katie Egan
- MAY** VILLA ST BREAK PEAK  
Katie Egan, Meredith French, Jennifer Wang, Dana Peck, Phyllis Peck, Tracy Green
- JUNE** THE RISE AND FALL OF SERVICE STATIONS IN ANNESLEY  
Mark Baker
- AUGUST** EMBIN'S CHINESE HISTORY  
Dr Jeroa Hooley
- SEPTEMBER** LOST HOUSES  
Dana Peck, Katie Egan, Lyn Burnett, Lynn Hooley
- OCTOBER** WHY IS FAIRFIELD SO DIFFERENT?  
Jeff Bruce

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It is wonderful to have access to the YCC multi-purpose room for six of our successful 2024 Talking History series which averaged 40/45 attendees and a further 2 talks at the Annerley and Fairfield libraries both of which were fully subscribed. At each of these talks new connections have been made, stories shared, new ideas developed, new members enlisted and books have been sold. I want to acknowledge the members who volunteer at each of these events - 6-8 people each time set up pack up, sell books, help new and existing members and organise catering. Thank you.

Planning is underway for 2025 which also marks the end of the former shires including Stephens Shire and their amalgamation into a unified Brisbane City Council. We're looking at a Welcome to Members as our first event in 2025 followed by a look at Stephens Shire: It's projects and passions and a training morning in March. Thanks to those members who have shown interest in presenting and researching in the future.

**Talking History: Feb, March, April 2024**



Presented by Melinda McInturff and Mel Hilditch  
(Community Plus+ YCC)



Presented by Michael Macklin



Presented by Kate Dyson


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We kicked off the year in February with the history of Yeronga Community Centre with Community Plus+ Manager Mel Hilditch and Resilience Coordinator Melinda McInturff. In March Dr Michael Macklin gave us an insight into the Naming of Yeronga and in April Kate Dyson talked to us about the history of the Clifton Hill War Service Homes Estate in her intriguingly titled talk: *Dickebusch St., the Street with no front doors*.



In May the Villa Street project team gave us an insight into the early learnings from the Villa Street community project.

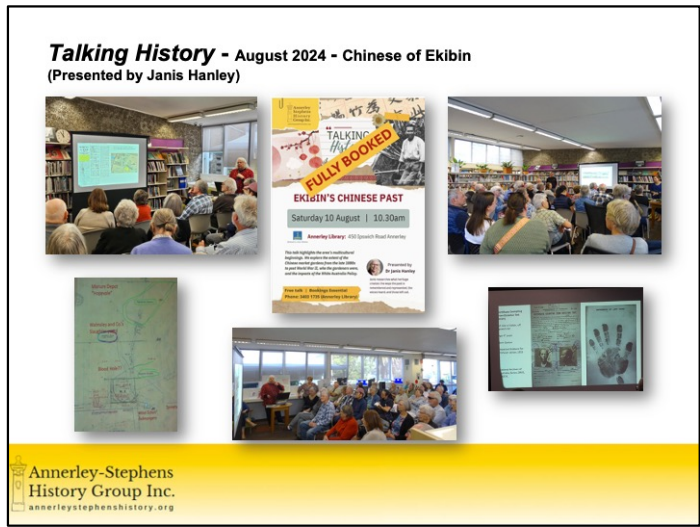


**Talking History** - June 2024 - The Rise and Fall of Service Stations in Annerley  
(Presented by Mark Baker)

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In June Mark Baker took us on a different journey in his talk the Rise and Fall of Service Stations in Annerley - in many ways it was a look at the social history of the transition to vehicles since the early part of the 20th Century.



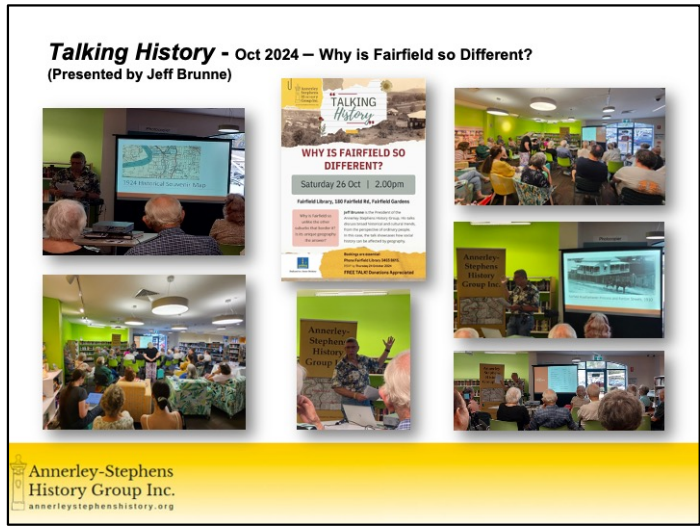
In August the venue was the Annerley Library when Dr Janis Hanley highlighted the diversity of our community in her booked out talk about *Ekibin's Chinese Past*.

