

Jane's Update

What do to next after the latest floods?

I am having more and more conversations with flood impacted families in particular as they start to work through what do they do next. Many are confused and are looking for guidance as they have moved into a rental property or living with friends and family.

Those that experienced 2011 and now 2022 are unsure of how to move forward, a lot of this coming from sheer exhaustion. 2022 is also quite different to 2011, the shortage in builders and supplies is one very big difference. It's too early to understand the impact on values, with limited stock coming to market, but also following a halt in our market with Easter & long weekends the market in general is a bit harder to read at present.

Many of the local Yeronga and Fairfield residents chose this area for lifestyle. That is both the lifestyle our river gives us such as beautiful walks, parks & views and not to mention creating a pocket without the connecting traffic offering peace and tranquillity. That lifestyle also includes access to the city, transports, universities, schools, hospitals and entertainment. These lifestyle choices are still there that hasn't change. We have buyers that would not live or buy anywhere else but here, I think we will always have those buyers, many are 2nd and 3rd generation and fiercely local.

Putting a real estate hat on how I look at some of these scenarios and that comes from selling post 2011 floods and throughout some really challenging markets. I am in no way saying run away from your property and definitely not saying leave our beautiful riverside areas, what I am saying is don't be afraid to change direction and explore all options, and there are quite a lot of options available to you so don't think there isn't. I am a believer that heavily flooded, non-river properties (the riverfront property is quite a different product), are properties



to keep entry level and to keep basic. They are the affordable entry into the market, and we should try and keep them there. If you were planning a \$500,000 renovation, maybe reconsider that. Look at options to raise the house or remove the house and build flood resilient. Would your current home make a good investment property? Do you take this opportunity to change the layout? Do you take your insurance payout and sell as is? There are lots of different options to consider, sometimes it's just looking at all options and talking through those and it's those conversations that help you with your decisions.

I am doing everything I can to assist, and whether that be to just sit and listen and talk through options or looking after clients in the process. I entered real estate in 2011 off the back of the floods, I came from my own tough situation into another, the community rallied to support me in real estate and for me now I will do whatever I can to repay that support. It's been a tough time visiting people, but it's also been a time that reminds me of the wonderful community we are so fortunate to be a part of. We will get through this, and we will do it together as that is what we do best. Reach out at any point if you want to talk through your thoughts, I am happy to listen, and to discuss my thoughts. Always remember, you are not in this alone & don't be afraid to reach out.

For \$70, guests will be treated to a welcome drink, grazing platters and entertainment. There will be lucky door prizes, silent auction and raffles throughout the afternoon.

Each lady attending will receive a goodie bag filled with a Baladi coffee voucher and earrings, amongst other things.

Fundraising coordinators Jessica Todd and Zoe Salmon say money raised at this year's lunch will go towards the purchase of new art easels, art supplies and kindy beds, as well as structural building works to the 70-year-old kindergarten.

Around \$4800 was raised at last year's lunch, which went towards buying play resources, new educational materials and equipment and professional development for teachers.

There are some great prizes up for grabs in the raffle, courtesy of some generous community donations. These include a dining experience at Osteria Epoca, tickets to a Wallabies Test match, Victoria Park putt putt vouchers, Endota Spa voucher, a tennis bracelet and fitness memberships.



For more event information and for tickets
W: <https://yerongahydroadladieslunch.eventbrite.com.au>
Ticket sales close Monday, June 13, at 6pm.

The History of Yeronga

Part 13

Dr Michael Macklin



Martin Buzarcott

Martin Buzarcott's home, Yeronga-lea, saw some dramatic changes during this period. It came on to the market in 1899 after the tragic death at 38 of its then owner, Premier Thomas Byrnes, who contracted measles then pneumonia and died after a short illness.

He had only been in office for six months. With the death of its prominent owner, there were local calls for the house and property, variously said to be between seven and 17 acres, to be made into a public park but this was not taken up by the local divisional board.¹ The house seems to have survived until sometime after World War II since it was mentioned as the venue for a fund-raiser in 1940 and appears on the aerial photography map of Brisbane in 1946.²

The Brisbane Courier of Friday 20 June 1902 had a short notice announcing the arrival of the 'Yeronga Water Supply' with E. Denny Day having been awarded the contract from the Board of Waterworks. The supply of running water certainly assisted in reinvigorating land sales through to 1914.

It had taken almost 30 years for an effective local government administration to be established. In 1886 the Stephens Division (about nine square miles including Yeronga) was formed and became the local government, Stephens Shire, in 1903 with its office on Ipswich Road between Victoria Terrace and Junction Terrace.

