



**NEW FARM & Districts
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2014

Presented by Ross Garnett

It gives me much pleasure to present my tenth annual report as President of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society in this the twentieth year of the Society.

This has been another successful year for the Society with consistently high numbers of people attending our monthly public meetings and constant enquiries for information about the history of families or properties. 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 resource list of how to source the information they are seeking. The memories of our members and others are valuable sources of information so that we continue to live our motto: *Gathering information from the past Preserving it for the future.*

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: Phil Evans

Treasurer: Peter Smith

Committee Members: Denise Buckby, Lois Kennedy, (archives responsibility), Barry Martin and Philip Tomlinson (membership responsibility)

Special mention must be made of the commitment of Peter Smith to the role of Treasurer over several years. Thank you Peter for looking after all things financial for the Society. We also thank Philip Tomlinson for so efficiently keeping the records of membership and newsletter names and addresses. Both Peter and Philip are leaving the committee this year.

Other volunteer roles:

The society can run effectively only because of the people who regularly volunteer their time for a variety of tasks:

- Lois Kennedy, Margaret King, Isabelle Davis, and Barry Martin ensure the office is attended every Thursday afternoon so that members of the public can seek out information about history in the area
- Isabelle Davis and Margaret King welcome members and visitors to our monthly meetings
- Gerard Benjamin edits the newsletter (gathers much information and edits it into a very interesting monthly publication), prepares information for Village News and assists enquirers with their historical research
- Alan West ensures membership badges are available for the meetings
- Barry Martin and Alan West fold and distribute newsletters each month
- Denise Buckby organises the lucky door prizes each month and distributes with dramatic flair
- Alan West, Barry Martin and Ross Garnett hand deliver newsletters in the local area thus saving on postage costs
- Santina Musumeci, Barry Martin, Desley Garnett and Jenny Smith regularly prepare, serve and clean up afternoon tea at our monthly meetings so others can enjoy fellowship in the courtyard after the meetings
- Stewart Free provides much appreciated entertainment on the piano prior to our meetings
- Isaac Harding manages the Audio-visual system and assists with setting up and clearing away
- Desley Garnett prepares advertising posters and announcement slides for our monthly meetings
- A number of members and friends of the Society display advertising posters in the community and in their blocks of units
- Several enthusiastic supporters volunteer at the Society stand at the Teneriffe Festival
- Gayle Martin ensures our meetings are pictorially recorded
- Bev Michels and Anita Garnett man the book sales and membership desk
- Lois Kennedy and Margaret King spend most Tuesday afternoons on cataloguing the historical information that the Society holds.

Membership and attendances:

Our membership and email contacts have continued to grow during the year. Attendance at meetings has ranged from 80 to 95 people. We currently distribute about 460 email and 150 hard copies of the monthly

newsletter. We are indebted to a variety of excellent speakers for freely giving of their time to prepare and present the talks on their topics of interest for our enjoyment. Our grateful thanks to each one of them.

Advertising, Marketing and promotional support:

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

- Village News generously promoted our meetings alongside Gerard Benjamin's articles of historical interest
- Councillor Vicki Howard's staff have printed the monthly newsletter at no cost to the Society
- Teneriffe Realty (Richard Bodley) generously sponsored the colour printing of our 10th anniversary edition of the newsletter in June

Other projects:

- I have again been actively involved on the Board of the **Teneriffe Festival** for the fifth festival in July this year ensuring the history of the area is kept alive. Thanks to Santina Musumeci for coordinating the bus tour on behalf of NFDHS in conjunction with the Omnibus and Coach Society and to Bruna Burello-Day, Anna Croce, Linda Zaklikowski and Bob Wilson for acting as tour guides.
- **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, a plaque has been erected for One Macquarie Apartments and one for Wilson's Lookout is ready for production.
- Gerard Benjamin continues to work on the **book on historic residences** in New Farm and Teneriffe continues and it is expected to be published late in 2014.
- A team of volunteers helped to make a key event at **Wynberg** a great success. Society members helped to lead successive tours as well as serve as attendants in the various public rooms so that the visitors could view the interior of the historic home.
- A new **postcard** recognising the 20th anniversary of the Society was printed in June – thanks to Denise for organising this.
- In August we partnered with Boolarong Press when The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP launched the book **The Pearl King** by Robert Lehane.

James Clark – the Pearl King – was a prominent New Farm resident in the 1800s, so it was very fitting that our Society was involved with this special event.

Christmas Donation: The Empty Christmas Tree donations at our November 2013 meeting were given to *139 Club* to support their work with the disadvantaged in our community.

Monthly meetings: Meetings have attracted from 80 to 95 people and have covered an interesting variety of topics as follows:

August 2013: Cloudland Ballroom – The Grand Old Lady: James Lergessner	September 2013: New Farm’s Wynberg – a Notable House: Fr Denis Martin	October 2013: Indigenous History – My Story: Uncle Joe Kirk
November 2013: Toys from the Past: Barbara Dawson shows her collection	February 2014: Kokoda’s Lost Battlefield: Brian Freeman	March 2014: New Farm Rocks – a Geological History: Graham Muggerridge
April 2014: The Real Great Escape: Jacqueline Cook	May 2014: The 7 th Age of Teneriffe: Ben Pritchard	June 2014: 150 Years of Brisbane Water Supply: Col Hester
July 2014: World War II Quonset Buildings: Roger Marks		

We continue with the areas of focus that are on the boiler including the publication of a book on Residences in New Farm and Teneriffe, the installation of more historical plaques and continuing the cataloguing of the Society archives. We plan to find ways to ensure more oral history of New Farm is collected from those who have memories to share, and to establish “Share the Memories Circles” where members will have the opportunity to assist others who are looking for information from their own memories or by undertaking some research. I hope you will consider being involved in this project.

Ross Garnett
August 2014

