



# Bulletin

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Newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, No.710 July 2007

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



Mackay Bulk Sugar Terminal  
(RHSQ collection)

## President's Report July 2007

One of the highlights of the Society's calendar is the Queensland Day dinner held again this year on the wonderful ground floor of the Commissariat Store. There was plenty of good cheer made all the more pleasant because of the rain which had fallen all day. There was great camaraderie among the historians gathered to celebrate the signing by Queen Victoria of the Letters Patent paving the way for the separation of Queensland from New South Wales. Good food and pleasant company formed the backdrop to the presentation of prestigious awards to several people. First, two MacGregor Medals were presented to members of the Society who had contributed enormously: Manfred Cross AM for his long membership of over fifty years during which he has served as Vice-President, program organiser,

excursion planner, and has contributed in so many ways – his counsel is very much valued by the Council; and to Dr Hilary Fisher who started her career in the Society as a student working part time as secretary/receptionist and who has gone on to become a vice-president and convener of the Museum Committee as well as providing a close eye on legal matters and grant and other submissions.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for History. There were some excellent nominations and we thank the nominators most sincerely for the energy and effort that goes into the preparation of the nominations. The winner this year was Dr Lorna McDonald OAM. Part of the citation included the following:

Dr McDonald has made an immense contribution to the history of Queensland and beyond through research, writing and publications. Her research on the cattle industry and on the Archer family has extended her influence way beyond Queensland. She has advanced and promoted history in so many practical ways – as a scholar of economic, agricultural, political and social history of the Archers in New South Wales and Queensland; the transcription of a significant body of letters of an influential pastoral family, the Archers, and marine history associated with them; the business history of Rockhampton; an array of central Queensland history publications and historical sketch books; as well as practical activities such as plaques and public speeches and launches and leaflets and booklets to enhance local cultural functions. She has written extensively on Rockhampton and has in her research travelled widely in Queensland, New South Wales, Canberra, the United Kingdom and Norway. She has made significant use of oral history.

Her published work covers social, regional, pastoral, maritime and Norwegian history as well as biography. She has published 18 books, 27 articles for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, three articles for the *Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography* and 25 articles in a range of journals. All have demonstrated exemplary research skills and high levels of scholarship. She is currently completing a new work *Back Road and Byways – Travels with a Purpose 1976-2001*.

She has tutored in Australian History and English Literature at the University of Queensland and at the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, now incorporated in the Central Queensland University. She has been the recipient of the medal of the Order of Australia for Services to History Research and the Rockhampton and District Historical Society, is the Patron of the Professional Historians Association of Queensland, has served with distinction on the Queensland Heritage Council, is a Life member of the Rockhampton and District Historical Society Inc., and has been awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters of the Central Queensland University in 2000 and made a Fellow of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies in 2006. She has been a member of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland since 1985 and has published in the

*Society's Journal*. She has been a generous mentor and inspiration to many aspiring and practising historians.

Dr McDonald is certainly an inspiration and was a delighted and delightful recipient of the Award.

For several weeks during the last month the exhibition of the Dozen Weavers has been held on the lower floor. This wonderful display of a great variety of woven articles of an extraordinarily high standard has attracted many visitors to the Commissariat Store and it is a great pleasure to host such an exhibition.

Visitor numbers, particularly of school groups and other organisations have been constant and the guides have been very busy especially on days when large groups of school children have attended.

There have been busy times for me as President recently when I was privileged to attend a number of functions held by other groups, thus continuing the Society's outreach effort. I attended the launch of Council member Dr Lesley Williams' book *No Better Profession – Medical Women in Queensland 1891-1999*, by the Governor at AMA House; the opening of *Going to the Gums, The Lazaret on Peel Island* exhibition by the Governor at the Redland Museum; the Queensland Day Reception at Government House; the reception to celebrate the birthday of the Queen at Government House and the State Library of Queensland's 2007 Awards Dinner.

From the end of June, Allan Bell has taken a well-earned holiday and with his wife has travelled to Scotland to climb a mountain or two. We will miss him very much but wish him a wonderful holiday and a welcome break from the daily challenges of the Commissariat Store.

