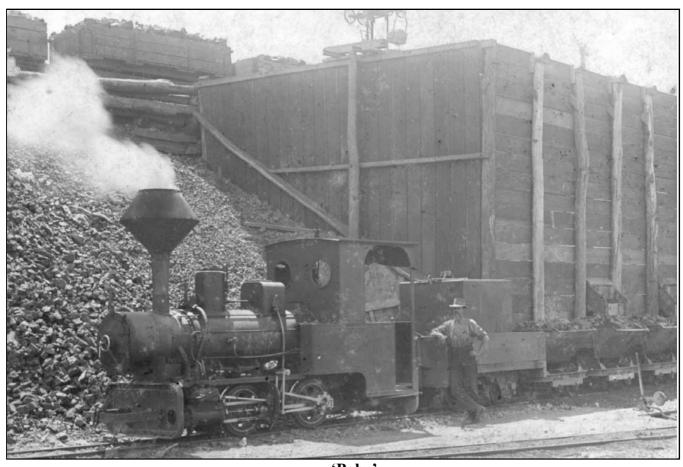
THE RHSQ



Bulletin

AUGUST 2008 No. 722

The newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor of Queensland President: Denver Beanland



'Baby' (Photo RHSQ P50022)

In the photograph above, William (Billy) Robertson stands beside 'Baby', in front of the Irvinebank coal bins circa 1913. 'Baby' was the Number 2 locomotive of the Irvinebank Mining Company and was used to transport ore from Irvinebank to the junction with the Chillagoe railway line at Boonmoo. This locomotive was a 0-4-0T German Krauss and weighed seven and a half tons (almost eight tonne). She was named after Isabella, a daughter of John and Margaret Moffat, who financed the tramway.

Economics had forced Moffat to link Irvinebank with the Chillagoe system in 1907. The tramway guaranteed firewood supplies for his Loudoun mill and had the potential for tapping the recently discovered Mount Mulligan coal measures. The mill was smelting tin from the Irvinebank mine and was consuming 100 tons (102 tonnes) of firewood a day at its peak.

As well as William Robertson, Samuel Cameron, William Hudson and Robert Bliss all drove this locomotive, assisted by firemen William Gunther, Bert McTavish, Charles Greaves, Arthur Clarke and George Hynes.

The complete story of the Irvinebank Mining Company Tramway and other tramways in the area can be found in a book by Ruth S Kerr, *John Moffat of Irvinebank*. Available at RHSQ \$30 plus \$5.00 postage.

President's report July

All members and the general public are invited to the Society's conference 'Setting the scene for separation: part two' to be held on Saturday 9 August at the Society's headquarters, Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane, commencing at 9.00 am. This is the second conference that the society has held leading up to Queensland's sesquicentenary next year. Registration details were in last month's *Bulletin*.

The Society's Council has resolved to give a greater profile to the Exhibitions displayed in the Commissariat Store Museum. Part of this will be to have a launch for each new exhibition to which all members of the Society are invited. Our thanks go to our Honorary Exhibition's Curator Jan Hess and her Assistant Honorary Curator Robyn Stephensen for all their work in assembling these displays.

This month brings a new exhibition in the Society's Commissariat Store Museum titled *Women's Exhibition*. The exhibition will be officially launched following the Annual General Meeting at 6 pm, Thursday, 21 August 2008, on the first floor.

Over the years the Society has received donations, gifts and bequests from members and the general public. I am again appealing to members and the public to consider the Society when planning philanthropy. There is a continuing opportunity for members who wish to make an ongoing contribution to Queensland history and the Society. Should you wish to assist or contribute in this regard do not hesitate to contact the Society's Manager, Allan Bell at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

You are reminded that your Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21 August followed by the Clem Lack Oration entitled 'Queensland's Visionary Premier: Sir Thomas McIlwraith'. McIlwraith was thrice Premier of colonial Queensland.

