



RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

JULY 2010 No. 743

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



THE 'DIG TREE' on COOPER CREEK

Burke, together with Wills and King returned to this spot from their exploration of the Gulf of Carpentaria and Central Australia in 1861 to find that the team they expected to meet them was not there. They discovered this tree marked with the word 'DIG' and found a store of food. Eventually Burke and Wills starved to death on Cooper Creek, but King survived. Our Council is planning a visit to this tree early next year

President's Report for June

The *Bulletin* has reverted to six pages and whether it comes to you by email or snail mail it is a regular way for us to keep in touch. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. The Queensland Day was voted by many who attended as the best ever, and I am grateful

to our very generous sponsor, the Queensland State Archives, who attended in force, and to the Brisbane Club Jazz Band who played with such expertise and gusto. Dr Jan Wegner, from Townsville, was awarded the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction; the citation of her impressive research into mining history was read by the President of the Professional Historians Association Queensland, Jeff Hopkins-Weise.

We celebrated another significant anniversary, 150 years of the Queensland Parliament, with a seminar at Parliament House, where we were guests of the Speaker of the Parliament, the Hon. John Mickel. In due course these very interesting lectures will appear in the *Queensland History Journal*, and a copy of the recent report by Judith McKay and Jinx Miles about Parliament House itself will be available soon in our library. The State Library of Queensland has purchased Robert Herbert's robes and they will soon be on display. When you visit RHSQ don't forget to see our bust of him on the second floor.

Council has approved a major change to the RHSQ lecture program. Following the success of our recent Open Day it has been decided to hold an At Home on three Saturdays throughout the year. There will be both morning and afternoon lectures, guided tours of the Commissariat Store Museum, library displays, brief talks about the Society itself and the building we inhabit, and sometimes there will be exhibition openings and book launches. These days replace the Thursday evening lectures. I look forward to welcoming you to the first At Home on Saturday 14 August at the end of Show Week, a date chosen to suit city and country.

Many people have been working hard on the library and museum collections. Gradually many volumes are being expertly rebound, photographs identified and catalogued, and three more art works are once again suitable for exhibition thanks to the painstaking work of Graeme Nicholson. Marilyn England has undertaken further research into two of our portraits given by the Pollock family, who registered the Lady Mary mine in Gympie in 1867. With help and advice from Gympie historian Elaine Browne, and Glenn Cooke from the Queensland Art Gallery, it seems these portraits of Robert and Alice Pollock could well have been painted by Joseph Backler. Planning is underway for an exhibition of related materials next year.

Points of interest from the last Council meeting include:

- A Marketing & Communications Committee was approved, to be chaired by member Bill Elliott.
- It was resolved that composition of the various Committees will be available in the *Bulletin* after the election.
- It was resolved to approve Graeme Nicholson's proposal for work on the medals collection subject to recommended expert inspection.
- It was resolved that small biographies of Council members be published in the *Bulletin* after the AGM.

- Much interest was shown in our displays at the Government House Open Day on Queensland Day, and at the recent Family History Fair at Cleveland.
- Judy Rechner was appointed RHSQ delegate to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

Carolyn Nolan
President

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA BRISBANE SEMINARS

July 17 and 21, 10 am to 11 am

MAKING AUSTRALIA HOME - CHINESE MIGRATION

Find out about the impact and integration of
Chinese settlers in Australia

August 18 and 21, 10 am to 11 am

DEVELOPING FOREIGN RELATIONS - 1901 to 1950

A look at the development of Australia as a nation
separate from the motherland and its role in world
affairs

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

Draft Constitution

As members of the Society you will be aware your Council has been working on modernising the Society's Constitution and Rules since late last year. Submissions were called for in November's *Bulletin*. I am pleased to advise that a copy of the draft Constitution approved by the Society's Council is distributed with this month's *Bulletin* to enable consideration by members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 19 August 2010. For those who receive their *Bulletin* by email, the draft constitution will be attached.

A motion has been included on the agenda by your Council to allow the draft constitution to be considered and amendments, if any, to be approved and adopted.

As Chairperson of the working group on the Constitution, I would appreciate anyone who has any matters that they wish to raise about the draft constitution to contact me either by email:

denverbeanland@hotmail.com or by telephone on 3217 7229 so that these may be discussed and resolved, where possible, before the AGM.

