



COMMISSARIAT STORE 1829

RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

MAY 2010 No. 741

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



DO YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN?

A recent audit has found that several photographs in our collection are without identification. If you know this woman please contact us.

RHSQ President's Report for May

We are putting together the program for a Commissariat Store Museum Open Day, on Sunday 16 May as part of the Queensland Heritage Festival. This is an opportunity for those who cannot visit during the week, and for those who live far away, to take guided tours of the building and to see how the library catalogue works. No doubt Peter Fegan's lecture on historic houses will be a great drawcard. More

and more items are being displayed and the Museum is looking very good indeed.

Just recently I represented the Society at the 60 year celebrations of the Queensland Women's Historical Association, offspring of this Society. Their house museum, *Miegunyah*, at Bowen Hills is more gracious than ever with the recent opening and refurbishment of the western verandah. A new publication details the Perry family whose home it once was.

Publications by our own Society members are about to be featured on our website, thanks to some detailed preparation by our hardworking Website Committee. I remind you that members are always welcome to sell their books at the Commissariat Store. Just let the manager know the details.

Another fascinating house is Fernberg, at Bardon, the official residence of the Queensland Governor, the Patron of this Society. It is celebrating its centenary this year and will feature on our program.

The University of Queensland has just celebrated its centenary. Professor Clive Moore spoke to us recently about the Forgan Smith Building. Historian Peter Brown one evening showed photographs and plans of this splendid site at St Lucia, and reminded us of what wonderful benefactors the Mayne family was and the magnificence of their bequest that continues in perpetuity. What outstanding Queenslanders they were.

Many of you suggested that the Society should make more trips away, and so we will. The dates are still being finalised but we will visit the Bill Bolton Collection and the Cobb & Co Museum in Toowoomba, probably in October, and next April we will go right out to the Dig Tree, to be there on 21 April, 150 years after Burke and Wills. The idea is to visit many historic centres on the way and to see as many of the faraway members and other societies as we can.

Plans are well underway for the Queensland Day Dinner, to be held this year on Saturday night, 5 June, the eve of Queensland Day. Make sure you come. You are the Society. The food and the music will be excellent, the John Kerr Medal will be awarded, and it is a chance to enjoy being with friends in the historic Commissariat Store.

Don't forget to register if you can for our 2010 conference to be held on 29 May, a Saturday afternoon session, in the Parliamentary Annexe. It will be 150 years since the first Parliament was opened. If you can come just fill out the form on the flier enclosed with this *Bulletin*.

Proposed changes to the RHSQ Constitution have been finalised and copies will be sent out to members prior to the Annual General Meeting. This has involved painstaking work on the part of many members, and particularly by the Immediate Past President, and the Treasurer.

In the meantime please ask for the *Bulletin* to be emailed to you if at all possible!

Carolyn Nolan
President

OPEN DAY COMMISSARIAT STORE

115 William Street, Brisbane

The Commissariat Store is located at the birthplace of Queensland – on William Street, facing the Brisbane River – and is one of Brisbane's most significant buildings. Built in 1829 by convict labour, with the top floor added in 1913, the Store is the oldest occupied building in Brisbane.

An Open Day will be held on Sunday 16 May from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm. Entry is by gold coin donation. Guided tours and a short talk on the history of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland will be provided.

Contact the RHSQ:

T: 07 3221 4198

E: info@queenslandhistory.org.au

W: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

PRESENTATION 'HOUSES MY MOTHER GREW UP IN' at the COMMISSARIAT STORE SUNDAY 16 MAY 11.00 am

Peter Fegan, a National Trust member, will present a pictorial history of three of Brisbane's interesting historic houses. 'Stanley Hill' at Clayfield, 'Morven' at Shorncliffe and 'Bayuda' at Hamilton date from the 1860s through to 1885. All of the houses at some time were the home to the Blume family.

Entry to the Commissariat Store is free.

