



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2012 No. 760

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



RHSQ Photo P2906

Brisbane City Council Trolley Bus Number 27 on its way to Gregory Terrace c 1964

The Brisbane City Council intended to introduce trolley bus services to the new University of Queensland campus at St Lucia and purchased enough chassis from the United Kingdom for the route. However, it was vigorously opposed by residents and the plan was abandoned. The council then found itself with surplus trolley buses, but no route on which to run them. After consideration, it was decided to run the buses from Herston to Stanley Bridge, East Brisbane, commencing in 1952. Several other routes were subsequently begun in the eastern suburbs, the first replacing a tram route along Cavendish Road in 1955. Other routes to Seven Hills and Carina did not involve tram route closures. The depot and workshops for the trolley buses was located in Milton, on Milton Road between Hale and Castlemaine Streets. The former depot was demolished to make way for redevelopment of Suncorp Stadium.

President's Report for February

Welcome to 2012 and a society in a far happier position than at this time last year when we, like so many of you, were flood affected and wondering just how to carry on. Thanks to a great deal of help we are now 'back on track', the inside of The Commissariat Store is restored, and further work on the surrounding area is about to begin.

The planned lectures, exhibitions and At Homes promise a very interesting year, (note that this is our 99th) and should generate interesting material for the *Queensland History Journal*. And on that topic I would like to thank Margaret Kowald and her assistant editors for the wonderful work they do to get this publication out to us all, and to thank Graeme Nicholson and the team for all they do to bring the *Bulletin* to us so regularly.

Judy Rechner has resigned as Honorary Librarian after many years during which she has volunteered countless hours to maintain the library catalogue, accession the steady flow of new material, and to update the website. Judy was awarded the McGregor medal last year for her outstanding help when our communications were non-existent after the flooding, indicative of her commitment to RHSQ. I take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of us all.

Our Manager, Christina Michie, has had all the new computer equipment installed and this should help further streamline the day to day operations of the office, the library and the museum. Our system of backing up all the data off site stood us in very good stead last year and enabled us to continue while we were 'off site' as well.

While we were in The Mansions it was a good opportunity to appreciate the other historic buildings in that part of George Street - for those of you unfamiliar with this part of Brisbane, George Street runs parallel to William Street and both terminate near the City Botanic Gardens. We have been working with Councillor Amanda Cooper and the Brisbane City Council to have a Historic Precinct delineated in this part of town.

At the December meeting it was noted that:

- the Governor's recent visit was very welcome
- a visit by the Honourable Simon Finn, State Member for Yerongpilly, was well received and attracted useful media attention
- The Certificates of Appreciation awarded to long-standing volunteers were much appreciated
- Dean Prangle was appointed to fill the vacancy on our Council
- communication has been received with regard to maintenance of the Dig Tree Reserve and an attempt will be made for an on-site meeting of the custodians

- directional signs to an Historic Precinct including The Commissariat Store and extending to the Botanic Gardens are being designed by the Brisbane City Council in conjunction with RHSQ and other stake holders

- members and friends have volunteered their skills to assist with various matters including website design, and an updated museum policy

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for February

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

Buderim – The restored Krauss locomotive is to be displayed in Buderim at the corner of Lindsay Road and Burnett Street. It is part of the Buderim Central Parklands Concept Plan. There will be signage describing the 2 feet 6 inches (762 mm) gauge Palmwoods – Buderim Tramway (11.5 km) which operated from December 1914 until 10 August 1935. The locomotive was sold to Bingera Sugar Mill in the Bundaberg district and later obtained by the Buderim – Palmwoods Heritage Tramway Inc (PO Box 923, Buderim Q 4556) in 2004 and restoration was completed in May 2010. It will be housed in an enclosure with glass panelling. (*Buderim Chronicle* 20 October 2011 p 6 including line drawing) A station layout diagram is published in *Light Railways* No 222, December 2011, p 31.

Bundaberg – The Australian Sugar Cane Railway association obtained its safety accreditation and was to recommence its Botanic Gardens tourist train on 27 November 2011. (*Bundaberg News Mail* 18 November 2011 p 2 including photograph)

Cairns Area QCWA Halls – Cairns Regional Council recently circulated a list of over 200 buildings it proposes to add to its heritage list. It includes QCWA halls owned by the **Deeral**, **Gordonvale** and **Freshwater** Branches. QCWA is concerned that heritage listing will bring increased costs for maintenance. They have based this view on their experience of the heritage listing of the **Wonglepong** QCWA Hall in south east Queensland. The *North Queensland register* newspaper reported that QCWA has stated that they intend to lodge a submission to the Council opposing the listing. (*North Queensland Register* 1 December 2011 p 4)

Charleville – The Charleville Historical Society received a collection of photographs (many without captions). They date from the early 1900s to the 1920s. They may have belonged to the late Percy Kidd, possibly of Morven. One photo featuring a

family on a motor bike and side car was published in the *Western Times* of 17 November 2011 on page 2. Interested readers may contact the Historical Society on Phone 07 4654 3349.

