



Bulletin

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Newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, No.713 October 2007
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Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor of Queensland
President: Denver Beanland



Harris Terrace, George Street Brisbane
first occupied in 1867;
above photograph by Allan Bell, September 2007

President's report October

Will Australian history be reintroduced into Queensland's secondary schools as a separate subject in Years 9 and 10 from next year? This is one of the major issues facing your Society in the promotion of Queensland's history.

As your Society's new President, I look forward to meeting this and the other challenges that will confront us over the next twelve months.

With Queensland's sesquicentenary in 2009 the Society is setting the pace. In August it held a very successful seminar under convenor Dr Ian Hadwen. Speakers at the seminar 'Setting the Scene for Separation: Aspects of social history of pre-separation Queensland in the 1840s and 1850s' produced stimulating and insightful papers, which were well received by the record numbers attending the conference.

Our gratitude goes to all the speakers: Dr Ian Hadwen, Dr Jennifer Harrison, Dr Rod Fisher, Dr Ruth Kerr, Dr Libby Connors, Dr John Mackenzie Smith, Associate Professor Marion Diamond, Carolyn Nolan, Fr DW Martin, Stephen Sheaffe, Bill Kitson, Dr Brian Grenier. Their papers will be published in the Society's journal in due course. Also, a big thank you to Ian Hadwen for organising the seminar and to all those who assisted.

The Society over the next two years will further promote Queensland's rich history with seminars focused on Queensland's sesquicentenary.

My special thanks go to Jean Stewart for her dedicated and hard work over the last three years as your Society's President. Under Jean's leadership the Society has continued to grow and strengthen.

The highlight of the Annual General Meeting at Government House was the Clem Lack Oration 'Queensland in Bronze: Enduring Heritage in Sculptural and Medallion Art' delivered by Professor John Pearn. The large attendance warmly greeted Professor Pearn's fascinating address on the role of physical forms of objects in our history such as statues, medals, medallions and pyramids.

It is pleasing that your Society's library continues to grow with a recent donation of books on Queensland's history by Vice-President Manfred Cross (see Library report page 3).

Denver Beanland
President

Country News

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

Ballandean - Old time black and white movies returned to Ballandean Hall on 15 September. The night featured *Magnificent Crooks*, a comedy produced by renowned local film makers, the Sapuppo Brothers. Footage of the 1976 floods and Apple and Grape Processions from the 1960s also feature. (*Border Post* 30 August 2007 p.9 including photo)

Chillagoe - A large billboard advertising Chillagoe's heritage attractions has been erected on the Kennedy Highway near Mareeba. Jim and Toni Evans have managed The Hub Visitors' Centre in Chillagoe for the past six years. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 18 July 2007 p.35)

Fraser Island - Kingfisher Bay Resort Group has said that the World Heritage listed Fraser Island is in need of \$7 million worth of infrastructure at its key tourist resorts to meet demand. Fraser Island attracts 350,000 visitors per year which is more than Kakadu does. A spokesman for the federal Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, said that the Commonwealth government has provided \$4.25 million for Fraser Island in the past 10 years. (*Australian Financial Review* 21 August 2007 p.57)

Hodgkinson Goldfield - The heritage listed Tyrconnell gold mine and buildings, 150km north west of Cairns, has been listed for sale through expressions of interest. The owners of the 40 hectare mining lease provide camping facilities and tourist style accommodation for 12 people. There is also an owner's residence. Current owners of the mine, Andrew Bell and Cate Harley, have focused on restoring this heritage asset. (*North Queensland Register* 16 August 2007 p.21)

Julia Creek - Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor of Queensland visited Julia Creek for

the centenary celebrations and to launch the book, *Julia Creek: a Pictorial History*, by Shirley Eckford. Shirley worked with the publisher, Penny Cook, to select the photos. The town of Julia Creek dates from the opening of the Great Northern railway to it on 29 February 1908. (*North Queensland Register* 9 August 2007 p.5 including photo)

Kilkivan - The local Freemasons' Lodge of Kilkivan has donated funds to the Kilkivan and District Historical Society to purchase cabinets to display lodge artefacts that have been donated in past years. It will include a jug dating from the 1850s. (*Gympie Times* 21 August 2007 p.12)

