



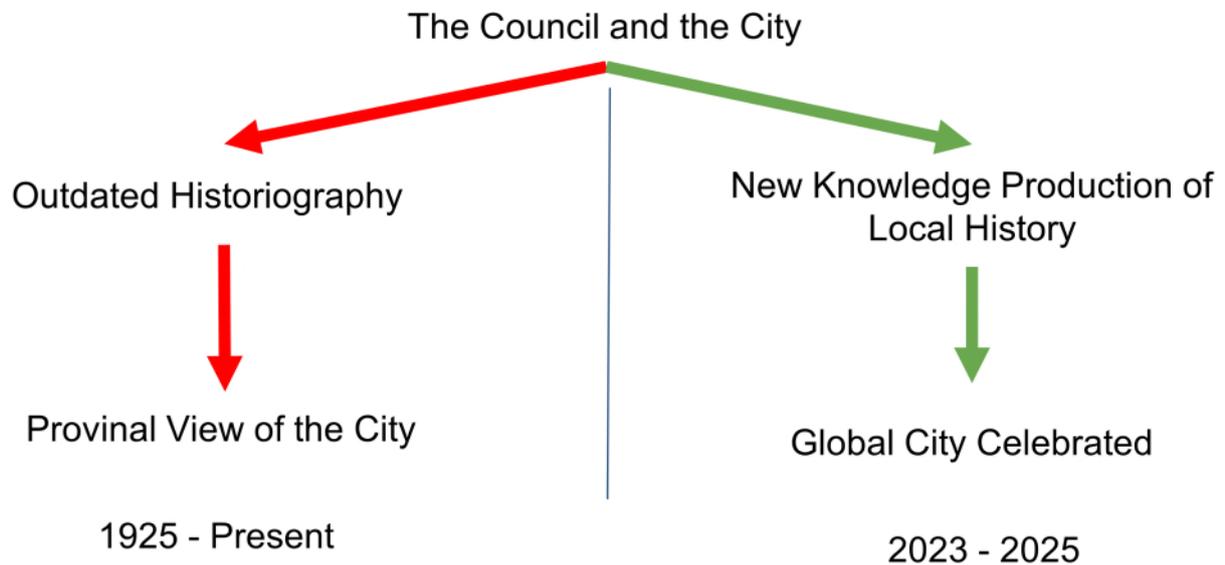
Looking to the Future for the Past

Thank you.

Thanks to Rob Law for having us at this pre-proposal meeting, and the Council for listen to our proposal.

We are a partnership of myself, Dr Neville Buch, Ryan Jones, and Dan Kelly, and we represent three significant local businesses of the mind, print, and digital worlds.

The Paths Taken



The Council and the City wants to see itself as Global.

However, the majority of history production, unfortunately, is still stuck in an outdated historiography where the connections of the City's past to bigger worlds are overlooked.

Until there is a new knowledge production where local history is seen reaching to other scales of understanding, the Global City will not be truly celebrated by Brisbane's residents.

What Global Cities are Doing For Local History Production and Enhancing Knowledge of its Residents on Place

“Virtue has been made of this necessity through the concept of "locality studies," whereby it is argued that, however universal the structures and processes may be, outcomes vary widely according to the particular mix of local circumstances and historical context.

...While geographers have been at the forefront of localities research, they have made very little contribution to studies on an international or continental scale or to debates about long-term changes...”

Richard Dennis. *Social Science History*. 1991, p. 273.



If Brisbane is to be seen as a Global City, it needs to look at how other Global Cities read their own past. Other Global Cities read their own histories in terms of the New Social History and in terms of how the modern nation is situated in a networked world.

Since the late 1980s, there has been a shift to the theory and methods of the new social history, in the knowledge production of Global Cities, places of higher education.

We need not fear that much of the impetus came from questionable postmodernist movements. Much of the thinking produced came more from the broad general social science tenets and the broad humanistic framework. Indeed, much of the new social histories produced now can be seen as post-postmodernist. Today, most of us are over “fragmentation” and are concerned for the compatibility for everyone’s agendas between traditional and critical paradigms.

The key point is that the new social histories are about bring people together in networks, places, and community structural evolution.

At the time when Richard Dennis is writing his study of applied history and geography, the British Economic and Social Research Council had sponsored a series of locality studies, each of which involved historians, economists, sociologists, and geographers.

