



COMMISSARIAT STAGE 1829

RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

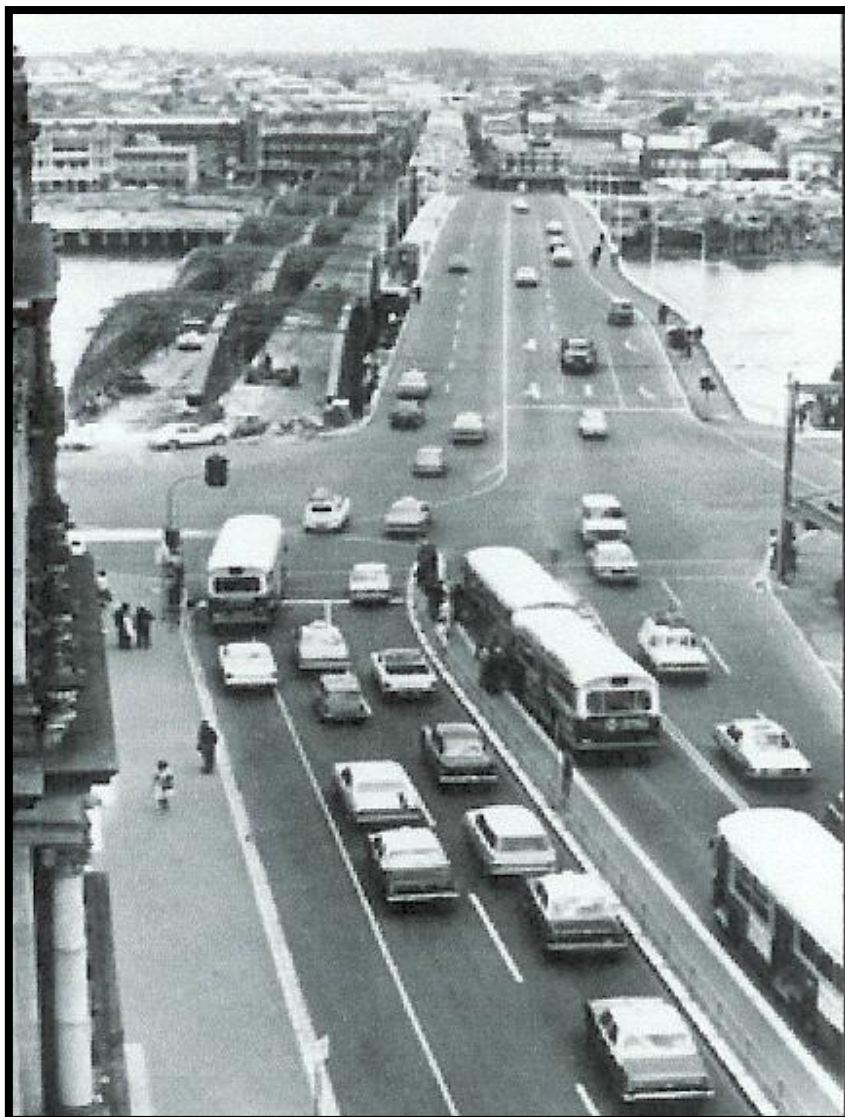
AUGUST 2011 No. 755

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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au)



## Two Victoria Bridges Together in 1969

This RHSQ photograph shows two Victoria bridges together. The new bridge, opened in 1969, was the fifth (third permanent) bridge on this site. The others were: first (temporary) bridge opened 24 June 1865, collapsed 1867; second (first permanent) bridge washed away in the 1893 flood; third (temporary) bridge built after 1893 flood; fourth (second permanent) opened 22 June 1897, demolished 1969.

## President's Report for July

We have returned. The George Street chapter of the Society is finished. Our temporary offices and exhibitions in The Mansions have been dismantled and we are back in The Commissariat Store, or at least occupying the upper floors. The ground floor reconstruction and the outside work will take longer and entry and exit at present is from William Street only.

