

media release

for immediate release

CITY HALL TO BE HOME TO HISTORIC QUEENSLAND CAFÉ

Queensland's most iconic cafe, Shingle Inn, has gifted its original store fit-out to the city of Brisbane to be restored within the refurbished Brisbane City Hall.

Directors Andrew and Peter Bellchambers are delighted with the proposal by Brisbane City Council and believe both locals and visitors to Brisbane will enjoy stepping into the city's past at the historic Shingle Inn café, once it is reinstated.

Shingle Inn was established in Brisbane in 1936, and forms an important part of our local history, with many Brisbane families harbouring memories of visiting the Shingle Inn café with their grandparents, and enjoying one of the café's iconic patty cakes with a cup of coffee or tea.

Andrew Bellchambers said that products which are still produced today by the central Shingle Inn bakery have been very much influenced by our city's journey through time.

"Back in the early 1940s, the Shingle Inn café introduced lemon meringue pies to its menu to cater for the American World War 2 soldiers that were visiting the café and searching for a piece of home," Mr Bellchambers explained.

The original café, located at a site in Edward Street, was dismantled in 2002 to make way for the current Queens Plaza building. A detailed, pictorial record was made of the fitout as it was dismantled with the hope of one day reinstating the grand, historic cafe.

"Since then, our loyal customers have supported our search for the right location for the restoration of the historic café; somewhere it will continue to prosper and stay true to our brand values of embracing tradition and family culture, and where we can continue our longstanding tradition of producing our iconic Patty Cakes, delicious coffee, innovative cakes and decadent sweet treats, as well as our extensive freshly prepared lunch menu," Mr Bellchambers said.

Remarkably, after nearly 75 years of fine-tuning the renowned brand, within a year of announcing its intention to franchise, the business has successfully franchised five stores, with locations varying from Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast to Mount Ommaney in Brisbane's west and as far south as Robina, and now boasts a total of 11 cafes.

The franchise is currently also investigating opportunities to expand into New South Wales and Victorian markets as early as next year.

"It is an important part of the tradition to provide the freshest quality products to our clients, produced by Shingle Inn's central bakery, and our ability to continue to provide exceptional products is paramount in determining our growth. We are not simply seeking growth for growth's sake and our commitment to the reinstatement of our historic café within the Brisbane City Hall demonstrates where our values truly lie," Mr Bellchambers said.

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