

THE SOCIAL SPACE

A visit to the Moorooka Social Space helps restore one's faith in humanity.

In these uncertain, often confusing times, this is a space where everyone is welcome, everyone is treated as equal and there are no conditions on who receives help.

Instigated by Annerley-based visual artists Liz Woods and Kevin Leong, what was meant to be a six-month project is now in its second year.

Moorooka Social Space is a mutual aid project, where the ethos is helping one another out and building a resilient community to help weather these difficult times. It's not a charity but a collaboration built on trust and mutual respect.

Everything is free here. Coffee and muffins for morning tea, a cooked meal for lunch (when Covid-19 doesn't intervene) and a free shop offering clothes, books and other household needs.

There are well-maintained gardens and a big composting hub. The space is run by volunteers, about 35 at present, who maintain the grounds and prepare and cook the food.

There is a donation box where customers are asked to give what they can. Sometimes that might be a bag of lemons or a bag of sugar.

"Some people come in and leave \$40. We rely on all that. Our budget and the whole place is run on what we get in the donation box," Liz says.

Liz and Kevin were meant to be going to Zagreb, Croatia, to work on a peace project for two months when Covid-19 hit and ruined those plans.

Their loss was certainly Moorooka's gain.

Liz, whose practice focuses on developing relationships between art, site and the community, found the building on Clifton St, which is leased by non-profit organisation Belong from Brisbane City Council.

Belong gifted Liz full use of the kitchen, a meeting room and another room, which now houses the shop.

A successful Australian Council Arts grant for \$10,000 helped get the Moorooka Social Space up and running.

"With Covid-19 and climate change, where we have had fires and floods, everyone is very anxious," Liz says.

"This is a really lovely thing. It's an inclusive space and the community support has been so great.

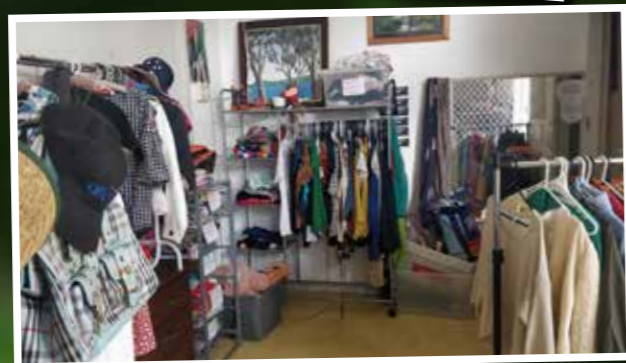
"The volunteers work their butts off. It's a total collaboration. No one could do it without everyone else. We served 9500 meals last year, that's not counting coffee and cake."

A tai chi class has just started at the space on Tuesdays and it's hoped lunches will resume soon.



The Social Space

21 Clifton Street, Moorooka, QLD 4105
Open for Food and Coffee/Tea: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm,
WED to SUN. Lunch Served: noon - 1:00 pm.



The History of Yeronga

Part 11

Dr Michael Macklin

In 1889, Rhyndarra was under construction for William Williams on about 140 acres at the far end of Kadumba St.¹ At that time, Williams was the manager of the Australasian Steam Navigation Company before its merger with the Queensland Steam Shipping Company, which created the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company. An important footnote is that when the Suez Canal was opened the Queensland Steam Shipping Company was part of what became the longest mail service in the history of shipping from London to Brisbane.²

Many of the 'O' streets in that part of Yeronga were part of the original Williams' estate with the 'O' coming from the Orient Line ships' names which all started with 'O'.³ The Orient Line held the head contract for the mail service and eventually acquired the entire Australasian United Steam Navigation Company in 1914.⁴ As did so many of the state's highfliers, Williams ran into financial problems in the economic downturn of the 1890s and moved to Western Australia in 1897 when his Yeronga house was leased by the Salvation Army for 'The Yeronga Girls' Industrial School' for 'orphaned and endangered girls'. In 1905 Williams was declared insolvent and the Rhyndarra estate passed to the Australian Mutual Provident Society and then on-sold to the Salvation Army in 1907.

