

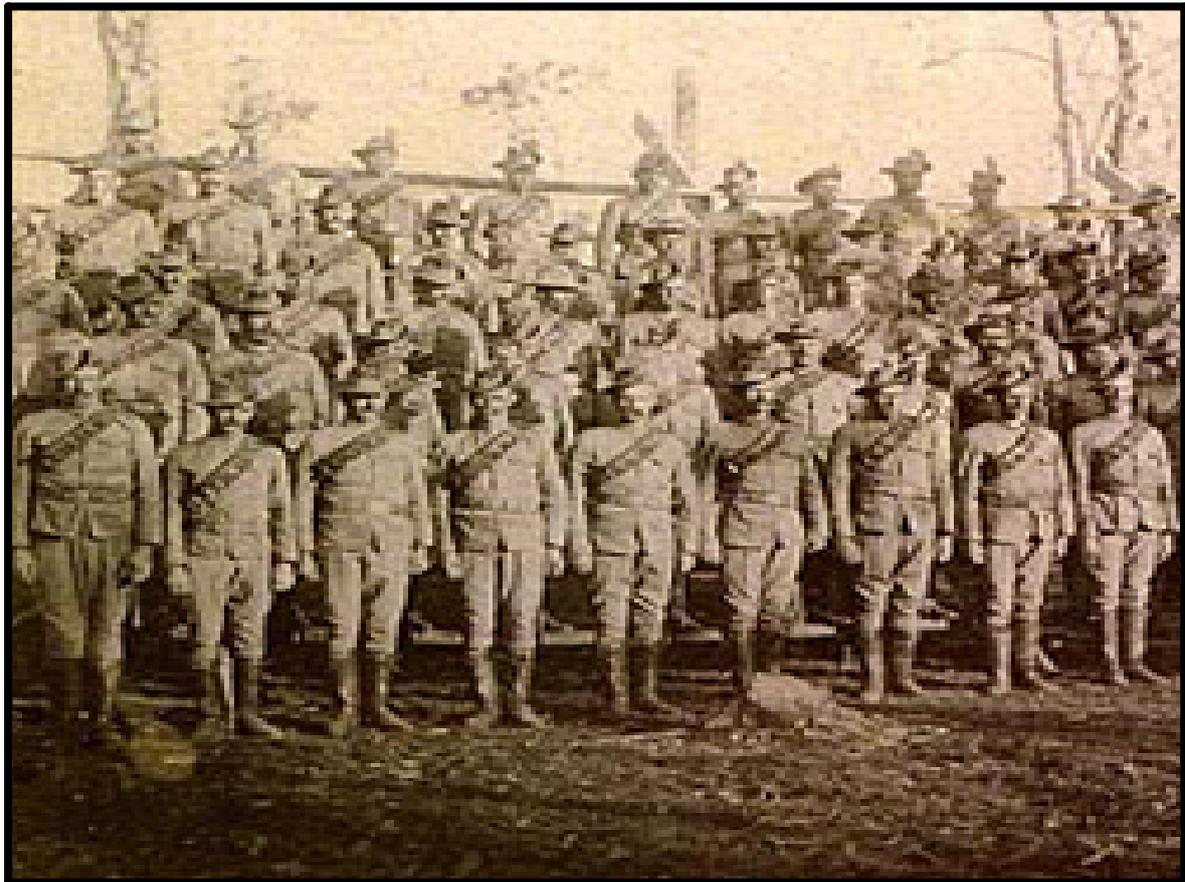


THE RHSQ

Bulletin

JULY 2012 No. 765

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



(Photo: NAA: A 1715, 64)

‘B’ Company , Queensland Contingent headed for the Second Boer War, Brisbane 1899

The Second Boer War (11 October 1899 - 31 May 1902) was the first war Australians fought in with colonial contingents and then as a nation. The first contingent from Queensland was called the 1st Queensland Mounted Infantry and consisted of 282 volunteers led by Lieutenant Colonel PR Ricardo. They left for South Africa on 1 November 1899 and returned on 17 January 1901. Casualties consisted of four killed-in-action and five who died of disease. With concentration camps, attacks against civilians and a ‘scorched earth’ policy, it set a standard for war in the 20th century. (The first Boer War was fought from 16 December 1880 to 23 March 1881).

