

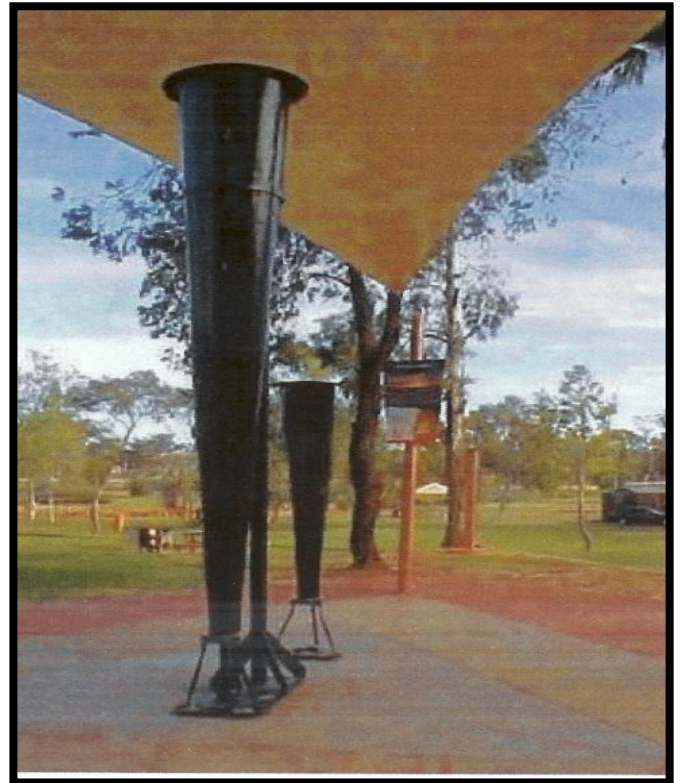


THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

DECEMBER 2011 No. 759

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)



## THE STEIGER VORTEX MACHINE

The Steiger Vortex Guns pictured above are reproduced here by kind permission of the National Archives of Australia. The pictures featured in a talk given at the NAA building at Cannon Hill on Wednesday 16 November. The guns, developed in 1902, were an experiment in rain making. They are on display at the Graham Andrews Parklands in Charleville. Details of further talks can be found on page 5 of this *Bulletin*.

## President's Report for November

Much of our energy has been directed to setting in place the program for the coming twelve months and I hope we will see many of you at forthcoming lectures and 'At Homes'. As you read, perhaps a little note in your diary will make sure you have a better chance of joining us. You will see elsewhere in the *Bulletin* that this year we will celebrate Proclamation Day on the evening before, that is Friday 9

December, at 6 pm, with drinks at The Commissariat Store.

There will not be a Wednesday lecture in December, so this is really our breakup party for the year, though the Museum and Library will remain open except for the Christmas to New Year period. In January we will once again participate in the Australia Day Open Day at Government House, and if a few members can volunteer a few hours to help

that would be marvellous. Should our display concentrate on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee? Or other ideas please.

The Wednesday talk on 8 February 2012 by Dale Jacobsen is about *Union Jack*. The first 'At Home' will be Saturday 10 March, and there is enthusiasm to have Maryborough and the Burnett District as the theme. Last month's trip there reminded me just how fascinating it all is, so if you would care to be involved, perhaps to deliver a paper, or some other presentation, or to bring material for the library display, we would love to hear from you.

The Wednesday talk on 14 March will celebrate the first St Patrick's Day celebrations in Brisbane in 1862 – and the centenary of the appointment of James Duhig as Coadjutor Archbishop of Brisbane. Anne Crook will speak about the archaeological side of the site of Brisbane City Hall on 11 April, with Lynne Hooper speaking on 9 May about Emily Congeau and Bribie Island. June brings the annual seminar, on 2 June 2012, and the subject will be our convict history. Submissions for papers are welcome from now on, and the venue will be that ancient convict-built structure that we know so well (with or without parking, depending on the stonemasons).

The Queensland Day Dinner will be on Wednesday, 6 June 2012, with the venue yet to be finalised, and that seems an appropriate occasion to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Yet again the Queensland State Archivist has very generously offered to sponsor the dinner. This is also when RHSQ and PHAQ hope to award another John Kerr Medal, for which nominations are now called, as per the details on the Society's website.

From then for some timeslots the program has still to be confirmed, though Glenn Cooke has confirmed that he will speak about 'Donald Friend in Queensland' on Wednesday 8 August, and Judith McKay will deliver the Clem Lack Oration about the Australian Inland Mission, immediately following the Annual General Meeting on 12 September.

Technology is a big expense but steps are underway to upgrade the Inmagic system that we use to document our library and museum collections and the all-important membership database. Grant money helps with so much of our expenditure, but donations or sponsorship are always very gratefully received.

