



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

Volume XV

No 1

WELCOME to another year with the New Farm and Districts Historical Society. We finished 2008 on a high note with the publishing of **Reflections on New Farm** – the biggest selling book Mary Ryan Bookshop at New Farm has ever stocked. We had a very successful launch and have received many accolades from those who have purchased and read the book.

It is gratifying to the committee that this venture into publishing the many oral histories held in the Society's archives on tape has been so well received by the public. This could not have been done without the funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. We are very grateful to our compilers Gerard Benjamin and Gloria Grant for so expertly weaving all the individual Oral Histories into a very interesting record of some episodes in the history of the suburb.

The sales continue through the Society directly, and also through Mary Ryan Bookshop at New Farm and Bulimba, New Farm Editions, a hairdresser in Merthyr Road, Edwin's stall at Powerhouse Markets, a Newsagency at Newstead, a manager of an apartment building, Museum of Brisbane Bookshop and the State Library Bookshop, as well as through a company which supplies books to Libraries. Individual members are also doing their bit within their own networks.

Two thousand books were printed – yes 2000! This was a real venture in faith by the committee, a decision that has been more than vindicated by the remarkable sales to date. After less than 3 months, around 1500 books have been sold. We thank those who continue to support the Society by “gossiping the good news” about the book and those who sell them on our behalf. In particular, we are grateful to the staff of Mary Ryan, New Farm, for their enthusiastic recommendation of the book to customers. As a

small group of volunteers, we could never have tapped into the markets the book has now reached. It is now available in libraries, and people who have borrowed it to read are now coming to Mary Ryan to buy their own copy. We still have bookmarks and order forms that you could use to spread the news about the book – just ask a committee member for some.

We are also very grateful for the support we received at no charge to us from local media **Village News** and **The Independent**, as well as radio stations.



Advertising table at Westpac Bank, New Farm (set up by Mary Ryan staff)

Reflections on New Farm will be available for purchase at the regular meetings. Buy your copy and one for a friend!

ASTOR PICTURE SHOW REVISITED

Saturday 28th February, 2 pm
Merthyr Road Uniting Church Centre
52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm.
Bus Stop 13 on Route 196

We start the year with an exciting reliving of history through the media of film and music at our February meeting – **Astor Picture Show Revisited**. Many folk will remember the Astor Picture Theatre on the corner of Brunswick and Barker Streets which, in 1970, became the Village Twin Cinema – the first multi-theatre in Brisbane. You will see Cinesound film and advertisements that you will be sure to remember from visits to the theatre in your younger days. Michael Brooks from the Cine-Retro Society will project the films. We expect it will be a popular meeting, so don't be late! Do invite other interested folk.



We are grateful to the Brisbane City Council for funding to hold this special event as our part of the Q150 program and at no extra cost to the Society or its members. Our program will include *The Queensland Centenary Story (1959)* as we look back to images of Queensland in 1959.

A real treat will be Jim Clinch playing a Theatre Organ with a sing-along of old songs as you might remember was popular at the Regent Theatre in the city during the war.



Dare Power, the current owner and developer of the Village Twin Cinemas will be there to tell us a little about this development.

Since we have more space available at the new venue for our meetings, we have been able to offer Edwin Clark, who spoke to us about old maps last year, the opportunity to display some of his maps for sale. Edwin is supporting the Society by stocking our book at the Powerhouse Markets. Please take the opportunity to check out his stall for something of interest.

MARCH MEETING 2pm 28th March 2009

“Who’s celebrating the Sesquicentenary?”

At our meeting on 28 March, Brisbane historian Dr Rod Fisher will speak about the Sesquicentenary of Queensland – its meaning for local residents and the key events during 2009. That involves the sessions, tours, exhibitions and publications of leading historical groups such as the Brisbane History Group, Newstead House Trust and Royal Historical Society of Queensland. Find out what’s happening and have your say at this timely talk.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the end of 2008 we received the resignation of our Vice-President, Gordon Neilsen. We thank Gordon for his commitment to the Society and in particular for his contributions to the newsletters in the form of reviews of our meetings. In line with our Constitution for filling casual vacancies, the present committee members have accepted nominations for, and appointed, 2 new members. Kim Ferguson has been appointed as Treasurer and Phil Evans as a Committee Member. We thank them both for accepting these roles in our Society.