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report for June

The Queensland Day Dinner seems by all accounts to have been an unqualified success with members and friends from many organisations celebrating together, with the added bonus of the address for the Diamond Jubilee by our Patron. Many of you will have heard by now that W Ross Johnston is the John Kerr Medalist for 2012. A wonderful historian, and very much appreciated, judging by the loud applause that greeted the announcement of the award. His work on Oskar Fristrom is eagerly awaited, and his recent talk to the Society about the artist provoked animated discussion afterwards.



Photograph: Bill Elliot

Our Patron, the Governor, Ms Penelope Wensley AC with Ruth Kerr and the recipient of the John Kerr Medal, W Ross Johnston.

Next year, in our Centenary year, the Queensland Day Dinner will be held at the newly restored Brisbane City Hall. This booking has been made well in advance to enable as many of you as possible to come, from near and far, so please treat this as the official date claimer.

Thank you to all who have sent in subscriptions so promptly, and to the many members who have supported our recent events. We have just enjoyed excellent speakers at the annual Seminar, analysing and explaining our convict heritage, including the little talked about Women's Prison and Agricultural Establishment at Eagle Farm. The Commissariat Store provided the perfect setting and much of the material will be published before long in the *Queensland History Journal*. The majority of the papers are already with the editors.

Since the seminar, new precast concrete panels have been put in place below William Street, and all the time we are getting closer to the reinstatement of the stone retaining wall. It is a sobering reminder of just how much damage was done to our State's

heritage in January last year. The Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Honourable Dr Bruce Flegg, has paid a recent visit to The Commissariat Store to acquaint himself with the building and also its maintenance and has expressed his strong interest in our activities.

Councillor Amanda Cooper from the Brisbane City Council has assured us that the five signs for the Historic Precinct are nearly finished and it is hoped that they will be in place by the time of the next Brisbane Open House in October. This will give added emphasis to the importance of the history and heritage in the North Bank area.

For our 25 August 'At Home' this year we have collaborated with the Queensland Heritage Council, and in particular Judith McKay, to put together another very varied programme: 'Celebrating Our Heritage'. Speakers drawn from both organisations include Fiona Gardiner about the history of heritage; John Pearn, about the Commissariat Store; John Slaughter, about a heritage-listed house; Paddy Waterson, underwater heritage; Peter Marquis-Kyle, lighthouse heritage; Peter Ogilvie, National Parks; Hilary Davies, Gympie heritage; Howard Guille, workers' heritage; Stuart Lummis, Catholic heritage; Ruth Kerr, mining heritage; Emily Jukes will speak about adapting heritage; and I will give a short talk about the Dig Tree. Do come!

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for June

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

Cooktown – A smooth-bore 24 pound muzzle loader cannon is displayed beside Captain Cook's monument in Cooktown. A Garrison battery was formed in Cooktown in November 1883 as part of north Queensland's defence. By 1885 there were three officers headed by Captain Ralston and 40 in other ranks. There were other batteries in Bowen, Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. It is thought that the cannon arrived in 1885 with three cannon balls. The *Cooktown Independent* of 14 April 1888 recorded that there was a dozen members of the battery. By the end of the year the battery went into recess probably because there was no drill hall. Captain Olive retrieved all the uniforms and arms and the battery ceased to exist in 1889. In May 1889 all the equipment except the cannon was taken to Townsville by Sergeant Major Marshall of Cairns. (*Cooktown Local News* 5-11 April 2012 p.7 including photograph)

