



NEW FARM AND DISTRICTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

www.newfarmhistorical.org.au



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August Meeting

The man with Brisbane maritime history at his fingertips

More than 80 were present when former Senator Claire Moore efficiently conducted the AGM which featured reports by President Robert Allen and Secretary Tracey Hurren. Audience members clearly felt reassured that the society is in good hands, and with the current committee reelected, the upward progress will continue.

Guest speaker David Jones is a legend in Brisbane maritime circles having been the author of 12 books, including *100 Maritime Stories: Brisbane River 1823–2023*.



State of the art Empire flying boat Centaurus waits for Hetherington to pass before alighting on the Bulimba Reach of the Brisbane River, 21 December 1937. Photo courtesy State Library of Queensland

David introduced his talk with several photos of the vehicular and passenger ferry Hetherington (known to some old-timers as the 'horse ferry') which faithfully plied between Teneriffe and Bulimba for 28 years until 1953. So important was Hetherington that even a new flying boat about to alight on the river in 1937 had to give way to it!

It is thanks to David's handiness with the camera that so many key moments of Brisbane's maritime heritage have been preserved. He was on hand in March 1963 just after the collision



HMS Tabard damaged after being swept into Howard Smith Wharf by a strong current, March 29, 1963.

Photo: David Jones

of the submarine HMS Tabard with Howard Smith Wharf when its sonar dome was damaged. Likewise, our presenter was in just the right spot at Newstead Wharf (beating the newshounds) to capture a remarkable photo of the young Prince Charles on deck as a trainee lieutenant on HMS Jupiter in January 1974.



Contributor: Gerard Benjamin



Robert Miller and Cape Moreton ride out the Australia Day flood, 1974. Photo courtesy Queensland Maritime Museum

Amidst the 1974 Australia Day floods, the photographer must have been stationed on the Story Bridge to record a dramatic sight on the Shafston Reach.

With the tide running at 14 knots, the

tanker Robert Miller had broken loose from Kangaroo Point and the MV Cape Moreton, normally berthed at the Commonwealth Government Lighthouse Service Depot in Merthyr Road, was manoeuvring to assist.

Our guest speaker inspired everyone with his grasp of what has come and gone along the Brisbane waterfront, and it was so well illustrated! Sincere thanks to David (and wife Heather) for a salutary presentation.

You can enjoy it again [HERE](#).

His latest book is available at Mary Ryan's bookshop, and details of his other titles are **ONLINE** at Boolarong Press.



Prince Charles serving as a lieutenant on HMS Jupiter which called at Brisbane on January 21, 1974. Photo: David Jones

Oral History

Contributor: Robert Allen

Expert training provides sound oral history foundation

Twenty society members attended an *Oral History Basics and Interviewing* workshop in the Ron Muir Room on August 26.

Funded by our BCC Historical Organisations Assistance Grant, the training was delivered by Professor Helen Klaebe and Oral History Queensland Secretary Elisabeth Gondwe, with assistance from University History student Samantha Wiley.

The full day workshop provided participants with a foundation in oral history principles and best practice. Through discussion and the use of practical examples, they learned how to plan, conduct and manage oral history projects.



Topics covered included:

- What is oral history?
- Finding a project;
- Ethics, copyright and permissions;
- Organising interviews;
- Equipment;
- Interviewing processes; and
- Using your work.

The practical component involved teaming up in pairs to interview each other about a key school memory.

Feedback after the workshop was uniformly positive



and several members expressed their eagerness to be involved in the society's future oral history projects.

Please email Tracey at secretary@newfarmhistorical.org.au if you'd also like to be involved.

