

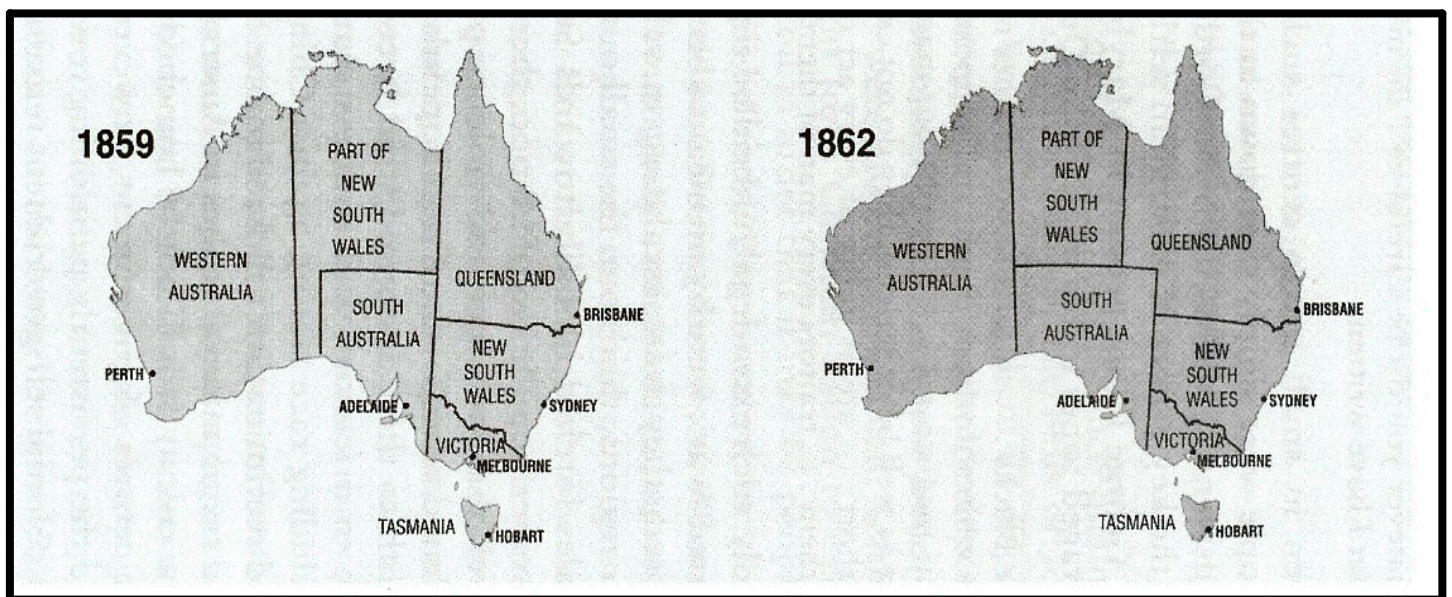


THE RHSQ

Bulletin

MAY 2012 No. 763

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



Picture from: The Australian Encyclopaedia

IT IS 150 YEARS THIS YEAR SINCE QUEENSLAND BECAME THE SIZE WE KNOW IT NOW

Many people are unaware that the area of Queensland increased by 302,600 sqkm on 13 March 1862, 150 years ago, when Queen Victoria signed a document (called Letters Patent) enabling this expansion. After some delays in transit, Governor Bowen received the Letters Patent and published this document in the Queensland Government Gazette, Vol 3, on Monday 23 June 1862.

This document authorised the move of Queensland's western border, north of a line along the 26 south latitude, from longitude 141 east to longitude 138 east. The new area of Queensland was then 1,730,648 sqkm. The new border area was not fully surveyed until 1887.

The original Letters Patent cannot be found.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report for April

Heritage has been celebrated in April, throughout Queensland and indeed nationally and the Governor held a gathering at Government House to celebrate twenty years of the *Heritage Act*. It is pleasing to see that restoration work has resumed on the retaining wall behind The Commissariat Store, and (Stop Press: Diary Note) 'Our Convict Heritage' is the theme for our Seminar this year, to be held on Saturday 2 June. Past president Ian Hadwen has assembled a formidable array of speakers. Book early as we are allowed only 100 people in the building at any one time and with well over 500 members places go very fast. The At Home to be held in conjunction with the Queensland Heritage Council, 'Celebrating Our Heritage', will be on Saturday 25 August, at RHSQ. These occasions give people time to appreciate our exhibitions as well as the building itself.

