



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

JUNE 2011 No. 753

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



Photo: Russell Turner

MEMBERS AND GUESTS AT THE NOT@HOME 14 MAY

The above photograph shows the members and guests gathered in General MacArthur's office at the latest RHSQ Not@Home held at the MacArthur Chambers on 14 May. The theme for the day was based on the Military with many interesting talks. A description of the MacArthur Museum can be found on page five of this *Bulletin*.

President's Report for May

Membership renewals are pouring in and that is the best possible outcome for the Society. At the same time the membership database is being updated as Diane Clancy and her team are advised of any changes.

Our enforced evacuation has had a serious effect on our financial position, as was inevitable. Much of our expenditure relates to running costs for The Commissariat Store Museum and without the constant

stream of large groups, and especially the large school groups, we are losing money. We were aware from the outset that this would be the case, and every effort has been made to cut back wherever we can.

Postal costs for the *Bulletin* remain one of our big expenses, and many volunteer hours are required to prepare it for the mail out each month. It is a vital communication device for us all, but if anyone is still receiving it in hard copy and does actually have an email address, **please** contact the Manager, Christina

Michie and let her know the details. We must conserve our resources. The Society has some investments put aside for a rainy day but this has been a very wet year and it is hard work keeping this evacuated Society afloat.

But keep it afloat we will and we look forward to returning to the Store where significant research has been carried out. For example, particular care has been taken with the selection of traditional mortars, for both the outside and the inside wall faces. The original mortars have been analysed: the building has rock lime mortar (from Limestone/Ipswich) and the wall has burned shell mortar, indicating the wall is older than the building. As soon as is practicable, we will arrange an exhibition of the artefacts that were unearthed following the collapse of the retaining wall, and of the many photographs that document the flood damage.

I am happy to report that the Council has reappointed Janice Hess Honorary Museum Curator, in addition to her role as Honorary Exhibitions Curator, a position she has held before, from 2005-08. Helen McMonagle, who has been part of the Marketing and Communications Committee for some years, has been appointed to the Council following the resignation of Robert Hogg.

Another outcome of the recent Council meeting is that Sasha Broughton, a Councillor, was appointed as a Special Projects Officer (Publicity) specifically to promote the Society and to speak about the history of sites or buildings. We need further Special Projects Officers, especially for help with making grant applications, so if you have some time you can spare us, please contact the Manager.

This week we have an opportunity to inspect another convict site, that of the Women's Prison at Eagle Farm. The women were moved there from the 'female factory' (the GPO, Queen Street now occupies that site) as Tom Petrie records in his *Reminiscences*. Significant archaeological studies have been carried out at Eagle Farm in recent years. Although we are enjoying the elegant buildings along George Street, our Museum guides will soon be able to focus again on our convict history.

Heritage Week 2011 brought a wealth of like-minded people together right across the State of Queensland. Let's make sure we keep up the momentum.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for May

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

Cracow – On 30 April Newcrest Mining Limited held the opening of the Heritage Centre in Cracow. It is in the old Court House building and is an exceptional museum of mining history of Cracow from 1932 together with stories of the life in the town. An indigenous museum is housed in the operating theatre from the hospital close by. Many of the historical documents were gathered by Ms Lyn Runge of Cracow and a history of the mine and town was written by Ruth Kerr. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr Ian Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Newcrest Mining Limited. The whole day, attended by over 400 people, was organised by mine manager, Mr Don Runge. One of Don's uncles worked the Golden Mile tailings in 1938 at Cracow. The book, *Cracow: Pioneer Pictures of Cracow Goldfield 1932* by E S Watson was reprinted. (Personal Visit by Ruth Kerr)

Grantham – The Grantham Co-operative Farmers' building still stands in situ at Grantham in a commanding position on the northern side of the railway bridge overlooking the town and is beside the creek. It is a double storey brick building (130 x 100 feet) which was erected in 1926 by well known butter factory contractors, Waugh and Josephson. It was officially opened by the then Minister for Agriculture, Hon William Forgan Smith MLA, on 17 August 1926. There were reputed to be 2000 people in attendance. The manager of the factory, D Saxelby, presented the Minister with a silver entrée dish, suitably inscribed, as a memento of the occasion. Further up the hill is St Gabriel's Anglican Church which was moved to the site 80 years ago. It houses an ESTY brand organ which is played regularly by Esther Cook. (*Queenslander* 21 August 1926 p 35 and Personal Observations; *Focus* {Anglican Diocese of Brisbane} May 2011 p 6)