125
NEW FARM
125th Anniversary

125-YEAR COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Saturday
17th October 2026
1pm - 5pm

Please scan the QR Code for more information

Meeting Photos

The presentation can be viewed online [HERE!](#)



Acknowledgements

As always, thanks go to our wonderful meeting volunteers as well as:



Grace Grace MP
Member for McConnell
(07) 3145 9100
Newsletter
printing

**VILLAGE
VOICE**
Your Trusted Voice



Brisbane City Council
Use of the Ron Muir
Meeting Room,
New Farm Library



About the Society

Contact Details:

Postal Address: PO Box 1141,
New Farm, QLD, 4005

Email: info@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Website: www.newfarmhistorical.org.au

Office: Ron Muir Room, next to
New Farm Library, 135 Sydney Street

Office Opening Hours:

Every Thursday 2-4pm, February to November

Office Bearers:

President: Robert Allen

0437 280 104

president@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Secretary: Tracey Hurren

secretary@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee Members:

Immediate Past President Desley Garnett,
Membership Secretary Bruna Burello-Day,
Ben Pritchard, Judi Jabour and
Linda Whatman.

Memberships:

2026 Fee: \$22 per calendar year or part thereof. Add \$1.85 for each remaining month. Applications for 2027 will be accepted from December 2026.

Enquiries: As a new application and renewal process is currently being implemented, please contact the Membership Secretary for advice: membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Newsletter Editor:

Kate Lockyer

editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au

Meeting Photography:

Maria Shaw with supplementary images by other contributors.

September Presentation

From alderman to artist

Our September guest is renowned artist and former local councillor David Hinchliffe. David, who was also one of the founding members of the society back in 1994, will paint live for us as he discusses his life, his work and what drives him.

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2:30pm

Location: Uniting Church Centre,
52 Merthyr Road, New Farm

Enquiries: 0437 280 104

Entry fee (includes afternoon tea):

\$5 for members;

\$10 for non-members.



David Hinchliffe

October Presentation

AGM Business - see notice over page

Community News

Perfect weather for the Seven Houses Walk

When architect Emma and author and historian Gerard led more than 20 participants on a walking tour in New Farm on 15 August to take in "Seven Favourite Houses", the expedition, which included a short bus ride, brought positive reviews: "All parts fun, educational, and incredibly fascinating!"

Mind you, the tour leaders were under positive stress. "We had to resist the temptation to pause in front of many other homes which also told a story," said Gerard.

The next walk is on 19 September: "Gasworks and Teneriffe Hill". All welcome. Details [HERE](#).

There will be another walk on 25 September: "Woolstores to the Powerhouse". Details [HERE](#).

Contributor: Gerard Benjamin



YOU'RE INVITED TO A
MEMBERS'
AFTERNOON TEA

Thursday 15 October 2026, 2:30pm
Ron Muir Room, New Farm Library,
135 Sydney Street, New Farm

Refreshments will be provided.
All welcome!

This is an opportunity to meet other members
over a cuppa. I hope to meet you there!
Robert Allen - President

RSVP to membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au
Text or leave message: 0417 190 675



Architect Emma Butterworth (centre) points out the features of Edenglassie in Bowen Terrace, with the city in the background. Photo: Judi Jabour

President's Message



Welcome to the September NF&DHS newsletter. My thanks, as always, to our editor Kate and her contributors.

I'd like to thank the membership for your vote of confidence in re-electing the committee at last month's Annual General Meeting.

Your committee for 2026/27 is:

President: Robert Allen

Secretary: Tracey Hurren

Treasurer: Denise Buckby

Committee: Desley Garnett (Immediate Past President), Bruna Burello-Day (Membership Secretary), Judi Jabour, Linda Whatman and Ben Pritchard.

2025/26 was another very busy year for our society, and I again thank all of our guest speakers, our dedicated committee, our hard working volunteers, our elected representatives and you, the members, for helping make our activities so successful.

You can read my president's report [HERE](#) or watch my report to the AGM [HERE](#).

AGM Notice

Notice of Resumed AGM on October 24

At the Annual General Meeting on August 22, the president on behalf of the committee advised that the 2025/26 financial auditor's report had been received late.

As a result there had not been sufficient time for the president and treasurer to complete their final review and signing on behalf of the committee, or for the final signed documents to be circulated to committee members before the AGM.

