



**NEW FARM & Districts
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2011

Presented by Ross Garnett

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

This is a very active and vibrant Society with involvement of many people in many different areas. The commitment of members to attending meetings and participating in projects is vital to the continuing success of the Society. 2011 will be remembered for the devastating floods that affected much of Brisbane, and from our perspective, several streets of New Farm and Newstead. All the records stored in the Society Office in Sydney St were removed in preparation for the expected flooding of the area. Fortunately, although Sydney Street did experience flooding, the office was not inundated by water.

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 (organising speakers and logistics)

Vice President: Phil Evans (convenor of plaques committee, logistics assistant and afternoon tea team member)

Secretary: Lois Kennedy (diligently keeping our records in order)

Treasurer: Matt Collins (ably looking after all the financial records)

Newsletter Editor (and keen photographer): Chris Derrick (until June 2011)

Committee Members: Susan White (volunteer coordinator and website coordinator), Denise Buckby (lucky door prize organiser and manager of DVDs), Peter Smith (manager of email distribution list, audio-visuals)

Other volunteer roles:

We appreciate the commitment of many members and friends to extra tasks:

- Those who regularly ensure the office has been open on Thursday afternoons, in particular Lois Kennedy and Isabel Davis.
- Gerard Benjamin who has accepted the role of Newsletter Editor and who writes articles promoting our public meetings and others of an historical nature for the Village News
- Those who hand deliver newsletters in the local area thus saving on postage costs.
- The willing bunch of people who provide, prepare, serve and clean up afternoon tea at our monthly meetings so everyone can enjoy a time of meeting with friends old and new relaxing in the courtyard after the meeting
- Stewart Free who provided much appreciated entertainment prior to our meetings on the piano and Sophie Manoharan who delighted us with her flute solos on one occasion
- Mark Turner, Peter Smith and Isaac Harding who have undertaken management of the Audio-visual system.
- Desley Garnett for preparing advertising posters for our monthly meetings.
- Those members and friends of the Society who display advertising posters in the community and in their blocks of units.
- Pam Fisher and Susan White with help from others who spent many hours preparing historical articles that have been added to the website
- Several enthusiastic supporters who have manned stalls at the New Farm State School Fete and the Teneriffe Festival

Membership and attendances:

Our membership has continued to grow during the year, as has our email contact list. Newsletters are now distributed through the website. Attendance at meetings has ranged from 60 to 100 people.

Advertising and Marketing:

Both the Village News and The Independent newspapers give the Society generous advertising space 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 Gerard Benjamin and the late Gloria Grant for submitting many articles on our behalf.

Vicki Bridgstock appeared on a segment on Great South East on Channel 7 week that featured the history of Teneriffe and promoting interest in the *Tides of Teneriffe* book.

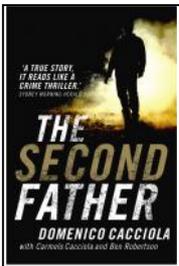
Gerard Benjamin has been sought out by 4BC for several interviews about the history of the area. Kelly Higgins-Devine from 612 ABC radio interviewed Gerard and Ross Garnett about the floods in New Farm and surrounding districts.

Other projects:

- Ross Garnett was actively involved on the Board of the Teneriffe Festival for the second festival 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. The Magical Mystery Heritage Bus Tour of Teneriffe based on the *Tides of Teneriffe* proved very popular again this year. Thanks to Tamsin O'Connor, Sandra Griffiths and Melissa Griffiths for acting as tour guides and to Rod Fisher for preparing the notes and assisting the guides.
- In conjunction with the Teneriffe Festival, the Lord Mayor unveiled an historical plaque outside the Winchcombe Carson Woolstore. The production of the plaque was a joint project of the NFDHS and the Body Corporate of Winchcombe Carson Woolstore who are celebrating the centenary of the building this year. Gerard Benjamin was engaged to research and design the plaque that now stands outside the building for passing residents and visitors to see.
- Preservation of the Society's archived materials has continued.
- Most meetings are now digitally recorded for the Society's archives and the DVDs are available for purchase
- Sales of *Reflections on New Farm* and *Tides of Teneriffe* continue through local bookshops and at the monthly meetings.
- The Historical Plaques Committee under the chairmanship of Phil Evans has developed an outline of the scope of the project and underlying processes. Funding has been obtained from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund for this project and we are grateful to Councillor David Hinchliffe for his support of the Society in this and many other ways.
- New shelving was erected in the Society Office in Sydney Street using a grant from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund. This has allowed the archives to be stored in a much more ordered fashion



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

<p>August 2010: Gerard Benjamin and Rod Fisher Seeking houses, Suburbs and Sanctuaries</p> 	<p>September 2010: Oxlade Brothers: The people and the business since 1894</p> 	<p>October 2010: Mick Cacciola The Second Father – From growing up in New Farm to fighting corruption</p> 
<p>November 2010: Hilda MacLean and Denise Buckby The River Block – 1 Gray St</p> 	<p>February 2011: George Cowin CSR: Refinery to Residential Domain</p> 	<p>March 2011: Helen Gregory Brisbane's Riverine Floods</p> 
<p>April 2011: Beth Johnson Tales of Fortitude - <i>emigrants of the very best description both as to character and ability</i></p> 	<p>May 2011: Peter Connell Mercy Sisters Education Heritage</p> 	<p>June 2011: Elizabeth Bates The Elliott Collection, Museum of Brisbane Finding photographic treasure—glass plate photographic negatives from 1890—1920</p> 
<p>July 2011: Diana Hacker Booroodabin The heart of early Brisbane beating silently in our midst</p>		

Christmas Donation: As is our custom, members gave donations at our November 2010 meeting and these were given to *Micah Projects*, an organisation that works with some of the most disadvantaged people in our community.

So we continue to do our best to ensure the history of the area is preserved as well as possible and we value the contribution of all volunteers in the projects. We look forward to another year in the life of the New Farm and Districts Historical and to having many more people share their talents and interests with the Society.

Ross Garnett
August 2011

