

COMMISSARIAT STORU 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 AC, Governor of Queensland
President: Carolyn Nolan
Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au



Photos Graeme Nicholson

OUR NEW TEMPORARY HOME AT THE MANSIONS

Story next page

The photos on the cover page show a view of The Mansions at the top. Below left is a photo of one of the cats that decorate the George Street corners of the building. The bottom right photo shows a section of the ornate parapet that decorates the building.

The Mansions consists of six three-storeyed terrace houses and was built in 1889 to a classic Italian design of GHM Addison (1857 - 1922), a Welsh-born architect who had arrived in Australia in 1883 and came to Brisbane in 1886. One of the early residents was Dr Lilian Cooper (1861 - 1947), Queensland's first woman doctor. After World War I the building became mainly boarding house accommodation. It was purchased by the Queensland Government in 1954 to be used as offices.



Photo Graeme Nicholson

The photo above shows Chris Michie our new manager working in the office on Level 2.

Our new office and function rooms at The Mansions are now in use. Our Wednesday lectures will be held at this office until further notice. Please ensure that you book a place at these functions to ensure that we can arrange the seating and catering as required.

The office and function rooms are accessible through the Main Entrance and thence via the lift or stairs.

Graeme Nicholson
Editor



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

Our new office

New Zealand Stone was used in The Mansions

In 1982 The Mansions was refurbished, including replacement of some of the Oamaru Stone. This stone was used extensively in the original construction (1889) on the verandahs, parapet and decorative motifs such as garlands and



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

Some of the parapet on the second floor of The Mansions that is made from Oamaru stone

A large cat at each end of the George Street facade. Oamaru Stone is a hard, compact limestone still quarried at Weston, near Oamaru in North Otago. (Oamaru is on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand about 240 km south of Christchurch and 120 km north of Dunedin.)

Its ease of working appeals to sculptors; it is not strongly resistant to pollution and can be prone to surface crumbling. Oamaru Stone was used extensively in Queensland in the late nineteenth century. One hundred tons was imported aboard the 'May Newton' by Quinlan, Gray Co in June 1879. This company became Castlemaine Perkins in 1924. Architect Addison (1857-1922) used the stone in many of his buildings: Cumbooquepa (1890) in South Brisbane; Albert Street Wesleyan (now Uniting) Church (1888-9) and, of course, The Mansions. St Patrick's Church, Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley (an AG Stombuco design, consecrated 1882) has its High Altar of Oamaru Stone. The memorial to 'A' Battery Artillery in Toowong Cemetery is also of Oamaru stone. None is imported today; some stonemasons have small supplies they have gathered from demolition sites. I wish to thank Judith McKay, Hilda MacLean and Vince Mackenzie-Ross for their help in my compilation of this article.

Marjorie Shackleton
Assistant Editor

Research Report for March

A small number of queries are still coming in and I am dealing with them as best I can under the circumstances. The following have been received during the last month: women in Moreton Bay Penal settlement and details about the period for a novel; life in south-east Queensland in the 1860s for a novel; a war diary (1942-45) – wanting more information about the war; and advice on restoration of a grandfather's photos and letters, a query which was referred to the State Library Conservation booklets.

Back Numbers of Society's Journals

As the Library is still inaccessible I have been sorting the large numbers of early *Journals* and have found copies of nearly all of them from the most recent back to the first *Journals* of the Society. Volume 1 is available only in photocopied form. Back numbers are available at \$5 a copy, so if members wish to complete their sets or add particular issues (see the website for details) we would be happy to supply them. If anyone wishes to purchase a full or almost full set the charge will be \$500.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

REMINDER

Articles for inclusion in the *Bulletin* must be forwarded by the 15th of the month in which you wish your article to be published

Burke and Wills Seminar

Following are the tentative details of the lectures to be given at the Burke and Wills seminar to be held on 4 June (Venue and times yet to be decided): David Phoenix on Burke and the expedition and a second lecture on John King; Professor John Pearn on Wills; Jim McCourt on Landsborough; Manfred Cross on Howitt; David Gibson on McKinlay; Colin Sheehan on the expedition as reported by a French seaman at the time and Ian Hadwen on 'The literature of Burke and Wills'.

