brisbane inspirationalists

The Balfour Signature Cocktail Menu
Charles Kingsford Smith was born on the 9th of February 1897 at Riverview Terrace, Hamilton in Brisbane.

During the First World War, Charles enlisted in the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF) where he became a signaller and despatch-rider serving in Gallipoli, Egypt and France. In 1917 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps (RoFC) and earned his pilot wings, joining the No. 23 Squadron RFC on the Western Front in July 1917. For this achievement & gallantry in battle, he was awarded the Military Cross. In early 1919, after the war ended, Charles joined Tasmanian Cyril Maddocks in England to form Kingsford Smith, Maddocks Aeros Ltd, flying a joyriding service mainly. Continuing to offer joy flights alongside flying airmail upon his return to Australia.

The one epic flight, above all his many others, that established “Smithy” as one of the greatest pioneering pilots of all time departed on 31st of May 1928. With their sights set on Australia he took off from California with Charles Ulm and two American crewmen in a F.VII/3m monoplane which they named the Southern Cross. For aircraft of this era it was an immense distance, entirely over water.

The flight was split up into three stages, the first from California to Hawaii, Hawaii to Fiji, then continuing from Fiji to Australia. Fighting storms and near exhaustion, they completed the journey in under 84 flying hours.

For his achievements, Kingsford Smith was given honorary rank in the RAAF and awarded the Air Force Cross, before receiving a knighthood in 1932 for his contribution to aviation. His legacy helped to show the feasibility of air passenger and mail services.
Leading a life as seamstress, women’s rights and labour activist, Emma Miller was born on 26 June 1839 at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. Her political interest began as a child when she would walk with her Chartist father to political meetings up to ten miles (16 km) away where he influenced her to rebel against the existing social order. In 1879, Emma Miller, now married with children, first migrated to Brisbane where as a shirtmaker, Emma helped form a female workers’ union in a fight for equal rights. She gave evidence at the 1891 Royal Commission into Shops, Factories and Workshops, highlighting the existence of many sweatshops that exploited women workers.

Emma Miller championed equal pay and equal opportunity for women and was foundation president of the Woman’s Equal Franchise Association (1894-1905), urging legislation to grant women the franchise (the vote) on the principle of one adult one vote; although its policy was similar to Labor’s she denied the association was allied to any political party. She became president of the Women Workers Political Organisation (Qld) in 1903 & in 1908 she was one of two women to attend a Commonwealth Labor conference, only the second time a woman was a delegate.

On ‘Black Friday’ of the 1912 strike, Mrs Miller led a large contingent of women to Parliament House, braving the batons of foot and mounted police. It has been said that she stuck a hatpin into the horse of Police Commissioner Cahill, who was thrown and injured.

Her steadfast position as a Labor agitator earned her the proud title of ‘Mother Miller’ and ‘the grand old labor woman of Queensland’.
Dick Atkin was born in Brisbane in 1867 to Robert & Mary Elizabeth Atkin, after his father was badly injured in a horse riding accident his mother moved him and his siblings back to his grandmother’s place in Wales. She proved a great influence on him and he acquired from her an egalitarian instinct.

Winning a scholarship, he was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. Initially struggling financially at the junior bar, his intelligence and work ethic were recognised and he became a successful barrister. In 1913, he became a judge of the King’s Bench Division of the High Court, receiving a knighthood. Shortly after was elevated to the Court of Appeal. His judgments were of exceptional quality and in 1928 this led to his appointment to the House of Lords.

Late in his life, Lord Atkin represented Australia on the War Crimes Commission and championed the new concept of ‘crimes against humanity’. Despite a successful career, Dick Atkin remained a humble man. He enjoyed the company of family and ordinary folk in the Welsh village of Aberdovey, which he called home.

One hundred and fifty years after his birth, his brilliant judgments still guide the laws of our nation and the rest of the common law world. Such as, in Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] AC 562, Lord Atkin revolutionised the law with the ‘neighbour principle’, which gave a remedy to consumers injured by defective products. His monumental dissent in the executive detention case of Liversidge v Anderson [1942] AC 206 which upheld the value of individual liberty and the rule of law. His judgments on many subjects reflected a compassionate understanding of the conditions in which ordinary individuals lived and worked.
QUEENSLAND GIRL  $20

Tanqueray Gin, Lustau Sherry, peppercorn and black tea gomme, egg white

LILIAN DAPHNE MAYO (1895–1982)

A sculptor and art advocate, was born on 1 October 1895 at Balmain North, Sydney, she was the youngest child of English-born parents. Early in Daphne’s childhood the family moved to Brisbane where she attended the Eton High School for Girls, Hamilton. However, she ended her schooling in 1910, when she was 15 on account of chronic asthma.

