



THE RHSQ

# *Bulletin*

MARCH 2012 No. 761

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)



RHSQ Photo P20044

## BARCALDINE POST OFFICE

Barcaldine Post Office is one of the many fine old timber buildings to be found in the town today. Barcaldine is known as the Garden City of the West with its beautiful tree lined streets. It is situated on the Central Western Railway line approximately 518 km west of Rockhampton and 108 km east of Longreach. This town played an important part in Australian history when Barcaldine figured prominently in the 1891 shearers' strike. The above photograph and many others of Queensland Post Offices from the RHSQ collection will feature in the Post Office Exhibition, which will be opened in July 2012.

Janice Hess

## President's Report for March

The heavens keep dumping more and more water on Queensland and our deepest sympathy goes out to those who have been adversely affected. I mean that sincerely – we have followed the pictures and heard of so many friends and family who are having another bad start to a new year. For those who have read and written about the floods of the 1890s there is a terrible sense of having known it would happen again, the inland seas that are not at all mythical. For those who have lost valuable structures, records and particularly photographs, we know it is especially hard. It is up to the rest of us to keep on collecting what we can, so we can share.

Heritage is very much in the forefront at the moment as we celebrate 20 years of the Heritage Act. RHSQ will work with the Queensland Heritage Council to celebrate this, at an At Home 'Celebrating Our Heritage' planned for 25 August at RHSQ. If there is a subject you would care to speak about, please let me or the Manager know - both long and very short talks are planned, and we are working on a powerpoint collection of places on the Queensland Heritage Register. If you have old or contemporary photographs of any of these places we would love to see them.

The Dig Tree Reserve is on that register, and by the time you read this we will have had a teleconference with the interested parties, as we try to put in place a conservation plan. It has of course been very wet right out there too, for the tree itself, the signs, and the boardwalk that protects the soil and the old roots from being compacted by the increasing number of visitors.

Good news has come as we have been granted money by the Multiculturalism Unit of the Queensland Government to help fund an exhibition about the Italian Community in Queensland. This should open in November. If you have material that you think could be used, we would love to hear from you. Already there has been significant help from members with Italian heritage.

The Council has confirmed that the Queensland Day Dinner will be held on 6 June 2012, at The Brisbane Club. Our Patron has agreed to join us, and this will be the perfect opportunity for this Society to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Bookings will open in due course, and do not forget that it is now time to put in nominations for the John Kerr Medal that will be awarded on the night.

A new initiative is for us to join the First World War Centenary Partnership. Details about this are on the internet [www.1914.org/partners\\_and\\_may\\_well](http://www.1914.org/partners_and_may_well)

[interest affiliated societies and members who have memorabilia relating to WWI.](#)

Ours is a vibrant society. Thank you to all those who have come forward to help, be it with the website, the museum, the library, the finances, with offers to address the Society and in all the other ways that you do. Happy St Patrick's Day, and don't forget to wear green (or at least orange).

Carolyn Nolan  
President.

## Queensland News for March

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

**Barcaldine** – The last remaining clone of the Tree of Knowledge at Barcaldine has been planted by the Premier on 27 November 2011 at the **Boggo Road Ecosciences Precinct at Annerley**. In 1991 a root sucker was taken from the Tree of Knowledge ghost gum and has produced the clones. The scientific work was led Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation's Senior Research Officer (Propagation), John Oostenbrink. (Premier's Office Press Release – 27 November 2011)

**Charters Towers** – The rotunda at Charters Towers cemetery is to be restored. The Charters Towers Regional Council has received \$18,900 from the Community Memorials Restoration Program administered under the portfolio of the Government Services and Building Industry Minister the Honourable Simon Finn MP. The Council will also be contributing funds to the project and hope to restore headstones as well. (*Northern Miner* 17 January 2012 p 5)

**Cooktown – China Camp** – The history of the careers of Albert, Lennie and Robert Claussen in the Cooktown and China Camp areas was recounted by Cooktown Historical Society member, Jean Stephen in the *Cooktown and Local News* edition 20-26 October 2011 p 17. They were tin and gold miners there from 1910 until the early 1940s. Albert obtained a contract with Normie Palmer of *Normanby* Station in the early years of the twentieth century to supply firewood for the Cooktown – Laura rail service, and in 1935 with P Roseler for 10,000 sleepers for the railway. Lennie was in the railway maintenance gang.

