BELL & BRUNT

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

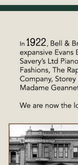
Throughout its history, James Place has been home to some iconic and memorable businesses.

James Place was established in **1846**, taking its name from G. James, licensee of the Norfolk Arms Inn which sat at the corner of James Place and Rundle Street.

In **1899**, workers at The Metropolitan Club, a gaming club in James place, were arrested for using their premises for illegal betting.

In **1903**, a fire broke out in the publishing office of The Truth newspaper. The fire was contained, and the office saved only to be lost 3 years later in another fire originating from the Kurts & Harper clothing factory.

In **1909** James Place was home to The May Club, a resort for lady members to chat, read or rest during shopping expeditions.



By the **1910's** James Place was home to Murray's Mantle & Underclothing factory, Swann Insurance, the Wiseman Bros Woollen Warehousemen, Gabbi & Co Paper Merchants, and Lake's Firearms store.

In **1911**, an all-night 'Two-Up' school was discovered operating in James Place in a room above the Workmen's Café, in an era when "Two-Up" was considered an unlawful game.

The **1920's** ushered in a new era of development in James Place. The building works of Faulding manufacturing chemist created a large subsidence which caused a gas main to burst into flames and explode.

In **1922**, Bell & Brunt opened in the expansive Evans Buildings, alongside Sawery's Ltd Piano Warehouse, Rosella Fashions, The Rapid Shoe Repair Company, Storey Opticians Ltd, and Madame Geannette's Modiste.

We are now the longest standing tenant of James Place.

1923 saw the state heritage listed Executor Trustee and Agency Company building erected. You can still find their depository drop safe handle on James Place.

By the **1930's**, James Place had become one of the most important thoroughfares linking Grenfell and Rundle Street. It boasted the Margot Toilet Saloon, Stone's Ham & Beef shop, Beautte Shoppe Hairdressing Parlour, Jennings Printing Works, and the office of The Sport newspaper.

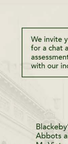
However, James Place had also earned a reputation as being a reserve for drunks and other undesirables, and it was plagued by frequent robberies.

In the **1940's** The railings of the Kalymna Chambers on the corner of James Place and Grenfell St were painted red to mark the Red Cross Society flower shop where daily, supporters delivered fresh flowers from their private gardens for sale.

In **1945** the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund opened their Playroom Scheme for minding the children of servicemen's wives for a few hours while they shopped.

In the **1950's** the offices of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women were established in James Place.

The **1960's** saw the first wave of development of City Cross, with the Coney Island Pineapple Crunch Bar at the James Place entrance. City Cross Arcade was further developed in 1984, 2005, and is being renovated in 2023.



In **1964**, Adelaide City Council built a Women's Rest Centre, providing mothers with a venue to provide care for their children and take a break so they could continue their shopping.

Following the development of Rundle Mall at the west end of Rundle Street in **1974**, cars were no longer permitted to drive along James Place.

The Southern Cross Arcade shopping precinct was built on the site of the Southern Cross Hotel, spanning King William St to James Place. In 2021 both the Arcade and the Hotel were demolished to make way for the 60 King William St development.

In the **1980's**, The Coffee Pot was a popular coffee house and newspaper reading room, with large format newspaper stands and booths spanning over two levels. Closing its doors in 2000, it re-opened as a speak-easy in 2013 and had a number of revivals as a bar and live music venue before being redeveloped in 2023.

In **2004**, Blackebys Sweet Shop, one of Adelaide's oldest confectioners, moved into the site formerly occupied by Canterbury Books and the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society.

The **2020's** has kicked off another exciting new wave of development at the northern end of James Place, and to celebrate over a century of Bell & Brunt we have embarked upon our own upgrade, due to be completed in **2023!**

Historical photographs sourced from the State Library of South Australia, B 3456, PRG 1218/3 and City of Adelaide Archives.

A BIT ABOUT US

BELL & BRUNT

FINE HAND CASTING JEWELLERS
SINCE 1920

CRAFTING JEWELLERY ON JAMES PLACE

Since **1920**, our team combine world class artistry and expertise with our customers' style and vision to design and create incredible one-off handmade pieces of jewellery still today.

We specialise in designing and hand crafting engagement, wedding and dress rings, have a wide range of gold jewellery and also provide a range of services such as diamond selecting, repairs, resizing, rhodium plating and gifting.

- Qualified Master Jewellers, Gemmologists, Jewellery Designers
- We've Helped over 500,000 people create and care for their jewellery over our 103 years as a family business
- We do Custom made easy
- Individual design and stones selection services
- Have your custom ring hand crafted
- Only the best diamonds and Freshly forged bars of gold

We invite you to visit our friendly team any time for a chat and a complimentary clean and maintenance assessment of your jewellery and of course a play with our incredible pieces.

OUR JAMES PLACE FAVOURITES

Blackeby's
Abbots and Kinney
Mr Viet
Oliver's Nuts Store
Letter-it

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards,
The Bell & Brunt Team