The meeting agreed to two recommendations: that the committee complete the remaining review, signing and circulation process promptly; and that the meeting adjourn consideration of the formal approval of the financial statements and audit report and the appointment of next year's auditors until our October 24 meeting.

Robert Allen

President NF&DHS

Twenty of our members attended the recent Oral History Basics and Interviewing Workshop conducted by Oral History Queensland. The feedback on the training provided was very positive and will help us to plan and deliver future oral history projects. Please see the report on the workshop elsewhere in this edition.

The society's monthly afternoon tea will be held in the Ron Muir Room next to the New Farm Library at 2:30 pm on Thursday 17 September. All members – both new and old – are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Bruna at membership@newfarmhistorical.org.au for catering purposes.

Gerard Benjamin is running another of his popular history walking tours on Saturday September 19, this time focusing on the area between the Gasworks and Teneriffe Hill. You can book [HERE](#).

Our special guest in conversation at our next meeting on September 26 is former BCC councillor and renowned painter David Hinchliffe. David will paint for us live and talk about his busy life to date. All welcome.

Until next month,

Robert Allen
President NF&DHS

Date Claimers

Public meetings are held at 2.30pm at the Merthyr Road Uniting Church Centre, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm, on the fourth Saturday each month from February to November.

Entry fee: \$5 for members; \$10 for non-members.

Other events include:

Ongoing: Fragile and Forever: Ceramics exhibition at the Queensland Museum. More info [HERE](#).

19 Sept: Walking Tour: Gasworks to Teneriffe Hill. Book [HERE](#).

15 Sept - Aug 2027: Lessons in Looking at QUT's William Robinson Gallery. More info [HERE](#).

25 Sept: Walking Tour: Woolstores to the Powerhouse. Book [HERE](#).

26 Sept: Monthly Society Meeting

26 - 27 Sept: Abbey History Festival: Celebrate 40 years of the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology. Book [HERE](#).

26 Sept - 10 Oct: Savoyards' Pirates of Penzance at Iona Performing Arts Centre. Book [HERE](#).

8 - 11 Oct: Brisbane Writers Festival at the Powerhouse. Book [HERE](#).

15 Oct: Members' Afternoon Tea

Community News

New Farm from above, 1929

This remarkable aerial snapshot of New Farm is a portion of a photo entitled “Brisbane from 10,000 feet, September 1929”. This is the first image in an album which belonged to Sir Hudson Fysh, one of the founders of QANTAS in 1920, and is a part of a collection held by the State Library of New South Wales.

Clearly visible are the driveway around New Farm Park, and the recently-completed Australian Estates Woolstore at 50 Macquarie Street.



Photo: SLNSW 845451

The whole album of almost 50 pages may be viewed [HERE](#).

Contributor: Gerard Benjamin

New colourful tribute to New Farm Park

There is an added attraction near New Farm Library, courtesy of architect Lucia Lauz, whose colourful artwork adorns an Energex box adjacent to the entrance in Sydney Street.

Lucia was the Artforce Brisbane ‘Overall Art Winner in 2024’ for her artwork ‘Climbing Kangaroo’, so as a result, she was given the opportunity to paint an Energex box in New Farm Park.



“This piece celebrates connection, curiosity and the beauty of sharing simple pleasures,” says Lucia. “Day and night, New Farm Park is rich with energy, colour and smiles.”

It’s clever of the artist to feature these ‘very literate’ possums enjoying “Reflections on New Farm”, since the book has been a local milestone with more than 4000 copies sold since its publication in 2008.



It is worth pointing out that it was David Hinchliffe, when the local councillor, who initiated the concept of turning signal boxes into artworks—and the results are dotted all over Brisbane.



Artist Lucia at work in New Farm Park near the library

Local possums enjoying local history

Membership Matters

Member updates

With 80 members and five visitors turning up, attendance at our AGM was exceptionally strong—a fantastic result.

