



THE RHSQ

# *Bulletin*

JUNE 2012 No. 764

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)



Picture: Graeme Nicholson

## NEW PICTURE ADDED TO THE RHSQ COLLECTION

This picture of His Excellency Colonel Samuel Wensley Blackall has recently been added to the RHSQ Collection. Governor Blackall was the second Governor of Queensland commencing duties on 14 August 1868. By 1870 he was in very bad health and shortly after selecting the highest burial site at Toowong Cemetery he died on 2 January 1871. There is a beautiful monument erected in his memory. Governor Blackall's time as governor was a rather disruptive time as there was a deadlock in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, but he had several places named in his honour, including the town of Blackall, the Blackall Range and Blackall Terrace.

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report for May

We are now very conscious about how we have performed as a Society during almost 100 years and how we should prepare for the next. In some ways we are in a very fortunate position with a steadily growing membership and new members who span the age groups and bring to us a wide range of skills. If we are to keep pace it is vital to keep up with the new technology and the recent grant monies have enabled us to have first rate equipment. It is up to us to make the best use of it to project history both out to the wider community and to those who visit us in William Street. At the same time the Honorary Editors of our printed *Queensland History Journal* manage skillfully to accommodate the increased pictorial content of many of the fine presentations that emanate from the Commissariat Store.

Our long lease of the Commissariat building in the heart of the city is another distinct bonus, with its excellent lecture space and museum. This needs further promotion and the imminent declaration of the immediate area as a Historic Precinct should work very much in our favour.

Money is tight everywhere and your Council has made every effort to see that in our case it has been spent wisely and our investments kept secure. We have been adamant that wherever it is possible the user must pay, and your Honorary Treasurer, Barrie Rollason, has made sure that the budget projections put forward by each section of the Society are adhered to.

Our friends are many, and it seems especially when we are pressed for space, and this was demonstrated clearly with the recent debate about The Mayne Inheritance, where The University of Queensland made a large auditorium available at no charge. We filled it to capacity, thanks to the promise of engaging speakers. The Brisbane Club will be our venue for the Queensland Day Dinner, and once again the generous sponsorship by the Queensland State Archives makes this viable.

Many volunteers, some members, some not, have given us the benefit of their knowledge and skills, giving a level of presentation that we could never have otherwise experienced. While some work on our museum items or give radio interviews, others help the researchers and museum visitors; others catalogue and sort material and edit, some prepare material for display, some mend furniture while others mend web sites and coax recalcitrant machines, alongside others processing paperwork and money, and publications. This does make the Society a vibrant one, and we are keenly aware of all that is done for us, at no cost, particularly when people

move on and there is a gap to be filled. Sometimes this is after a long stint with us, sometimes after a very short and yet productive one. It is very much a two-way involvement, ably coordinated by Christina Michie and Katherine Pharey in the office.

Enjoy the Diamond Jubilee. There is something very special about being Royal.

Carolyn Nolan  
President

## Queensland News for May

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

**Coen** – There are 26 known graves and 14 headstones within the old Coen cemetery. It is thought that there may be more outside of the fence. Cooktown and District Historical Society undertook a study several years ago of the people buried there and published it and have republished it in the *Cooktown Local News* 12-18 April 2012 on page 8. The earliest marked grave is of seven year old John Alexandra Thomas Hazledine who died in October 1896. Other marked graves are:

Michael Gregory **Brady** died on 18 January 1910 aged 66 years. He had been a carrier and Maytown coach driver.

Robert Blair **Allan** died on 5 January 1899 aged 12 years. His father Robert had the first crushing plant at Coen. His mother, Bridget, was killed in a shooting accident in 1902. Robert's sister, May, married Sam Thompson. Their daughter, Irene **Taylor** who died in 2003 is also buried in the cemetery.

Jessie Muire **Bryant** died on 12 February 1901 aged 32 years. Her husband was Joseph Bryant.

Constable JWH **Herring** died on 12 May 1903 aged 27 years.

Amelia Georgina **Thompson** and Herbert James **Thompson** died on 17 May 1951 aged 75 years and 7 October 1954 aged 78 years, respectively. They were the publicans of the Exchange Hotel for many years up to 1921.

(*Cooktown Local News* 12-18 April 2012 p.8)

**Cooktown** – In 1874 Cooktown was said to have had 64 hotels. Licences were issued every six months then so the number of actual hotel buildings is likely to have been around 32. Licences changed often and new hotels were constructed rapidly in Cooktown that year. Unlicensed 'shanties' were forced out of existence in 1874 by the police, although some still existed on the Palmer Road. Each hotel had to provide a dining room, at least four bedrooms, sitting rooms, toilets and a bar. The

licencee also had to own the land on which the hotel was situated. Today's hotels – *Sovereign* (built by Henry Poole) and *West Coast* (built by Peter Chevesich) have existed since 1874. The *White Horse* hotel was constructed in 1874 by A Threadgold on the site of the current *Cooktown* hotel. It became the *Commercial* Hotel in 1884-5 with JE Keating as licencee. In 1889 he added another story. (*Cooktown Local News* 22-28 March 2012 p.7 including photograph of *White Horse* Hotel around 1879).