As Richard Dennis points out in the quote, there is an opportunity for diverse outcomes. However, one of the criticisms that Dennis had in 1991 was there is also a failure to see the big picture in local studies.

What Global Cities are Doing
For Local History Production and Enhancing Knowledge of its Residents on Place



“It is not commonplace for Australian local histories to seek to link their themes and conclusions to the wider context of Australian history...But I would not conclude from this that it is now impossible to relate local to national history...In any case, we can never fully comprehend the complexity and contradictions of Australian history without further local studies.”

Richard Waterhouse. *Locating the New Social History*. 2009. pp 12-13.

That was 1991. In 2009, in the Australian context, Richard Waterhouse signalled a move to scaling local studies to the new social history. The last few lines of Waterhouse’s work reads, and quote:

“Perhaps a rediscovery of and recommitment to the methods and subject matter of social history will help to deepen our knowledge of Australia's past both at the local and national level. We have come to understand history as rooted in the humanities, but there is value in also re-asserting it as a social science, a discipline partly reliant on sophisticated and complex statistical methods and approaches.”

The point needs to be made that this is not some piece of postmodern misdirection. Waterhouse’s article was receptively published in the conservative *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*.

What Global Cities are Doing
For Local History Production and Enhancing Knowledge of its Residents on Place

“Participatory mapping has emerged as a dominant paradigm in participatory approaches to international planning, conservation management, and community development in the Global South and is considered a technology with emancipatory potentials for subordinate or marginalized groups.”

Sletto, Bjørn Ingunn. 'We Drew What We Imagined': Participatory Mapping, Performance, and the Arts of Landscape Making. 2009, p. 443



At the time Waterhouse is writing in Australia, Bjørn Sletto, the Norwegian-born geographer in the School of Architecture at the University of Texas Austin, in very postmodernist language, discussed the pitfalls and success from community-based localised mapping.

It demonstrated, from one ideological perspective, what Waterhouse meant as the value of the social science. Another perspective, closer to Waterhouse, and inside our Australian and Queensland local context, is our Mapping Brisbane History Project.

Period	BCC Community History Funding of the MBH Project	Budget Amount Provided From Council	Total Amount of MBH Investment ¹	Page Views	Sessions	Avg Time On Page (min)	Bounce Rate (%)	Returning Visitors	Brisbane Page Views	Brisbane Sessions	Brisbane Avg Time On Page (min)	Brisbane Bounce Rate (%)	Brisbane Returning Visitors (%)
2012-2013	Mapping Brisbane Southside History Project (MBSH) Pilot Study	\$6,800	\$8,600	Note: No Online data for Pilot Project and No City Level data for Brisbane before 2016									
2014-2015	Southside Snapshots Project	\$4,070	\$6,510	2,098	864	1:14	57.12%	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0
2016	Project Paused	No Funding		5,235	2,408	1:50	52.34%	10.80%	2,975	1,341	1:57	49.59%	11.80%
2017-2018	Mapping Brisbane History Project	\$22,000	\$30,337	13,030	7,624	3:59	24.33%	11.20%	9,845	5,619	4:03	20.91%	12.70%
	Totals (unique count)	\$32,870	\$45,447	20,363	10,896	2:21	44.60%	7.33%	12,820	6,960	3:00	35.25%	12.25%