Brisbane Tramway Company Limited

A Brisbane bank recently located a parcel deposited with them for safe keeping by the Brisbane Tramway Company Limited in 1913. It contains duplicate keys for their safe and a letter concerning them. The parcel was opened once or twice. The parcel was stamped with Brisbane City Council Transport Department. The Brisbane Tramway Museum have indicated that the keys don't fit their safe which was believed to have come from the Brisbane Tramway Company Limited. (Brisbane's Living Heritage Network Newsletter November 2010 n 4)

Queensland History News for March

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

Bardon in Brisbane – Rainworth House at 7 Barton Street, Bardon is for sale. It was constructed in 1862 for Augustus Charles Gregory, explorer and Queensland Surveyor General. Gregory lived in the house from 1862 until his death on 25 June 1905. The property has had four owners since Gregory. (*Westside News* 9 February 2011 p 14 including photo)

Cooktown – The Cooktown Historical Society recently highlighted the history of the provision of quarantine in the Cooktown area in response to disease on immigrant ships – eg *Mecca* in March 1877 (smallpox), *Thales* in April 1877 (plague), *L'Allier* (French) in February 1879 (malarial fever) and leprosy on subsequent ships. An encampment was set up on the North Shore with four wards and a kitchen. A permanent station was established there in 1886 and closed in 1889. The tramway was constructed in 1887 by Trotter and Bolles for £1855. It was little used and rails were removed to Samarai Island in New Guinea for use. The history of the tramway was written up by John and Ruth Kerr and published in *Light Railways*, July 1984, vol 22 no 85, pp 13-17. (*Cooktown Local News* 17-23 February 2011 p 9 including sketch of Quarantine Bay by Mrs Burkitt, wife of Customs Officer at Cooktown in 1892).

Injune – The Cultural Heritage Injune Preservation Society (CHIPS) is restoring the Injune railway station building for the 'Reunions of the Past' on the May long weekend. The CHIPS group is led by Mr Ray Klein. (*Western Star* 18 February 2011 p including photo)

Mount Molloy – At its February 2011 meeting the Queensland Heritage Council decided that the remains of the Mount Molloy sawmill are to be entered on the Queensland Heritage Register as No. 602776. The items being listed include: a Stirling water tube boiler, Marshall Steam engine, Walkers steam engine and electric sawmill building. The sawmill operated from 1913 to 1963. The manager's house is not being listed. The Department of Environment and Resource Management has called for public submissions on the proposed listing. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 18 February 2011 p 5)

NOTICE

Does any member know the reason why cats were used to adorn the George Street corners of The Mansions? If you do, we would be pleased to publish an article on the subject in the *Bulletin*.

Ed.

Exhibition Curators' Report for March



Photo: Robyn Stephensen

A section of the display of HM Prison St Helena Island relics

As the Mansions is now the home of the RHSQ while the Commissariat Store Museum is being restored, there have been two new displays installed at the Mansions. One is the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement and the other is HM Prison St Helena Island.

The Mansions is an historic building itself and the museum is on the second floor and is open to visitors.

Address: 2nd Floor (a lift is available)
40 George Street, Brisbane.

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

Queensland Museum puts out call for flood objects and stories

Do you have items that relate to the 2010 - 2011 Queensland floods disaster and its aftermath? Queensland Museum is collecting stories, objects and photographs that will preserve this significant historical event for future generations. Queensland Museum Curator Jo Besley said museums had a responsibility to preserve sensitively our collective

memory of shared catastrophic events. Although many people are still reeling from the recent events, it is important for us, as a community, to document the experience people went through, Ms Besley said. This will be an emotional time for everyone, especially when we are asking people to relive the experience by telling us their story and donating personal items that are the tangible scars of the floods. However the stories and accompanying objects will paint an evocative picture for future generations and in time to come, may give affected communities an opportunity to heal and rebuild their own history.

Examples of items include posters and flyers for fundraising events, Mud Army t-shirts, instructions for volunteers, items from evacuation centres, damaged household items and wearable tokens of commemoration. Items that symbolise loss, great courage and community spirit will help us to tell this important Queensland story, Ms Besley said. The Museum is honoured to be in a position to share these experiences and is committed to treating each story and object with great sensitivity and respect. To share your flood experience or donate objects, contact the Queensland Museum via email to: flood2011@qm.qld.gov.au or look for us at [facebook.com/QueenslandMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandMuseum). A small display featuring images and stories of Brisbane's flood-prone past alongside documentation of the devastating 2011 flood event is now on display at Queensland Museum South Bank until Sunday 27 March.