Jean Stewart  
President

## Research report

It seems that every Thursday there is an interesting challenge to be faced by our team of researchers – some are big challenges and some are small but all are interesting and test our skills as we look into our collection. During the last month the biggest search was conducted into finding photos and material on Consuls who have been appointed in Queensland to represent a wide variety of countries – we were able to supply seventeen photos and other material to the enquirer, the State Archives. Our expert in digitising and enhancing photos, Lyndsay Smith, was able to supply the photos immediately and to send them by email to meet a deadline set by the enquirer. Other searches were conducted for Carl Bleck, contractor; the Annerley Road; Stanley House in Brisbane which was painted by Margaret Olley in

1947; Richard Daintree's photos, and other material relating to his exhibition in Britain in 1872; the Fermoy Private Hospital at Auchenflower; and a photo of the Flinders Plaque on Middle Percy Island. The Welsby Library is an extraordinary resource.

Jean Stewart  
Hon Researcher

## Country News

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

**Bowen** - Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen visited on 10 October 1865, arriving on the *Platypus*. He visited the National School opened by Mrs Macgroaty. On 11 October the Governor's party rode out to JF Kelsey's sugar plantation on the Don River. Lunch was provided at Ross Hall, home of the Hall-Scotts. On 12 October a town reception was held and Lady Diamantina Bowen attended. An address of welcome was given by the Mayor, Francis Clarke. A bullock was roasted for the lunch. Afterwards a procession was held in Herbert Street. This was Bowen's second visit to the town of Bowen, having visited on 11 April 1861 in the *Pioneer*. On this first visit a cricket match was held between Bowen Cricket Club and the officers and men of the *Pioneer*. (*North Queensland Register* 17 May 2007 p.6 - 'Around the Campfire' with 'Sundowner')

**Burdekin Bridge** - There was a feature article in the *North Queensland Register* on 24 May 2007 on the construction and opening of the Burdekin road rail bridge. The bridge was opened on 15 June 1957. (*North Queensland Register* 24 May 2007 pp.17-18 six photos)

**Clermont** was one of the earliest towns settled north of the Tropic of Capricorn in Queensland in 1862 when gold was discovered at Hood's Lagoon and the copper smelter was opened at nearby Copperfield. The town now promotes tours to Rio Tinto Coal Australia Pty Ltd's Blair Athol mine to the west. The town has a population of 2,000 and features include train carriage murals at the town railway station, 1916 flood monument (worst natural disaster in Queensland), local museum, Theresa Creek dam.

**Hughenden Station** was taken up in 1863 by Ernest Henry and stocked in February 1864. He brought cattle across from Mt McConnell. It was named after the name of his maternal grandfather's home, *Hughenden Manor* in Buckinghamshire in England. (*North Queensland Register* 26 April 2007 p.6)

**Kidston** south of Georgetown - A photo of a donkey and bush hot water system, on *Oakleigh* station near Kidston appears in the *North Queensland Register* 26 April 2007 p.8)

**Malanda** - Two books have been written about the natural disaster following cyclone *Larry - Larry - Tales of Survival* and *Taken by Storm*. A display of photos of the devastation caused by the cyclone and the post

cyclone cleanup has been on display at the Malanda Dairy Centre. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 18 April 2007 p.6 including photo)

**Millaa Millaa** - The Chamber of Commerce is advocating the establishment of a tourist information centre with a Kauri pine tree felled in 2003 as a timeline. It was moved to Millaa Millaa town on 23 November 2006. It has been cut in four and is located behind the Historical Museum. The tree had 8.5 metres circumference, diameter of 2.7 metres and height of 26 metres to the first branch. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 18 April 2007 p.1 including photo)

**Noosaville** - The bridge on Eenie Creek Road has been named the Monks bridge after the Monks family. The family first settled on the banks of Lake Weyba area in 1870 near what is now Weyba Road. The new bridge is near where the family fished. The article in the *Noosa News* also includes a photo of John Monk's family with their motor vehicle parked on the Donella bridge at Tewantin the day before it was officially opened on 29 October 1929. (*Noosa News* 8 May 2007 p.9)

**Postal-Telecommunications Historical Society of Queensland** has a new web site at [www.telemuseum.org](http://www.telemuseum.org) which features the Queensland Telecommunications Museum..