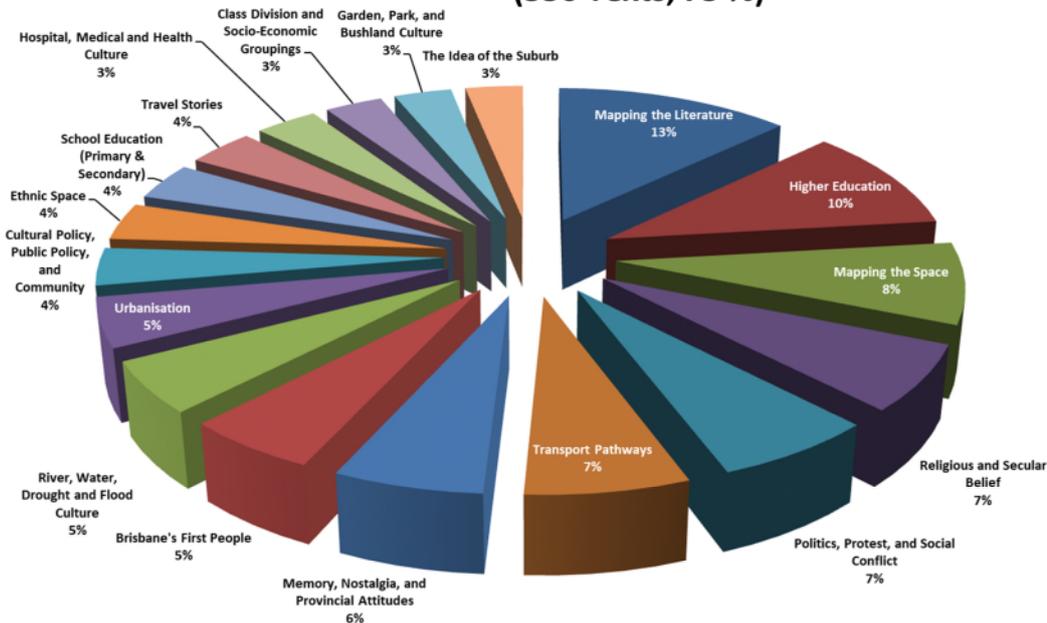
¹ Calculated by combining Minimal Amount for Professional Value (\$25 per hour), Minimal Amount for Voluntary Labour Value (\$29 per hour), and Other Expenses

The website project involved 42 persons across 37 partnerships of local and Queensland history and geographic organisations. The strength of Mapping Brisbane History website is that it has been created from wide community interaction, with local history organisations contributing their knowledge to the project.

The purpose of the site is that everyone can have an opportunity to learn about the history of Brisbane in the spatial dimension. History as time-space. And thinking about history in that modern and social science way, the importance of networks appears in the work of historical geography. You discover that various sites across Brisbane were interconnected, and those exchanges change over time. You can see how small scaled units are connected to bigger ones.

It has been a major investment by the Council for the last six year in the community history grants. Our team, however, invested much more, and it is now time to look to a commerce element to justify the investment, while retaining the community ethic. We are looking to the future for the past.

Largest Thematic Slices from NLA-JSTOR Search for the MBH-HPQ Projects (350 Texts, 75 %)