On 1 October 1925, the Shire of Stephens was abolished and its area became part of the new City of Brisbane City Council in 1927 which was almost 100 years after the Europeans first rowed up its river. Unfortunately, for those interested in the history of this area, most of the files of the Stephens Shire appear to have been burnt in a bonfire out the back of the Council chambers as they prepared to close.

Yeronga has always been a favorite haunt for the cycling fraternity. Kingsley Parade resident, Stephen Glassop, was Secretary of the Brisbane Cycle Club and was such a keen cyclist that he and a friend rode their bikes from Sydney to Brisbane in 1907!³ This ride would be no mean feat even today but, given that at that time most of the roads were mud tracks from almost two months of rain, it was heroic. One need also remember that due to the small populations in the rural areas between major towns on their route, there were then few bridges across many creeks and rivers they encountered. From his kitchen window, Stephen would have looked out toward Yeronga-lea, and watched hundreds of cyclists streaming past down Feez Street every day. Stephen would be proud of his Yeronga cycling heritage.



1. 'Suggested Reserve', *The Telegraph*, Wednesday, 11 March 1903, p. 3.
2. *The Courier Mail*, Thursday, 18 April 1940, p. 13; Brisbane City Council PDOnline Interactive Mapping. http://olr13.brisbane.qld.gov.au/website/MN_CPI/index.htm?
3. *The Queensland Times* (Saturday 13 April, 1907, p.40) carried a note that Messrs Glassop and Cutcheon 'arrived safely at Brisbane on Monday week after an overland trip from Sydney'. The cyclists declared that they would be pleased to give any information to cyclists contemplating such a trip.

Village NEWS

Edition 2 2022

2022 Floods Special

Stories of our community coming together

Yeronga

Community Centre

Ready to help people in need once again



Ladies Lunch 2022

Details inside

Jane's Update

What do to next after the latest floods?

History of Yeronga

Part 13

LJ Hooker

Annerley/Yeronga/Salisbury

Jane Elvin,

LJ Hooker Annerley/Yeronga

M: 0408 344 417

E: j.elvin@ljhookerproperty.com.au

LJ Hooker

Annerley/Yeronga/Salisbury

Compliments of Jane Elvin

2022 Floods Special Feature

YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE

When the unthinkable happened in February, and our river suburbs were under water for the second time in 11 years, a local community dug deep for those in need.

The mud has been hosed away, the parkland is green and life seemingly has returned to normal after the devastating floods in late February.

But the ordeal is far from over for so many. People are back in their homes but many are still waiting for insurance and building assessors, tradesmen to be available to do repair work and materials already in short supply due to the pandemic.

A lot of people are living without a kitchen, bathroom and even walls. And then there's the emotional impact of experiencing a second devastating flood in 11 years.

Community Plus+ Yeronga Community Centre community development worker and flood recovery coordinator Melinda McInturff is only too aware of the struggles many in our community are facing. She sees it every day.

Melinda can also see hope as the community bands together to help those in need.

The weekend after the floods, 200 volunteers came to the community centre, bringing with them baked goods, food and donations, offering to deliver meals to people or helping to prepare meals and sandwiches in the kitchen. Putting that into perspective, the centre has a regular list of around 30 volunteers.

Community Plus+ Yeronga Community Centre received government funding to continue its work as a flood recovery support centre after government agencies and other non-for-profit organisations completed their services in the centre.



Meet Selwyn

He's lived at Fairfield his whole life, and has now flooded three times. Selwyn Russell is as tough as they come

Three floods have taken a lot from Brisbane Corso resident Selwyn Russell, but not his sense of humour.

Selwyn who lives in the Fairfield home he grew up in, flooded in 1974, 2011 and again earlier this year.

The water was highest in 1974. The house is built on stilts and the water came as high as the upstairs window sills. It took nearly a week to recede. Back then there was no government assistance, no Mud Army.

In the 2011 flood, the water was half a metre below the floor upstairs, and this time it was a metre lower again.

"This was the best of the three, so I'm looking forward to the fourth one which will be lower again," jokes Selwyn.

Selwyn remained cautious after the 2011 flood and moved a lot of his valuables upstairs. Some furniture has been water damaged this time and the



But Melinda says the community has contributed so much to keep things going and the centre is now a beacon for people all over the region. The budget is stretched but the work continues, largely thanks to a generous community.

"We're the only support hub in Brisbane region and while the government has given us funding to continue flood support, the community and organi-

insurance assessors will come next month.

