



**NEW FARM & Districts  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2012**

Presented by Ross Garnett

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

The consistently high numbers of people attending our monthly public meetings bears testament to the commitment of members and the interest of our community in ensuring we collect information from the past, learn from it in the present and preserve it for the future.

**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 (leadership, organising speakers and logistics)

*Vice President:* Phil Evans (logistics assistant and afternoon tea team member)

*Secretary:* Lois Kennedy (Secretary, diligently keeping our records in order and archiving)

*Treasurer:* Peter Smith (ensuring our finances are in order, website management)

*Committee Members:* Denise Buckby (lucky door prize organiser and responsible for sales of Tides of Teneriffe), Barry Martin (assistance with newsletter distribution, afternoon tea, responsible for rotation of Gladys Blundel's paintings at the Library), Alan West (membership badges, assistance with newsletter distribution, historical research) and Lynn Thompson (reports of meetings for newsletter).

Taking the non-Committee role of *Newsletter Editor* has been Gerard Benjamin, mentoring Clare McEniery into the role in the past few months.

**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 and Isabelle Davis
- Welcomers to public meetings, in particular Isabelle Davis and Margaret King

- Gerard Benjamin for the newsletter, articles for Village News and historical research
- Clare McEniery who has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor, mentored by Gerard Benjamin
- 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 meeting
- 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
- Desley Garnett for preparing advertising posters 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
- Chris Derrick 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 120 people.

### **Advertising, Marketing and promotional support:**

Business cards for the Society were printed to assist with communicating contact details.

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 articles for the Village News
- The Independent newspaper for assistance with promotion of meetings by publishing the advertising poster each month
- 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, whose staff at the Brisbane Electorate Office has printed the monthly newsletter at no cost to the Society

## Other projects:

- Ross Garnett was actively involved on the Board of the **Teneriffe Festival** for the third 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 Santina Musumeci for coordinating the bus tour on behalf of NFDHS with the Omnibus and Coach Society and to Phil Evans, Sandra Griffiths and Melissa Griffiths 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. Funding was received from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund for this continuing project and we are grateful to Councillor David Hinchliffe for his support of the Society in this and many other ways. 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:
  - London Woolstores: This was a joint project of the NFDHS and the Body Corporate of London Woolstore which celebrates the centenary of the building this year. The Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, unveiled this historical plaque at the Teneriffe Festival.
  - The Tram Shed in Merthyr Rd, New Farm
  - Arbour walk at the end of Gray St, New Farm.
- The NFDHS **website** was redeveloped using a grant from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund.
- Funding was received from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund to produce a **book on historic residences** in New Farm and Teneriffe. Gerard Benjamin has been engaged to write this book which should be published in 2013.
- Many members of the public contact the society for information for their **personal research** into family connections or about particular houses. There is a need for more volunteers to assist in this way.

**Christmas Donation:** As is our custom, members gave donations at our November 2011 meeting and these were given to *New Farm Neighbourhood Centre* 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:

<b>August 2011:</b> Member's Memories recorded in Postcard Stories facilitated by Feral Arts	<b>September 2011:</b> The Noble Reach – David Gibson	<b>October 2011:</b> The history of Croquet in New Farm – Peter Rogers
<b>November 2011:</b> Winchcombe Carson Woolstore Centenary – Ben Pritchard	<b>February 2012:</b> A History of Romance - Lois Kennedy, Santina Musemeci and Denise Buckby	<b>March 2012:</b> Glass plate images of Early Brisbane – Judy Marks
<b>April 2012:</b> Crimes and Misdemeanours in New Farm – Lisa Jones, Curator, Police Museum	<b>May 2012:</b> Brisbane City Hall restoration and Archaeology - Jim Mavronicholas, Principal Project Manager	<b>June 2012:</b> Bizarre Beauty in Queensland Gardens - Dr Jean Sim
<b>July 2012:</b> Subs Down Under – Teneriffe during WW II – David Jones, Maritime Museum		

We give special thanks to Grace Grace and David Hinchliffe for their support in many ways over a number of years when they were our elected representatives at State and Local Government levels. We look forward to similar good relationships with Robert Cavallucci and Vicki Howard who were elected to State and Council representation of this area in March this year.

Areas of focus for the coming year include:

- Publication of a book on Residences in New Farm and Teneriffe
- Installation of more historical plaques
- Reorganisation of the Society archives (we are looking for volunteers to assist with this)

As we close one successful and interesting year of the Historical Society, we look forward to another in which we serve our community.

**Ross Garnett**  
**August 2012**

