



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

MAY 2011 No. 752

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

In Remembrance of those who lost their lives in WW1 and their families

We always remember those who fell on the field of battle. However, we sometimes forget those who were left at home to mourn the death of their loved ones. The photograph on the left is of a bronze plaque that was presented to widows or close family of a soldier or seaman killed during WW1. These plaques were presented because the grave of the soldier or seaman was either overseas or unknown.

The brooch was presented to widows or mothers who had lost their husband or son/s. The number of stars on the bottom clasp signified the number of losses. To commemorate Anzac Day and the Australian Armed Forces the RHSQ will be holding a Military Day at MacArthur Museum, Level 8, MacArthur Chambers, corner of Queen and Edward Streets on Saturday 14 May from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

President's Report for April

Once again there is movement within The Commissariat Store. Preparation is underway for the Society to return to the upper levels of the building and the cleaning and dusting has begun. Within weeks we will be reunited with our collection. It will take some time for the stonemasons to reinstate the

retaining wall and the damaged wall of the building itself, but I hope by the time of the July At Home we will be At Home indeed. Despite the upheaval since January it is amazing that our publications and our program have continued without interruption.

As I told the April meeting of the Council, Project Services has now consolidated the bank below

William Street, and all the massive bolts to secure the retaining wall to the bank itself are now in place. William Street is now open to traffic. For us this means we can return very shortly to levels 1 and 2 of the Commissariat Store via the disabled ramp only, as the gate and stairs from William Street are not functional, and there are at present no external stairs from the car park. Electricity has been reconnected, and with it all the other essential services. The bottom floor of the Store will not be usable while the stonemasons do their work, but by the time the whole area has been refurbished we will have our main lecture room back in splendid condition.

It was extremely disappointing, to say the least, to have to cancel our trip to the Dig Tree after so much rain in the far, far west. But our role as Trustee of the Dig Tree Reserve will be well and truly honoured by the June Seminar, to be held at the State Library of Queensland. They have come to our aid, yet again, by making their Auditorium 2 available as they did for Gympie Gold. 'The search for Burke and Wills' has a fine array of speakers, so book early.

A few days later the Queensland Day Dinner will be held, this year at the Queensland Club, almost opposite The Mansions in George Street. This is a gracious gesture on the part of the club and RHSQ member who is our sponsor, and allows this exiled society to enjoy yet another historic George Street building (and one that has plenty of parking). The State Archivist has once again generously sponsored the evening.

I was pleased to see more of our architectural heritage just recently at the State Library with the showcasing of the working drawings of Robin Dods, many of them newly conserved. This splendid exhibition continues until June and Dr Robert Riddell has agreed to speak about Dods when he delivers the Clem Lack Oration at our Annual General Meeting on September 8.

Many of you will know already that Council has appointed Christina Michie to be the manager of this society, working from Wednesday to Friday, with Kate Pharey dealing with administration on Tuesdays. Diane Clancy is the new membership secretary. We welcome them all and thank them, and the small army of volunteers who keep the wheels of the administration, museum and library turning. Very smart new membership brochures are being printed so make sure you pick up a couple and encourage like-minded friends to join us.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for April

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

Ballara near Cloncurry – The new history sign which cost \$6000 has been stolen in mid-March, less than five months after erection. The steel structure has been dug out of the ground and the ground levelled. It was part of a \$44,038 project for mapping the mining heritage trail of the Cloncurry – Mount Isa region mining areas. The project was organised through the Cloncurry Historical Society and took over 300 hours of work over seven years. The Cloncurry Police are investigating the theft. (*North West Star* 25 March 2011 p 1 including photo)

Charters Towers – Peter Bagley and Cath Dunn are planning to rejuvenate the Venus Gold Battery at Charters Towers as a tourist attraction. They plan to introduce a kiosk and to hold functions there. The government battery closed in 1973. Peter's father, Les, began a tourist operation, Gold Nugget Scenic Tours, in Charters Towers. Peter had been operating Anindilyakwa air charter company in the Litchfield and Kakadu National Parks and has returned to Charters Towers. (*The Northern Miner* {Charters Towers} 8 April 2011 p 1 including photograph)