In 1911–13 she undertook a diploma in art craftsmanship at the Brisbane Central Technical College, studying under the art master R. Godfrey Rivers and specialising in modelling under L. J. Harvey. In 1914 she was awarded Queensland’s first publicly funded travelling art scholarship, sponsored by the local Wattle Day League. When her departure overseas was delayed by the outbreak of World War I, she attended Julian Ashton’s Sydney Art School and worked with the Ipswich monumental mason Frank Williams to gain experience in stone carving.

Fêted as ‘Queensland’s girl sculptress’, Mayo received large public commissions, including the Brisbane City Hall tympanum (1927–30), the Queensland Women’s War Memorial in Anzac Square (1929–32) and relief panels for the original chapel at Mount Thompson Crematorium (1934). These works, ornamenting Classical Revival buildings, called for conventional treatment and were carved in situ with the help of assistants. For the largest work, the City Hall tympanum, she created a pageant of colonial conquest, ‘The Progress of Civilisation in the State of Queensland’. Her contract fee of £5750 was reportedly the highest yet received by an Australian woman artist. To mark her success she purchased land on the crest of Highgate Hill, near her childhood home; she moved her City Hall studio to the site and added a cottage.
An engineering pioneer of Australia, Bradfield was known as “the father of modern Sydney.” Famous for his lead roles in the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the underground railway system, with The Sydney Harbour Bridge becoming one of the city’s most-famous landmarks.

After completing his education at the University of Sydney, Bradfield served as a draftsman for Queensland Railways and in 1891 joined the New South Wales Public Works Department. He was involved in a number of projects, including those for the Cataract Dam, located near Sydney, and the Burrinjuck Dam on the Murrumbidgee River.

In 1912 he submitted a proposal to Australia’s parliament for plans for a suspension bridge that would cross Sydney Harbour, though it wasn’t until 1922 that the Sydney Harbour Bridge Act was passed. The act allowed for either a cantilever or an arch design, the latter having become possible because of advances in steelmaking. Bradfield decided to pursue an arch design, and construction began in 1924. From 1930 Bradfield supervised work on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which finally opened in 1932.

These works allowed for the cantilevered design of the Story Bridge that can be seen from our rooftop bar. Bradfield was integral to this massive undertaking in Brisbane and consulted on the engineering works from 1934-1940, as well as advisory work for the Hornibrook Highway project near Brisbane, and planning and design work for the St. Lucia site of the University of Queensland.
ELEANOR ELIZABETH BOURNE (1878-1957)

Eleanor Elizabeth Bourne, the first Queensland woman to study medicine. Born at South Brisbane on 4 December 1878, she was educated at the Brisbane Central School for Girls, the Leichhardt Street State School and the Brisbane Grammar School, whose trustees awarded her an extension scholarship. Her education was highly awarded finishing her senior examination with distinction, and winning the Grahame and the John West gold medals. Eleanor was awarded the Sydney University Exhibition in 1896, and this scholarship enabled her to study medicine. Despite a severe attack of typhoid fever during the course, she won honour passes in four of the annual examinations and graduated with a bachelor of medicine and master of surgery on 6 July 1903.

In 1903-07 Dr Bourne was resident medical officer at the Women’s Hospital, Sydney, at the Brisbane General Hospital, where she was the first woman resident, and at the Hospital for Sick Children, Brisbane. Disagreements with the department and her heavy workload reinforced her desire for war service and, though dedicated to child health, she applied for leave in January 1916. She went to England at her own expense and served as a Lieutenant of the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Endell Street military hospital, London, staffed entirely by women. Promoted to Major in 1917, she became medical officer to Queen Mary’s Army Auxiliary Corps.

