



NEW FARM & *Districts* HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2010

Presented by Ross Garnett

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

Once again we have had an interesting and busy year with involvement of many people.

Committee: I acknowledge the hard work and commitment of members of the committee over the past year. Here are the roles that have been undertaken this past year:

President: Ross Garnett

Vice President: Phil Evans

Secretary: Lois Kennedy

Treasurer: Jenny Webber

Newsletter Editor (and keen photographer): Chris Derrick

Volunteer coordinator: Susan White

As always, committee members take on many other tasks during the year

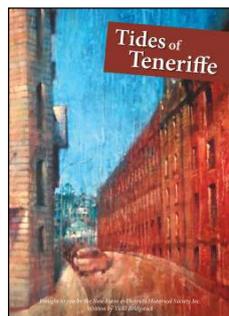
Other volunteers: We are grateful to other members of the Society who assist during the year. Isobel Davis regularly ensures the office is open on Thursday afternoons, and she assists in folding, addressing and delivering newsletters. Assistance with providing, preparing and cleaning up afternoon tea at our monthly meetings is also appreciated, as is help with stacking chairs after the meetings. Stewart Free has provided much appreciated entertainment on the piano prior to our meetings – another reason to come early! I am very grateful to my wife, Desley Garnett, who has given great support to me in many ways.

Other assistance: Because of the difficulty of finding a volunteer with good technical skills to operate our audio-visual equipment, the Committee took the decision to pay someone to take on this role at our meetings. Joe DaRin and Mark Turner have assisted with this during 2010.

Our monthly meetings have been marketed through posters and we thank Desley Garnett for preparing those each month. Thanks also to those who take posters to display in the community and in their blocks of units.

Membership and attendances: Our membership has continued to grow during the year, as has our email contact list. Being able to send our newsletters and other information to a long list of people through email has no doubt increased interest in the activities of the society. Many of the meetings over the past year have had over 90 people in attendance.

Tides of Teneriffe:



Our second venture into publishing was made possible by a grant from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund. Vicki Bridgstock gathered stories from residents past and present to weave into an interesting history of the newly re-instated suburb of Teneriffe. We thank Lois Kennedy and Susan White for working with Vicki and the editor Rosemary Lancaster of Bookera Books to achieve the publication of this book ready for the launch by Her Excellency Penelope Wensley, Governor of Qld, AO, in

November. Her Excellency said “*I was particularly pleased to have the opportunity, as Patron of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and of the Queensland Family History Society, to meet the members of one of the most active historical societies in Brisbane.*” *Tides of Teneriffe* has been selling at many different outlets within the area and has often been in the “Top Ten Best Sellers List” at Mary Ryan’s New Farm Bookstore. We congratulate Vicki on the success of this, her first book to be published. The colourful painting by Councillor David Hinchliffe on the cover makes it an attractive book in the retail shops that stock it.

Reflections on New Farm: This book continues to often be in the “Top Ten Best Sellers List” at Mary Ryan’s New Farm Bookstore eighteen months after its first publication. Over one third of the second print run of 1000 books has been sold



Advertising and Marketing:

Both the Village News and The Independent newspapers give the Society generous advertising and articles about our events each month, and we are very grateful for their support. Village News regularly features articles of historic interest, often written by a member of our Society. Thanks to Gloria Grant and Gerard Benjamin for submitting many articles on our behalf.

Other projects:

- Unfortunately the project entitled *Under the Counter* was not completed within the allotted time frame and the grant money was returned to the BCC.
- Both Ross Garnett and Chris Derrick were actively involved on the Committee organising the inaugural Teneriffe Festival which took place in July this year. This Society and several other organisations with interest in things historical were involved in the event, which was a huge success. Member Dr Rod Fisher organised a the Magical Mystery Heritage Bus Tour of Teneriffe based on the *Tides of Teneriffe* and it proved very popular at the Festival.
- In conjunction with the Teneriffe Festival, four historical plaques were unveiled in the presence of Her Excellency Penelope Wensley, Governor of Qld, AO, in Catalina Park in Macquarie St, Teneriffe. Our thanks to Hilda MacLean for doing the research and preparation of these plaques and to Councillor David Hinchliffe for his support through a grant from the Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund. Wanda and Mike Davis also assisted with collecting historical material for this project. These plaques commemorate 4 different topics:
 - Woolstores and Wharves,
 - New Farm Engine Room,
 - Trains, Trams and Teneriffe, and
 - US Navy Submarine Operation and Maintenance Base World War Two



These plaques will be a permanent reminder to residents and visitors of the earlier history of this area. It is hoped there will be many more of these plaques erected throughout the area in the future

- Preservation of the Society’s archived materials has commenced with Rachel Thiesfield engaged to make digital records of much of the archival material. We are very grateful to Rachel for this contribution to our Society.

Monthly meetings: An interesting variety of topics have been covered at the monthly meetings as follows:

<p>August 2009: <i>Glenfalloch 50</i> Councillor David Hinchliffe and other residents of Glenfalloch shared some stories of the building and its occupants over the past 50 years</p> 	<p>September 2009: <i>1900: Bubonic Plague reaches Brisbane</i> – a reconstruction of the story by Ian Townsend</p> 	<p>October 2009: <i>Amity House</i> Tony Dempsey, architect and owner, shared the history and architectural design of a home for sub tropical South East Queensland - A rare 1890s timber riverfront residence</p> 	
<p>November 2009: <i>Wartime in Brisbane.</i> Faye Schutt, the Curator of the award winning MacArthur Museum in Brisbane and an experienced Historian shared about some of the social effects of World War II, from a Brisbane perspective. <i>Launch of Tides of Teneriffe</i> by Her Excellency, Governor of Qld.</p>  	<p>February 2010: <i>All about Abbott St.</i> Robert Riddell, MaryJo Katter and Brenda Kemp looked at the historical, the architectural, the horticultural, the societal and the communal nuances of this delightful suburban treasure</p> 	<p>March 2010: <i>Queensland Cooks.</i> A gastronomic tour of the State Library's culinary collections from 1864 to today with Serena Coates</p> 	
<p>April 2010: <i>Coronet Court.</i> Tamsin O'Connor gave us a glimpse into her favourite building: The history, The architecture, The people</p> 	<p>May 2010: <i>Yesteryear's Screen Gems.</i> Sally Golding, Film Conservator, showed us a specially-prepared selection of amateur film gems</p> 	<p>June 2010: <i>An Overview of Museum of Brisbane's 2010 Programs</i> with Joanna Besley</p> 	
<p>July 2010: <i>"I, Thomas Welsby"</i>. Dr. James Lergessner performed (cheekily in the first person) an account of Thomas Welsby's life</p>			

Christmas Donation: As is our custom, members gave donations at our November 2009 meeting and these were given to *Footprints*, an organisation that assists those in need in the New Farm Community.

As you can see, it has been a busy but satisfying year as we have worked together to keep the history of New Farm and Districts alive in the minds of its residents and beyond.

Ross Garnett
August 2010