Duchess – The ‘Sundowner’ article in the *North Queensland Register* of 1 December 2011 described the discovery of the outcrop of pure copper by Jack Kennedy in July 1897. It is stated in the article that Kennedy informed the later Glen Pike of this many years ago. Jack Kennedy was the son of Alexander Kennedy, lessee of *Devencourt* and other stations and a director of Qantas. 1897 was near the beginning of a copper boom and Alexander Kennedy had sent his son to look in likely mineral country to the west. Jack Kennedy saw the Trekelano deposit first then rode north west and discovered the Duchess deposit, a cone-like outcrop. Kennedy obtained a lease immediately, through the Cloncurry Mining Warden’s Office. The Kennedy’s held it for eight years, working it in a small way. Tom and Charles Morgan carted the first dray load of surface ore to Hughenden. In August 1906 they sold it for £13,000 to William Orr from Broken Hill and the Collins House Group in Melbourne. The mine was later sold to the Hampden Cloncurry Copper Mining Company Pty Ltd which worked it for 18 years producing approximately 200,000 tonnes of copper valued at £2.25 million. (*North Queensland Register* 1 December 2011 p 6)

Cooktown – The Cooktown History centre, Nature’s Powerhouse and the James Cook Museum all received certificates in December 2011 for succeeding in having their museum procedures assessed and meet the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. (*Cooktown Local News* 15-21 December 2011 p 7 including photograph)

Grandchester – A partnership between National Trust of Queensland and Queensland Rail will enable the Grandchester railway station to be opened to public access. From 1 February 2012 National Trust of Queensland (NTQ) will have responsibility for the railway station, originally known as Bigge’s Camp, and one of Queensland’s original railway stations. (*Ipswich Advertiser* 28 December 2011 p 14 including photograph of Greg Hallam (RHSQ member and Queensland Rail officer, Stewart Armstrong (NTQ) and Wayne Wendt MP (Member for Ipswich West)

Herberton – The Atherton Tableland Railway Inc has bought the railway lines, buildings, bridges and tunnels between Herberton and Atherton from Queensland rail for \$1. Another \$1 per year has to be paid to Department of Transport and Main Roads for rent. Public Liability Insurance costs the Society

\$4,000 per year. Volunteers are refurbishing the Herberton railway station and turning it into a museum. Some are working 20 hours per week. Herberton Historic Village is building a platform to accommodate tourist trains running the 2 km from Herberton railway station. (*Cairns Post* 15 November 2011 p 8 including photograph of President, Bob Slater)

Homestead – The Minister for Finance, Natural Resources and The Arts has decided under the *Place Names Act 1984* to create the locality of Homestead (73.5 km west of Charters Towers) and to alter the boundaries of Campaspe, Basalt and The Cape within the Charters Towers Regional Council area. Homestead was the terminus of the Great Northern Railway (Townsville to Mount Isa) from 11 February 1884 to 6 October 1884. (*North Queensland Register* 17 November 2011 p 24)

Mareeba – The Mareeba Heritage Centre has obtained a state government grant of \$8,000 for the Far North Queensland Heritage Day on 9 June 2012. The day will be based around the Heritage Centre displays. The grant is part of the government’s Queensland Week between 2 and 11 June in 2012. The Society has also succeeded in having its museum procedures assessed and meet the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 25 November 2011 p 2 and 16 December 2011 p 9)

Maryborough – A very detailed history by Ian McConachie OAM (RHSQ member), Nan Ott and Gail Endres of the Bauple macadamia nut tree in Maryborough appeared in the *Gympie Times* of 4 June 2011 p18. The parent tree of the Bauple nut died in Maryborough in 2010. The tree was named ‘Daddow’ and it existed at 346 Lennox Street, Maryborough. A large number of fruit trees including Macadamia nuts were planted by Andrew Wilson at his home, *Doon Villa*, which he purchased in 1883. The house was demolished in the 1960s. A new home was built on the new subdivision nearby at 346 Lennox Street for Alan Goldsmith in 1946 and it was sold to Leo Daddow in 1953. There were several Bauple nut trees on the property, the earliest believed to have been planted in the 1880s. Richard Misfield, supervisor of construction of locomotives at Walkers Limited, was passionate about Bauple nuts and grew them on his property at Teddington Road, Tinana. He travelled all around the district inspecting Bauple nuts including ‘Daddow’ looking for good plant specimens. He thought it the best quality and began to propagate it in his nursery and beyond. It outperformed all Australian and Hawaiian selections in Department of Primary Industries trials in 1974. It

