



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

OCTOBER 2009 No. 735

The newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland
Patron: Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of
Queensland

President: Carolyn Nolan

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au



EXHIBITION INCORPORATING MISSION AUSTRALIA'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

The above photo was taken on 25 August 2009 at the exhibition's opening at the Commissariat Store. It includes from left: Paul Perovic, Project Manager and Community Fundraiser for Mission Australia; Katy Law, Acting Manager of the Commissariat Store Museum; Janice Hess, Hon. Exhibitions Curator; and Robyn Stephensen, Hon. Assistant Exhibitions Curator.

The exhibition celebrates the well-respected organisation of Mission Australia turning 150 years old. Artefacts on display include a chalice belonging to Chaplain G Innes Ritter from 1944, a corporate seal of 1902, collection boxes from the 1950s and beautifully restored antique dolls from the 1960 Doll Show. A souvenir publication of the Celebration Gala Dinner from 1960, a poster, marketing material, and Mission magazines covering 1940 to 1990 are also on display. Wonderful photographs showing the various services performed by volunteers working at the mission combine to give a superb display.

The exhibition will be on display until 31 December 2009. Text: Janice Hess and Paul Perovic, Photographer: Graeme Nicholson.

President's Report September 2009

It is with great pleasure and some trepidation that I take on my new role as President of the Society and I am most grateful for the guiding hand of Dr Denver Beanland as Immediate Past President. Denver has for the last two years worked hard to improve the workings of the Society. Among his many initiatives are the changes made to the *Journal*, now the *Queensland History Journal*, in its smart new livery thanks to the help of Dr Michael Tracey; the *Bulletin* is now enjoyed

online by many members resulting in a definite financial saving; and the attractive signage at the Commissariat Store is a visible reminder of just how much Denver has done to promote the Society, and particularly in local cultural circles. One of his last duties was to bestow an Honorary MacGregor Medal on the retiring Manager and Curator of the Museum, Allan Bell.

We wish Allan and Elizabeth long and happy lives with their family in Townsville. The farewell party at the

Commissariat Store was a lot of fun, full of good cheer and anecdotes, and we are glad to welcome Allan among new members of the Society.

Meanwhile it is business as usual and we are glad to have Katy Law as Acting Manager. Katy is the newest member of Council. Elsewhere in the *Bulletin* you will see that we are calling for expressions of interest for the position of Manager, and also for the vacant seat on the Council, Dr Lesley Williams and Andrew Darbyshire not having sought re-election. Both Lesley and Andrew have been constant supporters and we thank them and look forward to seeing them at talks and functions on a regular basis.

Our lecture program has brought many historians and their friends together. A large gathering for the AGM in August enjoyed the Clem Lack Oration presented by Emeritus Professor Kay Saunders, and as with so many of our lectures I look forward to seeing it appear in due course in our *Journal* where it can be mulled over carefully. The Wednesday lecture by Judith Marks was a wonderful opportunity to view photographic images of the Marks, Drury and also Dods families and the places that interested them, and to enjoy lively debate about the significance of many of them. How wonderful to have these old glass plate negatives retrieved and presented so clearly.

The forthcoming lectures will undoubtedly continue this high standard, with very well-known speakers: Professor Peter Spearritt and the Queensland Historical Atlas; in October Robyn Buchanan talks about Ipswich up to 1859, and then four historians will tell us how four religions, Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Baptist, ministered to Queenslanders, and others. A lively joint question time will follow, surely. Do come to some of these if you can, and of course we welcome friends and non-members.

I am learning more and more about the works being done on behalf of the Society, whether it is work on the collection itself, or the care of our visitors, or the preparation of displays. The current Mission Australia display maintains this high standard, and, though small, is delighting visitors.

The Society looks forward to hosting the AGM of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies in October and a very full weekend of activities is planned including a tour of the newly-refurbished Old Government House and visits to various parts of the Cultural Centre.

I hope you continue to enjoy the *Bulletin* - in the August issue I was saddened to read of the death of a distant cousin, Brian Philpott, but I was also reminded that his forebears, Monica Connolly and James Philpott, were married in Gayndah in November 1858 by Archbishop Polding, who as the Archbishop of Sydney was visiting his northern flock, just before Separation and just before the formation of the Catholic Diocese of Brisbane. The *Bulletin* is a mine of information.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland History News

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

Beaudesert - The Historical Society of Beaudesert has commenced indexing the local newspaper the *Beaudesert Times*, first from 1899, when it was called the *Beaudesert Despatch* and from September 2007. The early indexing will make accessible the microfilm collection held at the Beaudesert Public Library, and will fill a gap in the Society's archival cuttings collection, which is from about 1970, after the Society was created. (Beaudesert Historical Society News)

Charleville - A new Cobb & Co coach factory was opened soon after the destruction of the original one by fire on 25 October 1897. Details were featured in the *Western Times* on 14 August 2008 and a photograph was published. The new building was 17 X 11.5 metres including workshops for painters and trimmers. A second wing 28 X 17 metres housed blacksmiths and wheelwrights. The paper listed employees: Tom Gallagher (manager); Cecil Search (road manager); Hoopers; Doug Boyce, Robert Boyce and Bob McWha. Drivers were listed as 'Cracker' Jack Larkins, Andy Atkins, Billy Mitchell, Ted Donoghue, Joe Mosch, Dave Sinclair, Sam Ruxton, A Wicks and J Coyne.