Afternoon tea is available for \$5.00.

Bookings are essential by 7 May.

Contact:

T: 07 3221 4198

E: info@queenslandhistory.org.au

100 YEARS OF FERNBERG

Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AO, has invited the Royal Historical Society of Queensland to celebrate 100 years of Fernberg as Government House on Wednesday 14 July from 6.00 pm. Members of the RHSQ who wish to receive an invitation please advise Katy Law on 07 3221 4198 or email info@queenslandhistory.org.au prior to Friday 4 June in order to facilitate the issue of invitations from Her Excellency.

LONGREACH ARCHIVAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP Inc

The LAHRG has received a grant to put a plaque at the Arrilalah Cemetery. This is an abandoned site and has 43 graves including two police graves one of which is marked. If there are any family members or friends who would like to attend the unveiling and rededication ceremony please contact the secretary, Kay Searles, email, jeffsearles@bigpond.com

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA BRISBANE SEMINARS

MAY 15 and 19, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

OUR FAVOURITE RECORDS

A display of treasure from the National Archives

ANGLO-CELTIC MIGRATION

Tracing British, Scottish, Irish & Welsh migrants

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

New Members

A and M Kisluk	South Brisbane
JH Wegner	James Cook University
David Moore	Deakin ACT
Jane Punter	Grange

Library Report

A Queensland Government donation added to the catalogue is a CD: *Celebrate 150 years, 10 Dec 2009: Q150 Proclamation Day*. Jean Stewart donated *Country women: History of the first seventy five years*; Margaret Kowald donated *As I remember: A pictorial story of the early workers in the Imbil forest*; Russell Nunn added to our collection a spiral bound booklet and three disks *Queensland pioneers of radio & tele-*

vision 1920-1940 all about TV in Queensland; Lyall Ford donated a signed copy of *Roads in the wilderness: Development of the main road network in Far North Queensland: The first 100 years*; Kay Cohen donated *Australian federalism, The steel master: A life of Essington Lewis*. Kay Cohen donated *Nobby through the years*; Margaret Prentice donated *Edward Barton 1858-1942: Pioneer electrical engineer*.

Margaret Kowald has donated *Artists and aspects of the Contemporary Art Society, Queensland Branch*; *The coffee-pot mill: A history of the Elgin Vale steam-powered sawmill*, *The saga of a shire: Being the history of the Nanango Divisional Board and the Council of the Shire of Nanango*; *Indigenous peoples in South East Queensland: An annotated guide to ethno-historical sources 1998*; *The making of Rosalie, A tribute to Jack Venman: In honour of a true bushman*; *Up rode the troopers: The Black Police in Queensland*; *Dan Casey, criminal advocate*; *Kie Daudai: Notes and sketches from Cape York*, *The wider view: Rockhampton Girls Grammar: A social history*; *Peripheral visions: Essays on Australian regional and local history*; *Gatton College: 100 years of science with practice*; *Defenceless yet hopeful: A history of the first one hundred years of Hopeful Lodge no. 109 UGLO, formerly 2634 EC and 78 QGL*; *The first forty years: The history of the Taringa Rovers Soccer Football Club 1949-1989*; *75th anniversary of Thallon 1911-1986*; *Gold Coast urban heritage & character study*; *In the light of all the years: A history of scouting in Queensland*; *Beef cattle production in south-west Queensland*; *postcards 100 years of forestry*; *Immigration, youth and culture: Oxley-Chelmer*; *Securing the wet tropics?, Mt Mee State Forest*; *Hidden heritage: A development plan for museums in Queensland 1995-2001*; *I once met a man ... : True stories from one of Australia's greatest folk heroes by RM Williams and NAP... the first 125 years*.

Jill Jenkinson brought in some fascinating items donated by Mrs Beryl Wright. These include *Australian Home Journal: Knitting for soldiers*; *Fisher's Ready Reckoner: Shows the value of goods from one-eighth up to 40,000 at anything from one farthing to twenty shillings*; *John White's simplex log measurer*; *The roads of Queensland* published by Yates & Jones in 1913; and a photo of Salvation Army people at the People's Palace.

