



*Rob and Keryn Honeycombe, Helen Astill and Lord Mayor Campbell Newman at the re-opening of the former Boot Factory in South Brisbane.*

## Burdekin family breathe life into historic boot factory

**A BURDEKIN family are behind the restoration of one of Brisbane's oldest buildings.**

The former Boot Factory, which now houses Bees Nees City Realty, has recently been restored to its former glory.

Bees Nees managing director, Rob Honeycombe and his father John Honeycombe purchased the historic Astill & Freeman Boot Factory in June

2006 and have spent \$800,000 restoring the building.

The Boot Factory, which was built in 1897, was constructed by Joseph Astill and James Henry Freeman. The boot-making and leather business was operated by members of the Astill family until 1964 and Joseph's granddaughter Helen Astill attended the re-opening function last month.

Mr Honeycombe said that

because of the building's historic value, a team of experienced consultants and builders were required to ensure the precise delivery of the building's restoration.

"Brisbane City Council's heritage team were heavily involved in the design stages to ensure that all heritage issues were addressed and the historic value and character was preserved," he said.