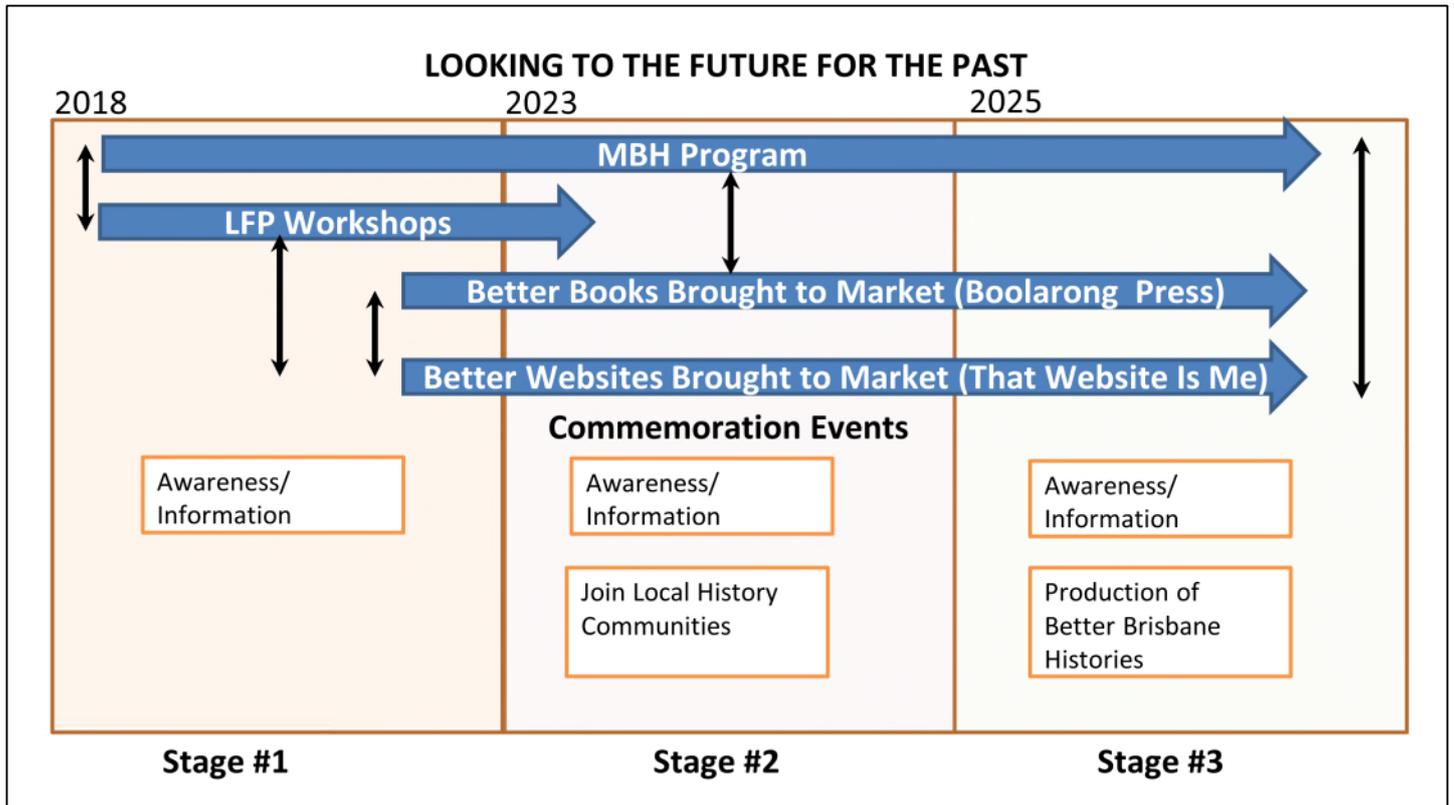


n. NLA Trove =
417
n. JSTOR = 46
Total n. = 463

15 Items doubled in other framed themes = 3%

The future is a compatibilist and inclusive, and yes, *grand* narrative of Brisbane as a Global City. With all credit to Denver Beanland's recent book, "Brisbane - Australia's New World City", I have a much more diverse vision, and one that pays more attention to Australian and global cultural and social transmission, beyond the narrative of the Brisbane City Council. One of the image of my recent literature review, here, shows the best of Brisbane's current new social history.

From an extensive literature review, revealing over 450 of the best scholarly works on Brisbane's history and geography, we can discover the potential to create the larger narrative for Brisbane as a Global City. The key point is that as excellent as this data is, it is the primary sources, and currently they do not bring together the stories shared from and for Brisbane residents.



So what we are proposing is a long-term commercially funded project that leads into and through the three important bicentennial and centennial related events for Queensland, and for the Moreton Bay region and Brisbane City. The events are described in our conceptual plan.