If anyone has a copy of DB Waterson's book *Biographical register of the Queensland Parliament 1930-1980* that they would like to donate to the Welsby Library the gift would be very much appreciated.

Judy Gale Rechner
Honorary Librarian

April Research Report

We welcome Moya McKenzie to the Research Team and send best wishes for a return to good health to Rod McLeod, a long time member of the team. This month we have been carrying out many tasks in the Library, shelving new books donated by various members, examining the Serials and Cutting Books, topping up the book sales on the table near Reception and preparing the Catalogue for the Book Auction which will be held on Friday 2 July.

Queries this month have included: town criers in Brisbane; Mary Alice Welsby - any relation to Tom Welsby?; a photo of the Queen in 1954 in King George Square; Houdini's tour of Australia in 1910; Dr Lillian Cooper and Miss Josephine Bedford; South Sea Islander history; convict burials in Moreton Bay Penal Settlement; Clem Lack; Kate Mary Smith; Charles Russell Callow family history; Poulsen studio photos, signage in the former Land Administration Building; images of early Brisbane; and Queensland National Bank. For some of these queries we found a lot of material in the collection and for others we have referred the enquirer to other sources for information. The Library is open for research on Thursdays between 10 am and 4 pm.

Jean Stewart

Honorary Research Officer

Queensland History News

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

Atherton Tableland - Jack & Newell – The iconic North Queensland firm Jack & Newell is the subject of a new history website. The site is collaboration between Historical Societies in Mareeba, Cairns, Port Douglas and Herberton and tells the story of the firm through text, pictures, documents and audio. There's also the capacity for you to add your own Jack & Newell recollections. It is accessible at www.mbahistsoc.org.au and follow the links. (Cairns and District Historical Society *Newsletter* vol.15 no.2, March 2010 p. [1])

Cooktown – Laura Railway – The Cooktown and District Historical Society has done a display on the railway in the Archive and research Centre using photographs from the Fred Schipke (driver) collection and John Knowles' book, *The Cooktown Railway* (Australian Railway Historical Society {Qld Div}, 1966). The line opened to Laura on 8 October 1888 and never reached its destination of Maytown on the Palmer Goldfield. It had the first regular rail motor service and rail motors operated the line exclusively for its last 34 years. £2,500 was allocated by Parliament for the construction of the bridge over the Laura

River, which was completed on 13 October 1891 but was never opened. Wagons were pushed over it in flood time to allow people to obtain food supplies.

The state government's drive for greater efficiency in the operation of Queensland railways heralded the closure of the Cooktown – Laura railway on 31 December 1961. Cooktown and Laura people were greatly disappointed. The Maori Farewell was sung as the last public train arrived at Cooktown. 4,000 tonnes of rails and the buildings and rolling stock were sold. The successful tenderer for the rails was P & G Freighters Pty Ltd who subcontracted the work to Koppen and Son in Cairns. The rail motor (RM58) was used in the dismantling of the railway. The rails were sold to the Post Master General's Department for use on the new telegraph line to Weipa, and to the Mossman and Mulgrave sugar mills, and to Japan for scrap. A photo appeared in the *Cooktown Local News* of 11 November 2009 on page 14 of George Kamsler, Charles Crisp Ossie Koot with the ship's crew loading rails. The remains of RM58 have been removed by the Cook Shire Council to a permanent display near the site of the railway station at the intersection of Hogg and Adelaide Streets, Cooktown. A tender is also included in the display – believed to be the tender on steam locomotive B12 No.40 which ran on the line between 1910 and 1927. (*Cooktown Local News* 28 October 2009 p.15 including photograph of the Laura railway station with a locomotive and passenger carriage in the early 1900s, and 9 December 2009 p.7 including photo)

Croydon – Following the note in the February *Bulletin* of the Charters Towers Family History Society's research on Christian Frederick Mouritzen, Society member, Dr Peter Bell, and Dr Jan Wegner of James Cook University, have established that there is a reference in *Post Office Directories* to Mouritzen as a builder and contractor in Croydon in 1890-1891.