There are tangible signs of progress, such as the scaffolding, and the industrious stone masons, and we spotted a large stone lintel, lying in the yard as it might have done in the 1820s, ready to be hoisted into place in the window opening that was damaged in the flood.

The Wednesday lecture program is in place for the year, the research team is dealing with your enquiries, and Honorary Museum Curator Janice Hess and her team already have exhibitions in place. It was a huge job to move back in, and to get all the technology and files back in place, and we should all be deeply grateful to our Financial Administrator Katherine Pharey, and our Manager Christina Michie, for doing so much extra work all under makeshift conditions.

It amazes me that, despite all the setbacks, not only have our editorial teams ensured that the Bulletins and Journals have appeared as if nothing had happened, but in recent weeks many new volunteers have joined us, and have been undergoing training in the various aspects of the Society's operations, everything from guiding to dusting (with more of the latter than usual). More help is needed: if you would care to help Dr Rebecca Ling work on grant applications. The Society has done very well from grant money and the time spent in preparation can reap enormous rewards.

You will see when the annual financial statement is circulated that a good deal of money has come in from memberships and this is excellent. However, with the change to having the AGM one month later we have in effect a 13 month year and two lots of memberships. This money has to cover a longer period than usual. The forced closure of our building has had a very bad effect on our income and it will be hard to catch up.

Fortunately the new national curriculum stipulates the teaching of history and convict history, and in this we excel. Already visitors and school groups are again making bookings, and our museum guides are making sure that our product is excellent and complements the built heritage. Nowhere else in the state can you the feel of what it was like in those Dickensian days.

Next year we will relaunch History Week, with the theme of convict history. The week will include a conference and the Queensland Day Dinner, and will include an exhibition opening. I remind any of you working on publications that the Commissariat Store is an excellent place for a book launch, particularly when it is all operational. For the moment we are happy to organise smaller functions.

Welcome back!

Carolyn Nolan  
President

## Help Needed: Old South Brisbane Library Building

The old South Brisbane Library, at the corner of Dock and Stanley Streets, South Brisbane, was designed by Francis Drummond Greville Stanley, and built by William Macfarlane in 1881-2. It opened as the South Brisbane Post and Telegraph Office, but later served as the South Brisbane Mechanics Institute, South Brisbane Technical College, as well as being the first municipal Art Gallery and Library in Queensland. This heritage-listed building is now the Griffith Film School.

One of the postgraduate students at Griffith Film School is hoping to make a short documentary film about the history of this building, and I am trying to locate people who have had personal connections with it.

Did you work in or frequent the South Brisbane Library before it closed on 17 November 1973? Did you attend one of the many dances and other social events held in the adjoining hall?

Did you attend a Debutantes Ball there? Did you 'come out' at your own Debutantes Ball there? Did you ever attend a political or other meeting there? Did you ever receive training through the South Brisbane Technical College while it was located underneath the old South Brisbane Library? Have you any internal photos of the ballroom?

If so, please contact me at email [w.metcalf@griffith.edu.au](mailto:w.metcalf@griffith.edu.au) or phone me on 3844 8922. I would like to hear your story and perhaps include it in the documentary.

Bill Metcalf

## Queensland News for July

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

**Caboolture** – On Tuesday morning, 12 July, St John's Lutheran Church was moved to the

Caboolture Historical Village. It will be used for administration and as a library at the village. The building was built in 1920 as a Methodist Church at Waraba Creek. In 1925 it was changed to St Paul's Lutheran Church. It moved to various locations around Caboolture and in 1985 was moved to the site of the new St Paul's Lutheran School in Smith's Road. (*Caboolture News* 13 July 2011 p 7 including photo)