Cooktown – The Cooktown Historical Society has published with acknowledgement an abridged version of the article on the Cooktown Quarantine Tramway by John and Ruth Kerr and published in *Light Railways*, July 1984, vol.22 no.85, pp 13-17. In their historical feature in the *Cooktown Local News* the Society has also published photos of the area. (*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; 17 March 2011 p 9 and 24-30 March 2011 p 9)

Gold Coast – The Pink Poodle sign has been removed from its position on the Gold Coast Highway outside Mantra Wings Resort to make way for rapid transit works. The sign which was erected at the motel of that name in 1967 is on the Gold Coast Council heritage list is in the Council depot. A decision to move the sign to a park some distance from its original site has sparked controversy. Council is now considering moving it back to within 30 metres of its original position after the light rail is built. (*Gold Coast Bulletin* 23 March 2011 p 8)

Port Douglas and Mossman – 16 March 2011 was the centenary of the cyclone which destroyed most of Port Douglas and Mossman. There were two fatalities. Only seven of the 57 houses in Port Douglas were left standing. The Flagstaff Hill wooden lighthouse was destroyed at Port Douglas along with the Joss House, cordial factory and Oddfellows Hall; and the school and hospital lost their roofs. *Port*

Douglas and Mossman Record office was destroyed and Port Douglas Court House was blown off its stumps. Mrs JD Crosby's *Court House* hotel and Mrs Bridget Tait's *North Australian* hotel were extensively damaged. Sampson's two storey *Exchange* hotel (now Jetset Travel) lost its roof. Bob Mclean's *Caeledonian* hotel (now Billy's Restaurant) was unroofed and its brick chimney destroyed. Many buildings were never rebuilt. St Andrew's By the Sea church and St Mary's Catholic Church in Port Douglas were destroyed and rebuilt in 1914. At Mossman Lunn's building and both the Catholic and Anglican churches were destroyed. A photographic exhibition on the cyclone was supplied by the Douglas Shire Historical Society and mounted in the Port Village Shopping Centre. (*Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette* 17 March 2011 p 4)

Rockhampton – In the December 2010 floods the Rockhampton and District Historical Society lifted all its records in the Borough Chambers above the predicted flood level. The Comets Football Team assisted historical society members in doing this. Borough Chambers was surrounded by flood waters which did not rise to the height of the records and other items. After the flood waters receded and electricity was restored the Society re-entered the building and unpacked all the records and returned them to their positions. John Fletcher, John Rowland, Jim Wise and Fay Griffiths undertook most of the work. Others helped when possible. The previous time that the records were moved was in the slightly higher flood of 1991. (Rockhampton and District Historical Society *Newsletter* March 2011)

Templin – Fassifern District Historical Society has embarked on a membership drive to maintain the museum. Ageing of members means that they need to recruit further members to continue the Society's activities. The House of Fashion is to be opened in June. The new President is Wilson Neundorf and the Vice President is Ian Douglas. (*Fassifern Guardian* 6 March 2011 pp 6 and 12 including photograph)

ANZAC DAY MOUNT MOLLOY, NORTH QUEENSLAND THE DAR... DAR... DARDANELLES AND DARBY MACNAMARA

Some of the English-speaking world's best known and best loved poems were inspired by the First World War. Most were written by British soldiers who fought on the Western Front but one that has recently come to light is the work of an Australian who served with the Anzacs at Gallipoli. It's called *the Dar... Dar... Dardanelles*.

The circumstances surrounding the poem's cre-

ation are shrouded in mystery but it was preserved by a North Queenslander called Darby Macnamara. He served in the 5th Light Horse Regiment and saw action at Gallipoli. He claims to have been present when the poem was written and for many years he'd recite it at the annual Anzac Day ceremony in Mount Molloy (a former mining town situated 100 km or so north-west of Cairns).

Darby Macnamara was born in 1890 in Montalibion. It too was once a North Queensland mining town. When the silver ore was discovered great things were expected but it soon became apparent that it was a rich surface deposit. It closed in 1893.

Darby spent the greater part of his life in dusty mining towns - in particular Mount Carbine and Mount Molloy - doing a variety of odd jobs. Shortly before the outbreak of World War I he became friendly with a young man who was destined to become one of Australia's most prolific authors, Ion Idriess. Darby is mentioned in two of his books - *Men of the Jungle* and *the Desert Column*. In 1914 Darby and Idriess joined the Australian Army and they trained together in Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane. They both saw action at Gallipoli.