There is one change that I want to mention in particular. The financial year is being changed from the end of May to 30 June each year, which will mean that the AGM may be held as late as September. With the modernising of the Constitution it is proposed to place it on the Society's website for ease of access by all members.

Denver Beanland
Immediate Past President

RHSQ AT HOME

In view of the small attendance at Thursday night lectures, the Council has decided to replace them with 'RHSQ at Home' on Saturdays three times a year between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. There will be two history papers presented each of 25 minutes duration plus time for questions. Also, there will be a report from the President and displays and guided tours.

An entry fee will be charged together with a small fee for morning and afternoon teas and a guided tour. Lunch will not be provided.

The first 'RHSQ at Home' will be held on Saturday 14 August. The proposed program is:

- 10.00 am Welcome by President Carolyn Nolan
- 10.20 am Elaine Brown talk 'Gympie Gold'
- 11.00 am Morning Tea
- 11.30 am Library Displays and talk
- 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm Lunch Break
- 1.30 pm Opening of 'Chinese in Queensland' exhibition
- 2.00 pm Ray Poon talk on 'Chinese in Qld'
- 2.45 pm Afternoon tea
- 4.00 pm Close

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following members of the Council are required to apply for reelection at the next Annual General Meeting in August

President	Carolyn Nolan
Vice President	Manfred Cross
Vice President	Richard Morgan
Vice President	Hilary Fisher
Hon. Secretary	Ruth Kerr
Hon. Treasurer	Barrie Rollason
Member	Jean Stewart
Member	Janet Hogan
Member	John Pearn
Member	Rebecca Ling
Member	Katy Law
Member	John Mills
Member	Robert Hogg

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

to be held on

THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST 2010 at 6 pm

at the

Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane

AGENDA for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting
2. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President
3. Consideration of audited annual financial statement
4. Election of the President, three Vice Presidents, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, eight Councillors
5. Appointment of Patron of the Society
6. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
7. Motion for new Constitution proposed by the Council of the Society:
'That the Constitution circulated to members of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland with today's date, 19 August 2010, containing an index and 42 clauses be approved and adopted in lieu of the current Constitution and Rules'
8. Any other business.

Ruth S Kerr
Hon. Secretary

Queensland History News

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

Cooroy The Lower Mill Site buildings featuring the preserved timber drying kiln built in late 1956 by the prominent South Queensland sawmillers, J Wilkinson and Sons Pty Ltd and Straker and Sons Pty Ltd was officially opened on 23 May 2010. All the operating elements remain intact – boiler, steam engine, fuel system, electric generator, heating tubes, kiln chambers and reconditioning chamber. The boiler stack remains as well. The site is on the Queensland Heritage Register. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council and the Lower Mill Site Board have now engaged consultants to identify whether there is any demand for a 'business incubator' on the Lower Mill

Site. (Noosa Journal 3 June 2010 p.45)

Dimbulah - The Railway Museum and Information Centre is housed in the Dimbulah railway station. The group provides information for travellers on the Savannah Lander train as well. The group of volunteers began work in 2003 supported by the then mayor of the Mareeba Shire, Cr Mick Borzi. The station and museum is complemented by Dimbulah Heritage Park. For National Volunteers Week 10-16 May some of the volunteers, Margaret Portch, Maria Murador, Frank Farrugia, Reece Fieldhouse and Joanne Sedgwick, were photographed together for the publicity. (Tablelands Advertiser 30 April 2010 p.2 including photo)

Mareeba - The Mareeba Heritage Centre holds a rail ambulance dating from 1949. It was bought by the Mareeba Hospital from the Atherton Dairy Company. The 45AEC engine was reconstructed at Queensland Railways Workshops in Townsville. The Mareeba Heritage Centre acquired the rail ambulance in 1995. The first rail ambulance in the district was one built by Norm Parker in 1941 – bogie, canvas cover, room for the patient and driver. It has recently been restored by Mr Toby Atkinson. (Tablelands Advertiser 11 December 2009 p.7 including photo)