We are immensely grateful for the loyalty and ongoing support of our regulars. Special thanks go to our long-distance travellers, including attendees from Buderim and beyond.

The Society now stands at 273 active members, including five Life Memberships, the latest of which was conferred following the formal AGM proceedings. The other Life Members are Penny Davies, David Hinchliffe, Gerard Benjamin and Ross Garnett.

Recognition of outstanding contribution

A well-earned Life Membership was bestowed on former President Desley Garnett. Desley's long-standing service supporting the society through her own presidency over the last four years and her active support of her husband Ross Garnett's previous 17-year presidency, was warmly acknowledged by all members.

It is noteworthy that this partnership represents a significant part of the society's 32-year history. Among Desley's many achievements as president were the establishment of the monthly members' afternoon tea and spearheading and subsequent launch of the well-received new society logo.

Desley was presented with a small memento – an engraved glass sculpture – by the current President, Robert Allen.

The Hon Grace Grace MP delivered her own heartfelt tribute as well.

Because of her deep knowledge of the society's history and processes, and her calm, respectful, gracious and warm nature, we are grateful that Desley has agreed to remain in her role on the committee as immediate past president. Her continued contribution will be an invaluable asset to the society's administration.

Thank you and congratulations, Desley!



Desley Garnett receiving her Life Membership, pictured here with Grace Grace MP.

Welcome back, Diane!

It was wonderful to see Diane Gage reprising her role at the Members' Welcome Table with her dazzling smile and her welcoming nature. We are very happy to have her back.

Here is Di with fellow members and friends, volunteer Eileen (at left) and Teresa (centre).



Russell and Penny Tait

Among attendees at the meeting were Penny Tait and her son Russell who was visiting from Los

Angeles. Penny is a niece of Commander Eric Feldt RAN who once resided in New Farm. His role as director of the Coastwatchers' organisation during WWII was recognised in 2025 by the installation of a plaque at Newstead.



Annemarie and Alasdair

A little closer to home but still arriving from afar was society member Annemarie who travelled all the way from Buderim to attend the meeting.

Here she is pictured with her son, Alasdair.



We'd like to hear from you

Remember, too, that we welcome stories and anecdotes from and about our members. If you'd like to be featured in our "Meet the Member" articles, please email the editor at editor@newfarmhistorical.org.au.

Useful Links

Brisbane Living Heritage:

www.brisbanelivingheritage.org

State Library of Queensland:

www.slq.qld.gov.au

Royal Historical Society of Queensland:

www.queenslandhistory.org

Queensland Women's Historical Association:

www.miegunyah.org

Community News

Contributor: Connie Hamer

New Farm State School's 125 Years library exhibition

During the months of May through to October, members of New Farm and Districts Historical Society Inc have had the pleasure of supporting activities associated with New Farm State School's 125 Years. Recent events have celebrated the school's 'special birthday' whilst also celebrating and strengthening community connections.

It is with gratitude that Society members acknowledge and thank New Farm State School Office staff (Olivia, Emma and Megan) and New Farm Library staff (Christine, Katy and team) for their assistance, time and expertise in setting up an historical display of school memorabilia.



Olivia, Emma and Megan



New Farm Librarian
Christine with Robert Allen



Rita Cleveland and Desley
Garnett setting up the historical
display in New Farm Library



25 years of Brisbane Living Heritage

This November, Brisbane Living Heritage is celebrating a very special milestone — 25 years! What began as a Brisbane City Council initiative has grown, with the council's continued support, into the independent, community-led organisation they are proud to be today.

To mark the occasion, they're gathering on Sunday, 29 November, 5pm–7pm, at Newstead House — one of their inaugural member organisations, and a fitting place to celebrate 25 years of connection across Brisbane's heritage community. Refreshments will be provided by Cuisine on Cue, so come along, relax and reconnect with fellow members and friends. Join them as they look back on a proud history, and look ahead to what's next.

Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#).

More Meeting Photos