Coen - An extract from Police records in the 1920s and held in the Police Museum was published in the *Cooktown Local News* on 20 August 2008 regarding the arrest by Francis Johnson of three Aborigines in relation to the disappearance of sandalwood getter, Frederick Heineman of Coen. Heineman's body had not been found but some of his possessions had been found in the possession of the three Aborigines. A mounted patrol had proceeded 100 miles from Coen into the Archer River area to locate the Aborigines who were in a camp of 300. Mr Geoff Wharton presented a paper at the Professional Historians Association (Queensland) on 4 September 2009 in Brisbane on the history of the sandalwood industry in Cape York.

Cooktown - There is local uncertainty as to why Mrs Elizabeth Cooper, aged 28 years, was buried some distance from what is the main part of the Cooktown cemetery today. She and Mrs Charles Siebold and Thomas Graham were also buried in the cemetery at the same time after the same accident in August 1874 after the capsizing of the *Platypus* cutter on a pleasure cruise in the Endeavour River. Others on the cutter were: George Cooper, Charles Siebold, Charles Siebold seven years, Louis Demetrius (hairdresser), Percy C Fuller (farmer at Marton later), Roger an Italian, Marco Songa (part owner of the *Platypus*), Francis Seymour (a Manilla seaman), and two men (names unknown). The boat capsized off St Patrick's Point. Mrs Siebold had advertised a week earlier that she intended to commence a school in Cooktown. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Siebold were buried the day after the tragedy and an inquest was held that day as well. When the two women were buried the land for the Cooktown cemetery had not been gazetted. At the time a road ran along behind Mrs Cooper's grave near where mango trees are today. It is likely that Mrs Siebold and George Thomas are buried nearby. (*Cooktown Local News* 24 June 2009 p.16 including photo of Percy Fuller, and *Cooktown Courier* 22 August 1874; *Queensland Government Gazette* 1875 p.1135, reservation of Cooktown cemetery)

Gympie - Lt Gilbert Harry who served at Gallipoli and won the Military Medal at Pozieres and the Military Cross and Bar at Ypres in World War I is buried in Gympie Cemetery. Mr Gary Parsons has undertaken research of his career. Harry was born in the Channel Islands and migrated to Australia. His AIF brigade was gassed at Pozieres. He was an Intelligence Officer at Ypres. In later life he was a dairy farmer at Kanyan near Theebine. He died without family of an acute respiratory illness. (*Gympie Times* 1 April 2009 p.3 including photo of Gympie RSL Sub Branch President Ivan Friske at Harry's grave in the cemetery)

September Research Report

A very busy month has seen all hands on deck to give help for a variety of projects from the resources of the Welsby

Library. We looked for material on the following, sometimes a successful search, sometimes not:

- Unveiling of the Oxley Memorial on North Quay
- *Historic Homes of Brisbane and F E Lord*
- William Street buildings and South Brisbane buildings
- Visit of the Earl of Belmore 1868-1872
- Charlotte Street buildings – ‘ John Reid & Nephews’ and ‘ John Mills Himself’
- Duncan Dunbar – the man, the ship and the shipping company
- Pelletier photos – a new request
- Photo of Emma Miller
- Sighting of koalas on Stradbroke Island
- Treasury building photo
- Craig Bowen – descendant of Governor Bowen?
- List of people who came on the boat with the Bowens
- Queensland Parliament House
- Sir Anthony Musgrave – Government House and South port
- A penpal called William Smith of Windsor who wrote to an American in 1938
- The residences of Dr Love and Dr Rendle
- Patrick Galligan’s time as police inspector at Cloncurry
- *Queen of the Colonies tree.*

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

**Queensland State Archives
2009 Exhibition Touring Itinerary
At**

**The Workshops Rail Museum
North Street**

NORTH IPSWICH
Phone 07 3432 5100

Tuesday 29 September – Sunday 25 October
At

**Blackall Cultural Centre
Hawthorne Street**

BLACKALL
Phone 07 4657 4222

Monday 5 October – Wednesday 14 October
At

**Port Douglas Community Hall
Mowbray Street**

PORT DOUGLAS
Phone 07 4099 9444

Monday 19 October – Saturday 31 October
At

**Quilpie Information Centre
Brolga Street**

QUILPIE
Phone 07 4656 2166

Friday 23 October – Wednesday 25 November
At

**Queensland Museum
Cnr Grey and Melbourne Streets**

SOUTH BANK
Phone 07 3840 7555

Tuesday 27 October – Sunday 29 November

BUY A PEN!