As Darby lay dying in the Mareeba Base Hospital in August 1974 the schoolteacher, Mr Mike Rimmer, who'd recorded Darby's reminiscences in the early 1970s promised him he would do all he could to ensure that he was not forgotten. The appearance in this *Bulletin* and the War Graves Photographic Project *Newsletter* of the poem he was associated with for so many years should go some way to honouring that promise.

Below is the poem:

The Dar.. Dar.. Dardanelles
The Aussie found it sultry, when he went to fight the Turk
but hot with indignation he soon warmed unto his work.
At first he shed his khaki coat and then he shed his vest
and getting down to nature's worth, he showed his manly chest.
He seldom wore his boots at all — bare-footed he would go.
He said he wasn't mending socks — He'd give them to the foe.
His trousers he cut down to shorts and nearly naked then,
the Turks looked on the Aussies and saw that they were men.
They're handy with a rifle and the big guns that drop the shells.
They could do a lot of spadework — in the knells of the Dardanelles.

And the Turk he shakes his solemn head, and to his brother tells, he wished those big Australians, hadn't come into the knells, with its shells and yells and little hells,

Of the Dar ... Dar ... Dardanelles.

Now the Aussie has a brother who's the big New Zealand kid,

he came to help the contract —Turkey's sorry that he did.

He arrived without a welcome and they wished he'd go away, but he plonked his foot down on the shore and said he'd come to stay.

He's got a mighty fist on him Lord help the Turk he biffed.

They tried to push him back again, But found he wouldn't shift.

His feet they don't turn back — To a rout he's never gone, the more they try to push him back, the more he pushes on.

He says he doesn't like the Turk —He's nasty and he smells.

There'd be sweeter air without him in the knells of the Dardanelles, and so he hunts the vermin in the cliffs and in the dells in time with gentle Lizzie's voice that screeches from the knells

For its shells and yells and little hells, in the Dar ... Dar ... Dardanelles.

You put the two together, as a couple they're a treat hard as nails and tough as leather,

Two deuces hard to beat.

They've settled down in Turkey, and with steel have pegged a claim, they've christened their new country and ANZAC is its name.

Which stands for that Australian, and that New Zealand chap, a name they made up in their heads It wasn't on the map.

But now by cripes, It's written there in blood, and will e'er remain.

A new name printed deep no Turk will e'er erase again.

So, let us remember ANZAC And the glorious tale it tells, now Britain from the overseas, came to the Dardanelles, with its shells and yells and little hells, Of the Dar ... Dar ... Dardanelles.

(Source: Mr Mike Rimmer, UK – 11 April 2011; War Graves Photographic Project *Newsletter* April 2011)

New Books

The Calophyllum Shore: the History of Cardwell Area by Sandy Hubinger. For more information go to www.cardwellhistory.com.au.

The cost is \$39.95 and postage \$10. Sandy began researching and writing the history in the early 1980s. He died in 2005 and the book was completed by his

nephew, Murray Massey. The Hubinger family has been in Cardwell since the late 1860s. Sandy accessed primary sources in the Queensland State Archives, John Oxley Library, the Royal Historical Society of Queensland Library, James Cook University Library and the Mitchell Library. The book's arrival in Cardwell was delayed by the impending cyclone Yasi. (Tully Times 17 March 2011 p 8)

Built on Butter: A History of the Caboolture Co-operative Association Limited – 1906 to 1987 by Brian Bauer (Dairy Association of Australia Inc, Queensland Division, 2010. ISBN 978-0-646-54040-5) (196 pages, index, illustrations) The book covers Maleny, Caboolture, Eumundi, Pomona, Woodford and Stanley River factories.

Report by Ruth Kerr

Few new books have been catalogued this year, instead the Hon Librarian has been busy correcting mistakes in the catalogue using the State Library of Queensland and National Library of Australia catalogues on line.

Remember people can buy a copy of the Welsby Library catalogue for their own use. It can be bought as a CD/DVD or bring your memory stick to the office and it can be down loaded on to it. Cost of \$40.00 plus \$5.00 if posted and an update costs only \$5.00 plus \$5.00 if posted.