The Mayne Inheritance Debate, between author Rosamond Siemon and barrister, historian and our past President Stephen Sheaffe, takes place at The University of Queensland, on Saturday 12 May from 1.00 - 3.30 pm. Did Patrick Mayne murder Robert Cox? Vice President, barrister Richard Morgan will adjudicate and that is the day to ask any questions you may have.

The plan for four members of the RHSQ Dig Tree Advisory Committee to visit the Dig Tree Reserve eventuated. Botanist and Arborist Adam Tom inspected the tree and pronounced it to be thriving. There is always work to be done in the Reserve and it is refreshing to see Santos Ltd, Kidman and Co, the Bulloo Shire Council, and of course DERM, who had brought out the tree specialist, working with the Society as Trustee to ensure this continues. The Burke and Wills Historical Society is also keen to help and four of their members arranged to meet us out there. Some of the roads are still impassable but there is hope of an RHSQ trip there next year, which could incorporate visits to the (fairly) nearby grave sites of Robert O'Hara Burke and William Wills.

My recent sojourn in Adelaide reminded me of many links between South Australia and Queensland. Just one instance was *Cummins House*, until recently home of the Morphett family and now cared for by the Cummins Society. Anyone interested in Charles Brown Fisher and the Australian Pastoral Company's vast holdings in Queensland would really enjoy this beautifully presented place.

Closer to home, we were pleased to be shown the plans to make the North Quay ferry terminal more accessible, with due regard for what remains both in

and on that part of the river bank. This will greatly benefit National Trust Queensland and ourselves, and anything that opens up this historic and forgotten area in the vicinity of Queens Wharf Road will be most acceptable. The view from the river of Brisbane's historic North Bank is well known to historians, and deserves greater promotion.

Plans are well underway for our centenary next year and a Centenary Committee has been formed, headed by Helen McMonagle from our Council. If you would care to be involved, would like to know more, or have ideas to share please contact our Manager, Christina Michie, Helen or me.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for April

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

Cairns Hinterland Photographs – Mareeba Historical Society has a collection of glass plate negatives and slides from World War I which they are seeking to identify. They include war scenes, cartoons, songs, fantasy, jokes and a series on Chillagoe, Irvinebank and Kuranda, and Holland. The collection was donated in 1995 and the Society is planning to conserve the collection. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 10 February 2012 p 1)

Cardwell – The Cardwell and District Historical Society has had a very traumatic time during the reconstruction of the JC Hubinger Museum (the old Cardwell Divisional Board building dating from 1892) by the Cassowary Coast Shire Council. The building constructed out of new materials and to cyclone standards is now complete and the Historical Society has received the keys. There have been many Letters to the Editor of the *Tully Times* about the issue where the reactions of local Cardwell people and Society members have been expressed. Further impact on the cultural heritage values of Cardwell town have been reported on with regard to the reconstruction of the Bruce Highway on the fore shore and damage to the natural environment and the removal of historical monuments. (*Tully Times* 15 December 2011 p 8, 2 February 2012 p 6 and 15 March 2012 p 4)

Cooktown – The Historical Society has been featuring significant Cooktown figures in its weekly contribution to the *Cooktown Local News*. Adolph Feilberg, editor of the *Cooktown Courier* from September 1876 to June 1877 was featured in the *Cooktown Local News* issue for 9-15 February 2012.

He arrived in Australia in 1867 and became editor of the *Wide Bay and Burnett News* from November 1870 to 1875. After leaving Cooktown he was a Hansard reporter for three months before becoming a writer for the *Brisbane Courier* and the *Queenslander*. In 1878 he was appointed by the Queensland Premier, John Douglas, as Government Envoy to New Guinea during the gold rush. He also moved to Melbourne to write for *The Argus* from June 1882 to June 1883. He then moved back to Brisbane as editor of the *Brisbane Courier* and the *Queenslander*. He wrote the pamphlet, *The Way We Civilize: Black and White, The Native Police* published in Brisbane in December 1880. His legacy in Queensland is his significant body of newspaper articles and editorials on the issue of human rights and abuses towards islanders (including Kanakas) and indigenous people in Queensland. He died in 1887 aged 43 years. (*Cooktown Local News* 9-15 February 2012 p 8 including photograph)

