



The History of BCG

“Moving Shop – May 2008”

On the 12th May 2008 BCG President, Darran Croft, sent an email message to committee members. The heading was ominously titled “Change of Venue”. The Bardon Bowls Club had been our home since August 2007 and now would no longer be opening on the BCG Monday and Tuesday meeting nights. The last meeting night at the Bardon Bowls Club would be the BCG Digital Sub Group meeting on Tuesday 20th May. The club needed to move again – and move soon! BCG would need a new venue for the Monday meeting on the 26th May. But move to where?

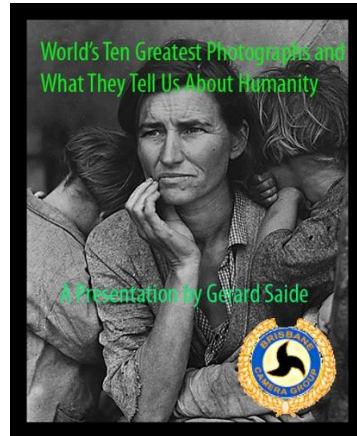
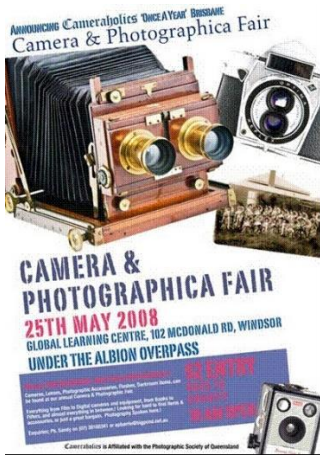
Darran outlined the key criteria for a new venue. They included

- Not more than 10 km from the CBD and preferably closer. The club was after all called “Brisbane”. It had been CBD based in the 50’s. Over time other clubs had formed in the suburbs while BCG remained close to the CBD.
- Capacity for 130 people. This was primarily a result of the large attendances at the BCG Digital Sub Group meetings.
- Parking on site and/or easy street parking.
- Prepared to pay up to \$125 rent per meeting.

There was an immediate hive of activity by both committee and rank and file members in the search for a new venue. High Schools, Church Halls, Community Centres, Leagues Clubs, Bowls Clubs, Arts Centres and Conference Centres were contacted. The leading contenders were the Chermside Bowls Club and the Jagera Arts Centre. The Jagera Arts Centre at Musgrave Park, West End, was close to the CBD but there were parking and security issues associated with it. The Chermside Bowls Club was about 8 km from the CBD but it ticked a lot of boxes. It could be an interim venue at least. It was tentatively booked for May 26th.

But another option was emerging. John Lomas was emailing out a regular BCG Digital Sub Group information newsletter during this search for a new venue. And then it struck him. He had included in the email a Cameraholics advertisement for their Annual Fair to be held on Sunday May 25th. It was, as usual, to be “Under the Albion Overpass” at the Albion Peace Centre / Global Learning Centre. John and many other BCG’ers had been to previous Cameraholics Fairs. BCG had a Cameraholics stand in previous years. How obvious! This would be a great home for BCG! But was it available?

Things now moved quickly. John contacted the Secretary and Treasurer of the Albion Peace Centre. Yes, Monday evenings were available. \$50 an evening. Yes, they would love to have us on board. We could store things there. There was tons of parking. There was a train station across the road. It was about 3km to the CBD. The building was huge. BCG committee gave the green light. Fred Schofield, the very helpful caretaker of the venue, met John to pass on a set of keys. The club moved cupboards and gear into the Albion Peace Centre on Saturday 24th May. At the inaugural meeting that Monday, May 26th 2008, Gerard Saide gave an inspirational and memorable presentation called “The World’s Greatest Photographs and What They Tell Us About Humanity”. This was a fitting start. BCG had moved for the 20th time. It was a good move.



The Cameraholics “Under The Albion Overpass” Flyer



One of a number of photographs taken by John Lomas in May 2008 to show BCG Committee the layout of the Albion Peace Centre. The blurry figure is Hilary from the Albion Peace Centre. For the first year or so, the audience was seated facing the screen adjacent to the kitchen and supper room. The “big” screen and the seating change to use the length of the venue came later.