BIRTH OF QUEENSLAND

The push for separation from New South Wales began in earnest in the early 1850s. Between 1851 and 1854, a number of public meetings were held and by January 1856, a series of petitions had been sent to Queen Victoria seeking the establishment of a separate colony.



On July 10 1859, the ship ‘Clarence’ with the word ‘Separation’ painted on its hull sailed into Brisbane bringing the news that on 6 June 1859, Queen Victoria had signed the Letters Patent creating a new colony. The news was greeted enthusiastically by a jubilant crowd and the vessel was welcomed with a 14-gun salute and fireworks. The Queen favoured the name Queensland over suggestions to call it Cooksland in honour of Captain James Cook.

Later that month there were further celebrations when news was received that Sir George Ferguson Bowen would be the colony’s first Governor. Fireworks, cannon fire, flag raisings and the sound of a gun shot expressed the public’s sentiment. Elaborate plans were made for the reception of the Governor, who sailed into Brisbane with his wife, Lady Diamantina, on Saturday 10 December 1859. On arrival at the Botanic Gardens, they were greeted by over 4,000 people waiting on the river banks.



The Governor and his party proceeded to Government House in Adelaide Street (now the Deanery of St John’s Cathedral) and ascended to the balcony from where the proclamation was read officially establishing Queensland as a separate colony. The proclamation and Letters Patent were published in the Queensland Government Gazette on 10 December 1859. The *Moreton Bay Courier* reported that the celebrations continued in Brisbane for several days and included formal ceremonies, boat races on the river and fireworks. (<http://www.q150.qld.gov.au/AboutUs/Birth.aspx>)

HOW YOU CAN BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Become a committee member
- Become an office bearing committee member. The positions of Newsletter Editor and Vice President are all currently vacant.
- Write a review of meetings for the newsletter
- Record oral histories (sole worker or team effort)
 - Interviews
 - Typing (transcription of tapes)
- Learn the archival system to help with filing, sorting or assisting with enquiries
- 'Man' the office on Thursday afternoon 2 to 4 pm
- Assist on meeting days – set up, afternoon tea (putting out and clearing up), registration, packing away
- 2 hours a month to dust and tidy the office
- Researching at the Library
- Promotional activities



If you can assist, please talk to Susan White, our Volunteer Coordinator, or email her at susan.white@westnet.com.au

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

We have all been stirred into compassion for the people of Victoria as we have heard of the devastating bushfires there in the past couple of weeks. That compassion leads us into action. In considering what this small organisation could do to help, the committee has decided that all of the entry donations (plus any extra anyone wants to contribute) will be donated to that area. We have discovered that the township of Marysville had a strong Historical Society and all of their records and property have been completely destroyed. It seems appropriate that the money raised by this Society be sent to them to assist in their re-establishment.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has agreed to hold our donated money in trust for the Marysville Society until they are able to recommence their activities. Now they will certainly have a new story to add to the records of significant historical events in their locality. We will also be sending them a copy of *Reflections on New Farm* signed by Gloria and Gerard with our best wishes to them as they rebuild their homes, their communities and their Society.



New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc

Office located at front of Ron Muir Meeting Room, NF Library, 135 Sydney Street, New Farm
Office Opening Hours: Every Thursday 2 – 4 pm Postal Address: PO Box 1141 NEW FARM 4005 Email: newfarmhistory@yahoo.com

President: Ross Garnett Phone 3254 1449 drgarn@bigpond.net.au Vice President: (vacant)
Secretary: Lois Kennedy Phone: 3254 4439 loiskennedy@powerup.com.au
Treasurer: Kim Ferguson kimferguson58@hotmail.com
Committee Members: Bruna Burello-Day, Susan White (Volunteer coordinator), Phil Evans
Newsletter Editor: (vacant)

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of the society, have expressed an interest in the work of the Society, or have had recent contact with the Society through the sales of the book *Reflections on New Farm*. We encourage you to support the Society by becoming a member. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive further correspondence from us.