



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



Photo: Museum Victoria MM 8328

THE SHORT RANGOON FLYING BOAT

This beautiful flying boat was built by Short Brothers in the UK. The first of these aircraft was built in 1930 and entered service with the Royal Air Force in 1931. The RAF's 203 Squadron, based at Basra in Iraq received six of these flying boats. The one shown here was on a visit to Melbourne to celebrate Melbourne's centenary in 1934. Three Rangoons landed in Brisbane as part of the visit. The Short Rangoon and other flying boats will feature in the talk to be given by Graeme Nicholson at the Commissariat on Wednesday 12 October.

President's Report for September

The President and Council renominated and were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting. Councillor Sasha Broughton did not renominate but her valuable contribution continues as despite her young family she has every intention of promoting the Society, and, in particular, the Museum.

Our 2011 Clem Lack Orator, Robert Riddel, delivered a fascinating and beautifully illustrated account of the life and remarkably varied work of the architect RS (Robin) Dods. In due course at least part of the talk will be printed in the *Queensland History Journal*.

We have been at the Commissariat Store for thirty years. In 1981 RHSQ moved from Newstead

House to William Street, a move strangely paralleled by our recent move from the Mansions. At our recent celebration Rod McLeod related how he (as vice-President) with the President, Norman Pixley, had walked past the Commissariat Store and decided to apply for the use of it as the Society's headquarters.

The *Bulletin* issues from 1981 give details of the subsequent events, how in February 1981 there was an appeal to members for help with the move, 'financial or physical'. This was in September during the Warana festival with the AGM held at the Commissariat Store immediately after the general meeting.

At the last meeting at Newstead House on Thursday 27 August 1981, chaired by President Pixley, Drury Clarke (Vice President) advised that the existing books in the main office would be transferred to the Department of Primary Industries building thus allowing the Welsby Library to be put in that space 'and eventually follow the administrative staff to the stores'. New subscription rates would be \$15, students \$10 and Juniors \$2.50. The Spouse rate of \$5 remained. The Queensland Government had spent a great deal on the restoration of the building and members were encouraged to visit: 'The Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for members to view the whole building as it stands restored especially to become our headquarters'. (*Bulletin*, September, 1981.)

The first meeting at the Commissariat Store was held on 24 September 1981, at 6.45 pm. Among those present were Norman Pixley, Drury Clarke, GR McLeod, JCH Gill, HJ Summers, WRF Love, K Allan, E Whitehouse, G Ford, D Jolly, RFJ Wood, G Ford, R Kerr, N Roberts, M Lynch, R Seffrin (secretary). Among other matters they referred to a recent trip to the Dig Tree.

Current Honorary Secretary Ruth Kerr remembers the first lecture 'was on south east Queensland's oyster banks and how the early industry operated. The speaker was a DPI public servant, Glen Smith. It was quite a scientific paper, but also included information about the early leases and how the NSW and early Queensland government administrations managed oysters. The chairs all faced the direction of the National Trust House (then DPI). The Society's chairs were wooden fold up ones which were brought from Newstead House. We had an Overhead Projector for the illustrations. There were about 40 people in attendance. About a week before the late Nancy Roberts, who was on Council, organised the transfer of the Pollock furniture and the two paintings to be brought from storage to the Commissariat Store and they were put at the Miller Park end of the top floor.'

The Minister for Works and Housing, the Honourable CA Wharton, MLA, performed the official opening: 'It is most appropriate that this building, which links today's Queensland to its pioneer days, should be the headquarters for the Society which has done, and is doing, so much to unearth and record the history of our State.' A Christmas gathering was held that year at 'our spacious new home'.

I look forward to seeing you at the Store for drinks on 9 December 2011, the eve of Proclamation Day, details of which will appear in due course in the *Bulletin*.

The 2011 Annual Report is now available for inspection on our website.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for September

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

Gowrie Junction has been a significant railway town since 1867. It was once part of Hughes and Isaacs' *Gowrie* Estate. There were two hotels in the town, two churches, fell monger, wool wash, blacksmith and dance hall. The school opened in 1878. From the advent of the dairy industry in the 1890s a condensed milk factory was established at Gowrie. The town survey was completed in 1875. Elizabeth Kenny attended the school from 1892 and later became known for her work on poliomyelitis. The Drayton Deviation opened in 1915 and diverted traffic away from Gowrie Junction. The main railway continued through Gowrie Junction until 1968. The railway station was demolished in the 1960s. The Gowrie coal mines nearby supplied coal for the locomotives. In the 2006 Census there were 52 families translating to 200 people in the town area. It is very close to Highfields and Toowoomba. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 20 August 2011 p 13)

Gympie – Further significant buildings in Gympie are being listed on the Queensland Heritage Register – Court House and former Lands Office at 26 Channon Street; Tozer's building, 218 Mary Street; Crawford and Co building, 216 Mary Street; and Smithfield Chambers, 235 Mary Street. The Court House and Lands building was built in 1876 and was the first substantial masonry public building in Gympie. It was extended in 1893. An air raid shelter was built behind it in World War II. It is now used by the Australian Institute of Country Music. Tozer's building was designed by architect, Richard Gailey, and has always been used as solicitors' offices. Crawford building was built in two stages in

the 1880s for mining secretaries and sharebrokers. Smithfield Chambers of rendered brick was built in 1895 and was also used by sharebrokers and mining companies. (*Gympie Times* 23 July 2011 p 9 including three photos)