Media Contact: Sarah Perrett

Tel: 3842 9388 or 0417 741 710

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA EVENT INFORMATION

Saturday 16 and Wednesday 20 April, 10-11 am Commemorating the ANZACs

Find out about the first recognition of 'ANZAC DAY' and the meaning and significance of the symbols and ceremonies at this seminar

Wednesday 18 and Saturday 21 May, 10-11 am Making Australia Home - Post-war displaced persons

After World War II, Australia's intake of displaced persons was second only to that of the United States. Find out about their stories and the programs that supported them to make Australia home.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES EVENT INFORMATION

Seminars, Talks and Tours

Saturday 9 April, 9-11 am

Getting Started

Lecture Theatre 2

Tuesday 12 April, 10-11 am

Archives Search

Lecture Theatre 2

Tuesday 3 May, 19 am - 12 noon

Getting Started

Lecture Theatre 2

Tuesday 10 May, 10-11 am

Seminar for the National Trust Heritage Festival

Lecture Theatre 2

Saturday Openings

QSA opens its doors on the second Saturday of the month

Tours of Queensland State Archives

QSA is happy to arrange tours of the Archives' repositories for interested groups. Please contact them to arrange a tour

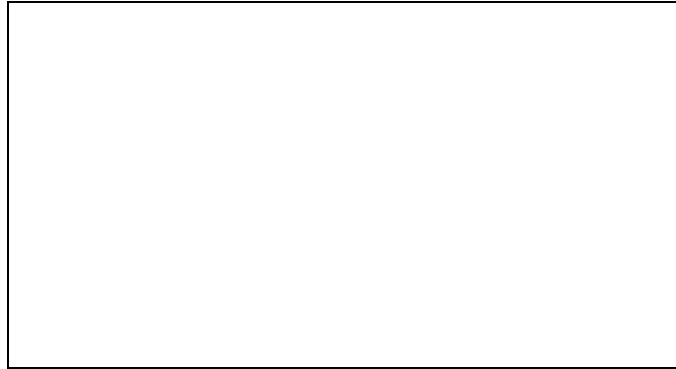
NOTICE

Any member wishing to have a copy of the audited financial report can telephone or email RHSQ for a copy either to be posted out or be emailed

Royal Historical Society of Qld
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POSTAGE
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 AUSTRALIA



Important Events and Functions Calendar

Tues 12 -19 April Bus trip

Wed 13 April 12.30 pm The Mansions, Level 2
 '150 years ago the first telegraph message in
 Queensland was sent from the Commissariat Store'
 David Brownsey

Fri 15 April *Bulletin* Deadline

Wed 11 May 12.30 pm In keeping with the National
 Trust of Queensland's Heritage Festival theme Herit-
 age of Water, the talk will be: 'When the elements
 came knocking at the Commissariat Store'
 Marilyn England

Sat 14 May Not at Home 10 am – 3 pm

Seminar on Queensland's Military History.

Venue tba

A reminder of the trip to the 'Dig Tree'

It is proposed that the trip will take place
 from Thursday 12 April to Thursday 19
 April 2011. The journey is with Cross
 Country Tours and is from Brisbane to
 Innamincka and the 'Dig Tree'. Overnight
 stays will be at St George, Thargomindah,
 Innamincka (two nights), Quilpie, Mitchell
 and Dalby. All transport, meals and entry
 fees are included in the (TBC) cost of \$2,195
 (twin share, \$290 single supplement).
 Reserve your seat with a \$100 deposit.
 Contact Chris Michie on 3221 4198. Travel
 insurance is recommended as this trip may
 be cancelled due to weather and/or road
 conditions.

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Com- missariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698
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Open:	Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed Satur- day 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 (U18)	\$10.00
Full-time Student (U25)	\$30.00
Affiliated Society	\$48.00
Subscription fee for libraries	\$60.00
Corporate/Institutions	\$250.00
Life membership – pur- chased after 10 years	\$5,000.00

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