



COMMISSARIAT STORE 1829

**RHSQ**

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

**THE RHSQ**

# *Bulletin*

**MARCH 2010 No. 739**

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)



## **The Commissariat Store Norfolk Island**

This building on Norfolk Island was built for the same purposes as the Commissariat Store in Brisbane. Although this is not part of Queensland history I have included this photo, as I am sure that members will be interested to know that there is another colonial Commissariat building that is still in an excellent state of repair.

The building was constructed under the supervision of Major Joseph Anderson, the seventh Commandant of the Second Settlement. Construction began in February 1835 and the building was ready for occupation by September of the same year.

The Commissariat store consisted of three floors and a basement (now the Archaeological Museum). The basement originally housed the liquor and general stores. In 1845 the basement was converted to an issue office. The first floor contained the main office, a meal room and store. The second floor was the engineer's office, store and a grain store. The third floor was for grain storage, goods being hoisted up and transferred in and out of these floors through gantries on the northern wall.

Text and photo by Graeme Nicholson

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## **President's Report February 2010**

The February Council meeting as usual received reports from the multitude of committees that exist to look after the running of the different aspects of the Society, such as the library,

museum, webpage, publications, program, awards, editorial and so on. The lecture program for 2010 is available on the RHSQ website, with reminders in the Bulletin each month as usual. Not only do the lectures provide our

hardworking editorial team with material for the Queensland History Journal, but also those Wednesdays and Thursdays are a chance to meet others who are concerned with our history, and give good opportunities for discussion. Our conference this year is in May to celebrate the first Queensland Parliament.

It is 150 years this year since Burke and Wills and the rest of the party set out from Melbourne. RHSQ as a custodian of the famous Dig Tree out near Innamincka is planning ways to commemorate the trip. The search parties that went out to look for the lost travellers sent back glowing reports of the vast pastoral lands they traversed, and it was not long before the pastoralists followed them. What started out as the Victorian Exploring Expedition became an integral part of Queensland's history.

Another grant has been received, this time \$32,912 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Brisbane bookbinder Roger Perry has now started work on restoration of many of the leather-bound volumes in The Welsby Library. Soon many of the Votes & Proceedings, Government Gazettes and Hansards will be back on the shelves ready for research and reference, the only hard copy sets available to historians. Microfilm is good, and particularly for printouts, but the volumes are much easier to peruse.

As I write I am looking forward to our workshop, which will be facilitated by Kathleen Singleton, due to the unavoidable absence of John Mills. Kathleen has been working with the Futures Committee and I feel confident that soon we will have more ideas about what we want for the future of the Society.

The Fortitude Club is no longer, but we congratulate them on their long existence, and thank them for their generosity in including RHSQ as they finally disbursed their funds. Those who came on the *Fortitude*, and in turn their descendants, have been of immeasurable benefit to this part of the world.

When you are noting up your diaries do note that the Queensland Day Dinner will be on the eve of the holiday, on Saturday 5 June. It is an event many look forward to and I am grateful to our generous friends at Runcorn, Queensland State Archives, who yet again will sponsor it, and next year as well. Architect Don Watson used many images from QSA for his fascinating talk about the other side of Brisbane's Northbank; a reminder of just how much is available there. And on the subject of archives, your Society is working hard on your behalf through the Federation of

Australian Historical Societies to ensure that National Archives retains its offices throughout Australia.

Please ask to receive your Bulletin by email if you can; in that way we can elaborate more about what is happening while keeping costs down. The Queensland History Journal will remain in hard copy, now with some colour images. I remind you that the RHSQ catalogue is available on disk, and updated regularly so you know just what records are available. Happy research and reading!

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)

**Biggenden** – A photograph of the Biggenden town in 1902, taken from Hospital Hill, appeared in the *Central and North Burnett Times* on 21 January 2010 at page 2. It shows the hotel, railway station and houses. The railway had opened on 13 April 1891.