Mary Valley Railway - The *Mary Ann* locomotive ran passenger services on the Mary Valley railway 3, 4 and 5 August. It is a working replica built by Peter Olds in 1998 of the original locomotive. *Mary Ann* was the first steam locomotive built in Queensland - in 1873. The Mary Valley Heritage Railway, operators of *Mary Ann* in Maryborough and CHATI in Gympie, plan to have *Mary Ann* visit Gympie again in 2008. (*Gympie Times* 4 August 2007 pp.22, 26 including photo, 7 August 2007 pp.9, 14 including seven photos)

Ormiston House, Wellington Street, Ormiston near Cleveland, is open on a number of Sundays during the year between March and November, from 12 noon to 4.00 pm. Friends of Ormiston House operate guided tours of the house and grounds.

The house was built by Louis Hope, sugar planter, in 1862-3. The oldest building on the property is the slab hut, built of pit sawn logs. Hope brought out skilled workmen from Scotland to construct Ormiston House. Local cypress was used in the Doric columns; fireplaces, doors and shutters were made from cedar. The section of the house running south was built first. After the main house was built the slab hut was used as a kitchen. The shingle roof was replaced using a Centenary of Federation grant.

Hope had a partner, Robert Ramsay, in both the sugar plantation and *Kilcoy* station in the 1860s. They were both life members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. At the International Sugar Cane Technologists Conference held in Brisbane in 1935 a cairn in honour of the pioneers of Queensland's sugar industry was erected at Ormiston House. The conference and the project of erecting the cairn were co-ordinated by the then Director of Sugar Experiment Stations, Dr HW (Bill) Kerr. (For further details see: 'Establishing Australia's Sugar Industry at Ormiston: a Hope and a Whish' by John Kerr, Royal Historical Society of Queensland *Journal*, November 2000, vol.17, pp.337-353.) The next openings of the house are on 4 and 11 November 2007.

Texas - An art exhibition of art works included an iron and wooden 'shopping trolley for a Premier' made

out of iron, being a metamorphosed contraption harking back to the mining industry of the area in its form but encompassing a number of levers and bolts and shelves at the top, intertwined, without identifiable purpose. (*Border Post* 16 August 2007 p.7 including photo)

Research report

There have been some interesting additions to the Library during the last month. Russell Nunn has continued his search for material on Elliott and McDowall and their early efforts in creating television in Brisbane. He has found an astonishing collection of letters and photographs from a number of people, copied and mounted them in albums and presented copies to the Welsby Library. It is a mammoth collection and adds considerably to the Society's material on these two inventors. Russell's passion and enthusiasm for his 'project' has been very much admired by the Research Team and we appreciate the quality and depth of the resource material he has collected.

Another major collection has been presented to the Welsby Library – an immense collection of ephemera given by Lew Shaw, a former member of the Bachelors Club in Brisbane in the 1940s and 50s. It is an astonishing record of the social life of many of Brisbane's young people. Also in the collection are many letters written to him while he was serving in London during the Second World War and give an account of life in Brisbane at the time. Allan Bell and I visited Lew Shaw last month to collect the two suitcases and a box which held this collection, now being prepared for storing in the library.

During the month we searched for and mostly were successful in finding material on the early motor car history of Queensland; Gympie 1882-1886 for a family historian; Isisford; Richard Daintree and his glass negatives for the National Library; Red Flag Riots; Newstead House; St Clair Private School at New Farm; the Stradbroke galleon; sources in newspapers about Ellen Thompson the only woman to be executed in Queensland (June 1887); Prospector of Argylla – E. Henry; Murphy's Creek, Pinelands area and Nutgrove, Wutul and Cooyar areas for family history; and skating rinks in Brisbane.