His connection with the Yeronga Community Centre began in the days after the 2011 flood when he heard on the radio he could get a tetanus injection at Yeronga State School.

"I drove up to the school and found out there was a flood relief centre. I came back every day to pick up things I needed. It was really good," he says.

"I had no electricity at home, I'd work on the house all day, and then some wonderful people would come around and give you a bottle of water and a sandwich.

"It drags on and on, you don't want to clean up anymore, it's very depressing. I was happy to come to the flood recovery centre for a break. Being on my own, I didn't know there were so many good-hearted people around."

Selwyn is still a regular at the Community Centre, attending the Thursday art class.

As for the future, Selwyn is considering his options.

"At my age, it's hard. If I was going to live for another 50 years, I'd get the house raised. It's a tiny house really, but it's in a flood area and you never know when there's going to be another one."

sations continue to be so generous," Melinda says. "Flood is what we do, it's where we came from, it's just one of the things we're good at. We've got such a great community who gets behind us, giving us vouchers to give to people to buy groceries. It's so heart-warming for me that people trust us, that if they give us a voucher or money it will go to the people who need it."

A property developer approached Melinda with three kitchen packages – a stove, oven, rangehood and dishwasher – to give to families in need.

"We had people in homes, with no kitchen and cooking on a camp stove," Melinda says. "Four pieces of equipment to a large property developer is generous but to the people who receive the gift it makes a huge difference and is life changing."

Among the regulars that attend the community centre are 19 triple "floodies". Melinda marvels at their resilience.

"I'm not sure I could cope with going through one flood, let alone three," she says.

"They're tough as boots but this has almost put them on the precipice. They ask themselves 'am I able to do this again?'"

But they don't want to move.

"I say people who are flooded are like their houses. They look pretty from the outside, the mud has gone, it all looks back to normal, but walk inside and its stud walls, no plaster, no kitchen, no bathroom. The person is as broken as their house."

Melinda prides herself on the fact the community centre was able to provide a wrap-around service for people in need. Government and charity personnel were on hand to answer people's questions but it was all done in the safe space the centre provides. People could have a coffee and muffin, swap stories with others experiencing the same ordeal, whilst waiting to get assistance.

"We got a letter from a Red Cross volunteer, thanking us for the great work we did and how proud we should be of what we were able to deliver to people," Melinda says.

"We got cards and notes from government recovery teams that what we are doing is making a difference, and it changed the way they worked too."

"This is from people who go to disasters all over the nation, and they said they've never been anywhere where such care was given to each person who walked in the door."

"It's so encouraging that people trust and respect what we do. This is what gives me joy."

"And we're still here. When everyone packed up and left on the Easter Thursday, we're still here. We have the necessary information and the phone numbers. We're here all the time."

As well as meals and sandwiches, Yeronga Community Centre is still providing practical assistance to many.

Flood recovery worker Jo, who worked with the centre in 2011, goes out and visits people in their homes, helping them prepare to meet assessors, interpret insurance jargon, and generally advocate for them.

Meet Lisette

Volunteers play a big part in flood relief efforts. One Yeronga resident explains her motivation for wanting to help

Nursing a new baby, at the Sunshine Coast, Lisette Brambleby felt helpless during the 2011 floods that devastated parts of Yeronga and Fairfield.

Her husband came home to help with the clean-up, but she felt a lot of guilt that she was unable to do anything.

It was why she didn't hesitate this time to do her bit when the suburb was impacted again, initially with the coffee shop at the end of her street, then helping to coordinate food deliveries at Yeronga Community Centre.

When M.Y. Roasting Café at the end of her road looked like it was going to flood, Lisette helped owners Sharon and Ted sandbag, and move items to higher ground. They even babysat the coffee machine for a couple of weeks.

"After the flood I just wanted to see if there was a way I could help. I knew a lot of my friends would have a good support network around them, but how could I help people who didn't have anyone," Lisette says.

"I started out by making sandwiches and going around the streets, but then I saw these other people with sandwiches as well. It led me to think if we're all taking sandwiches to the same place, are there some streets not getting the help. I asked them where they were from and they said the community centre."

Lisette went and met Yeronga Community Centre flood relief coordinator Melinda McInturff.

"When I saw the setup at the community centre I was blown away. I couldn't believe they had this whole kitchen, with all these women and men pumping out up to 400 sandwiches a day."

Lisette offered to help coordinate and assemble volunteers to deliver the sandwiches. Through her Facebook page she reached out to Yeronga residents. They responded in droves.

