



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2011 No. 758

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

COMMISSARIAT OPEN DAY 27 NOVEMBER

The Commissariat Store will be holding an 'At Home' on Sunday 27 November, from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm. The main feature of the day will be the first display of the RHSQ collection of military medals as depicted above. Also on show will be many other items dealing with military history mostly from the Boer War, WW I, WW II.

President's Report for October

One of the advantages of membership of an historical society is the social interaction with the other members and the possibility of shared knowledge and skills. This indeed comes with membership of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland but we offer another great advantage: a large number of affiliated societies.

We have just visited two of these affiliates, both based in Maryborough: the Maryborough District Family History Society Inc. and the Maryborough Wide Bay & Burnett Historical Society Inc. This is an area full of history, from the timber mills to the sugar mill, Walkers Engineering, timber and tin houses of every kind from ornate mansions to early cottages with their steeply-pitched roofs. A free walking tour

of the CBD, conducted by Geoff Negus, was a great beginning. The red brick Town Hall was designed by Hall and Dods, and St Paul's Anglican Church, famous for the carillon given in memory of Maria Aldridge, by FDG Stanley. St Mary's Catholic Church is celebrating its centenary, the French influence of Father Tissot evident in the rooster up on the roof, apparently a French tradition. The *Diamantina* that now lives just across the Brisbane River in the Maritime Museum was built near the banks of the Mary River, as was the tilt train – and that itself is a splendid way to travel. Did you realise that Surveyor Bidwell of Bunya Pine fame is buried in Queen's Gardens, or that you can see wonderful displays at the spic and span Military Museum? Anyone with memorabilia that they want to go to a good home should seriously consider this avenue.

Historians from the two societies, Jan Downman and Ian Scougall, teamed with local bus driver Chris Loft, took us out from town, and a highlight was elegant Baddow House and its garden, that have been painstakingly restored by the Russell family, a private house that we were fortunate to be able to visit. This wonderful project has been recounted by Anne Russell, alias the novelist Anne de Lisle, in *A Grand Passion* (2007). The cemetery with its soaring Mortuary Chapel was the scene of another guided walk, and by then many of the names on the headstones had become familiar to us. One morning RHSQ member Nancy Logan gave a talk about her Beiers forebears, from Schleswig Holstein, some of the many early immigrants who arrived at the Port of Maryborough.

An RHSQ At Home focussing on Maryborough is planned for 2012. We welcome submissions for the presentation of papers, knowing full well that there are many who live in other areas who have specialist knowledge of the subject. If our affiliated societies could let us know of special events and anniversaries, we may be able to visit and participate.

At our 27 November At Home a Fellowship from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies will be presented to our member Kay Saunders, and presentations will be made to some of our long-serving volunteers. I hope you can join us.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for October

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

Charters Towers – The Gold Miner's Cottage is housed in a miner's cottage typical of the many hundreds that existed in Charters Towers at its peak.

The museum displays items collected over the last 16 years. The wartime tunnellers have been honoured. A feature has also been made of domestic irons. A good deal of the exhibits are focussed on gold mining. The museum recently purchased part of the 38,000 book collection of the late Stephen Saunders of Charters Towers. A short film on the history of the cottage by the owner Alan Silverwood is also available. (*North Queensland Register* 29 September 2011 p 20)

Collingwood near Rossville – On 11 September the Cooktown Bushwalking Club went on an outing to the Collingwood water race on Parrot Creek for transporting alluvial tin wash. It was constructed by the Annan River Company between 1902 and 1906 and utilised through the period of high tin prices. The race ran for 11 km from Parrot Creek on the slopes of Mount Finnegan to a sluicing area near Rossville. The race was recorded in a Department of Environment and Heritage Mining Cultural Heritage Study by Ruth Kerr in 1992 and entered on the Queensland Heritage Register on 13 April 2006. (*Cooktown Local News* 22-28 September 2011 p 18 – article by Jeanette Covacevich; <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/placeDetail.html?siteId=3908>)

Cooktown – A boomerang believed to have been taken by Captain Cook to England is to be auctioned in Dorchester soon. The boomerang was part of Elizabeth Cook's estate but the boomerang's origin of Cooktown is not certain. It is expected to achieve a price of AUD\$30,000. Local groups in the Cooktown are not expected to bid because of the likely high price. (*Cooktown Local News* 15-21 September 2011 p 8)