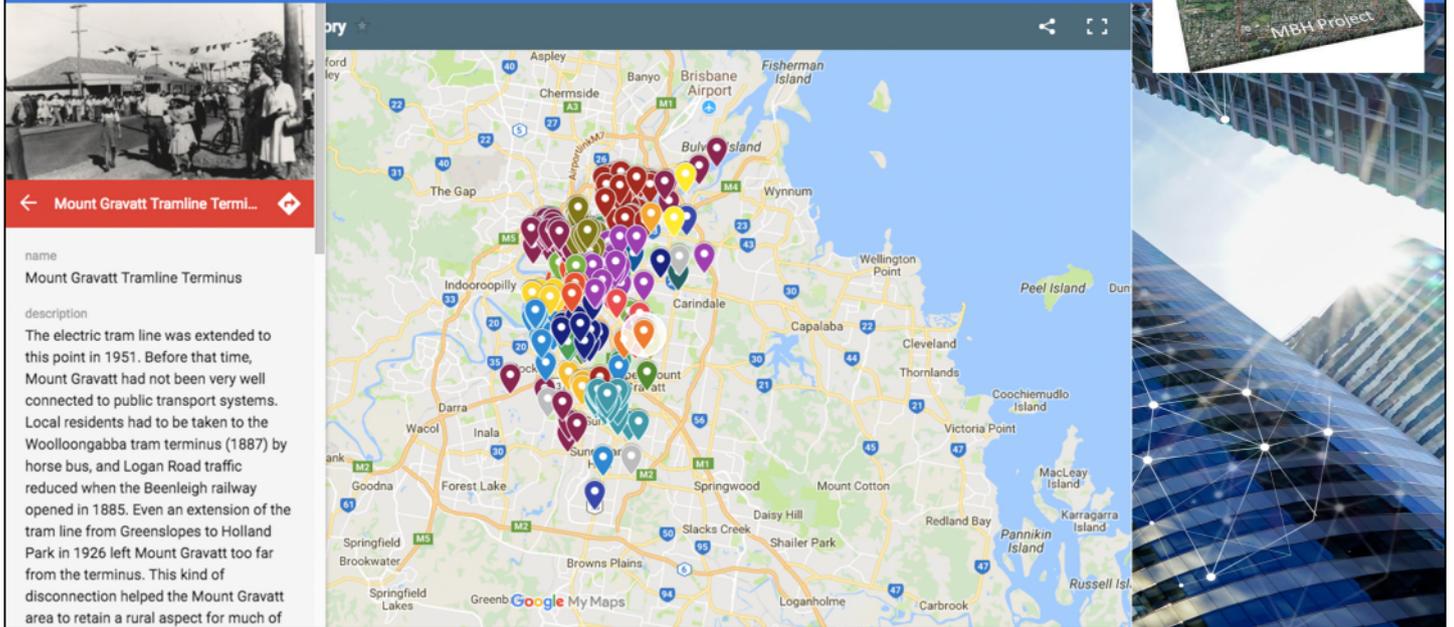
The KPIs which will be measured throughout the project are:

1. the levels of awareness or information in the thinking of Brisbane residents on their own city's histories;
2. the levels of participation in Brisbane's local history communities; and
3. the levels in the production of quality Brisbane histories.

The outcomes we will deliver is the new knowledge production where local history is seen reaching to other scales of understanding and the Global City will be truly celebrated by Brisbane's residents.

To get us there, there are four major mechanisms, and I will describe them in the next four slides.

MBH Program



The Mapping Brisbane History website will be a primary tool for knowledge production.

It is an evolving database and research tool.

The great advantage of the Mapping Brisbane History Website is that it brings together the younger digital and older paper audiences.

The older members of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, and the Brisbane History Group, have not only been very supportive of the Mapping Brisbane History Website, many of these members have been active in the contribution of historical data which has been reframed by the project team members.

We want to extensively continue that development.

LFP Writers Workshops



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



Our proposal is inclusive of the City. Our team can not do all of the knowledge production, but we can lead the way for those Brisbane residents who have a passion to be writers of Brisbane history and geography, in any genre:- novels, dramas, memoirs, or any field in the humanities and social sciences.

Amateur writers are very hopeful that they can write on history and geography with insightful thoughts. For an educated society that can only be achieved by training in the applied discipline.

For a short period of time, there was a revival of Brisbane local histories when the Centre of Applied History operated at the University of Queensland. If the universities have abandoned local studies through misguided economic imperatives, then the opportunity is there for the Council to deliver for the benefit of the City.

Periodical workshops in Brisbane City Council libraries for aspiring writers, even experienced writers, can greatly lift that knowledge production which will make a celebrative success of 2023-2025 City commemorations.

New Knowledge Production Of Local History

Until there is a new knowledge production where local history is seen reaching other scales of understanding, the Global City will not be truly celebrated by Brisbane's residents.