Jean Stewart
Hon Researcher

Library report

The resources of the Welsby Library continue to expand with significant donations by many people. Prof John Pearn donated a variety of items that have

been added to the vertical files. John O'Keeffe donated a copy of his book *Lore and the law: The life of John Sydney Power O'Keeffe: An oral history memoir*. Russell Nunn has donated material on Harry Benjamin Angle, Vernon Kerr, and Madeline MacKenzie; Alan Shawsmith (VK4SS) and *Halcyon days: The story of Amateur radio in VK4, Queensland, Australia* all part of his excellent archive material *Queensland pioneers of radio and television 1920-1940*. Warwick Outram supplied a copy of his *Journey to Bribie Island*. Printing House Publications donated a review copy of *Just a line to say* and University of Queensland Press forwarded a review copy of an interesting book, *The third metropolis: Imagining Brisbane through art and literature 1940-1970*.

Manfred Cross has generously donated *The Sinnamon Retirement Village; Australia's Eucharistic adorers: Founded Brisbane 1874; The history of Albany Creek; Albany Creek State School centenary book 1874-1974; The history of Chermside; Lytton flight log; Grovely Grovely Grovely; The land we left behind: The emergence of St Patrick's Day celebrations in Brisbane (1862-1870); Where two rivers run: A history of Kilkivan Shire; The Longreach story: A history of Longreach and Shire; What's in a name?; and Tara Shire history 1840-1988*;

Jean Stewart donated three books, *Scribblers: A ladies literary society in Brisbane 1911; A history of the Trailer Sailer Club of Queensland: The first thirty years 1966-1996; The annals, peaks and channels of the Brisbane Women's Club*. Ian Hadwen donated State Advances Corporation 1935 publication *Designs of dwellings* and Queensland Housing Commission publication of 1950 *Home designs*.

Kay Cohen had donated *They called me Artie: The memoirs of Sir Arthur Fadden; March of progress: Part 1 A history of the eight hours' demonstration in Brisbane (beginnings to 1900); North to the timbers; Frontier lands and pioneer legends: How pastoralists gained Karuwli land; The Cloncurry Shire centenary historical sketchbook; From bullock team to Puffing Billy: The Atherton Tableland and its hinterland: Aborigines and settlers: 1860s to 1944; Where pelicans landed: Tales from Winton; Battlers of the Barkly: The family saga of Eva Downs, 1936-1960; Over the top with Jim: Hugh Lunn's tap-dancing, bugle-blowing memoir of a well-spent boyhood; Northern frontier; Broad horizons: The story of Allora's schools; The mystery of the Min Min Light; Pieces of blue; Friendship is life: A history of Tattersall's Club, Brisbane; A tale of old Fassifern; With the white people; Frontier*.

Stephen Sheaffe has donated material from his research into the controversial judgement on Kipper Billy and his death.

Lew Shaw had donated some interesting items including an undated 'Welcome to the Anzac Club of New York: American hospitality centre for the fighting forces of Australia and New Zealand'; *Brisbane Telegraph* Coronation issue; *Courier Mail* 1954 royal tour from England to Brisbane. This material and other items still to be catalogued form a comprehensive collection of social memorabilia of Brisbane in the 1940s and 1950s.

Judy Rechner
Hon Librarian

CALENDAR

October 2007

Wednesday 10 October 12.30 pm **The remains of the Night of Broken Glass**,
Chek Ling

Tuesday 16 October **Bulletin deadline**

Thursday 18 October 6.00 pm **Cumbooquepa**,
Llewellyn Stephens

November 2007

Wednesday 14 November 12.30 pm **Sarah Ann Butler, a little lady of Toowong**, Jean Stewart

Thursday 15 November 6.00 pm TBA

Friday 16 November **Bulletin deadline**

New books

Expedition in the Search of Gold and Other Minerals in the Palmer Districts 29 April - 23 September 1875 under the Leadership of James Venture Mulligan by Mulligan and Party. It was first published in *Queensland Parliamentary Papers* in 1876 without a map. (155X240mm, hardcover, 57 pages, illus, map, ISBN 978-0-9803177-1-8) Re-published by the Eacham Historical Society Inc, with an introduction by Duncan Ray, in August 2007. Price: \$25.00, available from Eacham Historical Society Inc, P.O. Box 533, Malanda Qld 4885.