**Chinchilla** – A proposal to move the Chinchilla historical museum from Villiers Street onto the Warrego Highway has been dismissed by the Western Downs Regional Council who now proposes to sell the Warrego Highway land. The Chinchilla Community Commerce and Industry Association supported the Historical Society in their proposal to move to a more prominent position. The local newspaper, *Chinchilla News*, featured the issue on its front page on 16 June 2011 stating that Council has advised the Historical Society that it reserves the right to move the Society at any time. (*Chinchilla News and Murilla Advertiser* 16 June 2011 p 1 including two photographs)

**Normanton Railway** – The 93 years old Panhard – Levassor railmotor is being transported from Ipswich Rail Workshops Museum to Normanton for the Normanton – Croydon Railway 120 anniversary celebrations. The 22 HP petrol engine was designed as a motor car engine and was converted to a railmotor at Ipswich Railway Workshops in 1918. The railmotor (No 23) arrived in Normanton on 18 October 1922 and provided rail services on the line between 1923 and 1938 and was written off in 1941. It was always known as the Panhard. It left Normanton on 4 December 1968 and was sent to the Redbank Rail Museum in 1968 and was located there until 1992 when it was moved to storage at the Ipswich Railway Workshops and put on display at the new museum in 2002. (*Queensland Times* 15 July 2011 p 15 including photograph and *Lonely Rails in the Gulf Country: the Story of the Normanton – Croydon Railway, Queensland* by John Knowles (Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society, Brisbane, 1983) pp 32-37 including photos).

**Spring Bluff Railway Station on the Toowoomba Range** is proposed to be reopened on 19 August – in time for the Carnival of Flowers. This follows repairs to McCormack Drive at Spring Bluff, the only road into the station. The site of the station and road was barely recognisable after the severe damage on 10 January. Spring Bluff Railway Station Trust Committee Chair, Cr Janice Holstein, has been working with Queensland Rail in progressing the restoration. The Trust comprises

Queensland Rail, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 6 July 2011 p 13; *Queensland Times* 11 July 2011 p 12 including photo and *Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star* 13 July 2011 p 12 including photo)

## Historical Rail Tours, Brisbane

**Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland)** an affiliated Society with RHSQ, has been running rail tours for 54 years. More than 900 rail excursions have been held in Queensland since 1957. The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers excursion occurs on Saturday, 17 September 2011. (*Bayside Star* 13 July 2011 p 22)

## New Queensland History Books

*Cannibalism or Murder* by John and Bev Shay. (Available from Keystar Publications, P O Box 473, Ravenshoe Q 4888, or Cooktown Historical Society, Charlotte Street, Cooktown Q 4895. \$15 plus \$3.50

p & h). The book is about the death of the Macquarie Brothers (Donald and Hugh), gold buyers near Hells Gate north east of Maytown in January 1877. They left Edwardstown on 27 January 1877. Parts of the bodies of their dead horses were found together with an empty gold bag and scraps of other possessions, but not their bodies. The Coroner in Cooktown brought an open finding on 22 February 1877 regarding their deaths. Society member, Dr Peter Bell, wrote up the story from the Inquest File and the *Cooktown Courier* in the Cairns Historical Society *Bulletins* No.276 (December 1982) and No.277 (January 1983) – 'What Happened to the Macquarie Brothers'.

*Notorious Australian Women: the sensational lives and exploits of some of Australia's most audacious women* by Kay Saunders. (Published by HarperCollins Publishers, 2011) (ISBN978-0-7333-2832-9; 312 pages, biblio, index) It includes bushrangers, shipwrecked women, designers, radicals, courtesans etc. Of interest to Queensland is the story of Eliza Fraser. Lola Montez of the Victorian goldfields fame also features.

## Queensland Heritage

The Society is pleased to accept the suggestion by the Cultural Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Resource Management to publicise through its *Bulletin* the nominations of places for the Queensland Heritage Register. Society members and historical societies

throughout Queensland who know about these places will be able to provide information to the Cultural Heritage Branch to assist in the consideration of the worthiness or otherwise of the place for listing. Lists of nominated places and contact information will be published in future *Bulletins*.