The Commissariat store has obtained some blue coloured pens engraved in white with:

**COMMISSARIAT STORE
Brisbane’s Convict Museum**

For sale at the Commissariat Store for \$2.00

New members

Margaret Haly	Tarragindi
Richard Sayers	Kallangur
Bribie Island Historical Society Inc.	Bribie Island
Judy Masters	Manly
Angus McDowall	Southbrook

**History Talks at Brisbane Square Library, 266
George Street, Brisbane**

**Preserving Your Documents and Photos at Home -
Saturday 7 November 11.00am – 12noon**, Local History Gallery, Level Two. Join preservation expert, Christine Ianna, as she guides you in the art of maintaining your treasured photos and documents. Helpful hints for do-it-yourself preservation at home. Bookings essential. Phone (07) 3403 4166.

**History of Your House - Saturday 21 November
11.00am – 12noon**, Local History Gallery, Level Two. Join historian, Jack Ford, for an introduction on how to research the history of your house. The discussion will include valuable tips on how to search historical Council records and will provide the keys for unlocking the secrets of your home. Bookings essential. Phone (07) 3403 4166.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

MANAGER RHSQ

Following the retirement of our Manager, Mr Allan Bell, the Royal Historical Society of Queensland requires the services of a suitably qualified person as a replacement. This position is for 24 hours per week maximum at a salary of \$24.00 per hour plus 9% superannuation.

For a position description and selection criteria please contact the President Carolyn Nolan (carolynmolan@iinet.net.au) or RHSQ reception on (07) 3221 4198 or on our website info@queenslandhistory.org.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

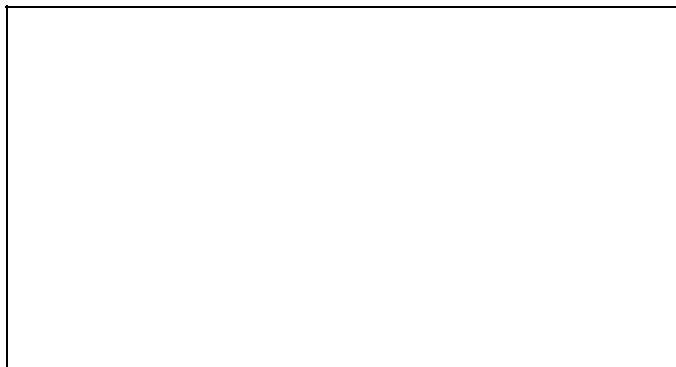
COUNCIL MEMBER VACANCY

Expressions of interest are sought from members of the Society to fill the vacant seat on the Council. For further information please contact the President (carolynmolan@iinet.net.au) or RHSQ reception on (07) 3221 4198

Royal Historical Society of Qld
 PO Box 12057
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 Qld 4003
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**SURFACE
 MAIL**

POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA



Important Events and Functions
CALENDAR

October 2009

Wednesday 14 October 12.30pm

‘ Ipswich to 1859’

Robyn Buchanan

Thursday 15 October *Bulletin* Deadline

Thursday 15 October 6.00pm

‘ Churches in the Northern Districts’

Jennifer Harrison, Denis Martin, Joan Pigram, David Parker

November 2009

Wednesday 11 November 12.30pm

‘ Shipping in Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River’

Manfred Cross

Tuesday 17 November *Bulletin* Deadline

Thursday 19 November 6.00pm

‘ Queensland State Archives – 50 years’

Manfred Cross – Early History of Archives

Janet Prowse – Now and the Future

Friday 20 November

John Laverty book launch, with BHG

CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteer Guides

The Commissariat Store museum currently has vacancies for Volunteer Guides to lead tours of students, social and community groups. Your time for one day a week or one day a fortnight would be greatly appreciated. An interest in Brisbane history would be an advantage. Full training will be provided. A current Blue Card is required and if you do not have one we can arrange an application.

Volunteer Receptionist

A volunteer receptionist is required to help at our reception desk once a fortnight on Fridays.

If you are interested in being involved in your society and the Commissariat Store Museum through either of the above positions, please contact Katy Law, Phone (07) 3221 4198 email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au

Doing the Separation Saunter?

Here’s another chance to do the heritage walk around 30 sites in town relating to the separation of Queensland in 1859 and its aftermath. Starting at the Commissariat Store Museum at 10.00 am sharp, Rod Fisher will first show you around his exhibition ‘ Signs of Separation’ and then lead the walk around town and back in two and a half hours. Tours run from 10.00 to 12.30 on the last Tuesday of each month. As groups will be limited to 12 fit walkers, bookings are essential by phoning 3221 4198 (10-4 Tue-Fri).

RHSQ Infobox

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The Society is represented on the National Trust of Queensland and the Board of Trustees of Newstead House

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Bulletin articles only:

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Subscriptions (with GST):

Ordinary Member	\$60.00
Partner of Member	\$20.00
Junior Member (18)	\$10.00
Full-time Student (25)	\$25.00
Affiliated Society	\$45.00
Libraries Subscription	\$60.00
Corporate/Institutions	\$75.00
Life membership – purchased after 10 years	\$1,000.00