Keep in touch, members longstanding and new.

Carolyn Nolan  
President

## Queensland News for November

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

**Mary Valley Heritage Railway – Gympie to Imbil** – The tourism and heritage values of the Mary Valley Heritage Railway have been recognised by both the Gympie regional Council and the Queensland Heritage Council in recent months. Imbil railway bridge; cream sheds; Amamoor, Kandanga and Melawondi railway stations; and the Gympie railway station have recently been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. The Gympie Regional Council has promoted the Mary Valley Heritage Railway as a tourist attraction in the region and participated in the centenary celebrations on 9 July 2011 for the opening of the railway to Amamoor. (*Gympie Times* 30 July 2011 p 5 and 22 October 2011 p 6 including photographs)

**Millaa Millaa** – The book *Glimpses of Millaa Millaa* by Leigh Davis, was launched by the Mayor Tom Gilmore, on 17 September to celebrate the centenary of European settlement of the area. A book *Recollections of Millaa Millaa* had been compiled in 2010 by the Millaa Millaa Centenary Committee utilising the stories of local residents and those with an association with the town and surrounding area. So many photographs and unpublished material came to light in succeeding months that local foundation member of the Eacham Historical Society, Leigh Davis, offered to prepare a supplementary publication to preserve more of the history of local organisations, clubs and businesses. Stories of the Trail Riders, QCWA, Lions Club, Telecom, social events etc were published. More than 350 unpublished photographs and more than 750 images of past and present Millaa Millaa are featured in the book. (*North Queensland Register* 13 October 2011 p.2 including two photos – the launch and the original police station in 1922 and its first policeman, Dan Dwyer. A series of photographs of the Millaa Millaa Centenary Day were published in the *North Queensland Register* on 20 October 2011 p 13)

**Millmerran** – The railway line from Brookstead to Millmerran has not been repaired following damage in the January floods. It has not had any rail traffic since 2009. The line from Wyreema to Brookstead is being repaired by Queensland Rail. The Millmerran railway is 100 years old on 13 November 2011. Grant Ubergang's history book, *From Beauaraba to Back Creek: a history of the Pittsworth to Millmerran branch rail line 1911-2011*, has been written to celebrate the centenary. (*Western Star* 7 October 2011, *Rural Weekly* p 5) including photograph of C17

locomotives 983 and 982 in 1967 at Millmerran).

**Palmer Goldfield – Quartzborough** – A nomination has been made to the Department of Environment and Resource Management of the Quartzborough Battery and Town Site, Four Mile Creek, Groganville in the Palmer Goldfield region to be entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. Submissions could be made to the department by 2 November 2011 and further opportunities for comment are expected as the application progresses. The battery and town site are very remote. The Tablelands Regional Council supports the proposed listing. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 7 October 2011 p 26; *Tablelander* 8 November 2011 p 5)

**Roma – No.6 Western Districts Rifle Union** – A photo of this group appears in the recently launched History of the Queensland Rifle Association, *Home on the Range* by Bill Casey. The book was launched on 17 August by Her Excellency The Governor, Penelope Wensley AC. Roma area members in the photo were: Front: W Burke, W Elliott (Capt), G Drabsch; Standing: J Robinson, C Mercer, S Coomber, G Donald. The Queensland Rifle Association was formed in 1861. Other rifle clubs founded in the western region include: Maranoa (Mitchell) 1877, Roma 1889, Wallumbilla 1905, Yuleba 1913, Surat 1916, Mungallala 1916, Amby 1918, Jackson 1918, Injune 1953, Dulacca 1962 and Muckadilla 1985. (*Western Star* 7 October 2011 p 10 including photo)

**Roma** – Retired Roma agent and sale yard market reporter, John Gilfoyle, has collaborated with John ‘Robbo’ Robbins to produce a new book of oral histories on Australian characters, *You’d Better Bloody Believe It*. Although the book was launched at Tattersalls in Brisbane it is being marketed in Injune and Roma, and through Queensland Country Life, P.O. Box 586, Cleveland Q 4163, email: [Hilary.opray@ruralpress.com](mailto:Hilary.opray@ruralpress.com). (*Western Star* 7 October 2011 p 4)

**Tingalpa** – The 2011 Pioneer’s Memorial Service for the Tingalpa Christ Church Pioneer’s Chapel and Cemetery was held on 29 October 2011 on the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the original consecration of the church in 1868. The first burial in the cemetery there occurred in 1868. Three hundred burials are known to have occurred in the cemetery and 100 are marked.