Guide to the Palmer River and Normanby Goldfields, North Queensland, showing the different roads to and from the Etheridge River, Cleveland Bay and Cooktown, with a map of the Palmer River and adjacent goldfields, and journal of explorations by James Venture Mulligan (Brisbane, George Slater and Company, 1875), 20 pages. Re-published and with introduction included by Eacham Historical Society Inc on the occasion of the centenary of the death of James Venture Mulligan on 24 August 2007. Price: \$10.00,

(only 50 were printed) available from Eacham Historical Society Inc, P.O. Box 533, Malanda Qld 4885.

Just a line to say by Beth Parsons, Printing House Publications, Hobart 2007 (ISBN 978-0-9595655-3-9) tells a simple story in a simple way of the life of Olive Bruce as she moves from one employer to another in rural Queensland between 1919 and 1923. This text will remind many readers of life on large station properties, guest houses and pubs of the time.

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



The National Trust of Queensland & The Brisbane Institute invites you to hear

DR JONATHAN FOYLE

(Chief Executive, World Monuments Fund in Britain)

Inside Henry VIII's Bedroom: Experiencing Hampton Court Palace in the Sixteenth Century

Wednesday 14 November 2007, 6.00 pm

The Grand Hall, Masonic Memorial Centre

311 Ann Street, Brisbane

Bookings Essential: RSVP 13 November

ph: 3220 2198 or rsvp@brisinst.org.au

Cost: \$22 general admission; \$11 full-time student
\$15 for National Trust members, BI members & Sponsors

Events and functions of interest

Mining the records, a joint seminar on natural resources with Queensland State Archives and the State Library of Queensland on Wednesday 17 October and Saturday 20 October at National Archives of Australia, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm, bookings on 3249 4226

A long way from Rome: Italians in Queensland, on Saturday 17 November and Wednesday 21 November at National Archives of Australia, 16

Corporate Drive Cannon Hill from 9.00 am to 12 noon, bookings on 3249 4226

Government Gazettes, Queensland State Archives lecture room 2 at 435 Compton Road Runcorn from 10.00 am on Wednesday 24 October, bookings on 3131 7777

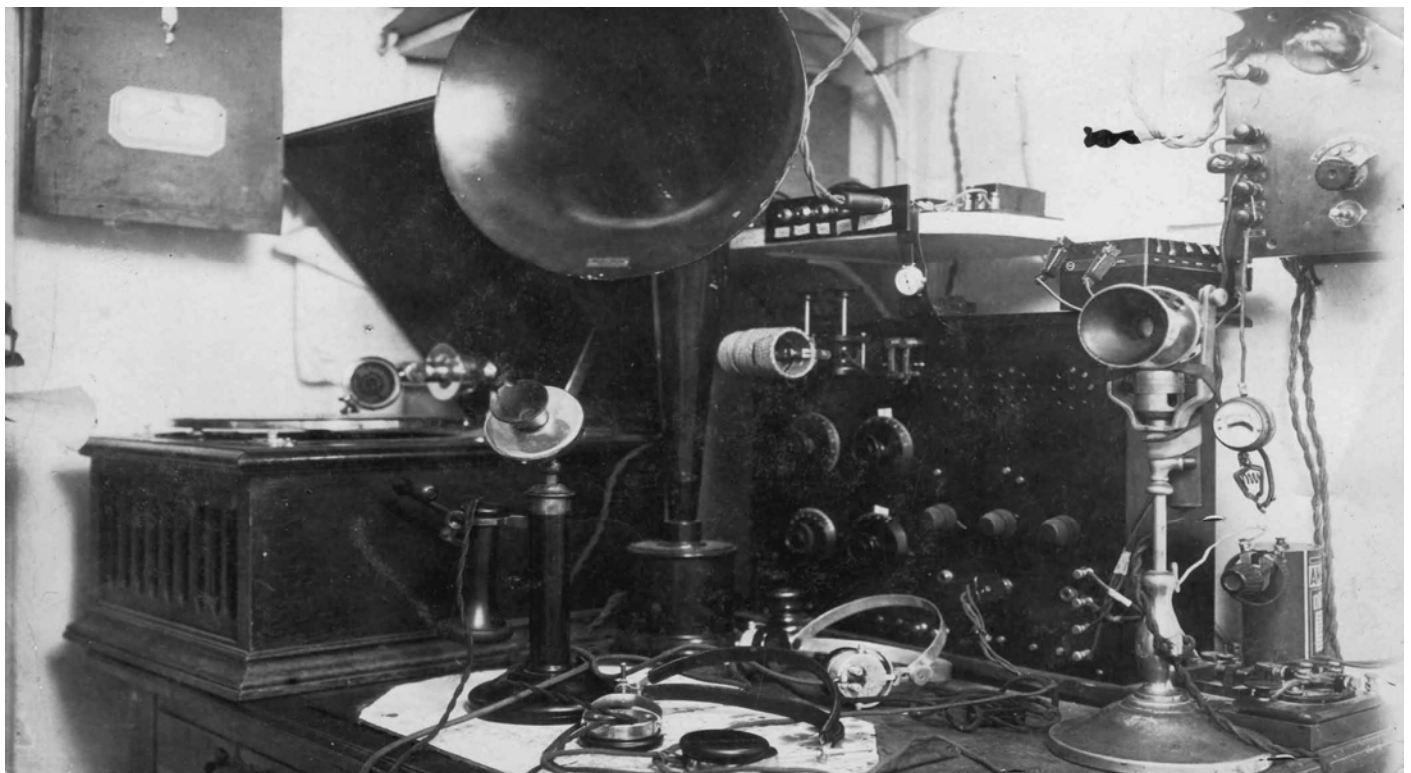
Morning tea with the State Archivist, lecture room 1 at 435 Compton Road Runcorn from 10.00 am on Wednesday 14 November, bookings on 3131 7777