Her continued work in the care of Queensland’s children ensured that she has left her mark on the health of our nation. She was a celebrated vice principal at the University of Queensland where the Bourne wing continues to inspire future medical professionals.
Born at the Point McLeay Mission in South Australia, David Unaipon, an Ngarrindjeri ('the people who belong to this land'), has played a vital role in the evolution of Australian. One of Australia's great inventors he is famous for his innovation of the mechanical hand tool for shearing sheep that converted curvilinear motion to the straight line movement. Known as Australia's Leonardo da Vinci, David had made a basic design for the helicopter in 1914, 22 years before the first operational vehicle, based on the workings of the boomerang. He was a known expert on ballistics and is credited with as many as 19 patents on inventions.

This great preacher, who was discriminated against at a young age for belonging to the aboriginal race, raised his voice against the ill-treatment of people belonging to his community. From 1890 David was a member of Aborigines Friends Association, travelling widely to promote the cause of Aboriginal rights. David helped many other members of his community to gain a better social status.

The jack of all trades, David was the first published Australian Aboriginal author, his articles were predominantly based on the rights of Aboriginal people and their traditional stories providing an alternative view of Australia right back form 1924. A book originally written by David, but plagiarized by a Scottish Anthropologist was reprinted in 1998 under his original title, Legendary Tales of the Australian Aborigines, and credited to himself.

In 1953, Unaipon was awarded a Coronation Medal. He died on 7 February 1967 at the age of ninety five. In 1985, he was posthumously awarded the FAW Patricia Weickhardt Award for Aboriginal writers. In 1988, the University of Queensland started the David Unaipon Award which is given annually to help Aboriginal writers to get their books published. In recognition to his contributions, David Unaipon features on Australian fifty dollar notes since 1995. Davids great contribution to Australian society has helped us start the process to an equal and integrated society, an evolution we truly believe in.
Brisbane's recorded history dates from 1799, when Matthew Flinders explored Moreton Bay on an expedition from Port Jackson.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, is named after Sir Thomas Brisbane (1773-1860), a British soldier and colonial administrator who was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. Sir Thomas had a long career in the armies, as from 1793 to 1798 he served in Flanders as a Captain, from 1795 to 1799 in the West Indies as a Major, and from 1800 to 1803 he commanded the 69th Regiment in Jamaica as a Lieutenant-Colonel, earning high praise from the governor, Sir George Nugent. He then served in England from 1803 to 1805, only ceasing due to his poor health. In 1815 he applied for appointment as governor of New South Wales, but the post was not then vacant, so he waited and commanded a brigade in the American war during the time until 7 November 1821 where he arrived at the colony and took over from Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 1 December.

A permanent settlement in the Brisbane region was not founded until 1823, when New South Wales Governor Thomas Brisbane was petitioned by free settlers in Sydney to send their worst convicts elsewhere. The area that was chosen became the city of Brisbane in honour of Sir Thomas Brisbane reducing the crime rate in the colony. We respectfully acknowledge the Yuggera and Turrbal people as the traditional owners of the lands where Brisbane was founded.
The Balfour building today is a refurbished 1910 original Queenslander style home that was privately owned until the end of World War Two, where it became lodgings for the ex-serviceman of the war.

The classic asymmetrical bungalow, featuring heritage archways and a gable fretwork design is embraced by the owner of the Spicers group, Jude Turner who sees the heritage building as a wonderful opportunity to showcase Brisbane's historical architecture. In addition to this, inside the ‘Balfour’ the public corridors are serviced by “Art Balfour”, which is a collaborative initiative with Jan Manton Art Gallery, exhibiting contemporary Australian Art. A new show is hung each quarter ensuring that repeat clientele are given the opportunity to experience the latest in Australian art trends.

THE HEART OF ART $20

666 Vodka, Yellow Chartreuse, lemon, Balfour bees honey, egg white, tobasco
The suburb of New Farm, being so close to the city centre was one of the first areas targeted by developers of purpose designed flats during the interwar period between 1918 and 1939. The ‘Simla’ building is historically identified as one of the first purpose-built flats in Brisbane in 1921 and features elements of the stylistic, middle-class housing, incorporating the classic Georgian Revival housing styles.

The property was originally erected and owned by Mrs Ada May Richards who lived in the ‘Mimosa’ building with her husband Arthur Edward Richards, which was adjacent to ‘Simla’ in Balfour Street. After the construction of ‘Simla’, Mrs Richards and her husband continued to reside at Mimosa where it was highly likely that the new ‘Simla’ development was constructed and utilized as a family investment.