**Bloomfield** – The Cooktown and District Historical Society published a short history of Olufson's sawmill 8 km upstream from the mouth of the Bloomfield River in the early 1900s. In the

1930s they had a contract towing rafts of red cedar logs to Cooktown. In the early 1940s they also established vegetable gardens to supply the American soldiers stationed in the area. (*Cooktown Local News* 10 June 2009 p.19 including photo of sawmill)

**Brooweena** – Each year since 1990 the Woocoo Historical Society organises the over 60s reunion on 1st October of past and present residents of the original Woocoo Shire Division One. In 2009 the 1933 International Truck restored by Mr David Berthelsen of Gayndah was on display. David Berthelsen is a dedicated machinery restorer at Gayndah Historical Society. Cynthia, his wife, and he have been office bearers in the Gayndah and been members of this Society for many years. The International Truck originally belonged to Mr Tal Lahey who used it at his Brooweena sawmill established in 1924. Also of special interest on the day were the new murals painted on the inside of the walls of the closed in verandah area of the CWA building at the museum complex. The larger mural is a collage of photographs of the early settlement of the Woocoo Shire. The smaller mural about the Mount Joseph Memorial Bridge has the poem about the bridge written by Gordon J Cook who worked at nearby Mount Joseph Station. Mr Warren Persal sponsored the acquisition of the murals. Members of his family had worked bullock teams in the shire and attended the local school. (*Woocoo Historical Society News Bulletin*, Vol.23 No.4, December 2009, pp.2-5 including photographs.)

**Cooktown** – The Cooktown Anglican Church has been sold and removed to a property on Oakey Creek Road. The original church, Christ Church, was built in 1874. It was destroyed in a cyclone in 1949 and reconstructed using the materials of the old church. The daughter of real estate agent Barbara Hay's partner, John, will now use it as a home. A new Anglican church is to be built in Cooktown. (*Cooktown Local News* 23 December 2009 p.5 including two photos)

**Irvinebank** – The Mareeba Historical Society presents a significant historical north Queensland figure in the *Tableland Advertiser*. On 27 May 2009 (page 16) it was John Moffat who was the base metal mining magnate of the north. The photograph of Moffat used to illustrate the article is the one taken in Glasgow on his return trip there in 1883.

**Portland Roads and Iron Range, Cape York** - A story of the cook, 'Black Jack', at the military depot at Iron range is told in the book, *Jungle Outpost*, by Walter Battison and was recounted in

the *Cooktown Local News* of 29 April 2009 on page 14. A photograph also appears of the jetty at Portland Road showing ships and military vehicles.

## February Research Report

After a busy start in January, things have settled down in February and we have had some interesting queries: Divinity Hall, Brisbane; Thomas Tate; *Ravenswood*, Bowen Terrace, New Farm. Passengers William and Marion Scott and family migrants on the *Artemnesia*; images of *SS Walrus* the illegal floating distillery; and Edmund Rice who arrived on the *Flying Cloud*. We also received some images of Queensland from the Cameron Photo Collection donated by William Burke of Melbourne.

Some time has been spent lately in preparing the catalogue for the next Book Auction, which we hope to hold in May. There is an interesting array of books gathered from a variety of sources. We have also been replenishing the second hand books and maps for sale on the table near Reception, a very popular earner. We are also looking at the Serials collection and rationalising it. Digitisation of the images in the Photo Albums is continuing.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Research Officer

## New Members

Suzanne Olsen	Daisy Hill
Robyn Smith	Charters Towers
Jane Prentice	Chapel Hill
Scott Brain	Birkdale
Scott Jackson	Brisbane

## Library Report

Added to the catalogue is correspondence with Miss Jean Hardie and her talk 'Wickham Terrace: the home of medical men for more than 100 years, and some of my early memories connected with it'. Also added to the catalogue *From town to Toowong: Riverpath heritage tour* donated by a keen flag person; *Queensland: A vexillological history*; Black Dog Books gave the *Library Closets are for clothes: A history of queer Australia*.

I have finished adding Ruth Kerr's donation of newspaper articles to the vertical files. Thanks Ruth, for always including the name of the paper, date and page number. Jeannette Smith went through the newsletters and magazines for

me looking for articles on Queensland to add to the vertical files.

Logan Council Library donated three books *Logan ... the man the river and the city*, *Logan River tinnie trail: A heritage trail along the Logan River and Ridge to ridge*, *Recollections from Woodridge to Park Ridge*. Kay Cohen donated *Starting signal given: The story of Tambo, its district and its horse racing* and *Charters Towers: The golden years*; Helen Coughlan donated *Queensland Turf Club: A place in history* in gratitude for the help she received from the Hon Researchers in March 2009. Redcliffe Historical Society donated items from Jim Houghton's collection including *The condensed rulings of the Speakers of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland 1860-1923*, *Queensland parliamentary handbook 1977* and *Queensland parliamentary handbook 1979* and *Bill Harney's war*; Katy Law donated *From pioneering days: Nundah Northgate Virginia*; Don Garden donated his new book *Droughts, floods & cyclones: El Niños that shaped our colonial past*; Lyndsay Smith donated *Centenary St Patricks church Rosevale 1889-1989*.