Miva – The 125th anniversary of the Dickabram bridge over the Mary River at Miva is to be celebrated on 17 September 2011. It is said to be the oldest steel truss bridge and the only road – rail bridge in Queensland. It is heritage listed. A park area nearby was developed by the Tiaro Shire Council. The book, *Dickabram Bridge Centenary 1886-1986: a brief history of the district*, is to be reprinted. (*Gympie Times* 9 April 2011 p 12)

Mount Poverty near Cooktown – A photograph of a substantially intact traction engine at Mount Poverty featured in a photograph of Bana Yarraiji Rangers, representatives of the Kuku Nyungkal people. The group has met in Rossville to determine how they wish to have their lands managed following

receipt of freehold title of a significant portion of the Upper Annan River catchment. (*Cooktown Local News* 7-13 April 2011 p 5)

Theodore – The railway station in Theodore is not used and the building is presently overgrown with vegetation. The building is one of concrete prefabricated planks similar to Chelmer, Kuranda stations. There are plans to move it to the Historical Society's reserve on high ground above the Dawson River, where it will be reassembled and preserved. The historical society (contact 07 4993 1686) is housed in a former electricity utility building above flood level. Since the flood the retirement home is being rebuilt with substantial support by Newcrest Mining Ltd and Catalpa Mining Pty Ltd and AMart, and the town, built on a town plan in 1929, is being restored and extensive repainting of public buildings including churches has been done. (Personal Visit 30 April 2011)

OBITUARY

GLENVILLE PIKE OAM, FRHISTSQ, FRGSQ

Glen Pike joined the Society on 15 March 1948 as a Life Member by Purchase. He died on 4 May 2011 aged 85. He was a prolific writer of North Australian history and he edited numerous northerners' life stories for publication. He had been supplying historical articles and stories of North Queensland history for the column, 'Around the Campfire with Sundowner', to the *North Queensland Register* since 1947. The last story he submitted before his death was 'Peninsula droving had 1930s heyday'. Glen also supplied and edited numerous articles for *Cummins and Campbell's* magazine in North Queensland.

Glen was born in New Zealand and came to Australia with his parents. His father returned to New Zealand but Glen, his mother and an aunt went to North Queensland, to Cooktown settling on a farm on Oakey Creek. They also had a property, *Pinnacle*, on Leedingham Creek on the Hodgkinson Goldfield north of Dimbulah. They went to Darwin settling on a property at the 23 Mile. They left to return to North Queensland immediately after cyclone Tracey. John and I came to know Glen when he and we identified ourselves following our submission of articles to 'Sundowner'. We travelled together on camping expeditions to the Hodgkinson Goldfield and the Palmer Goldfield in 1975 and 1977 respectively.

A full collection of Glen's publications is held by the Society as Glen was generous in forwarding a copy to the Society immediately after publica-

tion.

Glen's enormous achievement was in collecting and publishing the oral histories of miners and stockmen, pastoralists, storekeepers, women, drovers, railway men, teachers and all who were writing their reminiscences and were willing to have them published. Glen had no formal education and was taught at home by his mother. He was awarded a Fellowship of the Society in 1978.

He wrote an autobiography, *My Yesterdays*, which was published in 2007.

Ruth Kerr

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

EVENT INFORMATION

**Wednesday 15 and Saturday 18 June,
10-11 am**

Behind the Wheel - Records on motor vehicles

Australia's love affair with the car can be attributed to the great expanses we travel. Find out how the Government shaped the industry from experimental beginnings to 'Australia's Own'.

Research Report for May

During the long period when we have been unable to access the Welsby Library to attend to Research enquiries we have been looking at the library collection in the off-site storage in National Trust House. Boxes of Serials are being sorted and labelled. Books which have long been held by the Society but which have not been given Dewey numbers are being sorted and the storage shelves dusted and tidied. As well the index of more recent Society's Journals is nearing completion. During this time the Commissariat Store has been out of action one of our team has been working at home digitising a vast collection of 35mm negatives known as the Boothville Collection. He has now done over 500 and has found some very interesting images.

