

RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

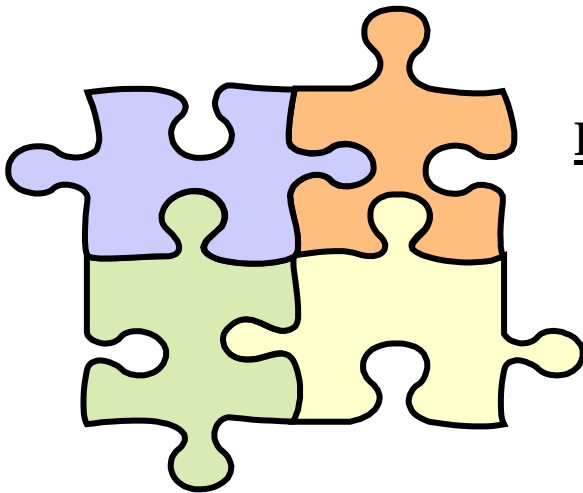
FEBRUARY 2010 No. 738

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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au)



## FUTURES COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2010**

**9.00 am – 5.00pm**

**COMMISSARIAT STORES**

### 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 Stores on

**SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2010**

All members 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 STORES MUSEUM BY 12 FEBRUARY 2010**

**WRITTEN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST THAT COULD BE USEFUL TO THE WORKSHOP  
SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY THE SAME DATE**

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

### **President's Report January 2010**

A Happy New Year! And a busy one and you will see from the various notices in this *Bulletin* that there is a lot planned already. It is good to carry on the momentum of the 150-year celebrations and to build on the many friendships formed and re-formed through the many activities in which we

took part. Perhaps one of the nicest was the evening of Separation Day itself when many of us gathered at, and around, Newstead House, buying books, listening to the band and seeing the Separation flag lowered at dusk.

The Society ended 2009 with another windfall of grant money, this time from the

Gambling Community Benefit Fund. They gave us \$32,912.00 including GST for the restoration of books in the Welsby Library. Grants Co-ordinator Dr Rebecca Ling applied for money to restore large numbers of the Votes and Proceedings, Government Gazettes and Hansards. These are the only sets available to researchers in hard copy and our thanks are due to Grace Grace MP & Cr Jane Prentice who supported our application. The panoramic photographs are away being conserved as a result of the earlier grant.

Editor Dr Margaret Kowald and her team have just sent the fourth of the sesqui-centenary Queensland History Journals away for publication and you will receive it shortly. The publication of so many conference papers in such a short time has been an heroic effort on their part, and the Society is grateful to them, as it is to all those who prepare these significant pieces of research.

There will be another conference in May, this time at Parliament House, as it celebrates the first meeting of the Queensland Parliament. More details will appear on the website as they are finalised with the rest of the lecture program by Senior Vice-President Manfred Cross and the program committee.

I remind you that it is time for nominations for the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction, awarded by the Society on Queensland Day since 2005, and once again, details are on our website. This year the Queensland Day Dinner will be held on the eve of the holiday, on the Saturday night and I hope to see many of you then, as always.

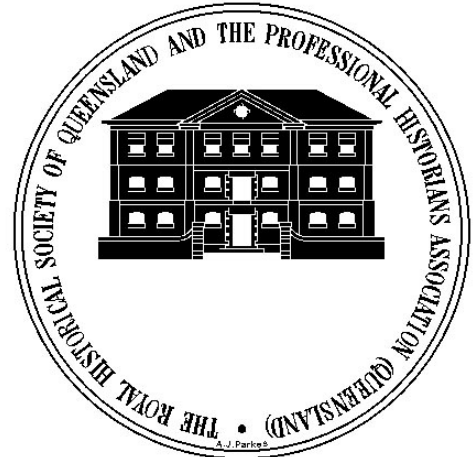
If you have not already done so, please consider registering for the February Workshop so that you can contribute to our forward plans for the Society. It is after all your Society and we welcome your suggestions for change. Just one example is the wide variety of backgrounds of visitors to the Commissariat Store – brochures in various languages are being prepared to make their visits even more worthwhile.

Come in to see the Thomas Welsby Exhibition – ‘Recognition at Last’. At last he really is ‘showcased’ in a fitting manner. Many Society members work hard on the various aspects of our collection. Just one is Marilyn England who has painstakingly compiled a database of the artworks. If you are after illustrations for publications or talks then let me remind you of the considerable resources in William Street.

