



Bulletin

ISSN No. 0035 8916

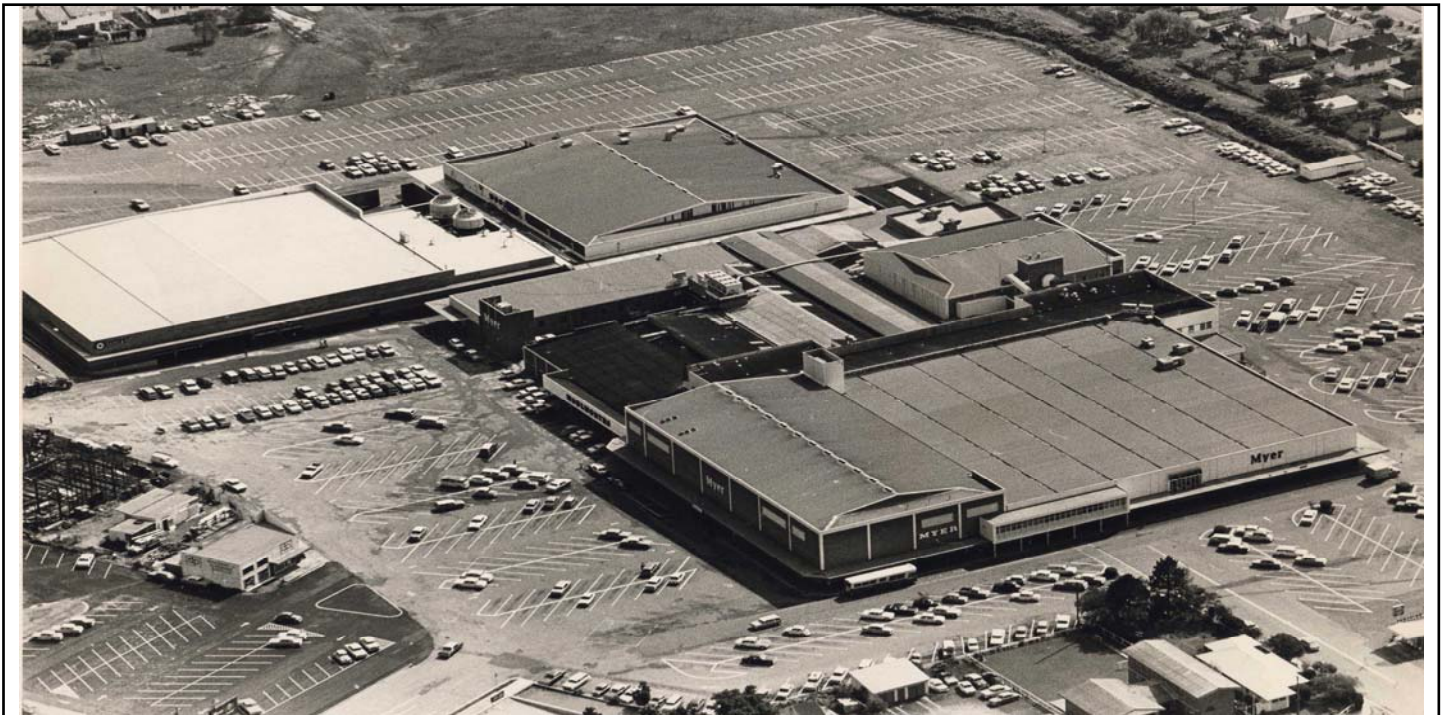
Newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, No.708 May 2007

www.queenslandhistory.org.au

info@queenslandhistory.org.au

Ph: 07 3221 4198

Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor of Queensland
President: Jean Stewart



Chermerside Shopping Centre
circa October 1972

(RHSQ collection) see story page 5

President's Report May 2007

This month sees the Society embark on another weekend excursion planned and researched by our redoubtable vice-president, Manfred Cross. It looks to be a very interesting tour with remarkable and varied highlights and, once again, has been heavily booked.

It is rapidly approaching one of the major events on the Society's program, the Queensland Day Dinner to be held in the Commissariat Store on Wednesday 6 June. This has been a most entertaining and enjoyable evening for many years and a highlight is the presentation of the John Douglas Kerr Award for Research and Writing of History. A flyer is included in this *Bulletin* and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

It was with pleasure that the Council accepted the offer of Dr Bernadette Turner and Mrs Val Donovan to be co-editors of the *Journal*. They are very experienced historians and both have written and

published significant works. They have approached the new task with enthusiasm and have spent the last few weeks learning the new processes.

