



COMMISSARIAT STORE 1829

RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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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



Thomas Welsby

Photo: RHSQ Collection P1389

Work is well underway on the museum's new exhibition entitled 'Thomas Welsby – Recognition at last' to be opened in early 2010.

This exciting new exhibition will feature the different aspects of Thomas Welsby's life as a historian, businessman, politician, author, athlete, fisherman and member and president of The Historical Society of Queensland. Thomas Welsby donated his collection of journals, books, photos, artefacts and scrapbooks relating to Queensland history to the Society. The Library named in his honour, was originally the Welsby Memorial Library.

Research is being undertaken with assistance from Susan Martin. Susan's university thesis is: 'Recognition at last: Thomas Welsby, historian of Moreton bay 1858 – 1941.' Susan has written some text on his life for the exhibition. Communications with Rugby Union Queensland and the Royal Queensland Yacht Club have been most helpful. Graeme Nicholson has beautifully restored a photo of Thomas Welsby to be a feature of the display.

The 'Signs of Separation' exhibition and 'Mission Australia's 150th Anniversary' have been well received with visitors enjoying a chance to see some rare objects on display. Both of these exhibitions close at the end of December 2009.

Text: Janice Hess, Hon. Exhibitions Curator and Robyn Stephensen, Hon. Assist. Exhibitions Curator

President's Annual Report October 2009

So many members are working hard to ensure our busy program runs smoothly. The visit of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies to the Commissariat Store for their Annual General Meeting is almost upon us and we look forward to welcoming the President and delegates to Queensland.

You will see elsewhere in the Bulletin details of a planning workshop to be held at the end of February, chaired by Dr John Mills. This is an initiative by Council to ensure that the Society keeps pace with the times. All members are invited to attend, and we need the voices of as many of you as possible. By giving plenty of notice we hope that many of our more far-flung members will be able to attend as well. I knew our membership

extended well beyond South-east Queensland, but it is only after studying the actual list of individual members and the large number of affiliated organisations that I have realised just how much talent and expertise there is available.

It is not only members who contribute to the Society. Last week I was delighted to receive from Dr John Steele, our current John Douglas Kerr Medallist, an assortment of reference materials that helped him to write his now acclaimed reference works. This is a generous gift and a very interesting addition to the Welsby Library. The library will also benefit from a substantial grant of money, sought by Dr Rebecca Ling, to restore the photographic panoramas. Further details will be available soon, and in time we hope to be able to

display them periodically- there is a depth to the original works that the very practical digital versions do not seem to capture.

Planning is well underway for an exhibition about the great Thomas Welsby, to be called 'Thomas Welsby - Recognition at last'. Our Honorary Curators have been gathering material about him, and if anyone knows of further material suitable for display, particularly artefacts, then please let the Society know. With Rugby Union, Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, the Stock Exchange, *Amity* and a lot of other interests, he had a very wide range of expertise. Various organisations have agreed to lend significant items.

Dr Rod Fisher has nearly completed setting up the collection of the Brisbane History Group and it will be very constructive having another research and reference facility alongside the Society, in National Trust House. The formation of the Brisbane History Hub, with expert advice available as well as the wealth of material, should make William Street a busy place for researchers.

Do respond to the fliers for the two book launches to be held at the Commissariat Store: *Tall Timbers & Tramways Queensland*, from a manuscript by the late John Douglas Kerr, edited by Dr Ruth Kerr, will be launched on 8 November, published by the Light Rail Association; then on 20 November the Lord Mayor, the Rt Hon Campbell Newman, will launch Professor John Lavery's *The Making of a Metropolis: Brisbane 1823-1925*.

And last, but certainly not least, this month we celebrate the 50 years of Queensland State Archives, established a century after Separation, but well and truly making up for it now under State Archivist Ms Janet Prowse. Congratulations are definitely in order.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland History News

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

Atherton – the Department of Environment and Resource Management have received an application for the entry of the Barron River Hotel, 55 Main Street, and Atherton on the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 7 August 2009 p.26)