Happy 2010.

Carolyn Nolan  
President

## HISTORY AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



# JOHN DOUGLAS KERR MEDAL OF DISTINCTION FOR HISTORY

## ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND and PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION (Qld)

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Qld) invite nominations from individuals and organisations for the award for excellence in historical writing and research in any one or more fields of Queensland history.

### Nominations close on 31 March 2010

Presentation of the medal will take place on 6 June 2010. Nomination kits will be available from January 2010.

For further information contact the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, QLD, 4003, Telephone 3221 4198, Facsimile 3221 4698, e-mail [info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)

### Queensland History News

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

**Charters Towers** – The Charters Towers and Dalrymple Family History Society (Ph 07 4787 4843) is seeking details about architect, Christian Frederick Mouritzen, who was reputed to have worked in Charters Towers from around 1884. He

came from Denmark and later went to Croydon where he established a sawmill. Mouritzen later moved to Western Australia where he held the licence of the Federal and Perth Hotels. (*Northern Miner* 1 January 2010 p.4 including photo)

**Cooroy** – The Lower Mill Site was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register in April 2009 for its mid twentieth century saw mill technology. The boiler room, drying kiln (built in 1956), chimney and surviving machinery are listed. The heritage significance of the site was recognised in the Noosa Shire Council Heritage Study in 2001. The site was awarded the 2009 Australian Institute of Landscape Architect Queensland 2009 Landscape Architecture Award in the Land Management Category. The award took account of community consultation and sympathy to the heritage of the site. The first stage at the site has been restoration and contemporary reuse of the remaining sawmill buildings. The Cooroy Woodworkers Club are using the boiler room area. The Shire's hinterland library is also being constructed on the Lower Mill Site. (*Cooroy Rag* 14 October 2009 p.5)

**Dalrymple Town Site** – The Queensland Heritage Council has decided not to enter the Dalrymple town site on the western side of the Burdekin River on the Queensland Heritage Register. Dalrymple was surveyed in 1864 and was the first inland town in north Queensland. It is situated immediately north of the Basalt Wall. It was on the road from Townsville westwards to the pastoral stations being established in Gulf Country. (*Northern Miner* 1 January 2010 p.4)

**Donnybrook Blocks Battery and Township (Middle Camp) on Ravenswood Goldfield in Nineteenth Century** - The Queensland Heritage Council has decided not to enter the Donnybrook Blocks Battery and Township (Middle Camp) on the Queensland Heritage Register. Buchanan, Jessop and Connelly founded it. The Charters Towers Regional Council has recently been advised on the decision. (*Northern Miner* 1 January 2010 p.4)

**Julia Creek** – The McKinlay Shire Visitor and Information Centre, At The Creek, was opened by the Premier on 11 December 2009 Recycled Police and Railway buildings were used as the major structures which display the historical themes of water, country and people of the district. There are six audio tracks outside explaining the history. The theatre in the Police Gaol Cell seats 15 people. (*North Queensland Register* 17 December 2009 p.13)

**Toowoomba Historical Society:** Three members of the Society published books during 2009:

- Maurice French, *Toowoomba: A Sense of History 1840-2008*
- Don Talbot, *Toowoomba: More Strange ... and Unusual Tales, Vol 7*
- Max Brightman, *A History of St Luke, Toowoomba* (second abridged edition)

All books are available from the Society; see [www.toowoombahistory.org.au](http://www.toowoombahistory.org.au) or email [history@icr.com.au](mailto:history@icr.com.au) for details.

## January Research Report

It has been a very busy start to the New Year. We have had many visitors including some from interstate making good use of their holidays.

Recent research requests:

Charters towers photos;  
Berilda Hospital, East Brisbane;  
1912 strike photos for the Builders Labourers Federation;  
Henry Tryon;  
Walter and Elija Hall Trust and Mt Morgan;  
Queensland Rail;  
Leichhardt expedition and letters;  
Carmody family history Indooroopilly;  
QLD Defence Force;  
Jack's day parade – Peace Celebrations, Nov 1918;  
Hampton St Ascot name;  
Coats of Arms on Lands Administration Building;  
Cat sculptures on The Mansions;  
Meeting rooms of the Brisbane Women's Club 1924;  
Sidney House;  
Peel Island – Henderson;  
Photo of disaster – for FAHS member – Victoria Bridge in the floods of 1893.

