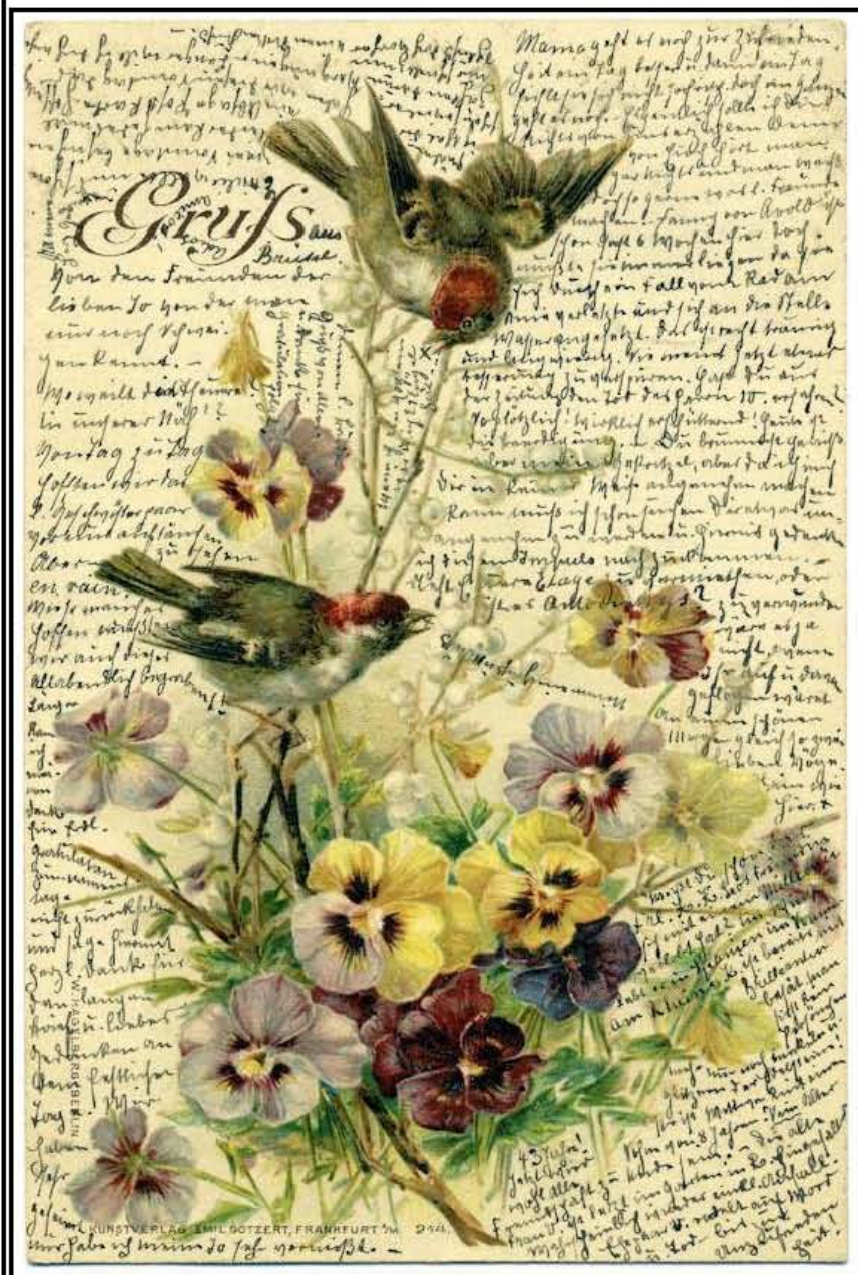


An early postcard, printed by chromolithography. This German post card has the added fascination of the sender's handwriting skilfully interwoven amongst the existing design and so creating a unique artwork.



George Aldridge who came to South Australia in 1847 a well-known publican he was associated with the majestic Prince of Wales and Price Alfred Hotels.

In 1854 he was appointed a Lieutenant in the South Australian Volunteers. He married Sarah Jane Brown on 4th September 1856. George and Sarah were the grand parents of composer and pianist Percy Grainger.

An obituary and description of George Aldridge's funeral is published in the South Australian Chronicle 20th December 1879 page 6.

Would any members have any more of the early German printed South Australian postcards.

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Recently we had Ray Garlick give us a display of Trams in King William Street, Adelaide.

His first statement about his tram display was "If you want to get on a tram you need a ticket"

Which reminds me of a story about one of our younger members getting on the Adelaide Glenelg tram a few years ago.

Someone asked him if he had a ticket. His answer was that he was looking for the conductor.

A senior member of our society apparently looked at him and said something like "We haven't had conductors for years"

Hmm, now what was he going to do, eventually he was able to buy a ticket and continue his journey.

Good one Glen.





## Surfers Paradise history

### Jim Cavill and Surfers Paradise

Around 1920, Brisbane hotelier, Jim Cavill, acquired twenty five acres (10 hectares) of land in an area known as Elston - the place we know now as Surfers Paradise.

The name Jim Cavill is always connected with the history of Surfers Paradise. However, to understand the full story, we need to first look back at an earlier age.

### Farming days

In 1869, James Beattie was one of many first selectors or farmers to travel down to the south coast and hinterland. Beattie settled south of an area which the Kombumeri people called Jarri Parika (today's Narrownneck). He selected 80 acres on the northern bank of the Nerang River.