Gympie – The former Gympie Ambulance Station on Crown Road, Gympie, has been entered on the Queensland Heritage register. It is said to be the oldest surviving building of its type in Queensland. It is a timber building built in 1904. Charters Towers, Ravenswood and Gympie are the oldest surviving ambulance stations from the earliest period of construction of ambulance stations in regional Queensland in the first decade of the twentieth century. Additions were made in the annex (1922), the maintenance shed (1924), the rear room extensions (pre 1948), and the detached superintendent's residence (1920-21). (*Gympie Times* 24 September 2011 p 8 including three photographs)

Mary Kathleen – Visitors interested in history are attracted to the site of the Mary Kathleen township. A significant uranium deposit was located in the Selwyn Range between Mount Isa and Cloncurry on 4 July 1954 by a syndicate of eight headed by Clem Walton and Norm McConachy of Mount Isa. The first lease pegged was named Mary

Kathleen after the wife of Norm McConachy. The mine produced 4500 tonnes of uranium ore between 1958 and 1963 and 4802 tonnes between 1976 and 1982. The land was originally settled for grazing in the 1860s and continues to be used today. (*North Queensland Register* 25 August 2011 p 16)

Mourilyan - The Sugar Industry Heritage Centre is situated on the Bruce Highway at Mourilyan. It contains the Sugarama Gallery and the Cassowary Coast region Art Gallery. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 29 July 2011 p 22 including photograph)

Murphy's Creek – A large timber from the 1867 King's Creek bridge which was destroyed in the January 2011 floods has been placed as a hitching rail outside the Murphy's Creek tavern. Queensland Rail has attached to the hitching rail a plaque outlining the history of the bridge. The tavern operators, Sue Haughey and Jim Barns, are very supportive of preservation of history. The bar of the Murphy's Creek Tavern is a large slab of hardwood from Townsville and the posts on the verandah have been salvaged from Queensland Rail depots and stations throughout the Lockyer Valley. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 7 October 2011 p 4)

Redlynch – Queensland rail is offering the Redlynch railway station for lease. They consider it of heritage value and have had an architect prepare preliminary plans for changed internal layout for use for retail or commercial purposes. (*Cairns Post* 5 October 2011 p 28)

Queensland Heritage

Historical Societies have the opportunity to comment on proposed heritage listings in Queensland. Comments and submissions may be made to The Site Registrar, Heritage Branch, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Q 4000. Phone: 07 3330 5859, [Email: heritage.registrar@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:heritage.registrar@derm.qld.gov.au)

There has been an extension of time to 2 December 2011 for consideration of St Patrick's Convent, 45 The Strand, North Ward, Townsville.

The Department of Environment and Resources Management is considering listing Quartzborough Gold Battery and Town Site, Four Mile Creek, Groganville Pastoral Holding, north west of Mount Carbine in north Queensland. The battery and town operated from 1889 to 1893.

The Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Resources Management recommended to the Queensland Heritage Council on 30 August 2011 to enter the Imbil railway bridge over Yabba Creek on the Queensland Heritage Register, together with Cream Sheds at Kandanga, Amamor and Melawondi railway stations on the Mary Valley Railway.

Library Report for October

Items catalogued include *Beenleigh and sugarcane land: Heritage and character study* and *Southport urban heritage and character strategy review* Adobe pdf files on a CD; *Cross River Rail: environmental impact statement* book and CD.

Alan Arundell and Steve Malone donated *The south coast railway: A history of growth and transport on the Gold Coast*; big thanks to Prez Carolyn for saving newspaper articles on the January floods and donating *Notorious Australian women*; Dale Lorna Jacobson for donating *Union Jack* the story of her grandfather Jack O'Leary and his railway union activities; John Pearn donated invitations, menus and other things from activities he has been involved with and a paper he gave on human genetics; Manfred Cross donated Henry Wade's 1842 proposed plan of Brisbane Town.