Bailey's Creek and Cape Tribulation - north of Daintree – The brothers, Col, Andy and Dave Mason from Cairns (sons of William Walter Mason) purchased the late John Moffat's Bailey's Creek sugar selections in 1929. They moved there to grow bananas. The land extended from Mount Alexander to Mount Hutchinson. They established a public company, Alamson Plantation Limited and employed 50 people on the property. The prospectus boasted that 'no area of scrubland on the Queensland coast excels this estate in fertility, and there is probably no equal in Australia.' They established 120 acres of bananas and 17 acres in a nursery. They had their own sawmill and constructed all the buildings on the property including a post office. Bailey's Creek was registered as a port. The onset of the depression ended the Alamson Plantation Limited's chances and the Masons moved north to obtain leases on Myall Creek just south of Cape Tribulation. After the war the family returned to the Bailey's Creek area and grew rice. A book has been written about the Masons in that area – *Living in the Rainforest* - and is available from Keystar Publications, PO Box 473, Ravenshoe Qld. 4888. (*Cooktown Local News* 16 September 2009 p.15, 23 September 2009 p.15 and 30 September 2009 p.14 including photos)

Charleville – The photography work of Thomas Walton's photographic work was featured on the front page of the *Western Times* of 14 August 2008 (including three photos). He had come to Charleville in the early 1900s and took many photos of sheep as well as buildings and people. He was born in 1861 in London. He married May Neil (nee Mullen) in Cunnamulla on 11 July 1898 in Cunnamulla. They had three children. They travelled around the properties and Mary was a photographer. Walton's photographic studio was in Alfred Street, Charleville. Merv and Normal Walton travelled to Charleville and researched Thomas and Mary Walton's careers at the Charleville Historical Society.

Cooktown - The Historical Society has received more than 200 hours of digitised Cape York Oral Histories. The oral histories were recorded by Duncan Jackson on behalf of the Cook Shire Council between 1983 and 1985 and copies were deposited in Queensland State Archives. Copies were also stored in the Cooktown Library. The oral histories cover subjects such as early Cooktown, coastal shipping, agricultural practices, mining crocodiles and trochus shelling since the 1890s. A further valuable research record is the CD donated to the Historical Society Archive by the descendants of the Moffat and Heaslop families who were in Cooktown from the 1870s to 1933. They came from Dumfries and Glasgow in Scotland. They were blacksmiths in upper Charlotte Street. They are buried in Cooktown cemetery, near Mary Watson the heroine of the Lizard island tragedy in 1881, (*Cooktown Local News* 13 July 2008 p.16 including photo; 1 April 2009 p.8 including photo of Bev Shay (awarded an OAM in June 2009) and Ross Logan of the Historical Society and Cook Shire Mayor, Peter Scott).

Malanda – the Department of Environment and Resource Management have received Applications for the entry of the Majestic Picture Theatre, 1 Eacham Place, Malanda and the Malanda Falls Swimming Pool on the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 7 August 2009 p.26)

Pentland – The State School will be 125 years old in 2010. A book containing the oral histories of many former pupils will be published. The Forster, Callcott, Martell, Bagnall, Edgar, Laidlow, Payne and Rebgetz were some of the families. Ms Tonya Peagham who has been gathering the oral histories recently interviewed Mrs

Ena Forster, 95 years old. She and her seven siblings travelled from *Bettsville* station to the school. The economy of Pentland town was sustained in those days by the meatworks, the sawmill and the railway. Other schools in the surrounding districts were Cape River and Deep Lead. (*Northern Miner* (Charters Towers) 18 September 2009 p.13 including photo of Ms Peagham and Mrs Forster)

Starcke – A World War I returned soldier, Biddle, who had been gassed in the war, died at Starcke approximately 20 years after return from the war. At his death he was suffering from influenza. Friends buried him on the Starcke. The Cooktown Branch of the Returned Services League was informed by the Department of Repatriation in 1937 that the Department of Defence was not prepared to erect a headstone over the grave as they stated that he did not die of war wounds. The Cooktown RSL desired to have the remains exhumed and buried in Cooktown cemetery. The Cooktown and District Historical Society has checked the burial records and there is no mention of the burial of the remains of Mr Biddle. (*Cooktown Local News* 5 August 2009 p.15)

Yungaburra – the Department of Environment and Resource Management have received an application for the entry of The Curtin Fig Tree, Curtin Fig Tree Road on the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 7 August 2009 p.26)

October Research Report

Having enjoyed a much-needed three-week holiday, I returned to find that the rest of the Research Team had dealt with a very large number of enquiries and I thank them for their hard work and professionalism. These enquiries were: Mission Beach Aboriginal Mission and the Catalina Repair Station at Wallaby Point on Great Palm Island near Townsville; information for a metal detectorist on a wide range of Gold Coast items such as gold, bushrangers, maps of hidden treasure etc (he was referred to other sources); Cressbrook Station; Professor Seal, information for a German historian; George Stephen Leader who arrived on the *SS Kaikoura* in 1911 and worked as a miner; images of street scenes of some Brisbane suburbs; Queensland Governors during World War II; the site of Brisbane's first water storage/reservoir; Cunnamulla photographer called Wimhurst; Phillip Harris Horton who arrived on the *Queen of the Colonies*; the Leichhardt Tree on Yarronvale Station; Captain JB Robertson memoirs and portrait; *Light Brigade* ship; the background to the naming of sites in Moreton Bay which refer to the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon; Queen's Wharf Road/ William Street; early tug boats; and the Quarantine Station at Lytton. This was a big list and little information was found in our collection on most of them. Perhaps members of the Society may be able to help.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