Jean Stewart

Honorary Research Officer

## New Members

Alan Hayward	Indooroopilly
Judith Spencer	Gladstone
Greg Hallam	Mitchelton
Shane Donnelly	Wallangarra
Neville J Macpherson	Deepdene Vic
Michael Allen Wilke	New Farm
Robyn T Smith	Charters Towers

## Library Report

Two interesting new items by Murray Johnson and Kay Saunders added to the collection are *Wild heart, bountiful land: An historical overview of the Mary River Valley* and *Working the land: An historical overview of Boonah and its northern district*, these were commissioned by Queensland State Archives and donated by QSA. Photographer volunteer Doug Lochhead has donated *Historical photographic collection*, which has over 550 digital images with Henry William Mobsby of the Department of Agriculture and Stock responsible for 412 of them. John Steele's Brisbane River and Brisbane Town photos were catalogued by Doug Lochhead and have been added to the catalogue. Doug has donated another CD storage container and cleverly clearly marked the rows and columns to help locate each CD or DVD.

Noel Wallis has donated Richlands, Inala and Suburbs History Group's publication 'Dr Stephen Simpson (1792-1869) MD, JP, MLC: Woogaroo Station 1843-1852'; Jeff Hopkins-Weise donated his recent book *Blood brothers: The Anzac genesis*; National Biographic have donated review copies of John Murdoch's new political history books *Folly, fortune, fate: The demise and the rebirth of the right in the early Federal Parliament Vols 1 and 2*. These two books include essays on federal politicians and political issues before and after 1917. Judy Masters donated a signed copy of Barry Allan's *Updated edition: Sophia Grantham also known as Kezia Tregilgus*; Joy Loggie donated a copy of her book *Mowbraytown heritage: A walk in yesteryear*. Ian Hadwen donated *a steady storm of correspondence: Selected letters of Gwen Harwood 1943-1995* and *The Land Act, 1897 and regulations thereunder (including timber regulations)*.

Added to the archives collection is a ticket to the Historical Society of Queensland Brisbane centenary event on 3 December 1923. A listing of illustrations in Queensland calling, Teleradio, a weekly wireless journal from vol. 1, no 1, 3 May to 1933 to vol 5, 20 March 1937 was added to the Radio and television subject file. Information about articles in the Sesquicentenary Journal No 2 was added to the catalogue.

More of Lyndsay Smith's digital images added to the catalogue. Doug Lochhead has gone through JG Steele's 59 photos for his book *Brisbane Town in convict days 1824-1842*, originally published by the University of Queensland Press in 1975, analysed them and provided me with a spread sheet giving me the RHSQ photo number, title, notes, subject headings etc. These photos have been added to the Welsby Library database.

I apologise to Nancy Tow for not previously noting her generous donations of booklets on Cooran, Pomona and other Sunshine Coast places, and Nancy's recent donations of relevant history cuttings from the *Nambour Weekly*.

A new subject file Queensland sesquicentenary, Q150, has been created. If anyone has any interesting cuttings or information that could be added to this file, it would be very much appreciated.

Bob Forsyth of Mt Isa has donated three CDs of downloaded material, mainly articles from the Royal Geographical Society (of London), many of the pdf articles relate to explorations and discoveries and added to the catalogue *Caloundra poems* by Eric Williamson. Ruth Kerr has donated a heap of newspaper cuttings and other items; this will keep me busy for a couple of weeks.

Judy Gale Rechner  
Honorary Librarian

### 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

## Winner of SOS Competition

Congratulations!

To Ann Harding, who is the winner of our signs of separation competition.

Ann correctly guessed the three most popular 'treasures' from the exhibition, which were:

1. Advance Australia Medallion 1859
2. Workbox of QLD timbers 1859, Isabella Petrie
3. First Atlas of QLD by Thomas Hann 1865

Ann will receive a copy of the RHSQ publication 'Brisbane's Historic Northbank' and a copy of the BHG publication 'Diggers down Under Kit'. We trust Ann, an avid reader of history, will thoroughly enjoy her prize.

### Triple-miracle novel

It's a miracle that it was written at all, let alone preserved, then re-discovered, relatively recently. Part of Rod Fisher's 'Signs of Separation' exhibition last year, *Tom Hurstbourne or a Squatter's Life* is an unpublished 1864-65 manuscript of a novel set in Central Queensland, penned by a 27-year-old from Shropshire. Lively, intriguing and entertaining, the story offers valuable insights into life on Queensland's colonial frontier. Jointly published by Boolarong Press and the Brisbane History Group, retired High Court Justice and author, Ian Callinan AC QC, will pronounce judgement on the book at its launch on 28 February 2010 at the Mercy Heritage Centre, Fortitude Valley.