Do not forget the Society's website for details of coming activities.

Denver Beanland President

Country News

Queensland History News

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

Archer Point - Two decades ago Mr Lloyd Stumer, a Brisbane meteorologist singled out Archer Point, 15km north of Cooktown as the best location

in Queensland for a wind farm. It is believed that there has been an absence of operational state and national policies to support the sale of sufficient green energy for any wind farm development in Queensland. However the wind farm east of Malanda has been operating since 2000. The consortium planning the Archer Point wind farm propose a 50 to 60 turbine, 120 megawatt wind farm. Deutche Bank and European renewable energy sector investor, Aktiva Group, and Wind Power Queensland are involved and have obtain state government and Cook Shire Council in principle support. (*Cooktown Local News* 14 May 2008 p.5)

There is already a wind farm in North Queensland. It was established in 2000 with 20 wind turbines on two dairy farms near Ravenshoe. The official opening was on 14 October 2000 which 3000 people attended. Stanwell Company established Windy Hill project, then the largest wind farm in Australia with a capacity of 12 megawatts of electricity at peak capacity. The 70 metre high towers are a tourist attraction in themselves and a car park has been established. The total cost of the towers is \$20 million. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 11 October 2000 p.4 and Eacham Historical Society *Bulletin* No.257, November 2000; RHSQ *Bulletin* February 2001)

Atherton - The National Trust of Queensland is seeking greater independence in managing the Atherton Chinatown tourist attraction which includes the Chinese Temple and the Old Atherton Post Office and Art Gallery. The Trust is negotiating with the Tablelands Regional Council about upgrading toilet facilities and selection of artists to display works. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 18 June 2008 p.8 including photo)

Byerstown Road - Deep Creek - A hotel and Chinese Gardens were established in 1875 as there was semi-permanent water on the road to the Normanby Goldfield and the Palmer Goldfield. In 1880 Ah Ving established a garden, took on a partner, Ah Ching in 1881 and Ah Kain and Ah Yees started another garden that year. Ah Wong and Ah Chong took over Ah Ving's garden but all had ceased by 1883. From 1879 the road to Maytown changed to be the direct Cooktown - Maytown Road. The hotel continued until 1890 by which time the Normanby goldfield had declined. (Cooktown Local News 21 May 2008 p.15 including photo of road)

Charters Towers - Aldoborough House was auctioned on site at 25 Deane Street, Charters Towers on 10 May 2008. Louis Hamann acquired the three blocks of land in May 1881 from the Kennedy railway reserve. Alfred Daking Smith then purchased the land in June 1896 and is believed to have built

Aldoborough in 1903. Dr Thomas Edmeades purchased the house in 1919 and conducted a medical practice from it. Jessie Beach bought it in October 1922, having moved from Muttaburra. Several generations of the Beach family have owned and lived in the house. It is thought to have been one of the first houses in Charters Towers to have electricity. It had a 32V generator under the house. Ornate vents in each room's ceiling are ducted through the ceiling to the exterior to provide ventilation. (North Queensland Register 1 May 2008 p.12 including four photos)

Childers - The grave of Maria Queen of Childers at Apple Tree Creek was in a special ceremony on 15 March 2008. The Isis District Historical Society Inc provided a special grave marker and plaque. Queen Maria died on 26 March 1917 at an age believed to be well over 70 years. She had been presented with a breast plate by Childers solicitor, J J Butler. Member of the Isis District Historical Society Inc and representatives of the Butchulla People attended the ceremony and the President of the Society, Lyn Smith, and Jenny Woodman of the Butchulla People spoke. The Butchulla People thanked the Isis District Historical Society Inc for providing the recognition. (*Isis Town and Country* 20 March 2008 p.1 including two photos)

