



NEW FARM & *Districts* HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER

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WHAT a great beginning to our March meeting. Not only were we entertained with superb playing, but flautist Sophie Manoharan also added to our knowledge of the history of one of our favourite songs, *Waltzing Matilda*, all to the lovely background of the screening of Gladys Blundell's paintings. Many thanks to Sophie - we hope she'll be able to come again.

David Hinchliffe spoke about the two week trial of the return of the Brunswick Street bus stop opposite the railway station. Let David know if you're keen to have the stop back on a permanent basis. David also reminded us of the 50 year celebrations of the building of *GlenFalloch*.

Seeking Treasure in the Sesquicentenary of Queensland

Well-known Historian, Dr Rod Fisher, was our speaker for March, and he outlined the events that will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the State of Queensland. There seem to be lots of anniversaries in 2009; it is 200 years since Charles Darwin was born, 150 years since the first two bishops arrived in Queensland, one Catholic, one Anglican, 80 years since the great depression and 145 years of the Queensland Police Service.

Some of the events that we can all take part in include the Sites of Separation Heritage Walk and Bus tour on 18 April organized by the Brisbane History Group, and an exhibition of Hidden Treasures at the Commissariat Stores on 1 June, a joint event with the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. This exhibition will focus on "treasure" from around Queensland, e.g. a printing press, seals and medals. Rod spoke about a wave of immigration in the 1860s and the role of 'sketchers' such as Richard Watt whose drawings were a popular medium for imparting information in newspapers before photographs were able to be reproduced easily.



Doug Murray & John filming the NF story

Bookings for the 18th April tour can be made by calling Paul Sayer on 3398 4080.

Thanks to all who contributed to the afternoon tea - we just weren't quick enough to rescue the cupcakes from the other meeting in the hall! They must have been too good to resist.

Committee News from Lois Kennedy

The Management Committee meets on the first Monday of every month (except January). Let us know if you have any suggestions or questions - we'd love to hear from you. There are number of interesting projects on the agenda of the Society:

- setting up a website, ably coordinated by Susan White.
- tidying up the files and archives in the Office with the expert help of Nancy Weir and Isabelle Davis.
- venturing again into the world of publishing, working with Vicki Bridgstock and editor to bring to completion the *Tales of Teneriffe*. Vicki has already talked to many past and present residents. However there is still time to include anecdotes or photos to add to the story. If you have stories to tell or photos we can use, contact the Secretary Lois Kennedy on 3254 4439.
- involvement in the Brisbane Heritage Expo 2009 on Saturday 16 May at Brisbane City Hall. This will mean setting up a display showing what the Society does, staffing the display with volunteers who can give an hour or two of time to keep an eye on the display and chat to visitors. If you can help, please contact Lois or Susan.

Did you see the *Brisbane Extra* Story about *Reflections on New Farm*? It was filmed in November last year, and went to air last week. Thanks to those who participated. Copies of the program can be purchased from Channel 9 for \$25.

Have you thought about joining the Committee? You don't need to be an historian, just interested and enthusiastic about New Farm. We are all learning as we go! Our Treasurer has indicated that she is not able to continue in that role due to personal pressures. We also need a Newsletter Editor. Do you have the skills needed to fulfil either of these roles? Do you know someone else who could take on one of these roles in a voluntary capacity?



**Next Meeting – Anzac Day, 25th April at 2 pm
Merthyr Road Uniting Church Centre**

To the Ladies of WW2!

BRISBANE AUTHOR, ESTELLE PINNEY, will talk about her experiences as part of the workforce of women who supported the war effort in our very own city – the fun, the heart-aches, the roles they played.

Estelle Pinney refers to herself as a Jill of All Trades and 'master' of some. She was a late starter as far as writing goes, but with luck and life's varied experiences to dip into, she has achieved success in the writing field.

As a teenager arriving with her family from Cairns she found herself in a wartime Brisbane teeming with servicemen and women. Another world... and wanting to be part of it all, Estelle joined the assembly line in a West End hand grenade factory. Later she became an ambulance driver for the American Army, a small and little-known unit based at Balmoral.

You may have many memories of your own of the role of women in the local war effort. Please bring any items of memorabilia to display and share your story with others.

Looking forward to May *The New Farm Italian story.*

This is set to be another interesting afternoon when several people will share their stories and memories of migrating to, or growing up in New Farm.

Reflections continues to inspires yet more Reflections...

Reflections on New Farm continues to stimulate memories for its readers. Len Ryan, organist at St Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church, recently wrote:

Receiving a gift of 'Reflections on New Farm' has brought back many memories of my very early childhood. For the first few years of my life, I lived with my parents and elder brother at the Oxlade end of Hazelwood St. In those days, the ships used to come up the river to dock at Petrie Bight and it was a fascination for us to watch them sail past. We knew the names of all the tug boats and could tell them by the sound of their whistles.



My mother used to wheel us boys up to the corner of Bowen Terrace and Merthyr Rd to catch the tram to shop in the Valley, and she would leave the pram under the big house at the corner, which was owned by the dentist. We used to go to Sunday School at the Brunswick Street Methodist Church.

What really took my attention in the book was the chapter on the New Farm Private School, which I attended in 1948 as a kindergarten. I can remember it being run by two 'old' ladies, the Misses Stevenson, who appeared to me to be at least 100 years old. This led me to dig through the pile of old family photos to find the group photo of a Fancy Dress Ball to which my brother and I went as cowboys.

New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc

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Thanks to Desley Garnett for producing this Newsletter, and Gerard & Gloria for converting it to PDF