The Council has accepted the resignations of two long term and valuable members: Stephen Sheaffe, a former president and the major player in the task to renovate the Commissariat Store, has decided to call it a day and pursue other interests. He continues to speak to groups by invitation. Dr Joanne Scott, who has made a significant contribution particularly in Conferences and in establishing the Peer Review system for the *Journal*, has found that her increased responsibilities at the University of the Sunshine Coast have made it difficult for her to attend meetings in Brisbane although she wishes to remain on the Editorial Board of the *Journal*. Both will be missed in the monthly Council deliberations. However, it is with pleasure that the Council notes that Professor John Pearn has agreed to return and we look forward to his wise counsel and good ideas.

The issue of the North Bank seems to have faded

from public scrutiny and no announcement has been made by the Government about its future. I was invited to write an article for the Brisbane Institute's monthly paper *The Brisbane Line* about the heritage issues involved. If members are interested they can read this on www.brisinst.org.au/brisline

During the month the Guides and other volunteers, who so ably show visitors over the Commissariat Store, took a day to see how others do the job of museum guiding when a group of some 22 volunteers and their partners and two Council members and their partners, went on a visit to Enoggera Barracks and inspected the three museums there as well as the Royal Australian Regiment's memorial. The tour was ably led by Captain Adele Catt and assisted in the Light Horse Museum by Society member Captain Grahame Jardine-Vidgen. It was a very interesting day and the morning inspection which also included the latest in modern tanks, ended with a pleasant lunch in the Gaythorne RSL. It is wonderful to be able to share in these excursions and to enjoy the company of the people who make such an important contribution to the well-being of the Society.

During the last couple of weeks of the school term there were hundreds of children on school visits to the Store, so many in fact that extra Guides had to be called in to cope with the influx. All this reflects the sterling effort by Allan Bell and other volunteers to inform schools, mostly by fax, about the service that we offer. Other visitors to the Store during the month have included some 80 members of the Brisbane History Group who attended an afternoon held at the Commissariat Store with talks on Captain JC Wickham – the mariner, the magistrate and the man.

It is sad to record the death of a very long-term member of the Society, Margaret Beale, who joined in November 1976. She was a regular attendee at meetings and conferences. She worked in the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney for many years and became the archivist for the bank and thus a member of the Australian Society of Archivists. She grew up near Ayr and then her family moved to Mackay where she was a very able school student. Later in her life she was a member of the Music History Society formed by members of the State and Municipal Choir.

Jean Stewart
President

New Members

Margaret Dearlove	Sunnybank
Diggings Club of Queensland	Mansfield
John & Maureen Laverty	The Gap
Bruce Lorisich	Maryborough

Research report

One of our newer members, Russell Nunn, has become very involved in a most enthusiastic way of recording sources for the life and work of two extraordinary inventors in Brisbane. They were Dr Val McDowall and Thomas MB Elliott who were way ahead of their time in pioneering television in the 1930s. In his tribute Russell Nunn has gathered information from the Society's collection of photographs and letters by Elliott. The Society also had a 16mm film of ABC documentaries and original footage of the pair. Using his connections with the Cutting Edge, Aspley Video Productions, this material has been digitised at no cost to the Society and has provided us with an accessible and valuable record.

If only all our researchers and enquirers were so lucky in finding such significant material! In spite of all our efforts no significant material was found on the following topics: the origin of the name Scarborough at Redcliffe; Collinsville township and the surrounding areas; little known timber bridges in Queensland (a list was provided by the enquirer but they were not located or described from our collection); and Aboriginal Trackers in the Boer War. There was some success with queries relating to the early Brisbane radio 4QG, early Brisbane pictures and architectural details of the Printing Office in Brisbane.

Jean Stewart
Hon Researcher

Country News

(Collected by Ruth Kerr from personal Queensland contacts, Affiliated Societies and Newspapers)

Atherton - The maize silos at Atherton, said locally to be the first bulk handling facility in Australia, are in the process of being demolished. The ten huge cement stacks were built 80 years ago. The Atherton Maize Board has been in receivership for almost a decade and litigation continues. The silos were considered to be in an unsafe condition. The developer of the land has undertaken to place memorabilia and photos of the silos in the new development. (*Tablelander* 3 April 2007 p.6; *Tablelands Advertiser* 5 April 2007 p.5 including photo)

Birdsville promotes its museum along with its bakery, Blue Poles Gallery, Big Red dune and Waddi trees. The museum focuses on its blacksmith shop, harness maker, wheelwright, horse gear and brace wagons. It is open daily 8am to 6pm. (*North West Star* 20 March 2007 p.11 including five photos)

Clermont - *Wolfgang* homestead built in the 1950s is being relocated by Rio Tinto Coal (Australia) Pty

Ltd as part of the \$950 million Clermont mine development project. The coal mine will be on the *Wolfgang* property. The house is being relocated to a property south of Clermont. A Traditional Smoking Ceremony was held by the Wangan Jagalingou People on 29 March 2007 with company and government representatives present before the initial construction work commenced. The mine will open in 2009.