At that time, tennis courts and croquet lawns were usually



1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhyndarra>

2. The service was inaugurated on 12 February 1881 and reached Brisbane on 13 April taking two full months to complete. The idea was largely that of Queensland's forceful Premier, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, the Premier at the time, who knew that emigrants from Britain travelling by the conventional route landed at ports such as Adelaide, Melbourne or Sydney. It is likely that migrants would stay there rather than make their way to Queensland. He managed to convince the Parliament to provide £55,000 a year for a mail contract with British India. They were obliged to come into Brisbane from the north via the Torres Strait and go home again by the same route. This led to the demise of the service since ships were not able to pick up a payload from southern ports for the homeward voyage. The direct London-Brisbane service finished in 1895.

3. Streets include Orestes, Osterley, Orari, Oriol, Orcares, Ormadale, Orama, Orlando, Ormuz, Orvieta, Orsova, Orantes, Ormonde, Otaki, and Orient.

4. <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/lines/pando.shtml>

5. 'Brisbane's Suburban Beauties. A World of Fair Scenes', BC, Saturday, 21 July 1906, p. 12.

6. Scriven, 'Yeronga: A Early History', p. 20.

7. However, this did help lower the cost of land and indirectly led to the establishment in 1921 of the delightfully named 'Yeronga Refuge of Aged and Starving Horses and Lost and Strayed Dogs' which was the inspiration of Mrs Weinholt. The refuge was taken over in 1927 by the Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and turned into its state headquarters until it closed in 2013. It has now been redeveloped as apartment housing.

8. Jon Stanford, 'Queensland's own money, 1893-1910: Model for the Australian note issue' [online]. Queensland History Journal, vol. 22, no. 11, Nov 2015, pp. 829-40.

part and parcel of the large up-market Yeronga homes. A newspaper using the terminology of the time describes these playing fields as the places 'hereon athletic maidens wield racquet or mallet with winsome grace'.⁵ The Yeronga Bowling Club was also established in this period with the major moving force being Denny Day, the general manager of the Royal Bank of Queensland.⁶

The 1880s' ebullient era came to a sudden end with the economic stagnation brought about by the onset of a financial depression exacerbated by the 1890 flood, which unfortunately was quickly followed by an even worst flood in February 1893. Water and debris inundated the low-lying areas of Yeronga and flowed back up the various creeks and gullies which still existed from pre-colonial times. This disaster brought land sales to a grinding halt and the situation not reversed for another 10 years.⁷

In May 1893, the Queensland government sought to deal with the greatest financial crisis it had faced by introducing its own currency, displacing the previous banknotes which had been circulated by private banks. In so doing, Queensland became the only Australian colony to issue its own currency. These notes stayed in circulation until 1910 when the Commonwealth government used its powers under the Constitution to introduce an Australia-wide currency based on the Queensland model.⁸

Village NEWS

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Welcome to 2022!

History of Yeronga

Part 11

LJ Hooker

Annerley/Yeronga/Salisbury

Jane Elvin,

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LJ Hooker

Annerley/Yeronga/Salisbury

Compliments of Jane Elvin

Jane's Update

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022!



February has seen more stock hit the market, but it sells as quickly as it lists and our numbers of buyers are stronger than ever, more frustrated than ever and sale prices are in many cases especially if a house way above expectation. We are expecting this activity to continue as we have way too many buyers in comparison to listings. Last week I had a townhouse open, 47 groups viewed at the first open, we had a line down the road. Only one person can purchase, so there are 46 other buyers actively out there. More and more buyers are crying (I mean physically crying) when we ring them to let them know "sorry your offer was not accepted". One of these buyers said this is the 20th property she has missed out on and she only missed out by \$1000 which I didn't have the heart to tell her. Buyers are really finding it a lot harder to secure a property, meanwhile sellers are having the time of their life and really cashing in on their investments. While I feel for buyers and my daughter is one of them, I also celebrate with sellers as they have waited a long time for this market.

Everything is pointing towards a strong 2022, with good growth but nowhere near the level of growth we experienced in 2021, that truly was something incredible and extremely fast. Some reports say expect 5%, others are 8%. Who knows the real percentage, but most are confident we will not be slipping backwards with sale prices this year and to expect another good year. As always I am happy to chat through the market with you whether you are selling or not.

I also love the versatility of being able to do different tasks. Leasing and PM can be full on but there is never a quiet moment and I am doing multiple and varied tasks a day. No two days are ever the same!

What are the challenges? Contradicting what I said above, but I would say the main challenge is making sure your tenants and owners are happy. I always want to please everyone and make sure everyone is happy, but sometimes in a PM roll (and leasing) everyone is not going to like the outcome.