Longreach – A Qantas Jumbo 747 at the Qantas Outback Founders Museum is being stabilised after the nose wheel and the 30 tonne slab of concrete it is sitting on were seen to be subsiding. Four seasons of wet weather and the possibility of a disused fuel tank beneath may be the cause. The existing slab is to be attached to pylons underneath. A new slab will be placed on top of the existing one to provide a foundation. The cost to the Museum is between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The Museum is losing revenue as it hasn't been able to allow tourists access to a major asset. (*Longreach Leader* 1 June 2012 p.1 including photograph)

Mareeba – The Heritage Centre, Historical Society and community organisations joined together for a Heritage Day on 9 June. It was a whole day event celebrating Queensland life historically, with the penny farthing bike, blacksmith, spinners and weavers, bush poets, bush dancing, Town Crier and live entertainment. The *Tablelands Advertiser* of 8 June 2012 had a front page spread featuring Mareeba Heritage Centre and Tourist Information Centre volunteers Ellen Duff, Mary Thompson and Jackie Morris in historic dress as a dairy maid, floozy and madam. They were to take part with others performing a 'Laughing Look at History, along with 'James Venture Mulligan' (explorer). (*Tablelands Advertiser* 8 June 2012 p.1)

Ravenshoe – A carriage and four wagons came off the line on 3 June on return of the heritage train from Tomoulin to Ravenshoe. The railway heritage society and Rail Safety officials of the Transport Department are holding discussions about the repair of the line and inspection of the carriage and wagons. There were more than 100 passengers and 13 crew on board the train at the time of the incident. There were no injuries. (*Tablelander* 5 June 2012 p.5)

Roma - will be 150 years old on 3 September 2012. There will be a series of celebratory events. The Roma Combined Churches are being invited to provide a blessing of the site where the town was first surveyed. A history is being combined by local people, utilising the *Western Star* newspaper files and other research sources. (*Western Star* 29 May 2012 p.7)

Roma – The career of Arthur Moore, a significant figure in Roma's early oil industry, was recorded in the *Western Star* recently. Born in Dorset, England in 1876, Moore arrived in Queensland in 1910 and went to work with International Boring Company and worked on drilling artesian bores across Queensland. He served in the Australian Flying Corps in World War I. He trained in oil development in England before returning to Queensland. At Roma he

was appointed in charge of the government oil bore on Hospital Hill in 1920 (the first non-American to hold the position). He released the large oil flow at QG No.4 (said to be the first oil condensed in Roma). Aged 45 years he married Esther Nod aged 27 years in 1921. He went to America to research oil exploration. On return in 1924 he was appointed manager of the newly formed Queensland Petroleum Limited which had Authorities to prospect over Forest Vale and Mitchell Downs. The exploration program failed and he went to Texas to study drilling and later to New Guinea. In 1928 he returned to Roma as manager of Roma Cornwall Dome until its closure. He was inducted into the Institute of Petroleum Technologists of London. On 10 October 1931 the *Western Star* announced that Arthur Moore had been killed in an oil boring explosion at Longreach. Moore had been superintendent of Longreach's Oil Bore. A Coroner's Inquiry found that Moore was attempting for the third time to shoot the oil bore with caps recently received from Brisbane. (*Oil and Gas in the Heart of the Maranoa* released by the *Western Star* May 2012 p.24 including photograph of Arthur Moore)

Woodford – Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society Inc (ANGRMS) now has its level crossing over Peterson Road finished and the road was reopened during the first week of June. ANGRMS thanked Moreton Bay Regional Councillor, Adrian Readel, for his assistance along with the contractors Brittwood Constructions for their efforts. There is still work to be done before trains can run over it and ANGRMS is doing this work. (ANGRMS President, Terry Olsson – 9 June 2012)

Library Report for June

The Index of the *Journal*, Volumes 18- 20 is now at the stage of proof reading and will soon be bound. This will be a great boon for researchers of material in our publications.

An anonymous donation of a large box of photographs and other material relating to the *Miramar* and Moreton Bay islands and shipping has been received. The current owners of the *Miramar* know nothing about the collection. Many of the photos are identified but there are some which are not labelled so some work will be required to add this material to the collection.