Glass House Mountains – The Queensland Heritage Council decided at its February 2007 meeting to enter the Glass House Mountains on the Queensland Heritage Register. The Glass House Mountains were entered on the National Heritage Register by the Commonwealth Government in August 2006. (*Courier Mail* 3 April 2007 p.10)

Kairi - The Eacham Historical Society is advocating the preservation of the Kairi maize silos built in the 1950s. Atherton Shire Council has issued a show cause notice to the owners, Tableland Maize growers after concerns have been raised by the public. The Council is seeking to have the buildings made safe. Arbor plantings surrounding them survive from the 1930s. The site is also believed to be an Aboriginal cultural site. The Society has also identified 120 other heritage sites in the area. (*Tablelander* 3 April 2007 pp.1 and 9)

Kuranda - Proprietor of the Kuranda Trading Post, Terry O'Reilly, is mounting an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia relating to the Cairns - Kuranda Range Railway. It will be housed in a gallery above the Trading Post. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 21 March 2007 p.11 including photographs)

Mackay - The original bagged sugar storage and loading wharf at Mackay has been demolished recently. It had been commissioned on 26 August 1939. The commissioning of a new bulk sugar handling facility in 1999 made the 250 metre wharf redundant. There were 50 metres of decking, 2812 timber girders and 3.8 kilometres of timber head stock. Brisbane's Kennedy's Classic Aged Timbers demolished the sugar shed and plans to recycle the timber. Some of the rainforest and ironbark timber is being utilised in repairs to Old Parliament House, Canberra. Four hundred and eighty tonnes of metal was sold as scrap. Nine hundred and twenty concrete piles, each weighing 16 tonnes were extracted from the seabed and crushed and will be used as fill in developments at Mackay Harbour and Airport. (*North Queensland Register* 22 March 2007 p.13)

Mareeba Heritage Museum and Tourist Information Centre is being developed at a cost of \$150,000 into an arts hub to stimulate the arts industry locally. It is being funded through Arts Queensland's Gritty Places Partnership Program. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 21 March 2007 p.10)

Rockhampton - The Rockhampton and District Historical Society presents an annual prize at the University of Central Queensland to the student with the highest achievement in history as a major field of study. During 2006 three tutorials were delivered to third year students in Learning Management at the University of Central Queensland and a field exercise to the Woolwash was undertaken by several of those students. (Rockhampton and District Historical Society *Annual Report* 2006 p.2)

PROGRAM REPORT

A veritable feast awaits us. The program for the rest of the year is shaping up as the best ever.

May and June are two of the busiest months at the Commissariat Store. John McCulloch, best known for his two volume biographies of Queensland women will present a paper on Wednesday 9 May. The 'lady' of interest on this occasion is *Elizabeth Brentnall – headmistress, minister's wife and suffragist*.

The Thursday evening May lecture on 17 May focuses on one of the most interesting Queensland clergyman of the twentieth century – Dean Baddeley. John Mackenzie Smith, who delivered the superb and much commented on lecture on *The Deanery* in May last year, will give us the benefit of his research on this colourful inhabitant of that building.

Wednesday 6 June, Queensland Day, is the annual function for the presentation of the John Douglas Kerr Medal for excellence in historiography. This is always a great night.

Wednesday 13 June lecture is by Loretta de Plevitz of the QUT Law Department on Fiji history, specifically at the time of Governor Gordon. With the recent 'coups' in Fiji, this is a very topical subject. It was Gordon who introduced Indian indentured labourers. He also introduced the strategy of land ownership to be kept in the hands of the indigenous Fijians, with a governing body of chiefs. It is interesting to note that the original charter of the Historical Society of Queensland (1913) mentions the promotion of the history of Queensland and the Pacific.

Dr de Plevitz teaches Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Law, Indigenous Legal Issues and Torts in the Faculty of Law at QUT. She has a long connection with the Pacific both through her family and her research interests.

On Thursday 21 June Stephen Sheaffe will present a paper on his distant relative Samuel Ashmore after whom Ashmore Reef off Cape York is named. This is an important, little-researched, topic on early Australian maritime history covering the first decades of the nineteenth century.