Warwick Outram donated his latest book *Bribie Island: People and places*; Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde donated their recent book *A history of the Returned Services League Townsville Sub-branch: 1917-2000*, and two *Townsville Bulletin* supplements 'Townsville Bulletin: The north's own paper celebrating 130 years: From the press to the people' and 'CBD celebrates: Flinders Street reborn' that Dorothy and Bruce researched; Carolyn Nolan donated *Ill-stared captains: Flinders and Baudin*; Maureen Burke donated a 1965 aerial photo of Brisbane and *The Times Australian bicentenary commemorative issue*.

The honorary researchers found in National Trust House, Level B2, a book, *Brisbane past and present*. This is an interesting find as it is a portfolio of photographs taken between 1860 and 1901 of the city of Brisbane and suburbs, panoramic views and illustrations of the public buildings, principal thoroughfares and notable places of interest.

My main job at the moment is handling the over 1,100 books and booklets that need checking as they may not have a title that I could locate using the National Library and State Library catalogues on line, and/or have missing information. This is rather time consuming. I started off trying to locate items that did not have a Dewey number and did find some. All this is due to the fact I checked most of the books and books on line while we were out of the Store.

Judy Gale Rechner
Honorary Librarian

Queensland Telstra Museum VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Queensland Telecommunications Museum (Queensland Telstra Museum) is relocating into the Albion Exchange this year. Assistance is required to clean, identify and display items from the Post Master General's Department, Telecom, Telstra and private organisations.

No specialist skills are required – just a love of history.

Volunteers can contact Trevor McKell, Project Manager on 0419 006 163.

New Members

Barbara Whately
Dean Prangley
Timothy Roberts
Maxwell Smith
Sarah Knox

Redcliffe
Paddington
Wellers Hill
Springwood
Chermside West

Museum Curator's Report



Sir Samuel Griffith's Wig
RHSQ Collection 1457/99

Sir Samuel Griffith's Wig, which had been on loan for sometime, is now back at the museum and on display in the *Early Queensland Exhibition*. Griffith

was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1867. He held a seat in the Legislative Assembly from 1872 until 1893. He also held various cabinet posts, including that of Colonial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer. He was Premier from 1883 to 1888 and again from 1890 to 1893. He was appointed Chief Justice in 1893 and the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia in 1903.

Thanks go to Rod Fisher, historian, who has donated to the society a hand-coloured lithographed plate with letter-press of a chestnut-faced owl by Silvester Diggles and the front cover of Diggles' *Ornithology of Australia* 1865 – 70. Diggles (1817-80) was a Brisbane artist, naturalist and self-publisher. These artifacts are presently on display in the *Early Queensland Exhibition*.

Janice Hess

Honorary Museum Curator

Robyn Stephensen

Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

Research Report for October

Some of the topics dealt with in the last month include the following: *Middenbury*; Eagle Street fountain; Ruthning Iron Works and foundry, Woolloongabba; the Society's move from Newstead House to the Commissariat Store (see the President's note in the last *Bulletin*); St Mary's Convent, Ipswich; Eagle Farm; W R Alexander Diary relating to South Sea Islanders in the South East; the origin of the name of Paddy's Island; and James William Blair. A descendant of the artist H Strongitharm Wilkinson visited the Store to see the painting of *Amity* as she is tracing Wilkinson's life and work.

Jean Stewart

Honorary Research Officer

Tea and Me



The Royal Historical Society of Queensland has one of its tea cups and saucers on display in the State Library of Queensland's Tea and Me exhibition. The Exhibition is on the Queensland Terrace of the SLQ where the china display wall is featured.

The cup and saucer from our collection is white china with gold banding, manufactured by John Maddock and Sons Ltd England. The pottery mark on the base is from the c 1880-96 period. The decal depicts the 1891 Primitive Methodist Church, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

We have been in contact with Fusions Art Gallery who became owners of the church and they have confirmed that it matches the crockery set in their possession, which originally belonged to the church.