Cooktown Botanic Gardens Management plan for the gardens is to be released for public comment. The reserve for the Botanic Gardens was created in 1878 and stretches from Cherry Bay in the north along the coast to Alligator Creek in the south, along Alligator Creek to Garden and Hogg Streets and back to Cherry Tree Bay. The gardens are include a reconstructed heritage listed and watercourse and original flower beds and pools constructed from 1890. The layout follows the gardenesque style of Europe. Guugu Yimithir people collected fruits and resins. After state government funding ceased in 1917 the area gradually fell into disrepair. Reconstruction began in the 1980s in the newly named Gallop Botanic Reserve. Thirty-five species were identified in the original flower beds by 1990. The area was host to the first scientific collections on the Australian mainland, in 1770. Intended development includes expanding the gardens to a full range of the 160-odd species studied and drawn by Vera Scarth-Johnson, propagating and displaying the complete Banks and Solander collection with signage and walkways, building an orchid greenhouse, improving walkways and tracks around the gardens and the reserve. A research centre for botanists, naturalists and artists is proposed, theatre for cultural, recreational and business events and another exhibition gallery. There will be more spectator seating and sports clubhouse at Queen's Oval. Trustee leases may be established with sporting groups. (*Cooktown Local News* 21 May 2008 p.8)

Cooktown - Forty locations were identified in May 1993 in stage one of a Cook Shire Council heritage survey of Cooktown. (*Cooktown Local News* 21 May 2008 p.13 quoting the 19 May 1993 edition of that newspaper)

Cooktown's only surviving public hall has been restumped. The \$30,000 renovation was funded by the Environmental Protection Agency Living Buildings and Places Heritage Program and the Cook Shire Council. The 101 year old building is heritage listed. The outside stumps were replaced in similar style stumps and the inner ones are steel. The work was completed in the first two weeks of May. (Cooktown Local News 14 May 2008 p.8)

Hopevale - The Lutheran Church has been restored at a cost of \$300,000 (utilising State Government Q150 funding). Many local people worked on the restoration - painting, tiling, fencing, roof repairs and a new gate. On 15 June the church was dedicated. Hundreds of people attended and the choir sang. The church played a significant role in the lives of the Guugu-Yimidhirr People on their return from Woorabinda after World War II. Pastor Rosennfeldt who had been at Woorabinda with the people attended the rededication. (*Cooktown Local News* 18 June 2008 p.8 and 25 June 2008 p.2 - letter to Editor by Jeanette Covacevich, Jensen's Crossing, via Cooktown)

Hughenden - In 1933 an enterprising Longreach stock and station agent suggested that the new Australian `talkies' directors might visit remote Queensland pastoral stations to shoot the new films. He suggested on property near Hughenden be selected for its similarity to the western American rugged scenes. On that property the windmill was 12 miles from the homestead by a bridle track. There was also a story attached to the property where 3,000 sheep turned out into a 30,000 acre paddock disappeared entirely - perhaps put to profit by an itinerant `grazier'. (Longreach Leader 4 July 2008 p.17 quoting an issue of that newspaper dated 1 July 1933.)

Irvinebank which features through the *Bulletin* cover photo of the locomotive 'Baby', has been a significant mining centre in Australian history. Discovered in 1881, the mines were opened in 1883 by John Moffat who had the Great Northern battery at Herberton; the battery and smelter were christened by Janet Jack as the *Loudoun* Mill on Separation Day, 10 December 1884. Moffat built his home, *Loudoun* house there that year too, and a dam of the same name as well on Gibbs Creek. Moffat's private