Irvinebank – Townspeople are concerned that the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) have decided to decommission the Ibis Dam built in 1906 by John Moffat and upgraded by GHD in 1996. A public meeting with DERM was called for 24 August in Irvinebank. (*Northern Herald* 12 August 2011 p 3)

Miva – The 125th anniversary celebrations of the completion of the construction of the Dickabram road and rail bridge were planned for 17 September 2011 at the bridge. It is the only road – rail bridge in Queensland and only around ten survive in Australia. (*Fraser Coast Chronicle* 7 September 2011 p 7 including photo)

Pittsworth – Millmerran Railway – A book entitled *From Beauaraba to Back Creek : A History of the Pittsworth to Millmerran Branch Rail Line 1911-2011* is being published by the Millmerran Historical Society on the occasion of the centenary. The book launch will take place at the centenary of rail celebrations at the Millmerran & District Historical Society Inc. grounds on 13 November 2011, only one event amongst many that will occur on that day. More details may be obtained from the Millmerran & District Historical Society Inc. Millmerran_historical@hotmail.com

Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group held its annual dinner on 21 August 2011 at which the Harman and Rice Families of the area were honoured. Frank Harman immigrated to Queensland on the *Duke of Buckingham* ship, arriving in January 1886. He became a coachman at *Lota* House owned by the White family. The Rice family arrived in the Moreton Bay District in the 1850s and settled on 4000 acres of land at Redbank Plains. They ran 1000 cattle there. Their son, William born in 1862, married Eleanora Hudson who had immigrated to Brisbane in 1883 on the *Duke of Devonshire*. They moved to Manly in 1913. One of their sons, Edward, became a builder and had contracts in 1926 for building part of Bulimba A power house, and also the local Municipal Hall and the grandstand in the Memorial Park in 1928.

Traveston Powder Magazine has been listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. It was relocated from Gympie in 1898 and was the workplace of James Nash, discoverer of Gympie, in his later working life. It is one of the very few surviving powder magazines in Queensland on a gold field. The magazine became a soldiers' memorial in 1923.

(*Gympie Times* 18 June 2011 p 7)

Obituaries

GEORGE BOND died on 6 June 2011 aged 97 years. He was a caretaker in the 1960s at Newstead House during his working life. He was a member of the Society for many years from 1965 and, when he was working at The University of Queensland Library until 1977, nominated many people to become members of the Society including the current Honorary Secretary. He began his working life at Millaquin Sugar Mill then became a stonemason and also served in the RAAF in World War II. George was an avid researcher of Queensland government and private railways, along with the sugar cane railways of northern NSW and the phosphate railways of the Pacific Ocean. While he was at Newstead House he gathered a large collection of information from the *Brisbane Couriers*. George was a life member of Australian Narrow Gauge Rail Museum Society and the Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division), and was also a member of the Light Railways Research Society of Australia. He wrote his first railway article in 1948 but his chief contribution to the study of railway history was his huge collection of notes which are now widely distributed and used for further research.

DENIS CLEARY died on 2 July 2011. He joined the Society on 1 July 1966 and was a regular attender at meetings at Newstead House and the Commissariat Store. Denis was a public servant in the Survey Office and its successors (Mapping and Surveying and Natural Resources) and took a particular interest in Place Names. He was also very interested in railway history.

JASON GARDINER, aged 39, died on 2 September 2011. He worked at the Queensland Parliament as Manager, Property Services, having trained as a refrigeration mechanic and obtained a Diploma in Business Management in December 2006. He was passionate about preservation of furniture and old clocks in the Parliament House. Jason was very involved in historical circles in Brisbane and Ipswich, particularly railways and supported railway preservation groups throughout Queensland. In 2004 he was awarded the Centenary of Ipswich Medallion in recognition of his efforts with Queensland Rail Heritage Volunteers. (*Queensland Parliamentary Debates* 6 September 2011 pp 2742-2743)

Ruth S Kerr

Receive your Bulletin by email

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.

Museum Curator's Report



I am pleased to say that the first floor of the museum now has all cabinets completed with exhibitions. This follows the installation of the *Retrospective Exhibition* in early September.

This new and interesting retrospective gives a glimpse into the exhibitions that have been displayed at the Commissariat Store Museum since 2004. They include many and varied topics such as *John Dunmore Lang Exhibition*, *Petrie Family Exhibition*, *Victory in the Pacific* and the *Chinese in Queensland Exhibition*. Don't miss the opportunity to view the objects, text and photos in this display.

Meetings have also been held during September with the Museum Committee. Many topics were raised including the amended history subject that will be in the new school curriculum starting in 2013.

The opening of the *Gympie Gold* exhibition was a huge success on September 14 with many in

attendance. Many thanks go to Marilyn England for her informative and interesting talk on the Pollock paintings from the RHSQ collection.