The location of his farm was not far from the future Cavill Avenue. Beattie built a shingle-roomed cottage, a barn for his produce and a jetty on the river bank. Around him, farmers were just barely surviving on their farms or selections, growing crops such as maize and sugar cane.

### Meyers Ferry

A German immigrant called Johann Meyer acquired Beattie's land in 1877. He developed a short-lived sugar plantation and mill on the property. Meyer quickly found, as many would in the future, that there was money to be made in providing accommodation and services to visitors and travellers. He built a private ferry service over the Nerang River as well as the Main Beach Hotel near the river bank in 1887. He financed his new ventures by selling at auction in Brisbane, The Main Beach Estate. A Brisbane syndicate subdivided the land and named the newly surveyed streets (sandy tracks) after world champion scullers of the day: Edward Hanlon, Edward Trickett, Elias Laycock and Thomas Clifford. The remainder of the sugar plantation was auctioned as the Newhaven Estate in 1888.

## POST CARD

Hove. Prior to 1954, the facility was known as the Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers. The facility provided health care services and housing for single young women and girls who were



pregnant or who had recently given birth. The home also housed children in need of institutional care. An adoption service was run from the facility. Kate Cocks Memorial

Babies' Home closed in 1976, the Methodist Church developed the land into an aged care facility currently called Eldercare Oxford Retirement Village. The Kate Cocks name continues as a day care centre.

The Home played a role in the forcible removal of Aboriginal babies and children from their families known as the Stolen Generations, and in November 2011 the Uniting Communities and the Uniting Church Synod of SA, as the Methodist Church became known, formally apologised to generations of mothers who may have experienced coercion to give their babies up for adoption or the forcible removal of babies and children in their care.







## Kate Cocks

Kate Cocks (born Fanny Kate Boadicea Cocks at Moonta on 5 May 1875, died 20 August 1954) was a welfare worker and the British Empire's first policewoman. She is best known for her work with unmarried mothers and their babies. The Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home named after her in honour of her work.

In 1900, Cocks returned to the Yorke Peninsula area to teach at a school in Thomas Plains for a year. After this, Cocks moved to the suburbs of Adelaide to teach at the Edwardstown Industrial School (1898-1949) of Edwardstown, which had opened on

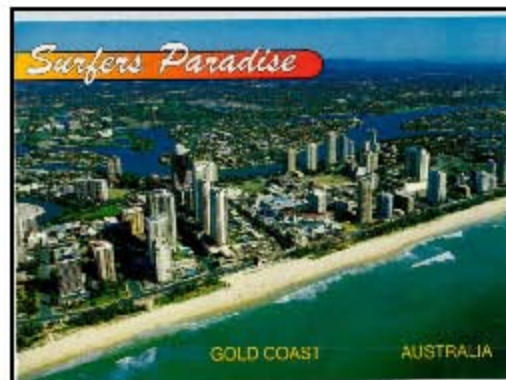
the site of the former Girls Reformatory on Naldera Street, Edwardstown (Glandore). Cocks served as schoolmistress and sub-matron there.

In 1903, Cocks joined the State Children's Council, which had been formed in 1886 as part of the Destitute Persons Amendment Act, 1886 as a clerk and in 1906 was appointed the state's first probation officer for juvenile first offenders.

In 1915 Cocks was appointed as South Australia's first woman police constable. Her responsibilities included female offences around youth sexuality and alcoholism, prostitution, and solicitation.

After retirement in 1935, Kate Cocks worked with the Methodist Women's Home Mission Association to care for homeless girls, and she served as voluntary superintendent until 1951. In 1936 the Methodist Church purchased a home in the Brighton area to serve as a care facility for unmarried mothers and their newborn babies, and Cocks moved to the area in 1937 to act as Superintendent.

The facility became known as the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home in 1954. The Home was located in Wattle Street, Brighton now part of



Main Surf Beach.

In 1889, Meyer's Main Beach Hotel was declared a postal receiving office, officially titled Elston. A postal address meant an official place name and a mark on the map. People would still refer to the place for a long time as Meyer's Ferry.

### A village called Elston

The Postmaster in Southport, a Mr Palmer, named the receiving office near the surf beach after his wife's home village in Nottinghamshire, England. By the 1890s, the first entrepreneur of the area, Johann Meyer faced financial ruin and, after he died in 1901, the Main Beach Hotel licence lapsed. Elston was without a hotel until Jim Cavill built the Surfers Paradise Hotel in 1925.

### Second land auction

As early as 1917, a Brisbane real estate company, Arthur Blackwood Ltd, offered for sale the *Surfers Paradise Estate*.

The auction was unsuccessful, partly because access to the area was still difficult. It was a great promotional name though and, in Jim Cavill's day, he lobbied strongly to have the name Elston changed to Surfers Paradise.

### Opening the Jubilee Bridge and building the South Coast Road

The nearest railway station to Elston was located over the unbridged Nerang River at the town of Southport. The opening of the Jubilee Bridge in 1925 (celebrating 50 years since the first auction of land at Southport in 1875) and the extension of the South Coast Road brought a revolution to the south coast.

Motor cars could now travel along a road which bordered the seaside villages of Elston and Burleigh Heads.

Estates such as *Ocean Wave*, *Northcliffe*, *Mermaid Beach* and *Miami*

### Visitors and travellers

By 1888, a horse and coach service was operating from Southport three times a week.

The coach crossed the Nerang River at Meyers Ferry and then travelled along the beach. Johann Meyer's family operated a horse and buggy service from the Southport hotels, offering visitors a pleasure trip to the