You were named Employee of the Year. How did that make you feel? Very positive and motivated in the position. I came into the PM roll with very little experience. I supported the PMs here and there but not to the level of looking after a portfolio. So this definitely made me feel like I was doing the job correctly and other staff recognised this.

Any goals for 2022? My goal by the end of 2022 is to buy my first home! I would also love to go overseas at the end of the year to visit family I haven't seen since the separation of Covid-19... we will see how busy work is!!

Where do you see yourself in five years' time? Tough question... still working in the PM role and growing our property management portfolio. I would love to obtain another degree in marketing and hopefully on to the second property purchase!

café O-mai



Café O Mai owner Maggie Nguyen briefly toyed with the idea of reducing her menu, but knows there would have been a riot if she had taken anything away.

So regulars to this Annerley favourite can rest easy, knowing there won't be many changes this year.

As owner Maggie says: "When something is working, you don't change it."

"You get to a point where you don't want to make things bigger. It's more about consolidating than expanding."

It will be 10 years in September since Maggie realised her lifelong dream of owning a quaint café on a corner. Her and mum Kim opened Café O Mai, serving "traditional Vietnamese food cooked from the heart".

Now it's a familiar sight to drive down Cracknell Rd at the weekend and see a human snake, winding its way around the corner, as customers wait for a table to become available.

The café has built up a cult following, not just in Annerley, but all over Brisbane.

Crackling pork is a menu favourite, either as a starter, in a vermicelli noodle salad or on a Banh Mi.

During the initial Covid-19 lockdowns, when restaurants were forced to close, Café O Mai did a roaring trade with takeaway.

And when Omicron hit just after Christmas, Maggie repaid that loyalty, preparing and delivering food packs to sick customers.

"I don't really think that was a big thing, we were just paying it forward," Maggie says.

"I thought we'd had a good run through Christmas and didn't have to close. We just delivered a few packs for people who were sick in the community."



Maggie and Kim's fascinating story has been captured on film as part of a mini documentary series produced for the BrisAsia Festival.

Mother's Table tells the story of a pregnant Kim leaving Vietnam and spending five days and nights on a boat, before arriving in Australia as a refugee in 1982.

"The process (of filming) was very emotional," Maggie says. "Mum took some convincing. I told her a little white lie and said she didn't have to talk on the documentary. But she had to talk. I thought she did really well."

After leaving high school, Maggie studied and became a chiropractor. But she held on to that dream of opening a quaint coffee shop on a corner.

At 27, she finished with chiropractics and opened Red Lotus in the Valley with her brother. His restaurant is now only a few doors down at Annerley.

Then, with Kim's backing, Maggie realised her own dream.

"It will be 10 years in September. I feel like a dinosaur now, especially in hospo. We're pretty old."

"My customers keep it interesting. The ambience we wanted to create is one of feeling and being welcomed."

"You don't have to be of a certain mould to come here. We welcome anybody and that's the community we've created here."

*You can watch Mother's Table online by following the links to BrisAsia Festival at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

Café O-Mai
15 Cracknell Rd Annerley, Annerley, QLD 4103 Ph: (07) 3255 9778 Web: www.cafeomai.com.au
Hours: Tues to Fri - 6:30am - 3:00pm | Sat to Sun - 7:00am - 2:00pm | CLOSED Mondays

Live, Love, Local

BRANDONS SHOE REPAIRS



Walking into Annerley cobbler Trevor Brandon's workshop is like stepping back in time.

The machines, still in working order, are from another era, the timber benches were built by his uncle and wife Frances sits at an old Singer, sewing the strap on a leather handbag.

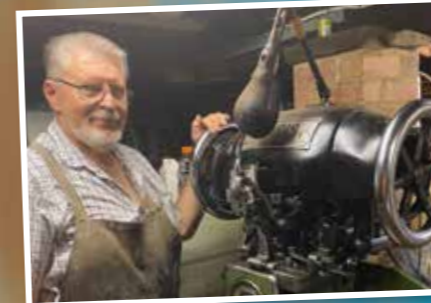
Trevor still uses the traditional repair methods learnt from his father, and grandfather before that.

It's probably why his reputation extends as far as Mundubbera, where a farmer used to send his RM Williams boots to Trevor in a fruit box to repair, with just a post-it note saying "fix".

