



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

APRIL 2012 No. 762

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)



Photos: Greg Czechura and Jeff Hopkins-Weise

## MEPHISTO

As the Society is now a member of the First World War Centenary Partnership I think it is appropriate that one of the most famous pieces of captured equipment receives a mention in the lead up to the celebrations.

Mephisto is the name of a German A7V tank captured by Australian troops during fighting to turn back the German spring offensive in April 1918. In one such operation in Monument Wood the 26th Battalion of the 7th Brigade, 2nd Division, mostly from Queensland, found Mephisto (serial number 506) abandoned and on its side. (All German tanks were given individual names by their German crews. Mephisto is another name for Mephistopheles a demon that features in German folklore).

After the tank was captured the soldiers righted it and dragged it back to the battalion area. This was a difficult task as the tank weighed about 30 tonne. The Australian soldiers wanted to take the tank back to Australia, but it was an important piece of memorabilia and the Imperial War Museum wanted it. Therefore, to avoid claims from the UK, it was quickly loaded and sent to Australia, destined for the war memorial in Canberra. However, the ship was diverted to Brisbane and the tank unloaded and dragged to the Queensland Museum. Following the 2011 floods Mephisto was removed from the museum for restoration and should return this year.

This tank is a poignant reminder to me of my grandfather who was killed-in-action, on 25 April, in the same battle. The photo on the left is of Mephisto at the Queensland Museum before the flood, on the right is a replica in the German Panza (Tank) Museum.

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report for April

Your help is sought yet again, this time for any information regarding lost watercolours. There has been a suggestion from a Society member for a presentation later in the year of paintings by George Hart Taylor, an Englishman. In the late 1800s he settled in the Barney View area and began painting in the Boonah and Beaudesert districts. As he became acquainted with more and more people in the district, such as TL Murray Prior and RM Collins, he painted on their properties, creating a wonderful pictorial record of places such as *Maroon*. The account of a walk out from *Tamrookum* that he undertook with five others is printed in the Royal Geographical Society Journal. If you have further knowledge of him or his works our researcher would be delighted.

The National Trust Heritage Festival and Heritage Week are almost upon us, and our April Open Day, which is our major contribution. In the afternoon you are invited to the launch of David Burke's new book, *One American Too Many: Boss Badger and the Brisbane Trams*. There will be a display of the most intricate model trams, all built by member Brian Martin. This is certainly the day for tram lovers to visit The Commissariat Store.

Elsewhere in the *Bulletin* there are details of the forthcoming debate about Rosamond Siemon's story, *The Mayne Inheritance*. Stephen Sheaffe, a lawyer and past president of RHSQ, will challenge the author, at The University of Queensland, and the author, who suggested the idea of the confrontation, will fight back. Whatever the true story may be, and that all will be very interesting, the Society welcomes the chance to remember the bequest to Queensland by the Mayne family of this wonderful site. Flyers for both events have been designed for us by Carol Goodwin, a generous use of her considerable talents.

Work has been carried out towards the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Dig Tree Reserve, and our Society, as the Trustee, welcomes the cooperation and assistance of all the stakeholders including Santos, Kidman, the Bulloo Shire Council, and the Department of Environment and Resource Management. A site inspection in April will include members of the Burke and Wills Historical Society. Incidentally, the *Queensland History Journal* with the Burke and Wills conference papers ran out quickly, partly because we have had many new members, and extra demand from non-members.

Other points of interest include: an episode of *The Great South East* filmed at RHSQ, with Colin McFarlane guiding the crew round the building and the collection. We have taken out membership in the

First World War Centenary Partnership and suggest that other members and affiliates may care to sign up to this as well: <http://www.1914.org/partners/>. Conservation of the *Mephisto* tank at the Queensland Museum is progressing.

This year will see a small increase in membership fees to cover the cost of the GST, which we have been absorbing for some years. Wherever possible we will ensure that members are given a discount at functions held by the Society. I hope that a few members will volunteer to join our Membership Committee. It has a very important role in keeping the database updated and reviewing the interests of all the members.

Happy Easter to you all!