company, the Irvinebank Mining Company expanded the mill to treat both company and public ore. The mill became the centre of Moffat's empire extending from Mount Mulligan, Mount Carbine, Wolfram Camp and Mount Molloy in the north, south through Montalbion to Mount Garnet and west through Chillagoe to OK and Cardross to Muldiva, and controlling or influential interests in the majority of the tin mines in the country between. Moffat's Irvinebank Mining Company built the Irvinebank Tramway from Stannary Hills into Irvinebank in 1907. He had already promoted and developed railways to Mount Garnet, Chillagoe and Mungana, and Mount Molloy through the mining and railway companies. The State Government purchased Loudoun Mill in 1919 and ran it as a State Enterprise until 30 June 1983 when it was sold to Mr Frank Hilla. The contract was never completed and the State Treatment Works has been transferred to the Mareeba Shire Council (now Tablelands Regional Shire). Irvinebank State Treatment Works and Loudoun House, and the Irvinebank School of Arts and the Stannary and Irvinebank Tramways are on the State Heritage Register. For very extensive details of John Moffat's career, the Irvinebank mill and mines and Moffat's northern mining empire see the book which the Society sells - John Moffat of Irvinebank: a biography of a regional entrepreneur and mining history of the Cairns Hinterland by Ruth S Kerr (296 pages, illustrated, maps, bibliography, index, ISBN 0 9595072 7 2, \$30 plus \$5 postage) and `Who has the Responsibility? Preservation of Tin Technology at Irvinebank, North Queensland', Paper presented to Third National Conference on Engineering Heritage, 1986, held at Adelaide University, Published in Proceedings, pp.10-12. A large collection of records was donated to the Society in the mid 1950s by Gus Waddell.

Malanda - The State Government has allocated \$25,000 in the Budget for 2008-2009 for the preservation of the Majestic Theatre at Malanda. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 11 June 2008 p.8)

Millstream National Park - A one kilometre (45 minutes) walk has been developed through the old World War II parade ground, officers' tents area, mess tent and ablution areas. It was officially opened by the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency, Mr Terry Wall, in June. \$30,000 has been spent constructing the walk and another \$10,000 is to be spent on signage to explain the historical significance. There were around 100,000 troops in 320 army and ancillary units over 160 sites. Each camp was designed to accommodate 1,000 troops. A Harvard war bird from World War II performed a flyover of the site on the opening day.

Shuttle buses brought people from Ravenshoe for the celebrations. (*North Queensland Register* 26 June 2008 p.15 including three photos)

Mount Amos south of Cooktown - Tin has been mined intermittently in the area since 1887. There was a hotel opened by Henry Clark in 1887 and taken over by Henry Harris in 1890 and operated to 1894. Patrick Archibald is thought to have operated the *Miners Rest* from 1888 to 1890. The main mines were the Owen and Davidson, Hurricane Gully Claim, Davison's Gully Claim, Better Luck Claim (Walk & Hassett), Forest Devil Claim (George & Fred Norris), Phoenician Lode (Vallis Brothers). £13,434 in tin output was obtained from Mount Amos between 1910 and 1914. (*Cooktown Local News* 7 May 2008 p.16 including photo and map)

July research report

Some of the queries this month have been very general and it has been difficult to provide material from our collection. It is important that we get specific questions especially from distant enquirers because we can not do research for them when we are not sure what their focus is. In this category we were asked for any information (Indigenous and European) relating to Bowen, Merinda, Pring and Abbot Point, all located in the area of the Whitsunday Regional Council. We were also asked about Aboriginal representation in Rugby League and the wider social and economic environment of Aborigines in the first half of the 20th century. Both these queries were difficult for us to answer so all we could do was talk to the enquirer and suggest other places where there may be material, but also advised them to be a little more specific. We were also asked about the railway going to Goondiwindi and the South West line for a book to celebrate the centenary of the Railway to Goondiwindi for publication in October 2008. We could refer the enquirer to the Kerr Historical Database which has many references to the moves to extend the rail to Goondiwindi. A family historian was interested in the history of Rowe's Café where one of the family members worked for many years. Research on the timber industry was undertaken for a Museum of Brisbane future exhibition on silky Parliamentary Debates were checked for material on Dickson in September - October 1899.

The Welsby Library has received a collection of photographs and postcards of places visited by a South Australian family on a bus trip to Queensland starting in August 1899.