Maps showing the flooded streets in Yeronga and Fairfield, and some parts of Rocklea, were highlighted and volunteers went out each day with boxes of drinks, sandwiches, home-baked goods and fruit.

"What was good this time, with the volunteers who went out and into those homes, they were able to quickly identify the people who were sitting in their homes, thinking they had no one to help them."

Billy, who after five years has just left, was another tireless community worker who did an amazing job at the centre assisting our community.

Community Plus+ also has a contract for QSTARS, a service managed by Tenants Queensland that offer free advice to tenants.

You can support the fantastic work of Community Plus+ Yeronga Community Centre by donating via their website or by contacting the centre.



Yeronga Community Centre
Open Mon-Fri 8am to 2pm. Closed Sat & Sun
P: (07) 3848 2285
W: <http://communityplus.org.au>



Baladi Helping Out

Giving away coffee was harder than they thought when Baladi owners Farah and Anton wanted to help out after the flood.

For the past three years, Farah Obeid and Anton Hudak have become an integral part of the local community, with their Baladi coffee van a fixture on the Brisbane Corso.

They've created a special place on the green. It's become a meeting ground for friends, cyclists, mothers' groups. Farah has an uncanny ability to remember names and coffee orders.

Their customers have become friends. Which is why when the flood came, the couple was deeply affected and desperate to give back.

"It's just strange, surreal and very sad," Farah says. "Even those who are back in their homes, some are still waiting for walls to be removed."

Anton adds: "You see those people, you know their lives, then this happens. But everyone flexes together, with acts of kindness. It's how it should be."

The couple, whose Yeronga home wasn't affected, decided to offer free coffees from their driveway. The hardest part of this, was

M.Y. Roasting Café

A Yeronga café owner was overwhelmed with the community support she received to rebuild after the flood



First a robbery, then Covid-19, now a flood M.Y. Roasting Café owner Sharon Yeh says she's ready to collect her resilience medal.

But thanks to the help of a supportive and generous community, her and husband Ted Chen are back on their feet, and serving the delicious food and coffees which have earned them a loyal following in the area.

The couple migrated from Taiwan in 2018 and soon after opened their café here.

The last few years have been hard. They were forced to shut for two weeks after a Covid-19 case and then needed four weeks to rebuild after flood waters inundated the café to above knee height.

The serving counter and cabinets had to be replaced, they lost most their kitchenware and fridges were damaged. They were not insured.

But the community has rallied. A local resident made the

getting people to accept it.

"On Tuesday the water began to recede, and people started to come back to assess, so we thought we could invite them over to our place for coffee," Farah says.

"No one would let us do it."

Locals directed Channel 7 to Baladi and the pair featured on Sunrise, then a follow-up story in Woman's Day.

The best part of that was the number of people who contacted them from NSW, Queensland and South Australia, wanting to donate money for flood victims.

Farah was able to redirect them to GoFundMe pages and a substantial amount was raised.

The couple is looking ahead, and planning the next chapter in the Baladi story. They have just bought an old London red double-decker bus from a tour operator in Adelaide and are restoring it. It will eventually house a kitchen and seating area.

When it's registered, Farah says she'll bring it to the Corso for a cinema night for the community to enjoy.



Baladi
237 Brisbane Corso, Yeronga (near the rowing shed)
Open Tues-Fri 5am to 11am, Sat-Sun 6am to 11am. Closed Mon
W: <https://www.facebook.com/BaladiTrailer/>

cushions for the bench seating, the new counter and cabinets were built and installed for free as was the new signage.

When the flood was imminent, Sharon says about 10 local residents, helped them sand bag the café and move everything out. Chairs were stored into a garage up the street and the coffee machine was safely relocated up the road too.

"It was amazing. And when we came back, they were all helping us with cleaning and gurneying. I was speechless," Sharon says.

"The community has pushed us through this whole time."

In the days following the flood, Sharon and Ted gave away their bread, fresh food and fruit so it didn't go to waste.

Not reopening was never an option.

"You want to give up, but there is someone supporting you. Never did I think we would have an identity in Yeronga. But through this journey, we've been given so much help and we know we have an identity here."

"I cried for three days before we reopened. It was such a relief. It's easy to give but very hard to receive. People are very proud of us. We fall, we stand back up (covid), we fall, we stand back up (flood). Customers say every time you come back it's better."



M.Y. Roasting Café
82 Hyde Rd, Yeronga QLD 4104
Open Mon-Fri 6am to 2:30pm, Sat-Sun 7am to 2:30pm
P: (07) 3848 7870
W: <https://www.myroastingcafe.com.au>