I apologise for the mistake in the April Wednesday program. It was a result (100%) of my singular incompetence. Thanks to Jean Stewart for filling the void, albeit with another topic on 'women's history'.

Another reminder about our Saturday seminar on 11 August. The program composition is well underway with confirmed participants including Jennifer Harrison, Rod Fisher, John Mackenzie Smith, Carolyn Nolan, and Fr. Martin. This is indeed an exciting project.

Ian Hadwen

FAHS News

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies (Inc.) was established in 1977 and to mark its thirtieth anniversary there are plans to produce a brief history of the organisation. This will take the form of a series of articles in the FAHS Newsletter which will be compiled into a single document and will be published on the FAHS website – <http://www.history.org.au>

The Federation is calling for nominations for its 2007 Merit Awards. Any individual is eligible for this award if they are a financial member of one of the member societies of the Federation, or an affiliated society. Members of RHSQ or of affiliated societies are eligible. The deadline for receipt of nomination is 30 June 2007. For further information see the website.

Senior Vice-President, Professor Ian Jack, presented Dr Lionel Gilbert with his 2006 FAHS Fellowship at the Armidale Folk Museum recently. The President, Dr Helen Henderson, presented Ms Pearl Ogden with her FAHS Merit Award at the Annual General Meeting and annual dinner of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory held in March.

Following the resignation of History of Council of South Australia delegate and Federation Senior Vice-President, Mr Nigel Ridgway, the Committee has welcomed his replacement, migrant historian, Ms Diana Chessell.

Details on how to join the Australian Historical Societies Online Support Group can also be found on the website by following the link from the home page.

Library report

The Society has had in its possession a 16 mm film about Dr Valentine McDowall and Thomas MB Elliott's experimental television transmissions from the Old Windmill in 1935. Through the efforts of Russell Noud and others this film has been digitised and the original film together with a CD-ROM and

DVD copy have been catalogued and added to the Welsby library.

Gifts from Manfred Cross include *Hayden; Theodore: His life and time; The hillbilly dictator: Australia's police state; The people's champion: Fred Paterson Australia's only Communist Party Member of Parliament; "The first notes of the drum": An historical record and background of the Queensland Shearer's Strikes of 1891-94; The Story Bridge golden jubilee 1940-1990 Celebrating 50 years as part of the city of Brisbane; Cradled in the ranges: A history of Blackbutt, Benarkin, Taromeo and surrounding districts within the Nanango Shire 1842-1988; Old days old ways: The people of Durundur/Woodford; Report and valuation: Grazing: Colinton Station; Peoples, nations and peace: The inaugural Mabo Oration 3 June 2005, delivered by Noel Pearson; Motor ships of the thirties: More stories of Brisbane traders.*

Jean Stewart donated 'Peace angel' of World War I: *Dissent of Margaret Thorp; Ridge to ridge: Recollections from Woodridge to Park Ridge;*

Jim Lergessner donated three of his books, *White specks on a dark shore: The Pumicestone Passage castaways; Embattled seacows: Dugongers in early Queensland; Oysterers of Moreton Bay.*

As a result of the volunteers outing and new subject file Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera has been created. Copy of a petition from graziers, farmers and others for telegraph link between Goondiwindi and Tallwood has been added to the archives.

Judy Rechner
Hon Librarian

CALENDAR

May 2007

- Wednesday 9 May** 12.30 pm '**Elizabeth Brentnall**'
by John McCulloch
- Tuesday 15 May** **Bulletin deadline**
- Thursday 17 May** 6.00 pm '**Dean Baddeley**' by
John Mackenzie Smith

June 2007

- Wednesday 6 June** 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm
**Queensland Day function and
John Douglas Kerr medal
presentation**
- Wednesday 13 June** 12.30 pm '**Developments in
Papua**' by Greg Pougrain
- Friday 15 June** **Bulletin deadline**
- Thursday 21 June** 6.00 pm **Samuel Ashmore
and tracks through the
Barrier Reef** by Stephen
Sheaffe

Burke and Wills Conference

The Third Burke and Wills Biennial Conference will be held at Birdsville on 11 August 2007. For further information please contact Garry Fischer at garry.fischer@bigpond.com.

Queensland State Archives

The State Archives, 435 Compton Road Runcorn, are open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and on the second Saturday of each month from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

National Archives of Australia

The opening hours for The National Archives of Australia at 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill are now every Wednesday to Friday from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and on the third Saturday of each month from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. Records must be pre-ordered. Phone 3249 4226.