Janice Hess

Honorary Museum Curator

Robyn Stephensen

Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

Research Report for September

We were able to find so much on nearly every query this month. Some clients attended for several days and a couple joined the Society. The queries were related to the following: convict Brisbane for material for a presentation designed for a continuous Power Point presentation in the Commissariat Store, which can be viewed by adults and schoolchildren; history of Condamine; Women's Royal Australian Army Corps; the Warner family and in particular the family Bible; George Connolly, Queensland Colonial Architect; Aboriginal breastplates relating to Stradbroke Island; details of Welsby's life in relation to Stradbroke Island; Antoine Charles Crump; Middenbury; H Strongithorn Wilkinson; John Patrick D'Arcy of Rockhampton, possible American Civil War survivor; kayak found in mangroves near Kangaroo Point; history of Mt Isa sources; Daisy Burnett, formerly Brown, who wrote a memoir of her life 1885-1955; and an air raid shelter in Albert Park near Wickham Terrace.

The Library service is available on Thursdays between 10am and 4 pm, no charge for members and a fee of \$10 for non-members. Mail, telephone and email queries are also welcome and a fee of \$20 is payable for that service. Photocopying is at 20 cents a page and photo images in any format are \$10 each.

Jean Stewart

Honorary Research Officer

Queensland State Archives

Talk for September

'Archives Search'

Lecture Theatre 2

Tuesday 11 October

10.00 - 11.00 am

Bookings 3131 7777

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.



Photo: Janice Hess

Award of the MacGregor Medal

Judy Gale Rechner received the MacGregor Medal for services to the RHSQ on 14 September. The medal was presented by Carolyn Nolan, President of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

A NEW HISTORY BOOK ABOUT QUEENSLAND

‘A MOST PROMISING CORPS: CITIZEN SOLDIERS IN COLONIAL QUEENSLAND, 1860-1903’

The Colonial Forces Study Group (Qld.) has published this history of Queensland Colonial Forces. This book is written by historians of the group and edited by Geoff Ginn, Hilary Davies and Brian Rough. It focuses on the cities and towns that supported the development of Queensland’s colonial military forces.

More information can be obtained on the website:
www.qldcolonialforces.org

New Members

Elisabeth Gondwe	Dunwich
Che Aberdeen	Ormiston
Peter Claughton	Teneriffe
The Beenleigh and District Historical Society Inc.	

Tour of Historic Maryborough

The Society is seeking expressions of interest from members and friends for a tour of Maryborough on 21-23 October. It is proposed that members arrange their own transport to Maryborough by car or by train and that local bus hire for tours of places of historic interest will be arranged by the Society from 9 am on Saturday 22 October until Sunday afternoon. Accommodation at a group rate will also be arranged by the Society at the Mineral Sands Motel for the nights of Friday 21 and Saturday 22, and Sunday 23 if required. There will be a dinner at the motel on Saturday evening.

It is expected that visits and tours will be arranged in conjunction with the local tour companies and the historical societies and will include visits to houses, gardens, buildings and the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum. Trains to Maryborough arrive in Maryborough at 2.30 pm or 8.30 pm on Friday and leave at 11.05 am for the return on Sunday or 6.05 am or 11.05 am on Monday.

To enable planning to proceed we need to have an indication of numbers for costing so expressions of interest are invited.

Please contact the manager, Chris Michie, on 3221 4198 or email the Society by 15 September at info@queenslandhistory.org.au

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

North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum

The North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. On show are many interesting items of local social history and details of the history of mining, fishing and other local industries. The Museum Shop has many books and publications, gift cards and local crafts for sale including the local kumquat marmalade.

Adult entry is \$3.50, Concession \$2.50, Children \$1.00

Address: 15 - 17 Welsby Street, Dunwich
 Telephone: (07) 3409 9699
info@stradbrokemuseum.com.au

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<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>YOUR SPEAKER FOR 12 OCTOBER</u>
<p><u>OCTOBER 2011</u> Saturday 1 October 10am – 3pm Commissariat Open House Wednesday 12 October 12.30 pm ‘A Short History of Seaplanes on the Brisbane River - 1924 to 1953’ Graeme Nicholson Monday 17 October <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October RHSQ Tour of Historic Maryborough</p> <p><u>NOVEMBER 2011</u> Wednesday 9 November 12.30 pm ‘Admiring the view: how One Tree Hill’s vantage point became My Coot-tha, the tourist attraction’ Janet Spillman</p>	<p>RHSQ <i>Bulletin</i> Editor Graeme Nicholson joined the RAAF as an apprentice engine fitter. After graduation he worked on various engines until awarded a pilot’s course, graduating in 1961. He flew fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft including service in Malaysia during Confrontation and Vietnam. Graeme was the test pilot for the introduction of the Chinook helicopters. His last job in the RAAF was as Commanding Officer of Australian Forces attached to the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt. After leaving the RAAF he worked as a commercial pilot until taking up teaching. As well as being a History teacher, his academic credentials include a MEd and PhD. His talk on the 12 October includes an introduction to flying boats and their use of the Brisbane River during the period 1924 to 1953.</p>

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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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