Trevor's grandfather began making shoes in 1924. His father Colin grew the business, opening several shops across Brisbane.

Brandons Shoe Repairs opened at Annerley Junction in 1959, and Trevor's parents remained involved in the business until well into their eighties.

During the 1970s and '80s there was enough work for five repairers in the workshop, as shoes came in from the various Brandons stores.



Trevor joined his father in the business in the early '70s, having spent four years doing his plastering apprenticeship after leaving school. Shoe repairing was always in his destiny.

"Home was at the top of Hardgrave Rd, school was at the bottom and in the middle was my grandfather's shop with 16 shoe repairers," Trevor recalls.

"I'd call in to the workshop on my way home, mooch around a bit with the blokes there. That's where I got my grounding in shoe repairs I guess."

"On school holidays Dad would get me down to do odd jobs like sweeping the floors and sometimes polishing shoes."

Shoe sales are a small part of the Brandon business these days, and the pandemic has kept Trevor busier than he may have liked.

"It was a madhouse," he says. "After that first lockdown, people started coming in with buckets of shoes. They were at home doing nothing, and started going through the wardrobe. It wasn't just me. It was happening all over Brisbane."

The Brandons celebrate 100 years of shoe making and repairs in 2024. Trevor and Frances plan to retire after that.

"I think it will be time for a holiday," Trevor says.

Brandons Shoe Repairs
462 Ipswich Rd Annerley, QLD 4103 Ph: (07) 3848 1856
Hours: Mon to Wed - 9:00am - 5:00pm | Thurs - 9:00am - 5:30pm | Fri - 9:00am - 5:00pm
Sat - 9:00am - 3:30pm | CLOSED Mondays



It's the smell that gets me ... a heady aroma of essential oils that's all together calm, soothing and inviting.

The first impression on walking into Elli Earth Living at Annerley is a good one. Speak to owner Kelly Elliott about the ethos around her business, and it's even more impressive.

Elli Earth Living provides an extensive range of Australian-made, eco-friendly cleaning and household products, and offers a refill service, to help reduce plastic waste. Customers are encouraged to bring their own containers into the store to refill.

Kin Kin, Simply Clean and Enviro Care are the brands Kelly stocks and products include dishwashing and laundry detergents, floor cleaners, shampoos and toothpastes. All are sourced from family-owned businesses and are natural with no synthetics.

The shop space is shared with MADEmporium, a collective of creative makers from across Brisbane. It's a beautiful gift shop, featuring handmade pottery, earrings, greeting cards, candles and essential oil body and bath products.

Kelly makes fabric utensil holders and a range of delicious-smelling soy wax candles, which are refillable.

After working in the tax office for 13 years, Kelly began to explore ways to make a difference and reduce her footprint on the planet.

She started selling eco products at the markets but when she decided to get into the refill side of things, it led to a move from market stall to retail store in September.

"It started after I was looking at animal and food documentaries," Kelly says. "It starts to really open your eyes, like body products, when you look at the ingredients. Then you just start to look at everything."

"It's also the packaging. We go through so many bottles and plastics and we can avoid that if we got this way, rather than continually buying new bottles."

Elli Earth Living
1/466 Ipswich Rd Annerley, QLD 4103 Web: www.elliearthliving.com
Hours: Tues to Fri - 9:30am - 5:00pm | Sat - 10:00am - 1:00pm | CLOSED Mondays

Meet the hard-working Laura Mellick, Property Manager (PM)



How long have you been working at LJ Hooker? And how did you get your start there? I have been working with LJ Hooker since the end of 2020. I reached out to Jane for a reception role as I was working in hospitality. Hospitality was an unhealthy environment and I have always wanted to go gain experience in an admin/reception role. I was offered a casual reception job and started on Saturday reception.

What roles have you done while working there? I was employed as a casual receptionist which started at 1 day a week and went to 3/4 whilst studying for my REIQ real-estate certificate. Once I acquired my certificate I was supporting leasing and conducting inspections. I also covered sales admin for a week... this was definitely a challenge and I learned so much about the backend of selling. Now I am a Property Manager running a portfolio which was Salisbury based, but now I am also starting to manage property in the Yeronga / Fairfield area including of late two beautiful riverfront homes. Living locally I am really enjoying managing property locally.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I most enjoy the relationships you get to build with owners and tenants. I have always enjoyed being in a people orientated job and a PM role definitely is this.