Gympie – A reunion of 12 of the 'Murray Studios Girls' was held at Chatz Café, Gympie on 28 May 2009. They had all worked in the 1940s and 1950s as teenagers in the souvenir department of Murray Studios, photographers, in Mary Street, Gympie. Five of the women had been hand colourists. Others worked in the dark room and one, Eva Smerdon (nee Godwin) was office supervisor. Mrs Norah Roberts (nee Graham) organised the reunion at the suggestion of Mrs Elaine Bergman (nee Godwin) of Cairns. Others in attendance were: Margaret Franz, Maureen Schultz, Margaret Stallard, Fay Connell, Ailsa Chapple, Gloria Ryan, Valda Robertson, Audrey Hetherington and Yvonne Mills. Murray Studios was known nationally in Australia as a producer of souvenir photographs for the tourism industry in the first decades of the twentieth century. Murray Studios also

held contracts with Queensland government department such as Railways for production of Queensland photographs for their use in promotional campaigns. (*Gympie Times* 2 June 2009 p.9 including photos of reunion attendees and an early 1950s photo of the whole Murray Studios staff gathered at the back of the Mary Street premises)

Gympie – the state government and the Macadamia Conservation Council are considering the idea of a Macadamia Conservation Park. Historical Society member, Mr Ian McConachie OAM, stated that the park would be a germ plasma bank for rare wild Macadamia trees, the Queensland Nut. *Macadamia terniflora*, the small-fruited Queensland Nut or Gympie Nut was recently discovered in remnant rainforest on a property east of Gympie. Another variety, *Macadamia jansonii*, has been discovered near Miriam Vale. (*Gympie Times* 5 December 2009 p.9 including photo)

Irvinebank – The Foxlee family has several horse teams in Irvinebank in the first decade of the twentieth century, transporting tin ore from the Vulcan to John Moffat's Loudoun Mill in Irvinebank. Frank and Phil Foxlee were willing to take horse teams on hills, which Ted Henry said in reminiscences that he 'would not lead a goat.' Frank Foxlee moved the Charters Towers where there are descendants. Phil Foxlee never married. He sold his horse team to Ted Troughton of Mareeba, when he moved to Kangaroo Hills, inland of Ingham. Phil Foxlee wrote to the Premier's Department advocating a railway from Townsville to service the mountainous and mineral rich hinterland. (*North Queensland Register* 20 August 2009 p.6)

Jondaryan – St Anne's Anglican Church at Jondaryan celebrated its 150-year anniversary on 25 October 2009. It is believed to be one of the oldest timber church buildings still in use in the Brisbane Diocese. The church was originally on Jondaryan property owned by the Tooth family. Rev Benjamin Glenie conducted the first service on 23 October 1859. For the first 30 years the church was non-denominational. Nearby residents sheltered in the church during the 1893 flood. After the flood the church was moved to its current position and placed under the control of the Brisbane Diocese. The church was then altered slightly – floor lowered, small vestry added to southeastern end, and the building was oriented for the doors to be on the western end. The walls are of wide ironbark slabs. The lining is pine. There are six pine pews made by a station carpenter. (Anglican Church *Focus* July 2009 p.4 including colour photo)

Stannary Hills - The March *Bulletin* of Cairns and District Historical Society (No. 576) written by