**Talking History - Sept 2024 – Lost Houses**  
(Presented by Kate Dyson, Denis Peel, Lyn Burnett & John Horder)



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In September the Lost Houses Panel (Lyn Burnett, John Horder and Kate Dyson with convenor Denis Peel) looked at a selection of houses across our suburbs lost, sometimes found and sometimes mysterious.



More recently Jeff Brunne spoke to a fully subscribed and very enthusiastic audience at the Fairfield Library and asked the question *Why is Fairfield so Different*.



Members are interested in learning research skills. Timna and Kit hosted an Introduction to Trove early in the year. Look out for more next year.



This history of Villa Street was the group's community project for the year. The team (Kate, Timna, Denis, Jeanette, Wendie and Pauline) have undertaken research and directly engaged with former and current excited residents. We thank residents for generously sharing their history, their stories and photos. The results will be published in a PDF in 2025.



*A Walk in the Warm Zone*, that integrated the writing of Jessica Queale/Anderson, who lived at 56 Villa Street in the 1920s as a young child with historical information. Two fully subscribed *Walk in Warm Zone* walks were conducted over 2 days by the team: Pauline, Jeanette, Wendie and Denis.



In September the *Memories of Stephens* was launched by Denver Beanland to an enthusiastic crowd of 80 people. Thank you Denver, Glenda, Stephen, the speakers, the editors and the local Councillors and State and Government representatives for your support of Memories of Stephens. Thanks also to the event volunteers and to the attendees for a wonderful, heartwarming evening.





Being present in our community is an important part of our program. This year we purchased a marquee for outdoor events. We were present at the Annerley Junction Fest, Junction Park State School, Moorooka Family Fun Day, the Resilience Expo and the Seniors expo. It's a great way to make new connections.

### **Publications for sale**



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We continue to sell our books at events, from the history room, from Annerley Meats (a special thanks to them). The launch of Memories of Stephens has stimulated renewed interest in the books. Those interested in purchasing books can send ASHG an email [annerleystephensgroupin@gmail.com](mailto:annerleystephensgroupin@gmail.com), visit Annerley Meats on Ipswich Rd or drop in to the history room on Wednesdays between 9.00 and 12.00 midday.

**Enhanced online presence**

**Vibrant, engaging webpages**

ASHG Facebook page as a Business Portfolio

300% increase in total contacts

Improved interactions

Queries lead to connections

**Social Media success**

Building volunteer capacity (digital content)

Interesting posts, new content, engaging media

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A revamped website and social media presence with interesting posts, new and engaging content has strengthened ASHG's online presence. In 2024 we are looking to increase our presence, diversify the people who are posting on Facebook, look at areas like Instagram and continue to develop our website and online tools.

THANK  
YOU

### Assistance, support and other valued contributions

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Brisbane City Council</b>   | ASHG members for their support of<br>ASHG events and activities<br>throughout 2023-24 | • Community Plus+ Yeronga<br>Community Centre Committee and<br>staff |
| • Local Councillors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Nicole Johnston, Steve Griffiths, Krista Adams &amp; Fiona Cunningham</li></ul> | • Mark Bailey, State Member<br>for Miller   | • Graham Perrett, Federal member for<br>Moreton                      |
| • Building Better Suburbs Grant  | • Trevor Matthews   | • All Gauge Model Rail   |
| • Libraries staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Annerley, Fairfield &amp; Holland Park</li><li>◦ City Archives</li></ul>          | • Annerley Meats  | • Nathan Sharples  |
|  | • TJ Printing   | • Our Lady's, Annerley   |

There are so many people to thank . Thank you to ASHG members, Community Plus+ BCC including our local Councillors and libraries, our local State and Federal representatives, Annerley Meats, accountant Nathan Sharples and others.



And finally thank you to the many members and others who have contributed to our organization in a myriad of ways from attending the events to sharing local history stories to indicating interest in researching and presenting in 2025. We note a particular vote of thanks to Kerry Forsythe for her brilliant design work.

Many many people have volunteered their time to be on the Committee, research, give talks, do our online work, be part of our events teams, sell books, assist new members, make cups of tea, set up and pack up, staff the history room, undertake cleaning and maintenance of the history room, collect stories and so much more – hundreds and hundreds volunteer hours make the organization what it is. Thank you!

We want to particularly thank Kerry Forsythe whose beautiful poster designs have contributed so much to our organisation.

Many people have contributed to the research and talks - thank you and many have contributed to the day to day in our history room and at events. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
4 November 2024**



Stephens Shire Council Office, c. 1906, SLQ



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That brings us to the end of our overview of the year up to October.  
Thank you all for coming. We look forward next year to marking the end  
of the Stephens Shire and the beginning of a unified Brisbane City  
Council.