**Eidsvold** – The Historical Society plans to hold a meeting early in 2012 to decide how to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gazetting of the goldfield. (*Central and North Burnett Times* 22 December 2011 p 5)

**Gracemere** – The late Stan Doblo, a central Queensland house removalist, restored several disused railway stations that he purchased by tender and then

installed them on his Middle Road property. The oldest station is Gracemere, reputedly to date from the later part of the nineteenth century. Stan Doblo and his wife Diane restored the buildings themselves. Other railway buildings including old railway houses come from Ogmoo and Moonmera. They are let out for a variety of purposes. (Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* 14 January 2012 p 37 including photographs)

**Gympie** – The historic Railway Hotel is to be auctioned in February 2012. The building is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. The hotel has high, pressed metal ceilings, VJ walls and balconies. The hotel does not have gaming machines. (*Gympie Times* 17 January 2012 p 13 including photograph)

**Ipswich** – After public consultation the Ipswich City Council now intends to permanently list the laboratory building at the Ipswich Railway Workshops as a character place under the Ipswich Planning Scheme. The laboratory was used for chemical testing of metals and fuels used by steam and diesel locomotives. The laboratory was established in June 1939 and was extended between 1940 and 1941. The building's northern annex was built in 1972. (*Queensland Times* 2 February 2012 p 14)

**Irvinebank** – The Tablelands Regional Council has decided to take over the Ibis Dam water supply at Irvinebank after a \$4.5 million upgrade. The 63 Irvinebank residents are expected to pay an annual fee of \$395 for the water. The dam built in 1907 by John Moffat's Irvinebank Mining Company Pty Ltd was upgraded by GHD [GHD is an international network of engineers, architects and environmental scientists serving clients in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings, and transportation(ed.)] for the Queensland government in 1998. The strength of the dam wall has been of concern to Irvinebank residents and government. Water has always been supplied to townspeople and the mill (now closed) by the Irvinebank Mining Company Pty Ltd, the Queensland government (as owner of the Irvinebank State Treatment Works), the mill purchaser (Frank Hilla) and has reverted to the government. The water is not currently of a potable standard. The Ibis Dam has been considered as a historic dam by local people. (*Tablelander* 7 February 2012 pp 1 and 2)

**Toowoomba** – There are two World War II air raid shelters surviving in Toowoomba. They are in Railway Street on railway land. One of them has the 'V' symbol highlighted in its brickwork. Railway sleepers were used in the ceiling. The shelters were designed to hold 50 to 60 people. Toowoomba was a military hub in Queensland during World War II.

(*Toowoomba Chronicle* 16 January 2012 p 4 including photographs)

**Warwick** – Southern Downs Steam Railway has recommenced operations after two staff resigned. The new staff have been accredited by Queensland Transport. The Southern Downs Steam Railway team comprises Len Walker, John Brady, Jan Walker, John Moore, Bob Keogh, Babes Mcrae, John Mcrae and Jan Winsor, who appeared in a photograph on page 6 of the *Warwick Daily News* on 16 December 2011.

