



NEW FARM & *Districts* HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2013

Presented by Ross Garnett

It gives me much pleasure to present my ninth annual report as President of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society.

This has been another successful year for the Society with consistently high numbers of people attending our monthly public meetings and enquiries about the history of families or properties coming through every week. We have assisted enquirers with information from our archives, by putting them in touch with historian Gerard Benjamin, by requests for information in our newsletters and by giving them a list of how to source the information they are seeking. In all of these situations we are assisting people to gather their own history and preserve it for the future just as we do for the society archives.

Committee: I acknowledge the hard work and commitment of members of the committee over the past year.

President: Ross Garnett

Vice President: Phil Evans

Secretary: Lois Kennedy

Treasurer: Peter Smith

Committee Members: Denise Buckby, Barry Martin and Lynn Thompson.

Special mention must be made of the commitment of Lois Kennedy to the role of Secretary over several years. Lois is stepping out of that role in order to take a more active role in archiving the Society's records. Thank you Lois for all you have done as secretary of the NFDHS Committee.

Other volunteer roles:

We have appreciated the commitment of many members and friends in taking on various tasks:

- Those who regularly ensured the office was open on Thursday afternoons, notably Lois Kennedy, Margaret King, Isabelle Davis Alan West and Barry Martin
- Welcomers to public meetings, in particular Isabelle Davis and Margaret King
- Gerard Benjamin for editing the newsletter, preparing articles for Village News and historical research
- Alan West for preparing membership badges undertaking research
- Barry Martin for regularly rotating the Gladys Blundell paintings in the New Farm Library
- Denise Buckby for organising the lucky door prizes each month
- Those who hand delivered newsletters in the local area thus saving on postage costs
- The willing bunch of people who have provided, prepared, served and cleaned up afternoon tea at our monthly meetings so everyone could enjoy a time of meeting with friends old and new while relaxing in the courtyard after the meetings
- Stewart Free who provided much appreciated entertainment on the piano prior to our meetings
- Isaac Harding who has undertaken management of the Audio-visual system and assisted with setting up and clearing away
- Desley Garnett for preparing advertising posters and announcement slides for our monthly meetings
- Those members and friends of the Society who have displayed advertising posters in the community and in their blocks of units
- Several enthusiastic supporters who manned the stall at the Teneriffe Festival
- Gayle Martin for taking photographs at our meetings

Membership and attendances:

Our membership and email contacts have continued to grow during the year. Attendance at meetings has ranged from 60 to 105 people.

Advertising, Marketing and promotional support:

We are grateful for the support of the following people in promoting the Society:

- Village News for generous promotion through articles of historical interest which included publicising our events each month.

Gerard Benjamin has been very faithful in preparing interesting articles for the Village News

- Gerard Benjamin has been sought out by 4BC for several interviews about history and he takes the opportunity to use it as promotion of the activities of the Society
- Mr Robert Cavallucci, MP, and Councillor Vicki Howard whose staff at have printed the monthly newsletter at no cost to the Society

Other projects:

- I was actively involved on the Board of the **Teneriffe Festival** for the fourth festival in July this year which attracted 45,000 people. The historical section of the festival is what sets it apart from other festivals – it is very grounded in the history of the area. Thanks to Santina Musumeci for coordinating the bus tour on behalf of NFDHS in conjunction with the Omnibus and Coach Society and to Phil Evans, Sandra Griffiths and Melissa Griffiths for acting as tour guides.
- Preparation of a booklet on the Teneriffe Boardwalk Historical Plaques which was distributed to the patrons of the Magical Mystery History Bus Tour at the Teneriffe Festival
- **Book Sales** of *Reflections on New Farm* and *Tides of Teneriffe* continue through local bookshops and at the monthly meetings.
- The **Historical Plaques** Project has continued. Gerard Benjamin was engaged to research and design the plaques that now stand in prominent places for passing residents and visitors to read about the local history. In the past 12 months, the following plaques have been erected:
 - Teneriffe Ferry
 - Beside the “Gloria” statue near Eves on the River Restaurant. We were delighted that esteemed member of the Society, the late Gloria Grant, will be long remembered with this whimsical ewe statue and that her contribution to recording the history of New Farm through the book *Reflections on New Farm* is noted.Several other plaques are ‘on the drawing board’ as joint projects with Body Corporates of several buildings or as projects of the Society funded by BCC grants.
- The work on the **book on historic residences** in New Farm and Teneriffe continues and it is expected to be published in 2014.

Christmas Donation: As is our custom, members gave donations at our November 2012 meeting and these were given to *Mission Australia* to support their work with the disadvantaged in our community.

Monthly meetings: Meetings have attracted from 60 to 120 people and have covered an interesting variety of topics as follows:

August 2012: Remembering Commonwealth Games 1982 - 30 years on – Niles Elvery	September 2012: New Farm Ablaze – Ken Capell	October 2012: 150 years of FVSS – Ray Thurlow
November 2012: New Farm Powerhouse – Jody Haines	February 2013: Teneriffe Railway Line – Greg Hallam	March 2013: Brisbane Expo Photographic images – Andrew Mason
April 2013: Women at War – Peter Dunn	May 2013: History of QATB in Qld – Michael Davis	June 2013: Port of Brisbane – Peter Ludlow
July 2013: Brisbane Ekka – Joanne Scott		

Areas of focus for the coming year include:

- Publication of a book on Residences in New Farm and Teneriffe
- Publication of a booklet/app on the historical plaques in New Farm and Teneriffe
- Installation of more historical plaques
- Cataloguing the Society archives

As the 2012-13 Membership year moves into history, the 2013-14 membership year begins with all its possibilities laid before us.

- How will we live up to our motto of *Gathering information from the past, Preserving it for the future?*
- Who will gather the information (do some research)?
- Who will preserve it (archive it)?
- Who will share that information ('man' the office, speak at meetings, prepare items for display at meetings)?

Ross Garnett
August 2013