Normanby and Alderbury on the Cooktown to Laura Railway – Seven Cooktown walkers visited Normanby and Alderbury in September 2009. They visited the railway station site, hotel sites (1874 to 1876), and saw the Cooktown to Palmer Goldfield tracks – Douglas via Hell's Gate (1873) and coach road of 1879. Ironwood sleepers, dog spikes, old telegraph line posts. At Alderbury the group followed the water pipe to the waterhole at the base of the Alderbury Falls. Alderbury had been a watering point on the railway line up to its closure in 1961. There is evidence of the rail heritage in the fences and yards of the pastoral station. The record flood of 28 March 1957 is marked on the wall of the homestead. (Cooktown Local News 30 September 2010 p.17 including three photos)

Palmer Gold Rush – Cooktown and District Historical Society is researching and publishing information on the Palmer Gold Rush. It records James venture Mulligan's practical recommendation in the *Ravenswood Miner*: 'If you are doing any good ... for God's sake do not attempt to come, as people caught out in that direction without rations must perish.' Australasian United Steam Navigation company steamer *Leichhardt* was chartered to take a government party lead by George Elphinstone Dalrymple to the Endeavour River and arrived on 25 October 1873. It brought Engineer for Roads, Northern Division, Macmillan, and survey party, and Howard St George, Mining Warden. The survey party surveyed the har-

bor and then commenced immediately on surveying a road to the Palmer. Remaining at Endeavour River were the police and some merchants. Within days other ships arrived with miners, store keepers, tradesmen. When Dalrymple left on the *Leichhardt* on 31 October 1873 he remarked that there was 'a lively little seaport gleaming with white tents and noisily busy with workmen, where a week before we had found a silent wilderness.' (Cooktown Local News 3 February 2010 p.14 including copy of part of Dalrymple's chart of the Cooktown area from cape Bedford south to the Bloomfield River and inland towards the Palmer River)

Welsby Library Report for June

Added to the catalogue were spiral bound books by Richard Magoffin '*Waltzing Matilda*' and other nursery rhymes; *The provenance of Waltzing Matilda: A definitive exposition of the song's origins, meanings and evolution from a pivotal episode in Australian history*; *The swagman's story of 'Waltzing Matilda': A centenary tribute*. The NTQ booklet *James Cook Museum, Cooktown*; *The wreck of the SS Quetta Cape York 1890*; Australian Scholarly Publishing donated a review copy of *Prevention is better than cure: Eugenics in Queensland 1900-1950*; Kay Cohen donated *The way we civilise: Aboriginal Affairs – the untold story*; *Queensland Government Mining Journal: Special centenary issue 1874-1974*; *McKinlay centenary 1888-1948*. Elaine Brown donated *Wild heart bountiful land: An historical overview of the Mary River Valley* and *Joseph Dixon: Buderim and Flaxton 1870-2006*; Penny Watsford donated her recent publication *Forest bountiful: Settlers' use of Australian plants* as a review copy. Norma Lovelace donated *The QCWA cookery book*.

Added were digital images of 'Manuscript book of music by John Hawkins 1813-181', an item that was donated by his daughter Mrs H Steele in 1967. A CSIRO publication *Pastoral Australia: Fortunes, failures and hard yakka: A historical overview 1788-1967* by Michael Pearson and Jane Lennon has been added to the collection. Also *Hibiscus & ti-tree: Women in Queensland*; *Significance 2.0: A guide to assessing the significance of collections*.

Manfred Cross donated two old *Refidex*, the 1962-63 volume and 1965, also many *Gregory's street directory of Brisbane and suburbs and metropolitan road guide including Ipswich, the Gold Coast, Maroochydore & Caloundra* starting with the first edition, 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 13th, 14th to 24th and 26th edition. RHSQ probably has the best collection of these Gregory's street directories in Queensland. These are a useful resource for people looking at the development of Brisbane suburbs and road development,

street names, new estates etc 1962 to 1996. We do have other early *Refidex* and UBD Brisbane street directories. Thank you, Manfred, for this excellent addition to the library resources.

Quite some time was spent by photo cataloguer Doug and me trying to identifying some 55 panoramas. Some 10 panoramas have been beautifully restored, and it is hoped with time more of these valuable photos will be restored.

Details about the author, title and keywords in the recent *Journal* articles have been added to the catalogue.