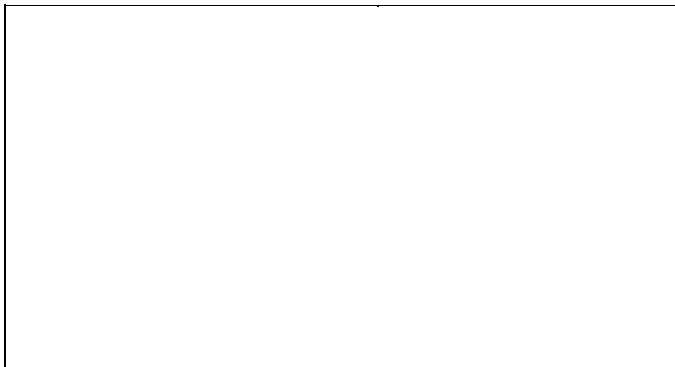
the late Robert Brown on John and Annie Brown of Stannary Hills provided a summary of the history of Stannary Hills: Stannary Hills was a small tin mining town established in 1884, 16 km northwest of Herberton on the banks of Eureka Creek and originally called Eureka. The Adelaide based company, The Stannary Hills Mining and Tramway Company, with their Ivanhoe Mine was the major employer. There were many small miners in the district and all suffered with transport problems in and out of the area. In 1902, the Stannary Hills Mining and Tramway Co constructed a two-foot (60 cm) 32 km tramway from Boonmoo on the Mareeba-Chillagoe Railway, through Eureka Creek gorge to Stannary Hills and extended the line to Rocky Bluffs, the battery site on the Walsh River. By the end of 1903, the company had erected and was operating a 30 head stamp battery at Rocky Bluffs. Five years later the Irvinebank Mining Company's tramway from Irvinebank connected with the existing tramway at a point called the Junction, near Stannary Hills. The town reached its population peak of 780 in 1907. With falling metal prices and the outbreak of World War 1 the town fell into decline. In 1926 the tramway to Rocky Bluffs was dismantled, and in the late 1930s, tramway services between Irvinebank, Stannary Hills and Boonmoo ceased. The light rail system was dismantled during the Second World War. The last store and hotel closed and were demolished in 1953, and Stannary Hills was deserted from then. With the loss of work due to the closing of mines and services, people left Stannary Hills to find work elsewhere and most migrated to Cairns to re-establish themselves and become many of that city's well known families. (Further sources on Stannary Hills Tramway and Rocky Bluffs written by Ruth Kerr are: 'Ruffashell Street and the Tin Mill at Rocky Bluffs on the Stannary Hills Tramway, 1903 to the Twenties', *Journal of Australasian Mining History*, September 2005, vol.3 pp.58-73; 'The Last Working on the Irvinebank and Stannary Hills Tramway', *Light Railways*, No.72, April 1981, pp.15-16; and 'The Rocky Bluffs Provisional School', *Stack Talk* (Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society), March 1976, pp.28-29,32.

Townsville – Special Collections Librarian at James Cook University of North Queensland, Ms Bronwyn McBurnie (Email: Bronwyn.McBurnie@jcu.edu.au), is appealing for photographs, memorabilia and stories to celebrate the history of the University and to mount a display in the library and on a specially set up Flickr site. Queen Elizabeth II visited Townsville in 1970 and assented to the Act of Parliament creating the James Cook University. (*North Queensland Register* 11 March 2010 p.5)

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Important Events and Functions Calendar

May 2010

Wednesday 12 May 12.30 pm

‘Development of the Timber Industry on the North Coast’

Peter Osborne

Thursday 13 May Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 May *Bulletin* Deadline

Thursday 20 May 6.00 pm

‘The inaugural five female members of the HSQ: their stories’

Jean Stewart

Saturday 29 May

‘The First Queensland Parliament 1860-1863’ Conference

June 2010

Saturday 5 June Queensland Day Dinner

Wednesday 9 June 12.30

‘The Queensland Country Women’s Association – its contribution’

Norma Lovelske

Tuesday 15 June *Bulletin* Deadline

Thursday 17 June 6.00 pm TBA

Thursday 10 June Council Meeting

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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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

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