From the Federation President's visits

In recent months Associate Professor Don Garden has visited Perth, Brisbane, Darwin and Canberra. This travel has been largely for private and other business purposes, but he has met with State and Territory society representatives in each of those places. In Perth he presented a Merit Award to Mrs Sally-Anne Hasluck. He hopes to be in Sydney in December to present a Fellowship to Dr Bruce Pennay, and in the coming year to visit Adelaide and Hobart, the only two capitals where he has not yet been. He is also looking for opportunities to award of grants under the \$60 million heritage sector of the Jobs Fund.

The President attended a meeting arranged by Museums Australia to discuss the development of a culture policy in Australia, as has been proposed by Minister Garrett. He was also at the Melbourne Exhibition Building on 12 October for the Minister's announcement of the successful applicants for grants under the community organisations segment of the heritage Jobs Fund.

2009 Annual General Meeting

This year the Annual General Meeting will be held in Brisbane on Sunday 25 October and hosted by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ). An interesting program has been arranged including a tour of the State Library of Queensland and a visit to the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art. The welcome reception for delegates and the AGM will be held at the Commissariat, the RHSQ's headquarters.

Upgraded website

The Federation's upgraded website has been launched and can be accessed at: www.history.org.au. It is attractive and very easy to navigate and contains much information to assist historical societies with the work of caring for and promoting their collections, advocating and promoting their local heritage to their communities and tourists and researching and writing history. The *FAHS Newsletter* and *E-Bulletin* are also available at the site.

Collections Care Demonstration Project

On the 10 August 2009, the Collections Council of Australia announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the WA Department of Culture and the Arts and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to commence the *CollectionsCare* project in the WA Goldfields region. The Myer Foundation is funding the project, with matching funds contributed by the WA Government, and in-kind contribution by all project partners.

CollectionsCare aims to develop practical skills and knowledge for paid staff and volunteers, to attract new resources for regional collections, and

to unlock the educational, economic and cultural potential of collections held in regional communities.

Federal Government's Jobs Fund Grants to historical societies

By now applicants for grants under the Federal Government Jobs Fund will have received notification of the outcome of their applications. So far, however, a list of grant recipients has not been published.

Small Museums Cataloguing Manual (4th edition)

Museums Australia (Victoria) recently announced the publication of the Small Museums Cataloguing Manual (4th edition). This is the industry-standard reference for community museums wishing to start or develop their collections' cataloguing. This essential practical tool is now FREE to download. This user-friendly, full-colour edition has been fully revised to include guidance on using cataloguing software on computers, 'how to' examples of worksheets and up-to-date lists of useful resources.

For further information & download visit the Museums Australia (Victoria) website at: www.mavic.asn.au/services/small-museums-cataloguing-manual/

Communicating with other historical societies can be very rewarding. You can do this by joining The Australian Historical Societies' Support Group.

The online Australian Historical Societies Support Group was established through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's *My Connected Community* (mc²) domain. It offers participating historical societies, like-minded bodies and individuals a variety of free, easy to use Web-based services, which they can use to communicate with each other across the nation and the world on any topic that is of interest or concern to their organisations.

Features of mc² include a forum, an events list, space for sharing files, space for sharing photos, a links page and a chat room.

Details on how to join the Group are available at the FAHS website at: <http://www.history.org.au>. Follow the link from the home page.

Helen Henderson
Immediate Past-President.
October 2009.

New Member

John Browning

Annerley

Queensland State Archives 2009 Exhibition Touring Itinerary

At
St John's Cathedral
373 Ann Street, Brisbane
Phone: 3835 2231
Tuesday 1 December – Friday 11 December

At
Millmerran Library
2-16 Campbell Street, Millmerran
Phone: 07 4695 1399
Friday 11 December – Saturday 30 January 2010

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

Library Report

August catalogued

Friends of Caboolture Shire Libraries Association Inc donated *A window into Caboolture Shire*; Jean Stewart donated the latest QFHS CD *Queensland founding families: Biographies of families living in Queensland prior to separation from New South Wales*. John Pearn donated several of his papers including *Medical coins: An enduring heritage of health history*, *Sentinels of service*, *Scouting and St John Ambulance Australia*, *A history of first aid in Australia: the evolution of prehospital care*, *A lunar man: A bicentenary audit of Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802): Father of evolution, inventor, doctor, and pioneer of Australian literature*, *Medical butterflies: Flitting vignettes of medical history*, *Queensland in bronze: Enduring heritage in sculptural and medallion art*, *Surgeons – Pioneer advocates for children with physical disabilities*.