Carolyn Nolan  
President

## Queensland News for April

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

**Cooktown** – A historical article was published recently about the 1876 municipal elections for Cooktown – the town's first. Details had been published in the *Cooktown Herald and Palmer River Advertiser* on 7 June 1876. Voting and declaration of the poll took place at the Cooktown Court House. There were challenges about the eligibility of voters due to the enrolment procedures and details required. Challenges were not considered likely to be successful under the *Municipal Act*. Those elected were: John Walsh (Mayor), Aldermen: Francis Bell, B Davison, ET Gilbert, FC Hodel, E. Pickering, CL Rutherford, L. Severin, C Walsh. (*Cooktown Local News* 22-28 December 2011 p 13 including photograph of Cooktown Court House)

**Dirranbandi** – The Arts Council has won a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to create a marketing plan for the proposed Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct. The plan is intended to promote Dirranbandi and have a logo and colour scheme. The rail land will be landscaped. The goods shed will house railway stock and artifacts and the Parcels Office will remain a gallery and meeting area. The Rural Transaction Centre, formerly the station master's house, will house the database of historical information. (*Balonne Beacon* 9 February 2012 p 2 including colour photograph of Dirranbandi railway station taken from the non-rails side.)

**Gympie** – The Gympie Historical Society has received Regional Arts Development Funds from the Gympie Regional Council for restoration of three artworks: a water colour of Number 1 Phoenix Gold

Claim, 1882, by CGS Hirst; two pencil drawings – Worrum, Royal Mail Stage (1875), and Cummock Cottage (Nash Street), 1876, by JW Laing. Worrum was 13 miles south of Gympie. Cummock Cottage was owned by blacksmith, James Cockburn, and was said to be the first sawn timber house in Gympie. Hirst and Laing were itinerant artists but died as poor men – Laing in 1877 and Hirst in 1890. The conservation work is to be done by RSM Conservation of Mapleton and Brisbane. (*Gympie Times* 21 January 2012 p 13 including photograph)

**Gympie – The Railway Hotel** has been sold to a local investor for \$360,000 who has stated an intention to retain the building's integrity. It is heritage listed for its value as an early 20<sup>th</sup> century hotel with gas pipes and fittings. It was built in 1915-16. (*Gympie Times* 11 February 2012 p 8)

**Mareeba** – The Mareeba and Dimbulah Bendigo Community Bank Tobacco Display was opened at the Mareeba Heritage Centre at the beginning of February 2012. It interprets the industry from 1934 to 2004, telling its social and economic history. It includes a model of Tinaroo Dam which supplied irrigation water for the tobacco industry. An estimated 23,500 hours of work was done over five years to create the display by volunteers from the district. The Bendigo Bank donated \$20,000 for the display. Remzie Mulla, a former tobacco grower, and Mary Thompson of the Mareeba Heritage Centre were extensively involved in the project. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 3 February 2012 pp 1 and 10 including photographs)

**Maryborough** – Maintenance work was programmed for the *Mary Ann* locomotive in February and March 2012. It has been operating for 12 years in Queens Park, Maryborough. *Mary Ann* is a full scale replica built by Peter Olds of the original *Mary Ann* locomotive, the first steam locomotive built in Queensland. William Pettigrew had the locomotive built by Walkers Pty Ltd and it commenced operations the forests near Tin Can Bay in 1873. (*Maryborough Herald* 8 February 2012 p 5)

## Old Government House 150 Years Celebration

On Tuesday 6 May 1862, the *Queensland Guardian* reported that, 'Government House has been, it may be said, completed, inasmuch as His Excellency, family and suite are at present in occupation and have been for several days...The structure is highly creditable to the Colony'. Now, 150 years on, Old Government House remains

'handsome and commodious' and is arguably Queensland's most significant heritage building.

On Sunday 6 May 2012, as a key event in the National Trust's Queensland Heritage Festival, the Queensland University of Technology will officially celebrate the sesquicentenary of this grand house.

**Contact QUT for more information**

## Museum Curator's Report



Poster from Post Office Exhibition  
RHSQ collection

Many people believe that the first office for the handling of letters that arrived in the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement was at the Commissariat Store. The Post Office Exhibition, features this story and the history of the GPO including time line, photos and text. Other topics covered are the story of the Electric Telegraph, the invention of the telephone, the Trans-Atlantic Cable and decimal currency. Objects on display will include postal scales, ink wells, sealing wax and post office signs. This exhibition is now well underway.