Cooktown – Christmas 1939 – Aboriginals celebrated Christmas through the generosity of Topsy Cook, formerly of Laura and in 1939 of Subiaco, Western Australia. She had left Laura 50 years earlier with the Cowley family after her parents were believed to have been killed in local conflict. She later moved to the James family in Subiaco. In August 1939 she wrote to the Cooktown Protector of Aborigines asking about her brother Larry, a Tracker with the Police Force. (He had died several years earlier.) Larry's wife Jinny lived at Cooktown. Topsy Cook provided 30 shillings for Christmas treats for the Aboriginies. These were distributed by the Protector, Sergeant Meade. (*Cooktown Local News* 15-21 March 2012 p 9)

Goomeri celebrated the centenary of its school on 3 March 2012. Senator John Hogg MP attended and opened the new Resource Centre. A history book, *Goomeri State School P-10 – Celebration of 100 Years* was produced for the occasion. (*Gympie Times* 3 March 2012 pp 17 and 19 including photographs)

Gympie State High School celebrated its centenary during March 2012. RHSQ member, Dr Elaine Brown, prepared a centenary history book for the occasion. The new state high school in 1912 had been established to provide students with 'good industry' with a secondary education. The old school building was burnt to the ground on 18 May 1955. (*Gympie Times* 3 March 2012 pp 29-30 including photographs)

Gympie – East Deep Creek – Nolans Meats was judged Queensland Exporter of the Year in 2011 for its innovation in the Vale products. The name, Vale, refers to the *Appolonian Vale* Hotel (known as

the 'Vale') opposite the shop where Pat Nolan completed his apprenticeship. The Nolan family had butcher shops in Duke and Mary Streets, Gympie and bought the East Deep Creek slaughter yard in the 1960s. It was upgraded to an abattoir in 1981. A tannery had existed in the area from 1884 and a slaughter year was believed to exist in proximity. In 1908 the slaughter yard was licensed to Tom Wallace. Norman Lister took over in 1933. (*Gympie Times* 11 February 2012 p 15 including photograph)

James Cook's Medal – On 20 January 1780, ten days after receipt of the news of James Cook's death, the Royal Society in London resolved that a medal be struck to commemorate Cook's achievements. It is said to have been the only time that a medal has been struck by that Society for the commemoration of a person's life. The Cook medal was designed by Lewis Pingo, Chief Engraver of the London Mint. Instructions for the striking of the medal were given in November 1783. Five gold ones were presented to HM King George III and Queen Charlotte, one to the Prince of Wales, one to the French King and one to the Empress of Russia. Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, arranged for a second set of gold medals to be struck. One was presented to Captain Cook's widow. On her death her medal passed to the British Museum. In all 22 gold, 322 silver and 577 bronze medals were struck. Mitchell Library in Sydney holds three gold, eight silver and eight bronze medals. James Cook's face is on one side of the medal together with the words, IAC COOK OCEANI INVESTIGATOR ACERRIMVS and on the reverse NIE INTENTATVM NOSTRI LIQVERE. (*Cooktown Local News* 8-14 March 2012 p 14)

North Rockhampton – Rockhampton City Council voted to demolish the old North Rockhampton railway station building which they own. Council estimated \$128,000 to repair the building and \$60,000 to demolish it. Mayoral candidate Margaret Strelow has spoken out in favour of preserving the building and allocating it to a community group to use. (*Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton) 29 March 2012 p 3 including photograph and 3 April 2012 p 4)

Palmer Goldfield – Sub-Collector of Customs in Cooktown, B Fahey, reported that in the first four years of the Palmer Goldfield 608,696 ounces (18,930,445 grams) of gold was found. However, this figure did not include the gold taken out by miners who returned south or passengers taking it overseas from Cooktown. The Chinese sent their gold out of Australia through storekeepers to Hong Kong where it realized £4.8.0 compared to £3.17.0 in Cooktown.

The population of the Palmer declined following the discovery of the Hodgkinson goldfield and the opening of the Herberton tinfield. In 1883 there were only 400 European and 1,040 Chinese and in 1884 296 Europeans and 907 Chinese on the Palmer Goldfield. By 1896 there were only 244 Europeans, 176 women and children and 526 Chinese of which 86 were gardeners or storekeepers. The Australian Joint Stock (AJS) Bank opened in Maytown on the Palmer Goldfield on 30 April 1876 and the Queensland National Bank and the Bank of New South Wales later that year. Large quantities of gold were carried on the gold escort to Cooktown in 1877 eg. the *Cooktown Courier* of 8 May 1877 reported 8,580 ounces of gold on one escort alone. The banks closed as the field declined – AJS on 12 August 1878, Bank of New South Wales in February 1884 and the Queensland National Bank in 1894. (*Cooktown Local News* 23-29 February 2012 p 14 including photograph of the Australian Joint Stock Bank)