State Library of Queensland

Nominations for the **2007 John Oxley Library Fellowship** close on Wednesday 18 April. An original and creative concept to document Queensland's history could provide the successful applicant with **\$20,000** plus access to the extensive resources of the State Library. Further information and application forms can be found at:

www.slq.qld.gov.au/whatson/competitions/awards

Events and functions of interest

A Roof Over Queensland: Building Plans on Wednesday 16 May and Saturday 19 May at National Archives of Australia, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.

'67 Referendum from 6 May to 21 July at State Library of Queensland – a varied program of activities and free events regarding the 1967 Referendum. No bookings required.

Fisherman Islands and Box Flat with Sunshine Express Rail Tours on Saturday 30 June. Information and bookings phone 3252 1759

Christmas in Winter Dinner – celebrate Christmas early by dining on a steam train - with Sunshine Express Rail Tours on Saturday 30 June. Information and bookings phone 3252 1759

Brisbane Model Train Show at RNA Grounds, Brisbane on Saturday and Sunday 5-6 May from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and Monday 7 May from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Phone 3852 1831.

History Alive: a journey through time at the Fort Lytton National Park on Saturday 9 June and Sunday 10 June from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The Queensland Living History Federation Inc presents re-enactment

events by groups from around Australia. For further information see www.historyalive.org.au

Old Stories New Ways: 2007 National Oral History Conference from Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 September. Brisbane has been chosen as the venue for the biennial event which brings together oral historians from here and overseas. For further information see <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au>

Historic Brisbane Film Night at The Auditorium, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens on Thursday 24 May 6.00 pm to 9.45 pm, details on 3403 2520

The Wreck of the “Dicky”

The *Dicky* was a 25 metre long iron steam screw schooner built in Germany in 1885. In early 1893, the unsettled weather which was to bring the great flood to Brisbane was also affecting coastal shipping from Mackay south.

Captain Beattie, in charge of the *Dicky*, was on a voyage from Rockhampton to Brisbane. On 4 February, off Caloundra Head, a severe gale prevented the vessel from rounding the point, and she was being driven towards the reef.

Captain Beattie steered for the shore to save the nine crew (plus himself) and property, The *Dicky* was beached without loss of life. For a fortnight it was believed that the vessel could be refloated and several attempts were made. By 17 February all attempts were abandoned. The engine was salvaged and went on to power the *Lady Norman* for the next 50 years. The propeller was not retrieved until 1963, the 70th anniversary of the beaching, and now forms part of the memorial at Dicky Beach.

Marjorie Shackleton.

Chermside Shopping Centre

According to the Brisbane history group's publication Brisbane timeline: from Captain Cook to CityCat p321, Australia's first drive-in shopping centre was built for Allan & Stark (now Myers) at Chermside and was opened on 31 May 1957. The image below shows an earlier stage of development but still with the name “Myer” on the façade.



Chermside Shopping Centre pre 1972

Royal Historical Society of Qld
 PO Box 12057
 Brisbane George Street
 Qld 4003
 RHSQ Journal: PP424022/00020
 RHSQ Bulletin: PP424022/00019

**SURFACE
 MAIL**

POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA



Important Functions and Events	
CALENDAR	
May 2007	
Wednesday 9 May	12.30 pm 'Elizabeth Brentnall' by John McCulloch
Tuesday 15 May	Bulletin deadline
Thursday 17 May	6.00 pm 'Dean Baddeley' by John Mackenzie Smith
June 2007	
Wednesday 6 June	7.15 pm for 7.30 pm Queensland Day function and John Douglas Kerr medal presentation
Wednesday 13 June	12.30 pm 'Developments in Papua' by Greg Pougrain
Friday 15 June	Bulletin deadline
Thursday 21 June	6.00 pm Samuel Ashmore and tracks through the Barrier Reef by Stephen Sheaffe

RHSQ Infobox

The Society is represented on the National Trust of Queensland and the Board of Trustees of Newstead House
 The Society acknowledges the financial assistance of the Queensland State Government, and rate remission from the Brisbane City Council

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698
E-mail:	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
Website:	www.queenslandhistory.org.au
ABN:	34 217 251 028
Postal:	The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003
Open:	Tuesday to Friday and most Sundays 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter.

Bulletin articles only:

Editor	Allan Bell
E-mail:	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698.
Postal:	RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003

Subscriptions (with GST):

Ordinary Member	\$45.00
Partner of Member	\$15.00
Junior Member (18)	\$10.00
Full-time Student (25)	\$25.00
Affiliated Society	\$40.00
Libraries Subscription	\$50.00
Corporate/Institutions	\$75.00
Life membership – purchased after 15 years	\$1,000.00