The exhibition featuring the Italian Community and sponsored by the Multiculturalism Unit of the Queensland Government has been named *The Italian Presence*. The exhibition will cover important facets of the Italian heritage in Queensland including Immigration, Culture, Religion, and the part Italians played in the sugar, fruit and wine industries of Queensland. This is an exciting exhibition that will be opened on 24 November 2012.

Janice Hess  
Honorary Museum Curator  
Robyn Stephensen  
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

## Research Report for March

It's been very busy with many e-mail requests and some visitors to the library. Most research produced little from our collection, but the search was thorough. Successful searches were for the following: Judge Paul of the Johnsonian Club where we were able to search our newly acquired collection of Johnsonian Club material; the Port of Brisbane and maps of Moreton Bay going back to those of Flinders; *Glenroy House*; the Fellowship of Alec Chisholm; McCormick Place on Roma Street; citation details of an article on the Chubb Family by Drury Clarke in our Journal; and a photo of the *Koopa*.

Last Thursday was particularly busy as we filled a rushed order from the Supreme Court Library for 10 images of early Brisbane for its forthcoming book to be launched at the opening of the new building. Immediately after, we provided several images for the Great South East television team which was preparing material on the Commissariat Store for an episode narrated by Brian Randall of John Oxley Library.

Less successful searches were made for street names in Moorooka; Charles Finamor, presumed owner of the Lutwyche Brick Works; family history for Elsie Mamie Hutton Williams and Thomas John Knox of Rockhampton; *Iona* of Bulimba; family history for Harry Collins of Boonah; portrait of Sir Edward Fergus Sidney Roberts, 1901-1998; occupants of *Craigstone*, Wickham Terrace; and photos of soccer teams 1884-1929.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Researcher

## New History Book

### *Treasures in a Tea Tin*

by Lorna McDonald

Available from City Printing Works and Rockhampton Booksellers rrp \$30.00

Mail Orders (\$34.50) to City Printing Works, PO Box 42, Rockhampton, Qld., 4700

Lorna McDonald is the author of celebrated books of Central Queensland history, including three notable works based on the extensive Archer family papers held in National, State and Norwegian Archives: *Over Earth and Ocean: A Norse-Australian Saga*, *Magic Ships: The Life Story of Colin Archer*, and now *Treasures in a Tea Tin* completing the trilogy. Her detailed research and narrative skills have been honoured by several awards, notably the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1995 and the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for History

Research and Writing in 2007. She is also the author of 25 entries in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

## New Members

Deborah Mills	Albion
Graham Quirk	Eight Mile Plains
Toowoomba Historical Soc.	Toowoomba
Gertrude Behan	Victoria Point
Leslie-Anne Simpson	Hope Island
Jill Barker	Red Hill
Troy Reeves	Gaythorne
Jon Stanford	Auchenflower
Stephen Holden	Paddington
Lyn Robinson	Charters Towers
Nicholas Gattas	Auchenflower
Neville Doughan	Coorparoo
Catherine Yelland	Ashgrove

## QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

to be held at

The Queensland Women's Historical Association Inc  
ABN79118011056

Miegunyah, 35 Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills, Qld.

Telephone: (07) 3252 2979 Facsimile: (07) 3257 4235

[www.miegunyah.org](http://www.miegunyah.org) [qwha@miegunyah.org](mailto:qwha@miegunyah.org)

Morning Talks are held at Miegunyah each month at 11.00 am, preceded by morning tea at 10.30 am, Admission:-Members \$10.00, Non-Members \$12.00 (includes morning tea).

**Costs, Place and Times of other Activities are noted below.**

Thursday 12 April 2012 10.30 for 11.00 am Morning Tea and Talk

"Gallipoli 2005 The 90th Anniversary", recollections of a visit to the landing sites on the Gallipoli Peninsula on this special milestone.

Guest Speaker: Donald Hacker.

Wednesday 25 April to Wednesday 16 May: For National Trust of Queensland Heritage Festival 2012 -Display open on Wed Sat Sun: 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

"Distance Education: Encompassing the Use of Radio" -Visit a display of memorabilia highlighting our history in Queensland and the adaptation of two-way radio to bring services, such as the School of the Air, to isolated communities. Group bookings are welcome on other days. Entry fee - Adults \$6, Children \$2.