Several queries have been received this month. Information needed on the following: illustrations of City Hotel, Brunswick Street and Commercial Hotel, Edward Street; Harold Tommerup, a member of the Society 1961-2; the whereabouts of a reproduction or model of the Evacuation of Dunkirk; descendants of Alexander Sheafe Burkitt to give them some letters held by the enquirer; and Charles Chapman of Roma for a family history.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

New members

Allan Pidgeon
David Mason

Chelmer
Beaudesert

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.

Clarification

Wednesday lunchtime talk 11 May 2011 follow up looking for the Port Office tidal gauge ?
Not much to see down on the river wall, the Tidal Station gauge is electronic with a digital read out in the glass fronted cupboard accessible from the Heritage Hotel Edward Street main entrance drop off area. The readout represents the height of the water in metres above low water datum at the location of the sensor (under the river walkway adjacent). Read in combination with published Charts (Low Water) this provides an indication of depth of water available for shipping at this point

New Books

The launch of Susan and Howard Hands' latest book *The Land and the Landed* has been arranged at Cape Tribulation Camping, Cape Tribulation Road, Cape Tribulation at 3pm on the 11th June 2011. This book recounts the European history of the Cape Tribulation district from 1770 to 1940. (Cairns Historical Society News)

South Coast Railway: a History of Growth and Transport on the Gold Coast by Alan Arundell. (Published by Water Street Publications, Spring Hill, 2011) (100 pages, A4, illus, ISBN 978 0 640 55528 7) Price: \$40. Available from Water Street Publications, L5, 495 Boundary Street, Spring Hill. The book presents a social history of the railway and the other early forms of transport including ferries. The book is very well illustrated and contains photos of the Pacific Highway.

From the Federation

The federal budget announced that the government will provide \$4 million in each of the next two years for Community Heritage Grants. It is understood that some of the grants will be in the range of \$5000 to \$150,000, which will be ideal for historical societies. The FAHS warmly welcomes this news, but we are waiting further details on such matters as the criteria and the timetable.

The new disaster planning and recovery page at www.history.org.au/Disaster_planning_and_recovery.html is an important resource for historical societies. It includes practical advice as well as links to relevant useful and informative websites.

The President, Associate Professor Don Garden, has been busy attending meetings with the Hon. Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Hon. Tony Burke MP, other politicians, senior federal government heritage officers at which he discussed heritage legislation and promoted the work of historical societies and pressed home their financial needs. The President has also met with the President of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme Blackman and with Dr Darryl McIntyre, President of the Museums Australia.

Applications for Associate Membership of the FAHS are invited from like-minded societies having objects of a similar or identical effect as those of the FAHS and which are not formally affiliated with one of our member societies. For further details visit the FAHS website at www.history.org.au and hover your mouse over the 'About us' drop-down menu.

The Federation regrets that funding for the Collections Australia Network (CAN) has been terminated. It is understood, however, that the database will be accessible via the internet but no new records will be added.

Museum Curator's Report

A new exhibition entitled *Commissariat Store Floods 2011* is underway for when the museum re-opens later this year. Photos, text and objects are being gathered and research has begun. This exhibition focuses on the Commissariat building and how it was affected by the damage from a burst water main in William Street on 13 January 2011.

The force of the gushing water caused the collapse of the retaining wall, which was built by convict stonemasons in 1829. The wall and parts of the foot-path fell into the Store puncturing the external wall. Repairs by the Department of Public Works and archaeological work have been carried out and many valuable artefacts have been uncovered which we hope to display.

More information on this exhibition will follow in future *Bulletins*.

Janice Hess
Honorary Museum Curator
Robyn Stephensen
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

The Builders of *The Mansions*

The Mansions were built as a speculative investment by three wealthy Queensland entrepreneurs and politicians – William Pattison (1830-1896), Boyd Dunlop Morehead (1843-1905) and John Stevenson (1843-1912). All three had extensive pastoral experience. Pattison was born in Hobart and as an adult went to Victoria and became a successful gold miner, later setting up butchers' shops. He moved to Rockhampton as a butcher, acquired station properties and became a successful stock dealer. He became one of the original shareholders and later chairman of directors of the Mount Morgan goldmine. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly 1886-1889 and from 1890-1893.