**Eidsvold** – The Eidsvold & District Historical Society is having an exhibition in August – September at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre and will feature maps, photographs and equipment and a 'Miners' Camp' of the Eidsvold Goldfield. It will be opened on 18 August 2012. On 17 November there will be a parade from the Museum Complex to the Showgrounds. (Eidsvold & District Historical Society – Evelyn Bancroft, Honorary Secretary - Letter Update – 30 March 2012)

**Rockhampton** – Long-standing President, John Fletcher is retiring at the 2012 AGM. He has advanced the Society over many years and dealt with the problems of the 2011 flood. Fay Griffiths who has digitised much of the Society's collection is also retiring.

Dresses made for the McCamley sisters by leading dressmaker, Gwen Gillam, are to be exhibited in a Queensland Museum display.

Rees R & Sydney Jones, the oldest legal firm in Queensland still bearing its original name, is relocating from the old National Bank building in Quay Street to newer premises in Denham Street. (Rockhampton & District Historical Society Inc *Newsletter* March 2012)

**Rossville near Cooktown** – The new Rossville Historical Museum was planned to be opened on 19 May at 11.00 am on the regular market day. The Society President is Jean Haack who has worked very hard with the team including Richie Hatfield, Ken White and Sandy Lloyd. (*Cooktown Local News* 3-9 May 2012 p.4)

### Suburban History

**Tingalpa – Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group Inc. - Christ Church** – The Heritage Group held its AGM on 14 April 2012. Jackie Butler was reelected President and welcomed Anglican Church representatives Reverend Tom Sullivan and Ruth Kerr, and elected politicians for the area, Councillor John Campbell (Councillor for Doboy), Steve Minnikin MP (Member for Chatsworth) and Ross Vasta MP (Member for Bonner). The Group presented a Honorary Life Membership to Councillor John Campbell of

Brisbane City Council for his long standing support and encouragement. The Group has commissioned a Conservation Management Plan for the Christ Church (Anglican) Cemetery. Ben Gall of Converge Archaeology spoke about the plan and showed members the location of possible further grave sites. A historical leaflet is being prepared on the layout of the cemetery.

### New Members

Dan Kelly (Boolarong)  
Annette McGinn  
John Coe  
David Storer and Mary Barram  
Paul Wayne Evans  
Dianne Clancy  
Phillip Barker

Moorooka  
Sinnamon Park  
Ingham  
Teneriffe  
Arana Hills  
Taringa  
Samford

### Museum Curator's Report

**POST OFFICE  
IN QUEENSLAND**

**COMMISSARIAT STORE MUSEUM**  
115 WILLIAM STREET BRISBANE  
(OPPOSITE CONRAD TREASURY HOTEL)

OPEN:  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
10.00AM - 4.00PM  
CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND  
MONDAY. VISIT US ONLINE AT  
WWW.RHSQ.QLD.GOV.AU  
EXHIBITION CLOSURE 2013  
PIE 07 3221 4198

POSTER: DESIGNED BY MEGAN HESS

Poster: Designed by Megan Hess

The exhibition entitled *POST OFFICE IN QUEENSLAND* has now been installed and ready for viewing. This is a very interesting exhibition which highlights the following areas: History of the General Post Office in Queensland with timeline, Trans



Atlantic Cable, The Electric Telegraph, Cobb and Co, the Telephone, the Post Office in WWII and Decimal Currency.

There is a photographic display of black and white photographs of Post Offices in Queensland from the RHSQ collection. Interesting objects such as a fob watch, which was given to James Hume, a former employee of the Post Master General, when he retired in 1955. Scales, medals, stationery, weights, posters, coins, text and stamps all come together to make this an exhibition not to be missed.

Janice Hess  
Honorary Museum Curator  
Robyn Stephensen  
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

## Research Report for May

The Thursday research day continues to be busy with the library and archives being well utilised. There have been some visitors and many email requests with some satisfying results, including the following:

The following information was found for visitors: information on George Alfred Reynolds accessed in the PO Directories; success by a researcher on Aboriginal pre-history and culture; two images of Sir Samuel Griffith ordered and ready for delivery; images of Irvinebank tramway wagons supplied; information for family history which was unsuccessful for Robert Johnston, but very successful for a related request on Alexander Watt (1831-1918), a sugar pioneer of Bannockburn, Albert River District; on CA Brown, Silversmith and on Silverspur, although no success on the presence of an Indian population. Less successful was a search for information on Gailey, a radio pioneer.