**Warwick** – Southern Down Regional Council is restoring a historic steamroller, originally owned by the former Rosenthal Shire Council. A boiler inspection process is underway. (*Warwick Daily News* 14 January 2012 p 2 including photograph)

**Yeppoon to Rockhampton Rail Trail** - \$1.1 million has been allocated by the Queensland government to open a rail trail track for walking/bicycling from Braithwaite Street, Yeppoon to the Yeppoon Golf Course. The state member for Keppel, Paul Hoolihan MP, announced the funding. The plan produced energetic debate on the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin website. The railway was opened to Yeppoon on 20 December 1909. (*Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* 12 January 2012 p 4 including photograph)

## Award Nominations

### The John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction

Nominations for the 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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr_Nom.pdf)

Further information about the award can be found at:

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

## Museum Curator's Report

The *Floods Exhibition*, which opened in November 2011, has been very well received with many visitors to the museum. The Beenleigh Library has donated the following books to the RHSQ : *Logan, The Man, The River* and *The City* and *Logan River Tinnie Trail*. Many thanks to Robyn Stephensen who negotiated this donation.

The *Post Office Exhibition* is well underway with the gathering of information and photographs for the display. If anyone would like to be part of the exhibition by donating used postage stamps please

leave them at the Commissariat reception desk or post the stamps to the following address: Janice Hess, Honorary Museum Curator, Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane. 4001. The stamps will not be returned, but remain part of the Society's collection.

Janice Hess  
Honorary Museum Curator  
Robyn Stephensen  
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

## Research Report for February

Interesting activities this month included a long session with representatives of the Brisbane Urban Environmental Unit who were seeking information on the Penal Settlement with a view to creating material to be sent to schools for support material for the new National History Curriculum. Another interesting activity was providing images of the Commissariat Store for a television crew who spent a day in the building filming segments for *Totally Wild* on Channel 7. Other queries were for the following: the Hospital Act of 1923; Diary of W R Alexander; the Kinkabool building at Surfers Paradise; the hulk *Aurora*; comments on the value of the book *Land of Legends & Stories about the Kalu speaking people* by Brett J Green; four properties in Wacol, Gladstone, Pagot, Bohle (impossible for us to answer as only the street addresses were given); history of the Queensland Irish Association with reference also to four presidents – J J Kingsbury, the Honourable Thomas O'Sullivan, Timothy Joseph O'Shea, and Peter Joseph McDermott; History of Goodna; Pamphlett; magistrate John Donald McLean; Australian women who served with allied nations in World War I; the *Mona Mona Mission*; and images of Forestry in Queensland. A search was made in the Library collection for records of some quirky Queensland inventions for a short paper to be included in the Society's At Home day on 22 April.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Researcher

## From the Federation

### Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2011

The 2011 AGM was held in Adelaide at the headquarters of the History Trust of South Australia on Monday 8 August. Delegates enjoyed generous hospitality of the Trust organised by CEO Margaret Anderson. Many of the delegates attended the South Australian History Conference prior to the meeting.

The theme was: 'In perspective: rethinking South Australia's history', and was held at the National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide.

### Future directions

Although all the Federation's objectives will be purposefully addressed under its Operational Plan 2011-2014 our priority will be advocacy on behalf of the nation's historical societies. The main focus will be on obtaining much increased government interest in and funding for the management of Australia's distributed movable and static heritage.

### Your Community Heritage

The Minister has announced the categories and guidelines for the \$4 million 'Your Community Heritage Grants'. FAHS has distributed the link through its networks. FAHS and the ACNT are to be commissioned to undertake the work of developing the part of the grant money that will be devoted to making community heritage information online.

### National Cultural Policy discussion paper

Following the call by the Federal Minister for the Arts (The Honourable Simon Crean MP) for feedback on the National Cultural Policy discussion paper, the Federation made a submission. Although the discussion paper spoke of 'arts, cultural and creative endeavours' the Federation pointed out that there was need to include 'the study and publication of history' as a cultural and creative endeavour. The Federation also urged that a generally accepted definition of 'culture' be included such as 'The totality of socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought.' A serious oversight in the discussion paper was the omission of 'cultural heritage'.

The Federation's submission may be accessed on the Federation's website at <http://www.history.org.au/Recent%20submissions%20by%20FAHS.html>. The discussion paper can be read at <http://culture.arts.gov.au/discussion-paper>.