is now grown widely in Australia and South Africa, with more than 100,000 in Australia. Allan Ott, Richard Misfield's nephew, took over the Bauple nut nursery at Tinana. Gail and Ron Devnish bought 346 Lennox Street, Maryborough property in 1983. Ron Devenish died in 1986 and Gail and her husband, Trevor Endres, were the 'Daddow' Bauple nut tree's guardians. The tree was affected by the drought and died in 2009. (*Gympie Times* of 4 June 2011 p 18 including two photographs – the tree and *Doon Villa*).

Maytown – Groganville Road – The Tablelands Regional Council is seeking the gazettal of the road connecting Maytown and Groganville on the Palmer Goldfield. The *Tablelands Advertiser* newspaper reported that the Council is approaching the Department of Environment and Resource Management to prioritize this project as urgent as five years have passed since the original request was made. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 9 December 2011 p 3)

Millmerran - More than 600 people celebrated the Centenary of Rail in Millmerran on 13 November 2011. Toowoomba Regional Council Deputy Mayor, Paul Antonio, launched RHSQ member, Grant Ubergang's book, *From Beauraba to Back Creek: a history of the Pittsworth Millmerran branch rail line*. Descendants of the original official party at the opening of the line attended. Don Mackintosh (grandson of Donald Mackintosh MLA), Peter and John Walpole and Roger Peardon (descendants of Millmerran residents involved in the original railway opening) opened the Yandilla Cream Shed in the Millmerran Museum grounds. The museum is open Tuesday to Thursday 10 am to 3 pm and other times by appointment. The museum was open all day on the 13th for the entertainment of the people. (*Pittsworth Sentinel* 9 November 2011 p 3, 14 November 2011 p 7 including photograph and 16 November 2011 p 3 including three photographs)

Palmer Goldfield – Hell's Gate – Nineteen students of St Stephen's Catholic College in Mareeba, six staff, parents and friends and guide, John Hay, visited Hell's Gate on the old road to the Palmer Goldfield recently. It was a two day trek. Hell's Gate is a narrow pass in the sandstone escarpment. The track is one metre wide at its narrowest. The track was extremely difficult for travelers and although shorter than other roads to Maytown, was only used for about five years after its discovery in 1874. The visitors book at the gate shows that only 13 people had passed through it in 2011 before the Mareeba group. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 11 November 2011 p 13 including photograph taken by John Hay)

Rollingstone – Townsville City Council plans to move the Rollingstone railway station building

from Bushy Park to a position adjacent to the Rollingstone Community Centre to be used as a library. The building had been used recently by the Rollingstone Historical Society for display of photographs and artifacts. (*Townsville Bulletin* 14 November 2011 p 11 including photograph)

Townsville – A Queensland Rail warehouse building in Townsville, previously used for 15 years by the QR Heritage Townsville members has been destroyed by fire at 5 am on 20 November 2011. The heritage group vacated the building three weeks after cyclone 'Yasi', because QR believed that the building had been damaged in the cyclone. There were still heritage items in the building when the fire occurred. Police are treating the fire as suspicious. (*Townsville Bulletin* 23 November 2011 p 16)

New Queensland History Books

Cyclone Yasi – Our Stories edited by Jo Anne Cracknell, Jan Ferguson and Christine Hardy. (Published by Cardwell & District Historical Society, Cardwell, and sponsored by the Bendigo Bank) The book was launched on Separation Day, 10 December 2011, by the State Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps MP (*Tully Times* 15 December 2011 p 2 including photograph)

Dredging Up the Past by Alan Brotherton. This is a privately published book on the tin dredges in the Mount Garnet and Palmer River areas of north Queensland. Only 100 copies were produced. Eacham Historical Society assisted Mr Brotherton with photographs and has the book (Eacham Historical Society *Newsletter* Oct-Nov 2011 – www.eachamhistorical.org)

Surveying Success: The Hume Family in Colonial Queensland by Hilary J Davies.

This book is a case study of middle class social mobility in colonial Queensland is an in-depth biography of an important Queensland family and reveals the workings of colonial society against the economic and political backdrop of the late nineteenth century.