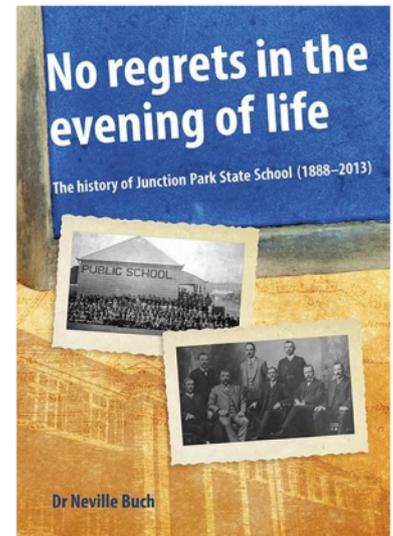
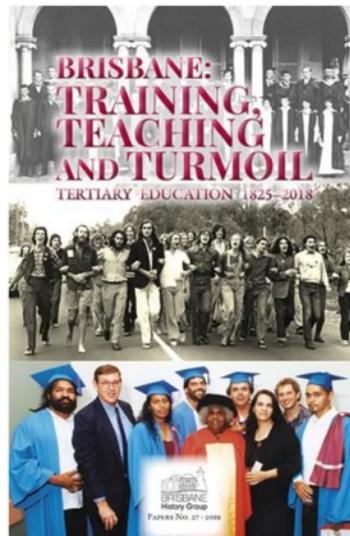
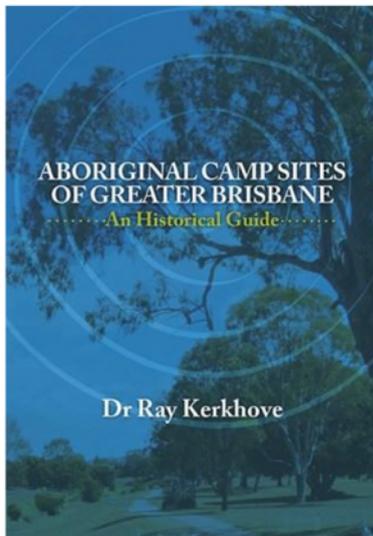


Assisting new and old, and much better trained, Brisbane authors may greatly lift new knowledge production.

But in itself it does get us to production. And here is the real genius of our proposal.

We are the team that can deliver the synergy of website technology and hardcopy text, capturing both digital and paper audiences.

Better Books Brought to Market



Boolarong Press is the leading publisher of Queensland and Brisbane local history.

With better informed and trained writers, new books of historical fictions and histories can offered for the consideration of Boolarong Press.

Publication would then be matter of a negotiation between the writer and Boolarong Press; In particular Boolarong Press anticipates a large market demand for a comprehensive book series for Brisbane suburbs, using the established local history publications.

With the movement into the commemoration period, Boolarong Press is well placed to print local studies and other items from Council to prepare and celebrate the City's bicentennial and centennial.

Better Websites Brought to Market

Synergy of local history, books and the digital world.

1. Linking physical books with the digital online world
2. Historical data and stories better represented through online platforms
3. Larger audience reach of quality local history
4. Increasing local participation for the digital industry

“That Website is Me” is the high quality web design and management of Ryan Jones. In the six years with Dr Neville Buch and the Brisbane Southside History Network, Mr Jones has taken Brisbane’s history data and translating it into interactive websites.

This has been a slow entrepreneurial work but it has already created ongoing significant digital presence for Brisbane residents.

However, with the Council’s partnership, we are on the cusp of taking the enterprise to whole other level. The key idea is bringing all of the elements and mechanisms together into “Looking to the future for the past” website. It will network with relevant web pages of Council and connect all of Brisbane’s quality local history websites.

With the website and more, we will bring books and websites together for the future younger generations to better invest into the future for the past.

As we will be getting better local history writers through the workshop program, authors may want to put part of their work online. Website content writers certainly will be needing technical support.

“That Website is Me” is one option, but it is an excellent choice for writers with Mr Jones as experienced professional in the print-digital synergy.

Jones can offer these website packages for local historians and Brisbane’s local history communities; and the local history organisations can look for funding through the Council’s Community History Grants.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

02. Partner with local businesses to bring unused space and laneways to life

04. Incentivise social enterprises and start-ups to locate in empty suburban shop fronts

In concluding, there can be no doubt that our proposal fits perfectly with Brisbane's Future Blueprint.

Our vision is a city of neighbourhoods, understood well in the different dimensions of Brisbane's residents together.

I and many PHA colleagues have written insightfully on the histories of laneways, marketplaces, suburban shop fronts in Brisbane. For example, in my book, *No Regrets in the Evening of Life*, I connect the Jones' shop front with the community's engagement in public and primary education.

I have engaged my colleagues for their expertise in past and ongoing projects, and I will be doing the same for "Looking to the Future for the Past.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

02. Work with schools and P&Cs to open up ovals to community groups outside school hours
03. Open up under-used public land for community sport and recreation

Local environmental histories is an important knowledge production in the new social history.