## Research Report for July

At long last we have moved back into the two top floors of the Commissariat Store and can now resume business and receive clients to search our library holdings. At the first Thursday since returning to the Store we have been dealing with a lot of the backlog created while we were out of the building. During this process, and while I was on holiday in Portugal, the work was carried out by Val Donovan. With new computers and access to the collection we look forward to helping our members and others in their research.

Successful searches were made on the following: photo of *SS Walrus* and article on the Black Ball line; articles on 'When Woolloongabba was wattle scented' by Charles Melton for the author's grandson; pictures of Mosman Hall in the 1960s; Kenneth Hutchison's rifle shooting trophies; the Woondy breastplate; and a photo of Thomas Welsby.

Queries which were not so successful included : details of a house in Cricket Street, Petrie Terrace; boarding houses for immigrants from 1842-1865; Mr Crump's Butcher's shop, Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba; a Frank Norman who arrived in Brisbane during the First World War; George Buckley, an American soldier of the Civil War buried in Brisbane; and Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown's history. Now that we are back in business I would remind members that the Library is open for research on Thursdays between 10 am and 4 pm.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Research Officer

## Museum Curator's Report

With the re-opening of the museum on 5 July, work is underway to install the *Gympie Gold Exhibition* featuring *Backler and Pollock*. This exhibition will be completed by the end of July.

The Moreton Bay Penal Settlement/St Helena Island displays have been re-installed on the first floor and are ready for viewing by visitors.

Many photos and information have been gathered for the *Commissariat Store Floods Exhibition*, which will be on display later in the

year. It will be a very interesting exhibition and all part of the history of the building built by convicts in 1829.

Janice Hess  
Honorary Museum Curator  
Robyn Stephensen  
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

## Queensland State Archives Talk for September

### 'Getting Started' (Archives Search)

Lecture Theatre 2  
Tuesday 13 September  
10.00 - 11.00 am  
Bookings 3131 7777

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA EVENT INFORMATION

Saturday 20 and Wednesday 24 August  
10.00 - 11.00 am

### 'NUCLEAR AUSTRALIA'

Australia's nuclear history begins with uranium mining with a link to the WWII atomic bombs, then moves on to the British nuclear tests and the subsequent Royal Commission. The talk will also look at Australia's use of atomic energy.

16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill

## 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.


## Census Information

RHSQ members, Census night is Tuesday 9 August 2011. You that you have the option of ticking the box to preserve your Census Form in the National Archives of Australia. The forms will be retained and released to public access after 99 years. Preservation of the forms will allow historians in a century's time to obtain a greater understanding of our Australian population. In

contrast to many overseas countries including Britain Australia, has never preserved census forms until the option was introduced in 2001 by the Commonwealth government

(Source: National Archives of Australia website: <http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/outreach-and-advocacy/census-time-capsule/index.aspx>)

Judy Gale Rechner  
Honorary Librarian and web mistress



**Tell us why you love a cuppa!**

Whether it's English Breakfast, Chai or Rooibos, sipped from bone china, stoneware or titanium, Queenslanders enjoy a good cuppa.

State Library of Queensland is seeking special tea cups and tea-related stories from individuals and communities across Queensland.

Visit the [Tea & Me Facebook Page](#) to share your special tea cup picture and story, or just tell us why you love a cuppa. The pictures and stories may be in the form of a special card, photograph, letter or other memento, or may be a tale told by text, sound or video file.

Selected tea cups and stories will be displayed on State Library's iconic Queensland Terrace and online.

**Prefer email?** Please send your submissions to [heritage@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:heritage@slq.qld.gov.au)  
**Need help with Facebook?** Please visit [your local public library](#)  
**Want more information?** Visit the [State Library website](#) or call 3840 7879  
Submissions close 31 August 2011

## ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2011  
at 6 pm  
at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street,  
Brisbane

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2010 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 the patron of the Society
  6. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
  7. Motions for amendment to the Society's Constitution, proposed by the Council of the Society:
- (a) That the Current Clause 7(d) **Membership Fees**

### and Form

'Any person admitted to membership at or after the elapse of nine months from the commencement of the Society's financial year shall only be liable to pay one-half of the annual membership fee.'

be deleted and the proposed amendment, new clause 7(d) be inserted as follows:

'Any person admitted to membership at or after the elapse of eight months from the commencement of the Society's financial year shall receive membership until 30 June in the next financial year.'