## CALENDAR

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday 11 July</b>  | 12.30 pm <b>Health in Papua: Jakarta's catastrophic failure</b> by Greg Poulgrain  |
| <b>Friday 13 July</b>     | Bulletin deadline  |
| <b>Thursday 19 July</b>   | 6.00 pm <b>Frederick Wheeler of Native Police fame</b> by Jonathan Richards  |
| <b>August 2007</b>        |  |
| <b>Wednesday 8 August</b> | 12.30 pm <b>James Venture Mulligan, north Queensland gold explorer</b> by Ruth Kerr  |
| <b>Saturday 11 August</b> | Annual seminar series <b>setting the scene for separation</b> , details in this <i>Bulletin</i>  |
| <b>Thursday 16 August</b> | 5.00 pm <b>Annual General Meeting and Clem Lack Oration</b> by John Pearn at Government House 5.00 pm, notice included, RSVP essential |

## Suburban Heritage

**Toowong** - The ABC site likely to be divested by the Commonwealth government includes *Middenbury*, a heritage listed house. The Alderman for the area on Brisbane City Council, Cr Judy Magub expressed a desire to see the land and the house returned to the

public. (*Westside News* 21 February 2007 p.11 including photo)

**Yungaba** - The redevelopment of Yungaba at Kangaroo Point is still a very lively issue. Information about the Yungaba Action Group can be found on [www.yungaba.org.au](http://www.yungaba.org.au).

## Library report

Janice Pittam has donated a large quantity of material that has been added to the vertical files. It included information on the Gateway Bridge, Murarrie, state housing, Lindum locality, Borthwicks, the Port of Brisbane motorway, Colmslie Beach reserve, the history of electricity supply, and Gibson Island.

Donations by Ruth Kerr included *Cobb & Co: Coaching in Queensland*; and numerous newspaper cuttings.

Judy Rechner  
Hon Librarian

## Program report

I am writing this report in the glow of having just been told that we have received a Q150 grant for the publication of the papers to be presented at our forthcoming seminar. The publication will be in a CD ROM format and will be in addition to a booklet containing the text of the presentations. This is a new venture for RHSQ and we will be engaging *Cutting Edge* for the production.

The seminar is to be held at the Commissariat Store on Saturday 11 August. The theme is the social history of pre-separation Queensland, including the spread of settlement and its impact on the indigenous inhabitants, as well as the families and institutions of the era. Participants and some of their topics are detailed on the insert in this month's *Bulletin*.

In 2008 we plan to hold a seminar covering the political history of the 1840s and 1850s, the separation movement and its antagonists – John Dunmore Lang and others.

In July and August we have three most interesting lectures. On Wednesday 11 July, Greg Poulgrain's lecture is entitled *Health in Papua: Jakarta's catastrophic failure*. The Thursday evening lecture on 19 July will be delivered by Jonathan Richards and looks at Frederick Wheeler who was associated with the infamous Native Police.

The August lunchtime lecture on Wednesday 8 August will be delivered by our Secretary and notable historian of Queensland mining, Dr Ruth Kerr. Ruth's topic is the north Queensland explorer and prospector James Mulligan.

On the evening of Thursday 16 August the Society holds its premier lecture event for the year,

the Clem Lack Oration. This year we will be the guest of Her Excellency the Governor at Government House (*Fernberg*) – the orator, Professor John Pearn making this a particularly special evening. Bookings for the Clem lack Oration are essential.

These are an exciting two months for the Society. It is an ideal opportunity for all members and friends to indulge their passion for Queensland history.

Ian Hadwen

## ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on  
THURSDAY 16 AUGUST 2007  
AT 5.00 pm

at  
Government House, 168 Fernberg Road  
Paddington, Brisbane

Nominations are called for the election of the President, three Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and eight Councillors. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member. A nomination form is included with this issue and may be photocopied as required.