Judy Gale Rechner
Honorary Librarian

Research Report for June

Lyndsay Smith is on an overseas holiday. Rod McLeod is still not well enough to attend.

During the last month the Research Team has been busy. We shelve books and booklets and some of us are continuing with indexing recent issues of the Society's *Journal*. The Cutting Book and Serials collections are being sorted and rearranged to make them more accessible.

The following queries have been dealt with during the last month:

E A Moore's grandson David Moore has been in twice now to look at the material we have on his grandparents and expects to come in again – he has also joined the Society.

Another pleasant experience has been finding the original manuscript of music by John Hawkins which we photographed and it has been sent to a group in England interested in such work and a very delighted reply and thanks has been received.

The National Museum of Australia is planning an exhibition on Daintree and last year a preliminary inspection of our collection was carried out and has been followed up with another visit from one of the Museum's staff during the last two weeks. A request for the loan of some material will be sent to Council.

Other queries: John Tinker Campbell; Hannant family and Mrs Hucker of Cleveland; a house called *Santa Barbara* in Moray St, New Farm; Sir Humphry Davy for an English group doing a world wide search to publish a bibliographical record; trees at Bald Hills; children's homes at Milton; how to compile a necrology for the cemetery in the Parish of St Williams at Keperra; Newstead House; Cracow; Clement Wragge; Naldham House; and the Pollock family.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Exhibition Curator's Report

During last month I attended a meeting with Ken Jewell, Graeme Nicholson and Marilyn England. Topics discussed included the possibility at a later date of a talk/display on the convict artist and portrait painter, Joseph Backler (1813?-1895). The society has two paintings in their collection by this artist and Marilyn England has been doing a considerable amount of research on the paintings in recent months. Graeme Nicholson reported on cabinets that he has made for displaying the society's valuable collection of war medals and Ken Jewell discussed various collections management ideas with me. Meetings with historian Ray Poon, relating to the *Chinese in Queensland* exhibition, have also taken place.

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

New Members

Patricia Walden	Bli Bli
Peter and Annette O'Reilly	Darlington
Alexander Ross McNab	Peachester
Maxwell Brewer	Paddington
Charles Bosel	Brookfield

Answers to Queensland Quiz No 1.

c,b,a,b,c,d,b,a,d,c.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES SEMINARS, TALKS AND TOURS

Thursday 15 July, 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm
**Getting the most out of Queensland State
Archives online resources**

at
Flinders Room, Mackay Grande Suites, 9
Gregory Street, Mackay

Tuesday 20 July, 10.00 am to 11.00 am
Archives Search

at
State Archives Lecture Theatre 2

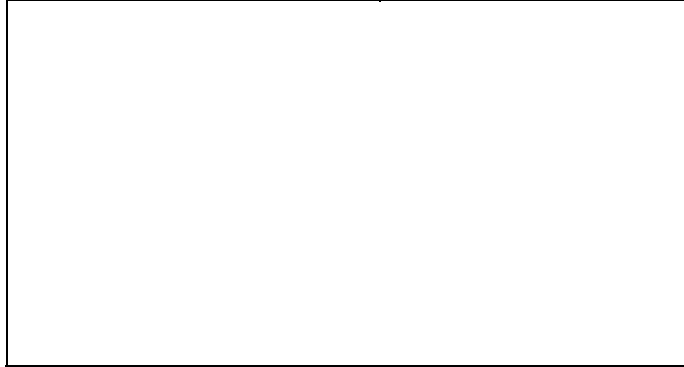
Tuesday 3 August, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
Getting Started

at
State Archives Lecture Theatre 2

Royal Historical Society of Qld
 PO Box 12057
 Brisbane George Street
 Qld 4003
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Important Events and Functions Calendar

July 2010

Wednesday 14 July 6.00 pm
RHSQ Clem Lack Oration to be held at Fernberg
Bookings required by Friday 2 July
Thursday 15 July *Bulletin* deadline
Thursday 15 July Council meeting
Thursday 22 July No Scheduled lecture

August 2010

Wednesday 11 August No lecture (Ekka)
Saturday 14 August 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
'RHSQ AT HOME' see note on page 3
Tuesday 17 August *Bulletin* Deadline
Thursday 19 August 6.00 pm
Annual General Meeting

Important Announcement
From the Editor

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.

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698
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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

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