Ian Hadwen donated two useful books *The making of the AWU* and *One big union: A history of the Australian Workers Union 1886-1994*; Jean Stewart donated *Via Torres Strait: A maritime history of the Torres Strait route and the Ship's Post Office at Booby Island*.

Judy Gale Rechner  
Honorary Librarian

## Exhibition Curator's Report

With the New Year under way and the Thomas Welsby exhibition creating lots of interest the museum now has two more exhibitions that have been redesigned.

First, the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement display which features objects such as the Cat-o'-nine tails, Leg Irons, Convict Cap and Bricks from the penal settlement days. This exhibition complements the building, which was built in 1829 by convict labour.

Second, the HM Penal Establishment St Helena display has now been extended adding for the first time a model of the St Helena Sugar Mill that will be on display for the first time since the reopening of the museum in 2001. Thanks go to Don Murray for his efforts on this project. This exhibition also features the 'Convict Finger', Straightjacket, Island Code and implements made by the prisoners in attempts to escape. St Helena was a prison from 1867 when the Brisbane gaols became

overcrowded. The prison closed in 1932. Don't miss the chance to see these exhibitions, which will be on display for 2010.

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

### 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

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA BRISBANE SEMINARS

MARCH 17 and 20, 10.00 to 11.00 am

**LIVES LESS ORDINARY**  
Records of Women

APRIL 17 and 21, 10.00 to 11.00 am

**THE HOME FRONT**  
World War II

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

### WHO REMEMBER COLOURED SLIDES?

Can you remember 35mm colour slides? Colour slide photography was very popular from the 1950s to the 1980s, but today many people have collections of slides they don't know what to do with. A website is being created at the University of Queensland which will feature colour slides of Queensland places.

### HOW DO YOU GET IMAGES ONTO THE WEBSITE?

Staff at the University can provide you with pre-paid registered mail envelopes. You can then send suitable slides to be scanned at high resolution.

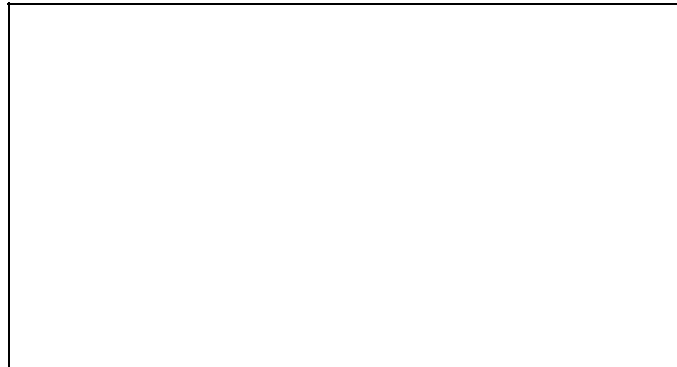
### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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### Important Events and Functions Calendar

#### March 2010

**Wednesday 10 March 12.30 pm**

**‘Stanthorpe’s Italian Pioneers’**

Ian Bonaccorso

**Thursday 11 March Council Meeting**

**Monday 15 March *Bulletin* Deadline**

**Thursday 18 March 6.00 pm**

**‘When Greek Meets Greek’ the official opening of the Lionel Lindsay Art Gallery and Library, Toowoomba, 4 April 1959**

Jason Althofer

**The launch of the Welsby Exhibition after the lecture**

#### April 2010

**Thursday 8 April Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 14 April 12.30 pm**

**‘Urban Planning in SE Queensland to the 1960s’**

Maurice Kilburn

**Thursday 15 April *Bulletin* Deadline**

**Thursday 15 April 6.00 pm**

**‘The University of Queensland to St Lucia – its impact on the suburb’**

Peter Brown

### Important Announcement

#### From the Editor

Until further notice the printed version of the *Bulletin* will be limited to four pages. The full version will be available to those who have submitted their email address. We urge you to receive your *Bulletin* by email, as this will significantly reduce our printing costs. Please contact Katy Law on (07) 3221 4198 to submit your email address.

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<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

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#### 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