## New Queensland History Book

*Kairi State School: a Journey of 100 Years 1911-2011* compiled by the Kairi School Centenary Committee. Price: \$30. Available from the Kairi State School, North Queensland.

## 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.

Ruth 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.

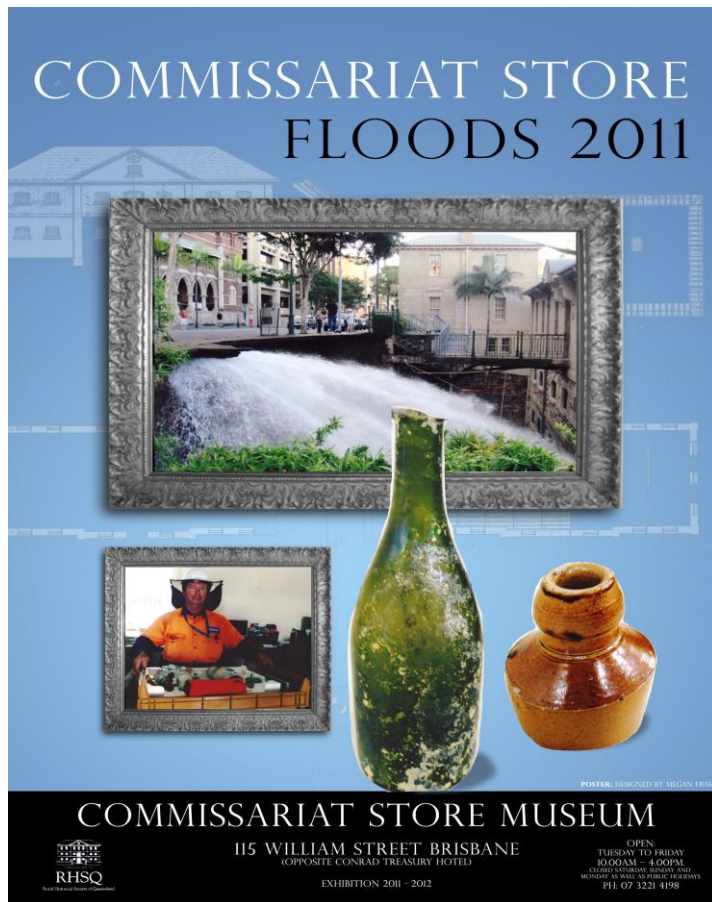
### New Exhibition at the Queensland Art Gallery

**Don’t forget to visit the Queensland Art Gallery and the exhibition about Daphne Mayo ‘Let There be Sculpture’, organised by Judith McKay, a Fellow of RHSQ**

**When visiting ‘Straddie’ don’t forget to visit the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum. Open Tuesday - Saturday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, Sunday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm**



## Museum Curator's Report



Poster designed by Megan Hess

## Museum Curator's Report

The Floods Exhibition centres on events of 13 January 2011, when a water main burst in William Street early in the morning. This caused part of the Commissariat Store's retaining wall, which was convict built in 1829, to fall into the building. Photos of this event and of the restoration work are featured on a special stand built by Dr Graeme Nicholson.

A time line from 1829 to 2011 showing the different changes to the wall at the Commissariat Store is part of the exhibition. A summary of the archaeology report to Project Services, Department of Public Works by Jon Prangnell PhD and his team (University of Queensland) gives an insight into the objects that were exposed by the collapsed wall. Interesting artefacts which date back to the 1850s are on display. They include stone ware bottles, glass bottles, metal objects, earthenware and pottery. Also, a 'model' brick wall using convict bricks from the collapsed sediments has been designed by David Rex and is a centre feature of the display.

Many thanks to the people who have helped to bring this exhibition together and Troy Minter who captured the moment on camera on 13 January 2011.

Don't miss this exhibition which is part of the history of the Commissariat Store.

Janice Hess  
Honorary Museum Curator  
Robyn Stephensen  
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

## Research Report for November

Two weeks ago a call was received from Laurie Parker, a nephew of a deceased member of the Society, Dr Laurie Parker. Laurie Parker, the younger, inherited a lot of his uncle's papers and goods including some papers of the Johnsonian Club. He was about to move to Melbourne and, remembering that his uncle had been a member of this Society, thought that we would like to have the memorabilia consisting of a trunk labelled Johnsonian Club, Minute Books from the 1920s to the 40s, financial records, Rule Books, correspondence etc. There is also a framed cartoon by Ian Gall of Otto Hirschfeld. This will be a valuable addition to our wonderful collection of Original Manuscripts and Materials.