For more information, phone 3351 6371 or email: [bhg@brisbanehistory.asn.au](mailto:bhg@brisbanehistory.asn.au). All welcome. RSVP essential. Updates at: [www.ggbooks.wordpress.com](http://www.ggbooks.wordpress.com).

### **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](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)

Manager; Janice Hess, Hon. Exhibitions Curator; Susan Martin (historian), who gave a talk on the life of Thomas Welsby; Manfred Cross, Senior Vice-President of the RHSQ; and Dr. Bob Anderson from Stradbroke Island. Visitors included people from Marine Safety Queensland, State Library of Queensland, Amateur Fishermen's Association of Queensland, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum, Queensland State Archives, members of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and guides. The morning tea, including scones and sandwiches, was enjoyed in a relaxed environment and hopefully Thomas Welsby would have been proud to see that he has been given this recognition by the society.

Don't miss the opportunity to come and visit the exhibition and read about the life of Thomas Welsby. He was a very interesting man who bequeathed his library to the Historical Society of Queensland, parts of which are on display.

The museum is open Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 am until 4.00 pm.

The exhibition will run until 31 December 2010.

Janice Hess  
Hon. Exhibitions Curator  
Robyn Stephensen  
Hon. Assist. Exhibitions Curator

## **THOMAS WELSBY EXHIBITION**

### **MORNING TEA SUCCESS**



Susan Martin, Jan Hess, Estelle Cooper, Katy Law and Robyn Stephensen in front of the Welsby Exhibition

The Thomas Welsby 'Recognition at Last' exhibition has had a wonderful start with a morning tea on 12 January attended by about 50 people. Speakers included: Katy Law, Acting

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA BRISBANE SEMINARS**

FEBRUARY 17 & 20, 10.00 am to 11.00 am

**Aircraft, airports and aviators  
Records of Air transport**

FEBRUARY 23, 9.30 am to 4.00 pm

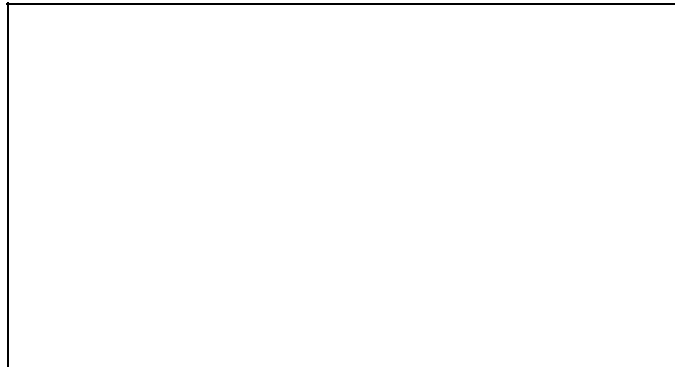
**Shake Your family Tree**

16 Corporate Drive  
Cannon hill QLD 4170  
Tel: (07) 3249 4226

Royal Historical Society of Qld  
 PO Box 12057  
 Brisbane George Street  
 Qld 4003  
 RHSQ Journal: PP424022/00020  
 RHSQ Bulletin: PP424022/00019

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## Important Events and functions Calendar

### February 2010

**Wednesday 10 February** 12.30 pm  
 'The Brisbane Boys and Girls Schools'  
 Geoffrey Swan

**Monday 15 February** *Bulletin Deadline*

**Thursday 18 February** 6.00 pm  
 'Brisbane's Back Door – Northbank'  
 Don Watson

**Saturday 27 February** 9.00 am  
 Futures Committee Workshop

### March 2010

**Wednesday 10 March** 12.30 pm  
 'Stanthorpe's Italian Pioneers'  
 Ian Bonaccorso

**Monday 15 March** *Bulletin Deadline*

**Thursday 18 March** 6.00 pm  
 TBA

#### Contact details:

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698
<b>E-mail:</b>	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
<b>Website:</b>	www.queenslandhistory.org.au
<b>ABN:</b>	34 217 251 028
<b>Postal:</b>	The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003
<b>Open:</b>	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:

<b>Editor</b>	Graeme Nicholson
<b>E-mail:</b>	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698.
<b>Postal:</b>	RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003

#### Subscriptions (with GST):

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