Jean Stewart Honorary Research Officer

Northbank (a report by Jean Stewart)

I was pleased to represent the Society as a stakeholder in the Enquiry-By-Design into the North Bank development which was held in June. Fifty stakeholders were invited to attend for three days and were supported by about 20 technical experts. The aim of the exercise was to prepare seven different scenarios which could possibly solve the problem of improving the North Bank area. Seven different groups worked for three days examining all kinds of ways to develop the area within the original terms of the brief prepared by the Government, the main one being that there should be development of the narrow site at no cost to the Government. Issues such as flooding, the limitations presented by the Expressway and the cost of necessary infrastructure were all examined. At the end of the three days seven different designs were presented and will be given to the Government for consideration so that in the long term some changes can be made to this important part of the city to make it attractive and interesting and, above all, safe for people to have access to the river. It was a stimulating experience and wonderful to see so many people working very hard and very cooperatively on the task. It was heartening to see that all the designs emphasised the importance of the heritage precinct and nearly all focused their designs to celebrate the Birthplace of Brisbane and Queensland.

RHSQ Council

Would you like to be part of the management team of the peak history body in Queensland? There is an opportunity for you to nominate for one of the six Executive positions or one of the eight Councillor positions at the next Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21 August.

If you have been a member of the Society for at least 12 months and are currently financial, then you are eligible to nominate for one of the 14 Council positions.

To find out more about the operations of your Council please contact Denver Beanland on (07) 3217 7229 or Allan Bell on (07) 3221 4198.

New members

Graham Cooksley Clayfield Joyce Heirdsfield Carindale

RHSQ Web site

Have you looked at the RHSQ web pages recently? After looking at them at — www.queenslandhistory.org.au - you might like to send an email to the *Bulletin* Editor letting him know your opinion.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2008 AT 6.00 PM

at

Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, 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 and must reach the Secretary by 7 August 2008. A nomination form is included with this issue and may be photocopied as required.

Did you know?

Cooper Creek in western Queensland is the only watercourse in the world where two rivers, the Thomson and the Barcoo Rivers, join to form a creek.

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

presents a seminar

The politics and processes of separation and statehood (Queensland)

Aspects of social history concerning the separation of Queensland in the 1850s and 1860s

Saturday 9 August 2008

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: 1 August 2008

Important Functions and Events

CALENDAR

August 2008

Saturday 9 August 8.30 am – 3.30 pm Seminar

Wednesday 13 August No lecture-Brisbane

Show day

Friday 15 August Bulletin Deadline

Thursday 21 August 6.00 pm Clem Lack

Oration – Queensland's Visionary Premier, Sir Thomas McIlwraith,

Denver Beanland

September 2008

Wednesday 10 September 12.30 pm Twisting

the Tale: the Naming of Queensland State Electorates since 1860, Ruth Kerr

Monday 15 September Bulletin Deadline Thursday 18 September 6.00 pm Dr

Brockway and the Brockway Cup, Jean

Stewart

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.

A seminar on Building Records will be held on Wednesday 17 September from 10.00 am - 11.00 am in Lecture Theatre 2. Entry is free. To book telephone 31317777.

National Archives of Australia

The opening hours for The National Archives of Australia at 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill are 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. Telephone 3249 4226.

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK

Saturday 2 to Sunday 10 August

For lots of great ideas, log on to:

www.familyhistoryweek.org.au

Old Government House

Old Government House is undergoing a major restoration to return the house to its nineteenth-century splendour.

As a part of the restoration process Queensland University of Technology is seeking your assistance in locating photographs, mementos, accounts of people who worked there or who attended a function or any information related to Old Government House during its time as a vice-regal residence, 1862 - 1909.