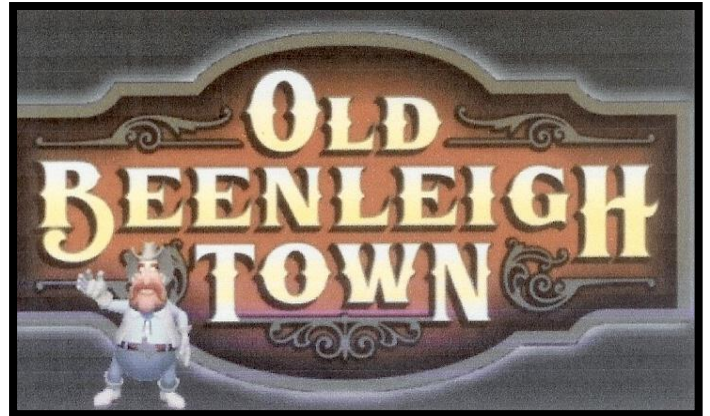
Robyn Stephensen

New Queensland History books

Historian, Margaret Cook has just launched a history of nursing at Ipswich Hospital. Called *A Hard and Noble Life*, the book is a social history of nursing, providing lots of anecdotes and stories about the experiences of nurses from 1860 to 2011. It documents the evolution of nursing practices, training, uniforms and working conditions within the context of the development of the hospital. The book is available for \$25 (plus postage and handling). If you wish to obtain a copy please contact Alice Gaston at Ipswich Hospital on 3810 1219.

Historian Ruth Kerr's book, *A Vision Fulfilled: a history of the Lady Musgrave Trust 1885-2010*, was launched by Her Excellency, The Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, on 29 August 2011 at the River Room, The Moreton Club, Moray Street, New Farm. The book documents the story of the Lady Musgrave Lodge as a hostel in Astor Terrace, Spring Hill, for immigrant girls to Queensland from 1885 to the 1930s and then as a city hostel for working women, teachers' college and university students until 1973. The Lady Musgrave Trust has continued its work through a variety of social welfare roles since and has an active board. The book may be obtained from the Trust, PO Box 178, Kelvin Grove QLD 4059, Phone 3856 5852. (Bibliographical details: ISBN 978 0 646 55171 5; 101 pages, illustrated, bibliography, index) Peter Collins collected photographs and other illustrations and prepared the captions, and Sue Bracewell designed the layout and cover.

Old Beenleigh Town (formerly Beenleigh Historical Village)



The Beenleigh Historical Village tells the story of how Beenleigh and the surrounding district were formed. Beenleigh was settled by Europeans in 1868. The name Beenleigh was brought here from Beenleigh in Devon, England. The first settlers were farmers and timber cutters.

The Beenleigh Historical Village has over 20 buildings with historical significance on site. They include the original church, school, boot maker's shop, railway station, post office, jail, council chambers and several old cottages. The cottages are museums within themselves, displaying old furniture and equipment as if they were frozen in time. You can browse through photographs and memorabilia or revisit artefacts used in daily life over 100 years ago.

Open every day 9.30 am - 3.30 pm
email: bvillage@tpg.com.au
Web: www.oldbeenleightown.com

A New Newsletter

The Historical Society of Beaudesert has a new monthly newsletter called : *Local History Information News*. For a free sub. send your email to: the Archivist/Librarian, David Mason, at william.mason6@bigpond.com

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.

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RHSQ Bulletin: PP424022/00019
RHSQ Journal: PP424022/00020

**SURFACE
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FUNCTIONS**

NOVEMBER 2011

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

Tuesday 15 November *Bulletin* Deadline

Sunday 27 November 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

RHSQ@ home

Exhibitions featuring photographs of flood damage to the Commissariat and the Society’s military medal collection

YOUR SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER

Janet Spillman grew up in Hughenden, studied by correspondence, became a teacher and taught in Maryborough and as a Special Educational Needs teacher in England where she met and married her husband. After his death she returned to Brisbane and studied for a Master of Philosophy, her thesis being a history of Mt Coot-tha.

Mt Coot-tha's history has a cast of politicians, loggers, artists, authors and scientists as well as citizens who go there to walk, picnic and admire the view. Mt Coot-tha's importance as a recreation reserve for the City of Brisbane indicates our human needs for a relationship with the natural world which will become more important in a region of rapidly growing population and increased settlement density.

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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Bulletin articles only:

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The Society acknowledges financial assistance from the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund; Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, The Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund, Brisbane City Council; Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund; Queensland State Archives; Blocksidge and Ferguson Real Estate.

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
Life membership – purchased after 10 years	\$5,000.