## Queensland State Archives

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

### Tours of QSA

Would you like to see behind the scenes at the Archives? Book a tour for your group to view the Runcorn facility and have an archivist take you through the largest documentary heritage collection in the state. Please telephone 07 3131 7777 to book a tour or request more information

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Archivists from around the world will be converging on Brisbane from 20 to 25 August 2012 for the International Council on Archives Congress. As host institution, the National Archives of Australia will welcome delegates to the first such congress to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The aim is to provide an environment that stimulates debate, encourages the exchange of ideas and experience and acknowledges the challenges that face all archives in the 21st century.

<http://www.ica2012.com>

20–25 August 2012

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Cnr Merivale & Glenelg Streets  
South Bank QLD 4101

**Costs involved, bookings essential: Tel: +61 7 3858 5534 or email [info@ica2012.com](mailto:info@ica2012.com)**

## The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

presents

a debate between **Rosamond Siemon** (*author of 'The Mayne Inheritance'*) and **Stephen Sheaffe** (*barrister and historian*)

## Did Patrick Mayne murder Robert Cox ?

**Saturday 12 May - 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm**

Level 2, Auditorium,  
Sir Llew Edwards Building (14),  
Corner of University Drive & Campbell Rd,  
UQ St Lucia campus  
(Free parking available)

Rosamond Siemon, the author of the controversial book, 'The Mayne Inheritance', argued that if it was not for a murder and robbery committed by Patrick Mayne on Sunday 26 March 1848, The University of Queensland would not have been built at St Lucia. She maintains that an innocent man, William Fyfe, was wrongfully hanged for the crime and years later Mayne confessed.

The theme of the book is that Mayne murdered Robert Cox, stole his money and the stolen funds were used as the cornerstone for his massive property empire. The family wealth was gifted to the university so they could acquire the St Lucia land. Was The University of Queensland built on blood money? It is a story of murder, mystery and intrigue?

Stephen Sheaffe, a barrister and historian, challenges this controversial book, and says it should be classified as a novel and not a work of history. He has examined the statements presented at the 1848 inquest into the murder of Cox and the judge's notes of the Fyfe murder trial. He argues there is no evidence to support the contention that Mayne confessed to murder and that he murdered Cox.

Did Patrick Mayne murder Robert Cox or is it all myth making with the tragic consequence that the reputations of the most significant benefactors to the university are being impugned, trashed and defamed?

Try to read the book before you come to the debate

Entry: RHSQ Members \$15 Non-members \$20

RSVP by Wednesday 9 May:

RHSQ Tel: 07 3221 4198 or  
[info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)

*Limited disabled parking available – advise if required when you RSVP.  
Refreshments included in ticket price*

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

#### APRIL 2012

**Wednesday 11 April 12.30 - 1.30 pm**

‘The History and Archaeology of Brisbane City Hall ‘  
Ben Hall

**Thursday 12 April Council Meeting**

**Sunday 15 April *Bulletin* deadline**

**Sunday 22 April At Home**

‘Quirky Innovations and Inventions from Queensland’s  
Convict and Colonial Past’

#### MAY 2012

**Sunday 6 May 9.00 am - 11.00 am**

Celebrations for 150 years of occupation of Old  
Government House

**Wednesday 9 May 12.30 - 1.30 pm**

‘Emily Congeau, lyricist of Bribie Island’  
Lynne Hooper

**Thursday 10 May Council Meeting**

**Saturday 12 May 1.00 - 3.30 pm**

Debate at The Queensland University, see page 5 above

**Tuesday 15 May *Bulletin* Deadline**

### YOUR SPEAKER FOR MARCH

**Ben Hall is a director of Converge  
Heritage+Community. He was manager of the  
recent excavation of the Brisbane City Hall.**

#### AT HOME 22 APRIL

**This ‘At Home’ is part of the National Trust of  
Queensland’s Festival celebrated from 18 April  
to 18 May. Australian Heritage Week is from  
Saturday 14 to Sunday 22 April**

#### 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

**Open:** 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