The Inmagic library database is very easy to use. Find out what books, booklets, photos, maps, ephemeral information are held by the Society. The Society collects items connected to Australiana, concentrating on Queensland and the Pacific islands and countries.

An easy way to pay your annual subscription or buy a CD/DVD of the catalogue is to visit the RHSQ office on the 2nd floor of The Mansions.

The Hon Librarian, with the help of Andrew Darbyshire, has been busy this year keeping the web pages up to date. Images of the flood damage and subsequent work by the Department of Public Works to restore the damage to the 1890 and convict built retaining walls have been added to the web pages. An easy way to find out what the Society activities are is to check out the 'What's on' web page.

Report by Judy Gale Rechner

Research Report for April

There have been a few queries this month and all have been attended to from my home because the Society's library is still out of bounds. However, we have been able to offer some points which could be followed up in other places. There have been the following: a request from a 'Who Do You think You

Are' program for information on Charles O'Brien who immigrated in 1850, owned the City Hotel in Brunswick Street and died in Brisbane in 1900 and as he was a caretaker at the Supreme Court in Brisbane I referred him to other sources; flood level markers on the Commissariat Store; Aboriginal history on Bribie Island; Albert Pattison who married at Nindooibah – seeking material on *Nindooibah* – referred to JOL Collins collections; reason for the demolition of Herston, Robert Herbert's house; and search for a copy of Wickham's appointment as Police Magistrate given to the Society in 1941.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

New members

Elaine Reeves	Glasshouse Mtns
Sissi Lilley	Draper
Dorothy and Peter Haig	Allora
Geoffrey Boyce	Lismore

Queensland State Archives

The State Archives, 435 Compton Road Runcorn, is open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and on the second Saturday of each month from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

La Dolce Vita : Italians in Queensland

Queensland State Archives presented a seminar on Monday 21 March 2011 to celebrate Harmony Day 2011. The focus was on public records about the contribution of Italian migrants and their descendants to the Queensland community. Using immigration lists, naturalisations, company files, school admission registers, inquests, wills, land tenure files, correspondence files, police reports and even internment registers, archivists have been able to put together a snapshot of the Italian experience in Queensland.

A portable display highlighting these records has been created and can be viewed at Online Exhibitions . <http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/exhibits.asp#nine>

The content of this displays is viewable in Image Queensland.

<http://www.archivesearch.qld.gov.au/Exhibition/TheMeDetails.aspx?ThemeId=4>

Event Information

Seminars, Talks and Tours

Tuesday 3 May, 10 am - 12 noon

Getting Started

Lecture Theatre 2

Tuesday 10 May, 10-11 am

Seminar for the National Trust Heritage Festival

Lecture Theatre 2

Tuesday 7 June, 10 am - 12 noon

Seminar for Queensland Day

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

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA EVENT INFORMATION

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.

Three Important Events

There are three important events occurring in the next month. These are:

Saturday 14 May 10.00 am - 3.00 pm; 'Not at Home' with a Military Theme at MacArthur Chambers, Edward St.

Saturday 4 June 10.00 am - 4.00 pm; The Search for Burke and Wills at the State Library, Cost \$25.00, and

Monday 6 June, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm; Queensland Day Dinner at the Queensland Club, 19 George St. (including the presentation of the John Douglas Kerr Medal for Distinction) Cost \$80.00

Details of these events can be found on our website or further details can be obtained by contacting Chris on (07) 3221 4198

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Important Events and Functions Calendar

Wednesday 11 May 12.30 pm

In keeping with the National Trust of Queensland's Heritage Festival theme Heritage of Water, the talk will be: **'When the elements came knocking along the Brisbane River'**

Marilyn England

Saturday 14 May 'Not at Home' 10 am – 3 pm

MacArthur Chambers, Edward St.

Seminar on Queensland's Military History

Various speakers

Monday 15 May Bulletin Deadline

Saturday 4 June 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

State Library of Queensland

The Search for Burke and Wills

Various speakers Cost \$25.00

Monday 6 June 7.00 pm Queensland Day Dinner including the presentation of The John Douglas Kerr Medal for Distinction

at the Queensland Club Cost \$80.00

Wednesday 8 June 12.30 pm

Exhibition and talk **'Laced in Place'**

Dorothy Haig

Wednesday 15 June Bulletin Deadline

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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 – purchased after 10 years	\$5,000.00

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