



NEW FARM & Districts HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER

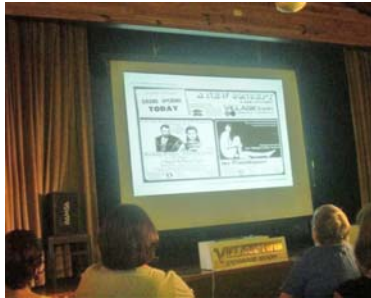
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ASTOR PICTURE SHOW RE-VISITED

THE 2009 YEAR for the New Farm and Districts Historical Society commenced with a crowd of over 100 gathering to relive memories through film and singing. The new venue for meetings



at the Merthyr Road Uniting Church provided a comfortable environment where we could enjoy Cinesound movies and old advertisements for products such as Aeroplane Jelly and Bushells Tea. The Queensland Centenary Story offered a good overview of Queensland from 1859 to 1959. The film that stirred most memories was the tram journey from South Brisbane Station to New Farm Park. The buzz of conversation during that film was not because we were bored, but because we saw so many things that reminded us of how Brisbane was in 1958. What a



thrill for new member, Susan Ball, to see her Grandmother sitting on the tram wearing a brooch that Susan now owns!

The audience was treated to Jaffas and popcorn served charmingly by Zoe and Adele, and little Samuel handed out the Q 150 flags. Did anyone roll the Jaffas down the aisle? We could not hear because of the carpeted floor!

Dare Power, the current owner of the Village Twin site (previously known as Astor Picture Theatre), gave us an overview of the history of cinema on that site and the plans to re-build a cinema there. He presented the Society with a sign from the original Village Twin Theatre, one of the earliest multi-screen cinemas in Australia. We hope to obtain a copy of the "Tram" video for the Society so that it can be enjoyed again.



Jim Clinch on the Allen Theatre Organ brightened the afternoon as he skilfully entertained us before, during and after the show, and the happy mood of the audience was obvious when they joined in the sing-along ably led by Revd. Chris Holden.

This congenial afternoon was followed by afternoon tea and the opportunity for friendly pow-wows with friends new and old. We must thank those people and organisations who made this such an interesting afternoon:

- Brisbane City Council Lord Mayors' Suburban Initiative Fund for totally funding this program - \$1672.00;
- Michael Brooks, for bringing in all the equipment and showing the films;
- National Film and Sound Archives for lending the films;
- Various organisations for giving copyright permission to screen the films we borrowed from the Archives;
- Jim Clinch, from All Organs Australia, for bringing in the organ and playing so well;
- Chris Holden, song leader extraordinaire;
- Dare Power, owner of Village Twin site for the use of the *Tram Ride* video; and
- Our President, Ross Garnett, who organised the afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who generously gave a donation to help the Marysville Historical Society after the disaster of the Victorian Bushfires, and to those who have written messages of support. The donations totalled \$380.

The Marysville Historical Society has lost not only their building, but also all their precious records and archives, and the Royal Victorian Historical Society has agreed to hold any money raised in trust for the Marysville Historical Society until rebuilding of the organisation begins.

This process will take time. In the interim, the Committee would like to extend our fundraising to the end of March, and would welcome further donations, either at the meeting on 28th March, at the office in Sydney Street on Thursday afternoon between 2 and 4 pm, or by mail. Also we encourage you, if you haven't done so already, to write or email messages of support that we can pass on to the Marysville Society.

GLENFALLOCH TURNS 50 THIS YEAR

Glenfalloch in Oxlade Drive was one of the very earliest high-rise apartment blocks in Brisbane when it was built in 1959. This year the current residents want to mark that milestone in various ways. Councillor David Hinchliffe has asked anyone who has any information about *Glenfalloch* to contact his office (phone 3403 0254, email central.ward@ecn.net.au or send correspondence to Shop 11, 31 Duncan St, Valley 4005). The small committee organising the celebrations is keen to hear from people who have any interesting stories about life in *Glenfalloch*.... perhaps photographs of note, memories of the building process, or stories of residents. There will be a celebration at *Glenfalloch* on the night of RiverFire to which all current and former residents will be invited to attend (RSVP only). As well, there may be a booklet of *Glenfalloch* memories produced, so stories and photos are being sought.

AN INVITATION FROM MEIGUNYAH

The Qld Women's Historical Society invites you to attend the Garden Party Launch of the publication *Booroodabin – A Sesquicentenary History of Breakfast Creek, Bowen Hills, Newstead and Teneriffe 1823-2009*. It will be held at the house museum, *Miegunyah*, 35 Jordan Tce, Bowen Hills, 2 to 4 pm, Saturday 18th April. Please RSVP to 3252 2979 for catering purposes.

NEW FARM BOOK: A GREAT SUCCESS STORY

"Reflections on New Farm" continues to be a runaway success, with New Farm Editions, The Book Bank in Toowong Shopping Village and Avid Reader in West End, all recently requesting to stock the book. Copies signed by the compilers, Gerard Benjamin and Gloria Grant, are in great demand at these outlets, as well as at Mary Ryan Bookshop in New Farm.

BECOME A FINANCIAL MEMBER TODAY

The number of financial members of the organisation has increased over the past year, but there are still many people who are interested enough in the Society to receive the newsletter but have not yet made that commitment to become a financial member. The cost of membership is very low so as not to be a financial burden on anyone.

Some may ask "Why become a member if I can receive the newsletter without paying my annual fee?" The answer is simple: "Every organisation needs a membership base in order to function effectively." The number of members is an important consideration

when it comes to making applications for grants or when lobbying the Government. Just imagine if our number of financial members was low: we may not have received the grants for publishing *Reflections on New Farm*, purchasing the lap-top computer and data projector that we use at our meetings, and for holding our *Astor Picture Show Revisited* afternoon. Please do your part in supporting the Society. The membership application is attached.

How you can be a vital part of our Society

The committee continues to be busy with tasks on many fronts. These range from preparing for the regular community meetings to archiving, researching and publishing. We have more ideas and goals than man-hours and as such the Volunteer Co-ordinator role is developing into one of importance. Our team is growing but we have needs in many areas and a small contribution of time can be put to such good use. Susan, our co-ordinator, would be delighted to have a chat – with a view to finding a job of interest – to anybody who would like to explore their interest in local history. Our website is underway and the book *'Reflections'* has brought many more stories to the fore which need to be collected. You may phone Susan on 3358 1056.

**NEXT MEETING: 28TH MARCH,
2 pm at Merthyr Road Uniting
Church Centre**

**"Seeking Treasure in the
Sesquicentenary of
Queensland" –
With well-known Brisbane
Historian
Dr Rod Fisher**



Governor
Bowen – the
first
Governor of
Queensland

Discover how the image of Brisbane was conveyed by line-drawings including sketches, prints, letter-papers, publications, maps, advertisements, bills, seals, medallions, printing-presses, a necklace and even a sword.



**What a great haul from
this historical trawl!**

A special treat will be pre-meeting entertainment by local flautist, Sophie Manoharan

New Farm & Districts Historical Society Inc

The Office is located at front of Ron Muir Meeting Room, NF Library, 135 Sydney Street
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Treasurer: Kim Ferguson Secretary: Lois Kennedy Phone: 3254 4439 loiskennedy@powerup.com.au
Committee Members: Bruna Burello-Day, Susan White, Phil Evans (1 vacancy)