Judith Marks donated a PowerPoint presentation of her Aunts Dr Elizabeth (Pat) Marks photographs. Kay Cohen donated *Granite wilderness: Granite belt national parks* and *Mapping culture: A guide for cultural and economic*

development in communities, *Memory and history in twentieth-century Australia*; *You can't make it rain: The story of the North Australian Pastoral Company 1877-1991*; *Enhancing access to justice: the history of Legal Aid Queensland – 1979-2004*. Lyndsay Smith donated *All in a day's walk: the flora and fauna of the Lamington National Park and other parks in south east Queensland*, *Anzac to Amiens: A shorter history of the Australian fighting services in the First World War*,

Raymond Specht donated his book *The flight of the woodpecker: The migration of five families from Germany to South Australia: The Kaesehagen, Specht, Conrad and Heusendroeder families, the Hozberger family from Lerbach, Harz Mountains*. Rod Kirkpatrick donated his book *Purposely parochial: 100 years of the country press in Queensland, 1908-2008*.

Items from a box of Australian Post Office has produced some gems, eg Censorship regulations for telephone calls and telegrams prior to the outbreak of war and when war was declared, air raid precautions of GPO personnel and the public, information on the Navy and Army, application for wireless station licenses by the Australian Inland Mission, and a booklet on *Products and services*.

Addition of many of Lyndsay Smith digital images to the catalogue.

THE FUTURE for our SOCIETY

Living in a constantly changing world offers challenges the RHSQ must face in order to grow as a society.

A task force led by Councillor Dr John Mills will facilitate a Strategy Planning Workshop to define what our Society should look like in the future and to workshop answers to questions like:

What should we be doing?

Who should do it?

How will we pay for it?

Where will the money come from?

The workshop will take place from 9.00-5.00 at the Commissariat Store on

SATURDAY 27 and SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2010

All members, volunteers and councillors are invited to attend and contribute to the future of our society.

IF YOU WISH TO TAKE PART PLEASE MAIL OR EMAIL KATY LAW AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE MUSEUM

BY 14 DECEMBER. PLEASE TELL HER IF YOU HAVE AN AREA OF SPECIAL INTEREST OR EXPERTISE THAT COULD BE USEFUL TO THE WORKSHOP.

If you would like more information, phone John Mills on (07) 3882 0963 or Sash Broughton (07) 3403 9704

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

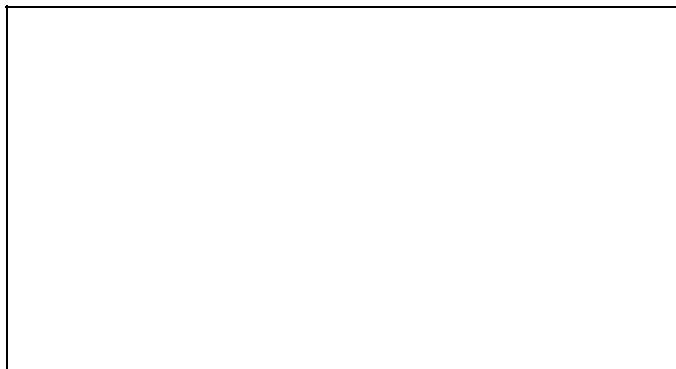
A volunteer receptionist is required to help at our reception desk once a fortnight on Fridays.

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

Royal Historical Society of Qld
 PO Box 12057
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**SURFACE
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**Important Events and functions
 Calendar**

November 2009

Wednesday 11 November 12.30 pm
 'Shipping in Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River'
 Manfred Cross

Tuesday 17 November *Bulletin* Deadline

Thursday 19 November 6.00 pm
 'Queensland State Archives – 50 years'
 Manfred Cross - 'The Early History of Archives'
 Janet Prowse - 'Now and the Future'

December 2009

Monday 7 December 12.00 midday
 Volunteers Lunch at the Public Service Club

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

Members are invited to make submissions to the RHSQ Council for any changes to the Society's Constitution, which is currently under review. A copy of the Constitution can be emailed on request, with all submissions to be received by the end of November.

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 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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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