## 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

## Events and functions of interest

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

**Big-Loud-Fun: a UK curatorial study tour**, a talk by David Mewes, Curator at Workshops Rail Museum, on Wednesday 4 July from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm on



level 2 Queensland Museum South Bank, free admission

**Aboriginal cultural heritage: the Georgina River region of northwest Queensland and eastern Northern Territory** by Stephen Long at Queensland Museum level 2 on Wednesday 1 August from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm, free admission

**The Wide Brown Land – Records on land use:** a free seminar on Wednesday 18 July and Saturday 21 July at National Archives of Australia, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill from 9.00 am to 10.00 am

**Over the floes – records of the Antarctic** on Wednesday 15 August and Saturday 18 August at National Archives of Australia, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill from 9.00 am to 10.00 am

**Broken Links, the Stolen Generations in Queensland series:** Dr Mark Copeland and Marianne Wobcke will talk about the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland on Wednesday 18 July and on Friday 3 August Sharon Kinchele will talk about her experience of being taken to a children's home in Toowoomba in 1973. Both talks are from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm on level 4 at the State Library of Queensland

**National Family History Week** will be held from 4 August to 12 August. Check the web site at [www.familyhistoryweek.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au) for events in your local area.

**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>

## Royal Historical Society of Queensland

presents a seminar

### Setting the scene for separation: Aspects of social history of pre-separation Queensland in the 1840s and 1850s

**Saturday 11 August 2007**

at the

**Commissariat Store, 115 William Street**

from

**9.00 am to 3.30 pm  
registration from 8.30 am**

Enquiries: Allan Bell (07 3221 4198) or Ian Hadwen (0419 675 013) Registrations close: 8 August 2007

## Clem Lack Oration for 2007

### *Queensland in bronze: one enduring heritage of Queensland history*

presented by

**Professor John Pearn**

and

**RHSQ  
Annual General Meeting**

on

**Thursday 16 August 2007**

from

**5:00 pm**

at

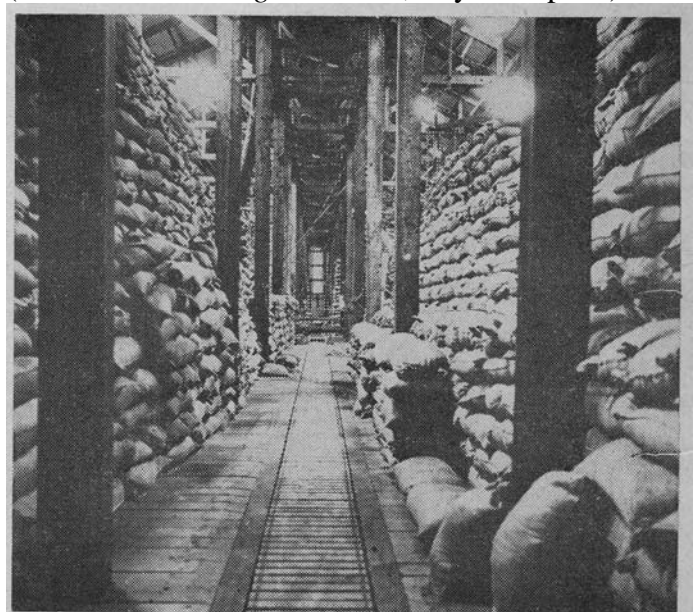
**Government House  
168 Fernberg Road, Paddington**

RSVP

8 August to 3221 4198 or [info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)

## Cover photo

The Mackay Bulk Sugar Terminal shown on page one was officially opened 27 July 1957. The photograph below shows the inside of the old Mackay sugar shed and its content of bagged sugar. In the days of bagged sugar the turnaround of a ship averaged 21 days compared with an average in 1962 of 21 hours. (from *Australian Sugar Journal*, July 1962 p281)



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| <b>Important Functions and Events</b> |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>CALENDAR</b>                       |  |
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**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:**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
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| <b>Open:</b>     | Tuesday to Friday and most Sundays 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter. |

**Bulletin articles only:**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
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**Subscriptions (with GST):**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Ordinary Member</b>                            | \$50.00    |
| <b>Partner of Member</b>                          | \$15.00    |
| <b>Junior Member (18)</b>                         | \$10.00    |
| <b>Full-time Student (25)</b>                     | \$25.00    |
| <b>Affiliated Society</b>                         | \$40.00    |
| <b>Libraries Subscription</b>                     | \$55.00    |
| <b>Corporate/Institutions</b>                     | \$75.00    |
| <b>Life membership – purchased after 15 years</b> | \$1,000.00 |