### The Australian Heritage Partnership (TAHP)

The TAHP, comprising the FAHS, Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) and the Australian branch of The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), has been formed and will meet every quarter. It will enable the three organisations to provide material to the Minister responsible for heritage and to work together for the furtherance of heritage in Australia.

### Burra mine site, South Australia

The Federation was delighted to learn that the South Australian Minister for Mineral Resources Development has made a decision to continue to protect the important heritage Burra mine site by not



removing the restriction whereby the site is exempt from the operation of the *Mining Act 1971*. This was an outcome that was the aim of the Federation's advocacy on the issue.

#### **Australian Heritage Strategy (AHS):**

The Australian Government is working with its Heritage Division on the development of the AHS. All State governments have agreed in principle to support the development of a strategy. It is understood that the Australian Heritage Council will be involved in wider consultations in the development of the AHS. Discussion papers have not been released up to this time.

Helen Henderson  
Immediate Past President and  
Royal Western Australian Historical Society delegate

### **Queensland State Archives Seminar on Wednesday 7 March from 10.00 a m to 11.00 a m**

#### **'GETTING THE MOST OUT OF QLD STATE ARCHIVES' ONLINE RESOURCES'**

This seminar provides an overview of the QSA website and the *ArchivesSearch* catalogue. The session will include a practical demonstration (detailing what can be found and how to find it) on both the QSA website and the *ArchivesSearch* catalogue.

Entry free. Tea and Coffee available following the seminar. To book, telephone 07 3131 7777

### **Seminar on Wednesday 21 March from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm**

#### **'HARMONY DAY'**

**Celebrate Harmony Day and the importance of multiculturalism in Queensland's history. Join us for the seminar focusing on records relating to Germans from Queensland State Archives' collection.**

Entry free. Morning tea available. To book, telephone 07 3131 7777

### **QSA Saturday opening - March**

**QSA is open to the public on the second Saturday of every month from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. In March the QSA is open on 10 March**

### **National Archives of Australia Seminar**



Photo: NAA J3109, 5/97

### **Brisbane 1893 Flood Looking from Kangaroo Point across to the Customs House**

Queensland - beautiful one day; cyclone, flood, drought, storm or bushfire the next. Find out about our history of natural disasters and their impact at a seminar to be held at the National Archives of Australia on:

**Seminar on Saturday 17 and Wednesday  
21 March  
from 10.00 am to 11.00 am at :**

16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill

Free, bookings essential: Telephone 07 3249 4226 or email [events@naa.gov.au](mailto:events@naa.gov.au)

### **New Members**

Laura Ennis	Brisbane
Chris Tanos	McDowell
Claude Huddy	Cleveland
Lesley Podevin	Robertson

### **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.

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

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**



### IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

#### MARCH 2012

#### **Thursday 8 March Council Meeting**

#### **Wednesday 14 March 12.30 - 1.30 pm**

‘The 1862 (first) St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Brisbane and the centenary of James Duhig as Coadjutor Bishop of Brisbane’

Carolyn Nolan

#### **Thursday 15 March *Bulletin* Deadline**

#### APRIL 2012

#### **Wednesday 11 April 12.30 - 1.30 pm**

‘Brisbane City Hall and the archaeological excavation’

Ann Crook

#### **Thursday 12 April Council Meeting**

#### **Sunday 15 April *Bulletin* deadline**

#### **Sunday 22 April 10.00 am - 3.00 pm**

#### **An Open Day at the Commissariat**

#### **More information next issue**

### YOUR SPEAKER FOR MARCH

Carolyn Nolan is the President of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. Carolyn is a Brisbane historian specialising in commissioned histories. She usually wears green on St Patrick’s Day for obvious reasons and has a healthy regard for the legacy of James the Builder.

#### **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 A/editor</b>	Dr Graeme Nicholson 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

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):**

<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