Information update

From time to time the photograph featured on the front of the Bulletin evokes a response from readers. Following publication of the August issue, David Brownsey pointed out that the caption on the photograph was incorrect as the photograph was of the operating position of radio station 4CM. David provided some useful additional information on the equipment featured.

The equipment pictured, from left to right, are a wind-up gramophone, candlestick PMG telephone, horn loud speaker attached to the receiver/ test set in the background, two pairs of headphones on the desk top, microphone, battery test meter, battery, power supply panel and a Morse code key.

David's letter will be attached to the photograph file in the RHSQ collection.



Not just RHSQ

Just to show that organisations other than RHSQ are beset by transport problems, the following article appeared in an unidentified newspaper in 1980.

TRAIN, PASSENGERS LOSE PUFF

A weekend sightseeing tour by the Australian Railway Historical Society Queensland Branch was described yesterday as "something of a jinx trip". Fifty-four society members set off on Saturday from

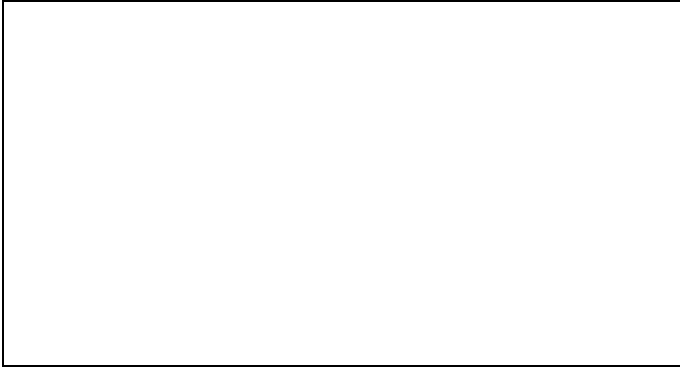
Ipswich to Yarraman, 188 km north-west of Brisbane, in a train pulled by a 54 year old steam engine. As the train approached Yarraman the steam engine ran out of puff. The passengers had to climb down from the three carriages and push to help the train over a small hill. Then a storm broke and by the time the passengers returned to the carriages they were soaked.

A diesel locomotive was sent from Ipswich to bring the members back to Ipswich.

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	
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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

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Subscriptions (with GST):

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