Successful searches for email requests included: information supplied on a reference to Thomas Budd in a Municipal Appeals Court document which assisted some family research; information on the Inlander magazine in relation to Rev John Flynn's sermons. Research for Sacred Heart Church, Christmas Creek, located family names of settlers to be followed up later.

Less successful was for a request from the UK for information on Minnie Camp, but links to possible sites supplied and gratefully received; no specific names were available in library documents on Aboriginal trackers during the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. No success in locating information on David and Janet Chalmers, on Wesleyan Church, Kangaroo

Point or on a Hogarth painting which we do not possess.

The research officers were able to assist in locating records and photographs on Rosemount Military Hospital for a request from the Department of Veteran Affairs, Canberra, though no records are held in the RHSQ.

Val Donovan  
Honorary Research Officer

## New History Book

*Surveying Success: The Hume Family in Colonial Queensland*

**Hilary J Davies**

*Surveying Success: The Hume Family in Colonial Queensland* 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 elegant houses 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 via the Brisbane History Group website  
<http://www.brisbanehistory.asn.au/bhgpub.html> or

through Boolarong Press –  
<http://www.boolarongpress.com.au>

## 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.

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

#### Local History - Records of Regional Queensland

Saturday 16 and Wednesday 20 June 10.00 - 11.00 am at the National Archives, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill. Free entry, bookings essential, telephone 3249 4226

‘At this seminar we will use the Warwick/Stanthorpe district to illustrate the type and variety of records we hold for researching local history, such as mail service files, post & telegraph, migrant groups, military and militia, and investigation files.’

### At the Queensland Women’s Historical Association

Thursday 14 June 10.30 am  
 Morning Tea and Talk

**Trailblazers** - Outstanding Australian Women including Caroline Chisholm, Nell Tritton, Margaret Ogg, Quentin Bryce : the lives of extraordinary Australian women who have been pioneers and inspiring role models of their time.

Guest Speaker: Susanna de Vries

Members \$10.00 / Non-members \$12.00 includes morning tea

### At the Queensland State Archives Seminar for Queensland Day

Date: Wednesday 6 June

Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Location: Queensland State Archives Lecture Theatre 2

Details:

Come and celebrate Queensland Day with Queensland State Archives with a seminar and tour of the Archives.

Entry is free. Tea and coffee available following the seminar. To book, please call 07 3131 7777.

### Using Microform Workshop:

Date: Thursday 21 June

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

Location: Queensland State Archives Public Search Room

Details:

Queensland State Archives has a variety of microform equipment available for use in the Public Search Room. Learn how to use the Archives’ microform equipment, including printing, scanning and saving documents to a USB.

You will be required to bring your own USB device.

Entry is free. Bookings essential due to limited spaces for a maximum of six attendees. To book please call 07 3131 7777 or [email info@archives.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au).

### The MacArthur Museum

The MacArthur Museum Brisbane this year is commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in Brisbane of General Douglas MacArthur to command the South West Pacific Theatre of operations during World War II.

To commemorate this important event in Brisbane’s history, the MacArthur Museum Brisbane has planned a number of activities, one of which is a seminar to be held on Saturday, 21 July 2012 in conjunction with the Royal United Service Institute (Queensland).

The theme for the seminar is:

#### ‘General MacArthur - Agent of Change’

More information is available on the Museum’s website:

[http://www.macarthurmuseumbrisbane.org/macarthur\\_arrives.html](http://www.macarthurmuseumbrisbane.org/macarthur_arrives.html)

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**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**



### IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

**Saturday 2 June 10.00 am - 3.00 pm**  
RHSQ Annual Seminar  
**‘Our Convict Heritage’**  
**Wednesday 6 June 6.45 pm for 7.15 pm**  
Queensland Day Dinner  
**Monday 11 June**  
Queen’s Diamond Jubilee holiday  
**Wednesday 13 June Talk 12.30 - 1.30 pm**  
**‘Oscar Fristrom’**  
Ross Johnston  
**Thursday 14 June Council Meeting**  
**Friday 15 June *Bulletin* Deadline**

### YOUR SPEAKER FOR JUNE

**Our June guest speaker is Ross Johnston who will speak about the Swedish artist Oscar Fristrom. As winner of the 2011 John Oxley Library Award Ross is currently researching Fristrom’s life and work and in particular his Aboriginal paintings, many of which he has rediscovered.**

#### 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>
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<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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#### Subscriptions (including GST):

<b>Ordinary Member</b>	\$66.00
<b>Partner of Member</b>	\$22.00
<b>Junior Member (U18)</b>	\$11.00
<b>Full-time Student (U25)</b>	\$33.00
<b>Affiliated Society</b>	\$55.00
<b>Subscription fee for libraries</b>	\$66.00
<b>Corporate/Institutions</b>	\$275.00
<b>Life membership – purchased after 10 years</b>	\$5,500.00