



**NEW FARM & Districts
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

*Gathering information from the past
Preserving it for the future.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2016

Presented by Ross Garnett

It gives me much pleasure to present my twelfth annual report as President of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society. This is the opportunity to reflect on the year from September 2015 to August 2016.

We have had another interesting year for the Society with an average of 90 people attending our monthly public meetings. Our office has been open for 2 hours every Thursday afternoon when people have the opportunity to talk to Society members and search in the archives for information. We receive requests for information through our website and these people are invited to come to the office to continue their search. Often there are members who are able to help. However, we have seen a decrease in these requests which we put down to the fact that so much information is now available on the internet. We are grateful to those members who continue to work on making the material in our archives easily retrievable when we have such enquiries and would welcome more members to assist in this task. Our newsletter editor Gerard Benjamin also has a lot of historical information and photos on file and he is able to share this with enquirers or assist them to find other avenues for their own research. We often find that requests for information highlighted in the newsletter stimulate other readers to share relevant information.

I was privileged to represent the Society at the Anzac Ceremony at New Farm State School and to lay a wreath at the Sandakan Memorial on Anzac Day. Denise and Gerard delivered a lesson at the Holy Spirit school on the History of New Farm as part of the Year 3 curriculum.

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

President: Ross Garnett

Vice President: Phil Evans (on leave for several months)

Secretary: Phil Evans (on leave for several months)

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members: Barry Martin (membership responsibility) Ann Sargeant and Bernadette Driessen (Acting secretary for several months).

Other volunteer roles:

We are all indebted to the small group of volunteers who have undertaken a variety of tasks which keep the Society running smoothly:

- ensuring the office is open every Thursday afternoon so that members of the public can seek out information about history in the area
- welcoming members and visitors to our monthly meetings
- editing the newsletter
- assisting enquirers with their historical research
- ensuring membership badges are available for the meetings
- collecting the newsletters from the office of Teresa Gambaro MP,
- folding and distributing newsletters each month
- organising the lucky door prizes each month
- hand delivering newsletters in the local area
- preparation, serving and cleaning up afternoon tea at our monthly meetings so everyone can enjoy fellowship in the courtyard after the meetings - a valuable part of the meetings
- providing musical entertainment prior to our meetings
- managing the Audio-visual system
- preparing advertising posters and announcement slides for our monthly meetings
- volunteering at the Society stand at the State Election Day and the Tenerife Festival
- ensuring our meetings are pictorially recorded
- manning the book sales and membership desk
- cataloguing the historical information in the archives.

Membership and attendances:

Our membership and email contacts have continued to grow during the year. Attendance at meetings has ranged from 75 to 105 people. Membership stands at about 186. We currently distribute about 650 email and 120 hard copies of the monthly newsletter. We are grateful to all of the speakers for freely giving of their time to prepare and present the talks on their topics of interest for our enlightenment and enjoyment.

Advertising, Marketing and promotional support:

We are thankful for the support of the following people in promoting the Society during the 2015-2016 year:

- Michael Hawke, editor of Village News for promoting our meetings
- Federal MP Teresa Gambaro's office staff for colour printing the monthly newsletter at no cost to the Society.
- Senator Claire Moore's office for colour printing the posters that advertise our monthly meetings.
- A small group of people who electronically forward or display the advertising poster.

Monthly meetings: Meetings have attracted from 75 to 105 people and have covered an interesting variety of topics as follows:

August 2015: <i>Art Deco: Kim Wilson</i>	September 2015: <i>New Farm Park Rotunda: Ray Osbourne</i>	October 2015: <i>History of the New Farm 6 Cinema site: Peter Sourris</i>
November 2015: <i>Curiosities and Collectables of New Farm: Ian Thomson</i>	February 2016: <i>New Farm Deli: Maria Anello</i>	March 2016: <i>History of Nursing in Brisbane: Cluny Seager</i>
April 2016: <i>New Farm @ War: Peter Dunn</i>	May 2016: <i>Samplers: The worker's tool: Dixie Middleton</i>	June 2016: <i>Aboriginal Campsites in Brisbane: Ray Kerkhove</i>
July 2015: <i>Regent Theatre: Mike Gillies</i>		

Other projects:

- The Society had an important presence at the 7th **Teneriffe Festival** in July this year. We were grateful to the Qld Military Museum for the loan of a mannequin in army uniform which attracted people to our stand. As always, the screening of the 1956 tram ride film proved popular in the "Merthyr Picture Palace" tent. Our thanks to Stuart Wallace and his team of tour guides for the bus tours of historical Teneriffe.
- **Book Sales** of *Reflections on New Farm*, *Tides of Teneriffe* and *Homes with History* continue through Mary Ryan (New Farm), New Farm Editions, the State Library Bookshop and at the monthly meetings.

- The **Historical Plaques** Project has continued with a new plaque erected at the New Farm Park Rotunda coinciding with the celebration of the centenary of the Rotunda.
- We supported the objection to the planned re-development of *Fenton* at 388 Bowen Tce. Since this is a very historic home both architecturally (designed by Robin Dodds) and because it was the home of Ted Theodore, MP and former treasurer of Qld, the Society was happy to alert the community to the opportunity to object to the planned development and to support the objections of several experts.

Christmas Donation: Member donations to the Empty Christmas Tree at our November 2014 meeting were given to the *Communitify* – a community organisation that supports many vulnerable people, in particular through the New Farm Neighbourhood Centre.

New Farm and Districts Historical Society continues to be a very successful Historical Society. The New Farm / Newstead / Teneriffe areas continue to see major re-development of many sites, with large buildings with a mixture of retail and residential accommodation being constructed. This of course means there has been plenty of destruction of other buildings on these sites. It is therefore important we continue our commitment to ensuring the history of these suburbs is gathered, preserved and made accessible for future generations. Every little bit of historical information is important as it becomes part of the jigsaw that can record more accurate information. Whenever you see or hold historical information, please pass it on to members of the committee so it can be included in our archives. Photos also tell many stories about the history of an area, so please share your photos that tell the story of an area, house or street with us. Often it is the background to the family photo that tells a story. The Facebook site *New Farm History* has an active membership who contribute photos and stories of New Farm and there is now another similar Facebook site about Fortitude Valley. Maybe you can contribute information or photos to these sites.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all members for their interest in the task of preserving history and invite you to become a more active player in doing this.

Ross Garnett
August 2016