### (b) That the Current Clause 33. **Copyright of Papers**

'The copyright in the original copy of every paper read or given to the Society shall vest in and remain with the author but the Society shall have a licence to republish the work as the Society may decide without any further permission from the author.'

be deleted and the Proposed amendment new clause 33 be inserted as follows:

'Copyright in the original copy of any work published in the Queensland History Journal or published by the Society in any other form of work shall vest in and remain with the Society but the author shall have a licence to republish the work without permission from the Society.'

### 8. Motion – Award of a MacGregor Medal:

That in accordance with Clause 35(c) of the Constitution, on the recommendation of Council at its March 2011 meeting, the Annual General Meeting agree that Mrs Judy Rechner be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Clause 35(f) of the Constitution.

### 9. Any other business.

The Society's Council has proposed the above amendments to the constitution of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland at the Annual General Meeting Thursday 8 September 2011. Any member who has any questions or concerns about the two proposed amendments is asked to contact Denver Beanland prior to the meeting on telephone 3217 7229 or email: [denverbeanland@hotmail.com](mailto:denverbeanland@hotmail.com) to discuss the matters.

Ruth S Kerr  
Honorary Secretary

## Volunteers Required

Volunteers are required in several different areas of the Society's functions. In particular we are looking for a receptionist for Wednesdays. If you have time to spare and would like to help out please contact Chris Michie on 3221 4198, Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Royal Historical Society of  
Queensland  
PO Box 12057  
Brisbane, George Street QLD 4003  
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PAID  
AUSTRALIA**



### IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

#### AUGUST 2011

**Wednesday 10 August 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm**  
**'Moreton Bay schools in the convict period'**  
**Geoffrey Swan**

**Tuesday 16 August *Bulletin* Deadline**

#### SEPTEMBER 2011

**Thursday 8 September 6.00 pm**

**CLEM LACK ORATION**

**'RS (Robin) Dods, architect'**

**Robert Riddel**

**Wednesday 14 September 12.30 - 1.30 pm**

**'Middenbury'**

**Marilyn England and Andrew Darbyshire**

**Tuesday 16 August *Bulletin* Deadline**

**Saturday 24 September**

**RHSQ 20 years in the Commissariat Store**

### IMPORTANT NOTICES

Please note that the Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 8 September at 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store followed by the Clem Lack Oration.

We urge you to receive your *Bulletin* by email, as this will significantly reduce our printing and mailing costs. Please contact Chris on (07) 3221 4198 to submit your email address.

#### Contact details:

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
<b>Manager:</b>	Christina Michie
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au">www.queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>ABN:</b>	34 217 251 028
<b>Postal:</b>	The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003
<b>Open:</b>	Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed Saturday Sunday Monday as well as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter

#### *Bulletin* articles only:

<b>Editor</b>	Dr Graeme Nicholson
<b>A/editor</b>	Marjorie Shackleton
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698.
<b>Postal:</b>	RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003

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#### Subscriptions (with GST):

<b>Ordinary Member</b>	\$60.00
<b>Partner of Member</b>	\$20.00
<b>Junior Member (U18)</b>	\$10.00
<b>Full-time Student (U25)</b>	\$30.00
<b>Affiliated Society</b>	\$48.00
<b>Subscription fee for libraries</b>	\$60.00
<b>Corporate/Institutions</b>	\$250.00
<b>Life membership – purchased after 10 years</b>	\$5,000.00

Printing of the *Bulletin* compliments of Teresa Gambaro MP, Federal Member for Brisbane, using her printing and communication entitlement