If you can help please contact Katie McConnel, Curator, Old Government House on (07) 3138 8004 or at katie.mcconnel@qut.edu.au

Events and functions of interest

League of Legends: 100 Years of Rugby League in Australia

At the Queensland Museum until 10 August. This is a travelling exhibition developed by the National Museum with the Centenary of Rugby League Committee

Central Javanese Gamelan

On display until 31 August, Level 2 Concert/demonstration by esteemed musician Midiyanto and Conservatorium students 7 August, 1-2 pm.

Queensland Connections

Free monthly talk series, Museum Theatre, Level 2

Australian South Sea Islanders

The story of Australian South Sea Islanders, now formally recognised as a distinct cultural group. At the Museum Theatre, Level 2, Wednesday 3 September, 12.15 pm.

Archaeology in the Urban environment

Collaborative investigations into the historical archaeology of the Brisbane central business district. At the Museum Theatre, Level 2, Wednesday 1 October, 12.15 pm.

Letters to the Editor

This is a new feature that will allow you to express your opinion of what you would like to see featured in 'The RHSQ Bulletin' or any other Society matter upon which you wish to comment. Just write a letter to me, Graeme Nicholson, at the Society before the 15th of the month.

Around Queensland

This section is another new feature where you can submit articles that you would like to be considered for publishing in 'The RHSQ Bulletin'.

Please forward your submission to the editor by the 15th day of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

THE QUEENSLAND QUIZ 6

Ten thought provoking questions. Answers on the last page.

1. What was the first name of the town of Morven?

- a. Sadlier's Waterhole
- b. Hamburg Springs
- c. Rocky Crossing
- d. Hepstone Creek

2. Cunnamulla was established following the exploration of the area by what famous explorer?

- a. John Baker
- b. Charles Sturt
- c. William Landsborough
- d. Charles Cooper

3. Which Queensland town was the first in Australia to have street lighting generated by hydropower?

- a. Georgetown
- b. Forsyth
- c. Winton
- d. Thargomindah

4. In what year did the above hydro scheme commence?

- a. 1921
- b. 1854
- c. 1893
- d. 1888

5. When was the building now used as Charleville's museum built?

- a. 1902
- b. 1881
- c. 1913
- d. 1854

6. What was the above building's original use?

- a. As a bank
- b. As a museum
- c. As a police station
- d. As a school

7. What was the original name of Georgetown?

- a. Etheridge
- b. Cumberland
- c. Agate
- d. Allan's Siding Brisbane

8. Steiger Vortex guns were first used for what purpose?

- a. To scare away bats, circa 1890
- b. To bring rain, circa 1902
- c. To eradicate rabbits, circa 1913
- d. To frighten cattle off rail tracks, circa 1925

9. What was the original name for the entrance to the Norman River?

- a. Tasman Reach
- b. Abel Inlet
- c. Flinder's Creek
- d. Van Diemen's Inlet

10. During WWII what aircraft operated from Kuranda?

- a. Sunderland flying boats of 23 Sqn RAAF
- b. Otter seaplanes of 121 Sqn RAN
- c. Catalina flying boats of 43 Sqn RAAF
- d. Walrus seaplanes of 114 Sqn RAN

Museum exhibition



Women's Exhibition poster designed by Megan Hess, Illustrator, Melbourne, Victoria.

Official opening

Members and guests are invited to the official opening of our next exhibition on **Thursday 21 August** following the AGM. Light refreshments will be served.

A special preview and morning tea will take place on **Tuesday 12 August** from 10.00 am. This is your chance to meet Jan Hess, Hon Exhibitions Curator and Robyn Stephensen, Assistant Exhibitions Curator, over a cup tea and a scone.

RSVP to Allan Bell on (07) 3221 4198 or email the museum at info@queenslandhistory.org.au

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August 2008

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since 1860, Ruth Kerr

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Thursday 18 September 6.00 pm Dr Brockway and the Brockway

Cup, Jean Stewart

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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:

Contact details:				
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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 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed Saturday Sunday Monday as well as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter			

Bulletin articles only:

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Quiz 6 answers: a,c,d,c,b,c,a,b,d,c

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