BD Morehead was born in Sydney and also tried his hand at gold and sapphire diggings. He acquired pastoral experience and became manager of the Scottish Australian Investment Company. He founded BD Morehead & Co, a mercantile and trading business as well as stock and station agency. He served in the Legislative Assembly from 1871-1890 holding various portfolios including premier from 1888-1890.

John Stevenson was born in Gask, Perthshire in Scotland. He came to Queensland and gained pastoral experience near Rockhampton and Blackall. He purchased shares in BD Morehead & Co and the pair became close friends. He also invested in Mount Morgan mine. As a wealthy man he bought his ancestral estate in Scotland and in Brisbane bought *Fernberg*, now Government House, and made extensions to it. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1876-1893.

All three men in their heyday were responsible for building for speculative purposes. They were involved extensively in many civic and cultural activities reflecting their wealth. After they built *The Mansions*, Pattison lived in one of the residences. However all three lost fortunes in the 1890s depression and Stevenson, for one, died a pauper. Nevertheless they have left an incredible legacy in the fine building.

Sources: for Pattison and Morehead, see ADB On line or Vol 5 MUP, 1974 and for Stevenson see Jean Stewart, *Kenmore Park, the land, the house and the people*, J and D Stewart 2003, pp.56-79.

Jean Stewart

MacARTHUR MUSEUM BRISBANE

The MacArthur Museum is a 'must see' for all those interested in Brisbane's history during World War Two. The exhibitions encourage people to discover and engage with the cultural heritage of wartime Brisbane and to share their stories.

The Museum is situated in the rooms used by General Douglas MacArthur as Commander in Chief of the allied forces in the South West Pacific Area (SWPA). Visitors can sit at the very table where he planned his 'I Shall Return' campaign for the recapture of the Philippines. Major themes are:

General Douglas MacArthur and the military command in Brisbane; Interactions between Australian and Americans; Brisbane's involvement in the critical phase of the war in the South West Pacific, and the social effects on the Home Front

In the early months of 1942 Brisbane became a garrison town. Visitors are introduced to life as a Brisbanite then as thousands of American and Australian troops inhabited camps around the City. Visitors can look back in time to experience the way life changed for men, woman and children in this City. They grew accustomed to identity disks, air raid drills, ration coupons, and coping without Dad who was away at war.

For those wanting a formal experience, we offer a guided tour, of approximately 1½ hours, which includes viewing a film about life in Brisbane during the war years and seeing General MacArthur's Office. For student visitors, the 'hands on' activities will put them in the 'you were there' mode, as well as in a frame of mind that makes it easy for them to understand the unique position Brisbane found itself in at that time in history.

The MacArthur Museum is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm. However, other days can be arranged for Groups with advance notice, and that option is recommended for larger school groups. We are located at the corner of Edward and Queen Streets on Level 8, MacArthur Chambers, 201 Edward Street, Brisbane.

Should you wish to obtain further information, please feel free to contact our Education Coordinator -

Telephone: 3211 7052 or
email : jessica@mmb.org.au

Also, you can access our website at
www.mmb.org.au

QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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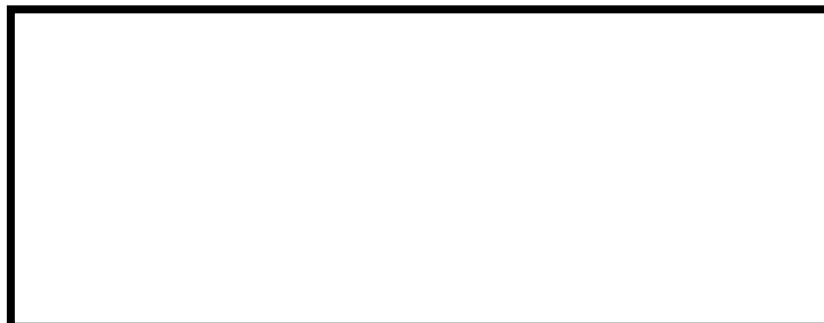
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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

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

IMPORTANT NOTICES

The function on the Wednesday 8 June at The Mansions will be the last at this venue. We will be moving back to the Commissariat shortly after.

Dorothy Haig's exhibition will be at The Mansions from 8 to 10 June if members are unable to make the meeting on the 8th.

With reference to 'The Search for Burke and Wills' function at the State Library of Queensland on Saturday 4 June, please find further information about the subjects and the speakers on our website.

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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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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