There can be no doubt that “Mapping Brisbane History” is the cutting-edge work in historical geography, not only in Brisbane, but for Australia. There are a few other quality local mapping history websites, but none come anywhere close to our comprehension, and our social science in theory and method.

As far as the history work on schools and their engagement with community groups, *No Regrets in the Evening of Life*, is way above every other study in Queensland.

And I have expertise on the historical use for community sport and recreation in the Norman Creek Catchment.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

01. Create new community parks in Brisbane's suburbs with facilities for the local community to enjoy.
02. Bring new fresh food markets to Brisbane, including a new seafood market.
03. Bring our river to life with more access and infrastructure for recreation, tourism and events.
04. Make Mt Coot-tha a leisure and adventure precinct with a new zipline, picnic areas and trails.
05. Bring more festivals and markets to the suburbs.

There are heritage listings and Council park signage for the river, parklands, and mountains. But the simple fact is that listings and signages is no substitute for real and substantive historical knowledge.

Listings and signages may signal for Brisbane residents local history works elsewhere, but why would Brisbane residents care if the big picture new social histories of Brisbane are not promoted or accessible.

To date, there is web-blogs, museum displays, and photographic booklet on the Brisbane Markets, but there is no binding narrative of markets in Brisbane and their social and economic role in Queensland. This is what my dear friends, Dr Joanne Scott and the late Dr Ross Laurie, did in *Showtime: A History Of The Brisbane Exhibition*.

There are multitude of books written on the Brisbane River, but only bits and pieces written on Mount Coot-tha and Mount Gravatt. To date, there are no substantive histories on many of the themes of Brisbane as a Global City.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



Protect the Brisbane backyard and our unique character



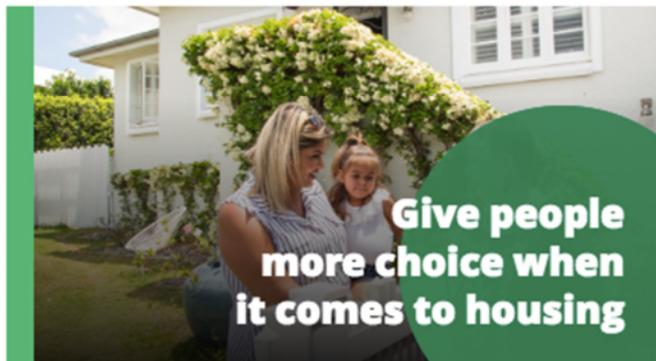
Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

04. Protect our character and heritage by demanding greater enforcement powers and penalties from the State Government.

The question has to be asked, how can the City's character and heritage can be understood without a production of the new social history.

For a majority of Brisbane residents whose passions are beyond the built environment, heritage does not go anywhere close enough to explain why Queenslanders and other traditional designs should be preserved. We know how effective heritage legislation is in Queensland!

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

01. Facilitate a wide range of housing types and sizes to cater for all Brisbane residents.

Whatever their value, both heritage and the lost history movements fail to connect the dots, sufficiently. That may be an uncomfortable truth in the shifting trends of scholarship, but it is the facts of the humanities and the social science viewed in the big picture. The trends in family and property histories also are extremely episodic and disconnected to the stories of the City.

Only the new social history, which is current mainstream Australian historiography, can address the questions of Brisbane residents living together.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



**Ensure best
practice design that
complements the
character of Brisbane**

Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

06. Preserve our city's Queenslanders and other traditional designs.

The new social history provides the knowledge production where Brisbane residents are able to understand how Queenslanders and other traditional designs worked in the past, and how it can work in the future.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



**Get people home
quicker and safer
with more travel
options**



Looking to the Future for the Past
Big-Picture New Social History

05. Deliver better public transport for the suburbs.

Likewise, you will not convince Brisbane residents on options for better public transport for the suburbs until they understand the historical pathways of Brisbane. The local studies published, and will continually to be published, on the Mapping Brisbane History website provides that understanding.

Brisbane's Future Blueprint



**Empower and
engage residents**

Looking to the Future for the Past *Big-Picture New Social History*

01. Give residents better access to development information and history with a new easy to use website.

Finally, the Brisbane's Future Blueprint wants to "Give residents better access to development information and history with a new easy to use website". This is the "The Looking to the Future for the Past" but much, much more.

This is the
“The Looking to the Future for the Past”
but much, much more...



Thank you.