Rockhampton – The Historical Society is currently undertaking a significance assessment of its collection. A grant was received for the purpose. The Society also received a Community Development Fund grant of \$2,000 from the Rockhampton City Council. Due to the structural damage to the Borough Chambers door a new one has been constructed according to heritage requirements. (Rockhampton and District Historical Society *Newsletter* February 2012)

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



Natalie Lynch with model ‘Confinement’

The museum has a new installation entitled *Confinement* by Queensland College of Art, Griffith University artist Natalie Lynch. It is a replica of the solitary confinement cells used by the prisoners at the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement. The model features a reproduction miniature of the painting *Woolshed, New South Wales* 1890 by R Godfrey Rivers in one of the cells. Lynch makes comparisons between Rivers’ painting of *Woolshed, New South Wales* 1890 and his later painting *Under the Jacaranda* of 1903. This interesting display will be available for viewing until the end of June.

The Post Office Exhibition is almost completed and will be available for viewing on 15 May. It covers many areas of the post office in Queensland with objects such as a red phone from the 1970s, post office scales, stamps, photographs, text and posters. The history of the GPO is also a feature. During the past month meetings of the Museum Committee have been held and policies presented to Council.

Janice Hess

Honorary Museum Curator

Robyn Stephensen

Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

Research Report for April

Research emails queries keep coming in, not only from members of the Society, but mostly from the general public. The queries are wide ranging, some answers are found in our collection, but generally we have to direct the enquirer to other repositories. Fortunately, the members of the

Research Team have a wide background in research into Queensland history so we can provide a very high level of support.

The queries this month include the following: the Pettigrew Diaries for information on Woogaroo and Wolston (fortunately our transcriptions of these diaries make the task easier); James Gibbon of Teneriffe House at New Farm; A E Moore (this enquirer is a member who has been helped with some very good material and our efforts have been rewarded with a much appreciated donation); the Sacred Heart Church at Christmas Creek; Aboriginal removals c 1800 and Keppel Island; William Saville-Kent and Fisheries; the Brisbane River between Wivenhoe and Mt Crosby; F W Wilson and his biscuit factory; Kenneth Darwin Crossman and Ruby May Crossman nee Gossner; and Margaret Antill later the wife of Nugent Wade-Brown. An interesting mix.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Researcher

New Members

Patricia J Coates	Doonan
Carol Gistitin	Beechmont
Ken Smith	Melba, ACT
Gerard Benjamin	Newstead
Natalie Lynch	Cornubia
Darren Timms	Thornlands
Chrissy and Chuck Euston	Mt Cotton
Brian Martin	Corinda
Stephen Hibberd	Bald Hills

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 is available)**

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**

Limited disabled parking available – advise if required when you RSVP.

Refreshments included in ticket price

Coming Events

At the Commissariat

'Our Convict Heritage'

is the theme for our Seminar this year, to be held on Saturday 2 June. There will be a number of speakers on this day. Also, an exhibition, 'Reflections of Outback Queensland' by Patricia Coates will be a feature on this day.

See a full schedule in next month's Bulletin. Book early as we are only allowed 100 people in the building at any one time.

'The August At Home'

The 'At Home' to be held in conjunction with the Queensland Heritage Council, 'Celebrating Our Heritage', will be on Saturday 25 August, at RHSQ. These occasions give people time to appreciate our exhibitions as well as the building itself.

At the National Archives of Australia

Revisit the Boer War after 110 years at a lecture entitled 'The Boer War : Australia's First War'

To be held on:

Wednesday 16 and Saturday 19 May, 10.00 - 11.00 am at the National Archives, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill. Free entry, bookings essential, telephone 3249 4226

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

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

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 Cungeau, lyricist of Bribie Island'
Lynne Hooper
Thursday 10 May Council Meeting
Saturday 12 May 1.00 - 3.30 pm
Debate at Queensland University, see page 5 above
Tuesday 15 May *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR SPEAKER FOR MAY

Lynne Hooper, secretary of the Bribie Island Historical Society is your speaker for the May 9 talk. Lynne will talk about Emily Cungeau who was very well known in Brisbane and acclaimed as a prolific and popular poet and lyricist, a patron of the arts and a benefactor to her church and community.

Contact details:

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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	\$250.00
Life membership – purchased after 10 years	\$5,000.00