Colonial Queensland was the stage on which the Hume family achieved success between 1863 and 1901. The scenes were set on the Darling Downs and in Brisbane.

After serving in the merchant marine with the P&O Line, Walter Hume migrated to Queensland from England in 1862 to train as a surveyor. Soon he was joined by his widowed mother and four siblings, then in 1866 by his fiancée, Katie Fowler. The varying fortunes of each family member reveal how personality, background and the social, economic and political conditions in the colony determined their

success. Walter and Katie Hume coped with isolation from family and the deaths of five infants while working to establish their financial future, secure promotions for Walter and create a place for themselves among the colonial elite. They attained the ideal middle-class family life with Walter's career success providing sufficient income to educate their children overseas, reside in elite homes and engage in genteel and philanthropic pastimes. In 1901, following almost four decades of service in the Department of Public Lands, Walter returned to England with his family and commenced travelling widely. They visited family and friends from India to Argentina, returning once more to Queensland in 1907 where they noted many changes since federation.

Copies are available from the Brisbane History Group for \$35 plus postage; website <http://www.brisbanehistory.asn.au/bhgpub.html> or through Boolarong Press – boolarongpress.com.au

The John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction

Nominations for the prestigious John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction, for research and writing of Queensland history has opened for 2012. The award is made jointly by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland). Nominations close on 31 March 2012. Nomination forms can be downloaded at:

http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr_Nom.pdf

Further information about the award can be found at

<http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au/JohnDKerr.html>

Research Report for December and January

There have been some very interesting queries in the last month from both members and non-members and as usual were very varied. Last Thursday 8 photos were sold resulting in \$80 for the coffers. These were for images of St Helena and Montague Road, South Brisbane in flood in 1893. Lyndsay Smith was busy arranging these and looking forward to the imminent installation of a new computer and new scanner which will make his task easier when he returns to the Commissariat Store after a break next year.

One query was about the location of the bell of the ship *Mermaid* referred to as part of the collection of Captain Campbell Thompson who joined the Society in 1913 and collected a large amount of maritime material most of which he donated to the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland to which the enquirer was directed. Other enquiries were for information on the pole near Roma Street Parklands and Wickham Terrace; the history of Suncorp; confinement homes for unwed expectant mothers in Brisbane; and John O'Neill Brennan's reminiscences.

There were a number of queries relating to Aboriginal myths, ethnology and history and one from a Gubbi Gubbi descendant and film maker seeking to visit the Store to consult the Cutting Books containing the articles 'When Woolloongabba was Wattle-Scented'.

A reminder to members that the Research Service is available on Thursdays between 10 am and 4 pm when well informed and efficient volunteers with a wide research background are present. As a consequence of many people wishing to use digital cameras for the collection of material, 20 cents per image will be recommended.

An accumulation of requests over the holiday period ensured a busy and interesting return to our usual Thursday research activity. It is also very pleasant to be able to use the newly installed equipment to scan images and we were able to at last fulfil some long standing orders. The topics dealt with included: research (unsuccessful) on a Mary Mollony; photos of Russell Island to the 1960s; an article on *Murrumba*; Diggles' image of Dundalli; images of houses in Toowong; history of Old Cleveland House; images of the Leith-Hay family and a hut on their Rannes property; and the site of the present Good Year Motorshop on Gympie Road, Kedron. We also supplied some quiz questions on early Brisbane history (courtesy of the draft Teacher Pack for the Commissariat Store) to BMag in return for publicity and found material to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II in her Jubilee Year for exhibition at Government House on Australia Day. This material will be used later for exhibitions in the Commissariat Store.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

New Members

Estelle Cooper	Carrara
Tom Watson	St Lucia
Richard Westacott	Mount Gravatt
QUT Campus Library Serials Unit Kelvin Grove	

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

FEBRUARY 2012

Wednesday 8 February 12.30 pm

‘Union Jack’

Dale Jacobsen

Wednesday 15 February *Bulletin* Deadline

APRIL 2012

Sunday 22 April 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

An Open Day at the Commissariat including guest speakers, tours, entertainment and morning tea.

Keep a look out for an information flyer on the website

More information next issue

YOUR SPEAKER FOR 8 FEBRUARY

Dale Jacobsen’s talk is a dramatic political tale featuring a cast of rogues, opportunists and idealists set against the background of corruption, strikes and union bashing in Queensland during the 1920s. It shows the conflict between the ALP and the Australian Railways Union.

Dale Jacobsen is a free lance journalist and has been a researcher and writer for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the editor of *The Queensland Journal of Labour History*, the half-yearly journal of the Brisbane Labour History Association of which she is a life member.

Contact details:

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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