Queries this month: Information and pictures on Welsby's house 'Amity' for plaques for New Farm HS; photos and information on Gus Davies; Charles Parbery; Maud White; Thornborough Gold; Queensland Surveying Company; photos of Brisbane in the early 1800s; Queensland Smelting Works at Aldershot; the name of a bookstore in Burnett Lane; Mayfield State Primary Swimming Club, 1980-1990; the Marble Bar in Queen Street; John Watson MP; a 1920s house in Sandgate; and Nechoma Court, Annerley Road, Woollongabba.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Research Officer

## New Members

Ursula Sanderson  
Allan & Jacqueline Noyce

Ferny Grove  
Nundah

## 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 please contact Chris Michie on 3221 4198, Wednesday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

## Queensland State Archives Program for December

**Tuesday 6 December 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

### 'Getting Started'

Learn about the Queensland State Archives collection and how best to find the information you are seeking. This service, presented by an experienced reference archivist, will provide you with the basis you need to start your research at QSA.

Includes afternoon tea and a short tour

Free entry

To book, telephone 07 3131 7777

Address: 435 Compton Road Runcorn

## Talks at the National Archives of Australia

**December - Saturday 16 & Wednesday 19  
10.00 am - 11.00 am**

Have morning tea with the State Director, David Swift and hear about the NAA's achievements in 2011 and plans for 2011

**January - Wednesday 18 & Saturday 21  
10.00 am - 11.00 am**

Migrant Journeys, extraordinary migrant cases. Come and hear about some of the more interesting records we have on migrants coming to Australia

Address: Corporate Drive Cannon Hill

Telephone: 07 3249 4226

## RHSQ Society's Committees and other Positions of Responsibility

**'Dig Tree' Advisory Committee:** Manfred Cross, Jean Stewart, Carolyn Nolan

**Boggo Road Gaol Advisory Committee:** Stephen Sheaffe

**History Week:** Jean Stewart (Chmn), Janet Hogan, Katy Law, Denver Beanland

**John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction Committee:** Carolyn Nolan, John Pearn, Richard Morgan

**Library:** Jean Stewart, Ruth Kerr

**Marketing and Communications:** Bill Elliot (Chmn), Sasha Broughton, Jeff O'Mara, Estelle Cooper, Denver Beanland, Helen McMonagle, David Gibson, Marilyn England, Dean Prangley

**Museum:** Marilyn England (Chmn), Hilary Fisher, Jan Hess, Ken Jewell, Andrew Darbyshire, Graeme Nicholson, David Rex, Robyn Stephensen

**National Archives of Australian Brisbane Consultative Forum:** Ruth Kerr, Carolyn Nolan.

**Northbank Heritage Advisory Committee:** Bill Elliott, Carolyn Nolan

**Program:** Carolyn Nolan (Chmn), Manfred Cross, Jean Stewart, Ian Hadwen, David Gibson, Dean Prangley, Janet Hogan

**Publications:** Ruth Kerr (Chmn), Carolyn Nolan, Rebecca Ling, Hilary Fisher, Richard Morgan, Margaret Kowald, Val Donovan, Graeme Nicholson, Janet Hogan

**Website:** Andrew Darbyshire, Judy Gale Rechner, Ruth Kerr, Carolyn Nolan

**Bulletin Editor:** Graeme Nicholson, assistant Marjorie Shackleton

**Exhibition Curators:** Janice Hess, Robyn Stephensen

**Grant Co-Ordinator:** Rebecca Ling

**Editor of Queensland History Journal:** Margaret Kowald and Assistant Editors: Val Donovan, Ruth Kerr

**Awards:** Ruth Kerr (Chmn), Ian Hadwen, Stephen Sheaffe

**Membership Committee:** Denver Beanland (Chmn), Carolyn Nolan, Ruth Kerr, Judy Gale Rechner

**Membership Secretary:** Judith Murphy

**Website Manager:** Judy Gale Rechner

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy  
and Prosperous New Year from the  
volunteers who publish your *Bulletin***

Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
 PO Box 12057  
 Brisbane, George Street QLD 4003  
 RHSQ Bulletin: PP424022/00019  
 RHSQ Journal: PP424022/00020

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS**

**DECEMBER**

**Friday 9 December 6.00 pm**

Proclamation Day Cocktail Party at the Commissariat  
 RSVP only, Contact the Manager

**Saturday 10 December**

Proclamation Day

**REMINDER**

**Don't forget to visit the Queensland Art Gallery and the exhibition about Daphne Mayo 'Let There be Sculpture', organised by Judith McKay, a Fellow of RHSQ.**

**NOTICES**

**The Commissariat Store will be closed for the Christmas break from Saturday 24 December 2011 until Tuesday 10 January 2012.**

**The President, Councillors and Volunteers of the Society wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.**

**Contact details:**

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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<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:**

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<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