



**NEW FARM & Districts
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2017

Presented by Ross Garnett

It gives me much pleasure to present my thirteenth annual report as President of the New Farm and Districts Historical Society. This is the opportunity to reflect on the year from September 2016 to August 2017.

We have had a great variety of speakers at our monthly public meetings in the past year and these meetings have attracted between 75 and 120 people, both members and visitors. 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 to our members and visitors.

Our office in the building next to the New Farm Library in Sydney Street is kindly provided for the Society by the Brisbane City Council and houses the Society's archival information. Volunteers have opened the office every Thursday afternoon between 2 pm and 4 pm. Thanks to Lois Kennedy and Margaret King who spend time cataloguing the archival material which makes it simpler when we have enquiries about various aspects of history of New Farm and surrounding suburbs.

The monthly newsletter of the Society is a very high standard of presentation and articles and we acknowledge Gerard Benjamin's dedication and expertise in preparing this each month. We thank Senator Claire Moore's office staff for willingly printing the advertising posters and the newsletters to be posted and each month.

We continue to receive a number of enquiries through the website and these are responded to with as much information as we can give. Several members of the society assist with sharing relevant information.

Members of the Society laid wreaths at several Anzac Celebrations – James MacDonald at New Farm State School, Denise Buckby at the Submariners Dawn Service at the Teneriffe Boardwalk and Phil Evans at the Sandakan Memorial in New Farm Park.

For some time we have been aware of the need to upgrade our website and keep the information more up-to date. To this end, in early August, Asia Web Services were engaged to redesign the website and to maintain it and we look forward to its completion soon.

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

President: Ross Garnett

Vice President: Phil Evans

Secretary: Bernadette Driessen

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members: Barry Martin (membership responsibility),
Ann Sargeant and James MacDONald

Your committee:

- organises monthly meeting speakers,
- manages all financial matters,
- manages membership details,
- arranges for historical plaques to be erected at historically significant sites, and
- sets strategic direction of the Society
- sets up the display for the Tenerife Festival

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:

- opening the office is open every Thursday afternoon
- welcoming members and visitors to our monthly meetings
- editing the newsletter
- assisting enquirers with their historical research
- folding and distributing newsletters each month
- organising the lucky door prizes each month – a fun time at every meeting
- hand delivering newsletters in the local area
- providing afternoon - a valuable part of the meetings
- providing musical entertainment prior to our meetings
- managing the Audio-visual system
- preparing advertising posters and announcement slides
- volunteering at the Society stand at the Tenerife Festival
- taking photos at the meetings

- 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 189. We currently distribute about 680 email and 100 hard copies of the monthly newsletter, an indication of the connection people feel to New Farm and nearby suburbs and to gathering the history of the area.

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
- 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.

Other projects:

- The Society had an important presence at the 8th **Teneriffe Festival** in July this year. As always, the screening of the 1956 tram ride film proved popular in the "Merthyr Picture Palace" tent. Our thanks to Stuart Wallace, the Queensland Omnibus and Coach Society and the team of tour guides for the bus tours of historical Teneriffe enjoyed by about 60 people.
- **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 Freshwater Apartments, recording the history of that site. A significant celebration was held to unveil the plaque.

Vale Isabelle Davis

Isabelle Davis had been a very faithful member of our Society for a very long time and also a Committee member for some time. We were saddened to hear of her death in February this year. Isabelle was a regular at the office on Thursday afternoons, welcomed at the monthly meetings and was a great source of information about New Farm.

Monthly meetings: Meetings have attracted from 75 to 120 people and have covered an interesting variety of topics as follows:

August 2016: Howard Smith Wharves – Noel Field	September 2016: Sir Thomas McIlwraith – Dr Denver Beanland	October 2016: Historic Brisbane, Convict colony to River City – Susanna DeVries
November 2016: Upstream- Downstream on the Citycat – Dan Kelly	February 2017: No Job for a Woman – Sallyanne Atkinson AM	March 2017: History of Artillery and Fort Lytton – Harry Lynas
April 2017: World War 1 Heroes of the NF Peninsula – Julie Martin	May 2017: History of the Old Town Hall, City Hall and Brisbane City Council – Denver Beanland	June 2017: The Story of Wool in Teneriffe – Duncan Davis and Warren Zernike
July 2017: Entrepreneurial Chemist, Moses Ward – James Delahunty		

Christmas Donation: Member donations to the Empty Christmas Tree at our November 2016 meeting were given to the *Multicultural Development Association*, an organisation that assists with the settlement of refugees in our city.

Whilst not a direct activity of the Historical Society, the Facebook site *New Farm History* has an active membership who contribute photos and stories of New Farm. We are grateful to our member Ron Altman for his hosting of this site and to Ray Thurlow for hosting the Fortitude Valley Facebook site.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all members for their interest in the tasks of gathering and preserving history – what a wealth of knowledge amongst our members! We just need to get it all written down before the memories are lost.

Ross Garnett
August 2017