Since the departure of Doug Lochhead, who looked after the photo collection for many years, we need to find someone who can continue his work of identifying, cataloguing and storing new photographs. There is a large amount waiting for inclusion in the collection.

Also received in the last few weeks was a collection of early numbers of the *Journal* of the Royal Australian Historical Society. As our Library already holds these

volumes they have been offered for sale on the Clearance Table and also at the Conference held on 2 May.

Jean Stewart and Ruth Kerr

Research Report for June

It has been a busy month for the Research team and I thank them for looking after the business while I was on holiday. We had as many visitors to the Library this month as research enquiries via email so there was much to do with an extraordinary variety of topics which made us wish we had more material that could help with the queries.

Visitor enquiries included the following: the migrant ship Chyebassa; weather records of Clement Wragge; advice on the writing of history; World War I war records; sketches of Brisbane; Mount Morgan; name of a wool store in Teneriffe; Chandler and O'Leary on the Jordan gold field; early surveyors for telegraph lines 1865-1875; the old pipe organ in Wickham Hall; Pettigrew diaries; Brisbane companies c 1900; photos of Professor Seal; photos of Mary Kathleen; Government Gazettes for Miners' rights; and Parliamentary debates for rationing in World War II.

Email enquiries were for information on Peter McConkey; Expo 88; leases in the Richmond area for Robert Alexander; reception facilities for migrants; portrait of Narcisse Pelletier; Margaret Antill later the wife of Nugent Wade Brown; material for a play on Vietnam, *radical*, by Griffith University students; material for a novel set in Brisbane in the 1864 floods; the Epicure Packing Company in Margaret Street; the fireball seen north west of Winton in 1917; 150th anniversary of the Southbank Institute of Technology; historic stone houses of Brisbane; history of Australian rowing; Charles Allen Brown; Royal National Association; and Blake House, 35 Adelaide Street.

A reminder that the Research service is open on Thursdays between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. We welcome enquiries by phone, letter or email. Research for members is free although there are charges for photocopying and photo reproduction. For non members the fee is \$10 and for distant enquirers the fee is \$20. We do our best to find material in the collection and are delighted to help.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Coming Events

At the Commissariat

Please note the insert in this issue. It details the agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 8 September at 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store and a nomination form for the election of members of the Council that will be held during the AGM.

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.

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 'Australian Antarctic Territory'

Wednesday 18 and Saturday 21 July 10.00 - 11.30 am at the National Archives, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill. Free entry, bookings essential, telephone 3249 4226

Hear how Australia staked its claim in Antarctica through scientific research, territorial treaties and agreements, and permanent bases in Antarctica.

At the Queensland Women's Historical Association

Thursday 12 July 10.30 am
Morning Tea and Talk

'Toowong Cemetery - A Women's History'
Guest Speaker: Hilda Maclean, President of the Friends of Toowong Cemetery Association
Members \$10.00 / Non-members \$12.00 includes morning tea

At the Queensland State Archives

'Advanced Archives Search'

Date: Tuesday 3 July
Time: 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Location: Queensland State Archives Theatre 2

Details:

Discover how to get the best out of ArchivesSearch, the Queensland State Archives' online catalogue. This workshop will teach you more advanced methods of searching .

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

The MacArthur Museum

The MacArthur Museum Brisbane this year is commemorating the 70th 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.

**BRISBANE'S WARTIME
HERITAGE COMES TO LIFE**

Saturday 21 July 2012

10.00 am to 4.00 pm



On the 21st of July, King George Square will be occupied by an assortment of attractions to help celebrate the 70th anniversary of the arrival of General Douglas MacArthur in Brisbane city.

The MacArthur Museum Brisbane (MMB) wanted to shed light on the momentous changes the city underwent during the war time years. ‘Back to

Brisbane’ became the brainchild of this vision; and we have assembled a breathtaking lineup of entertainment to transport the public to the 1940s home front and back into the pages of history!

To help us re-create the atmosphere with their own unique exhibits, artifacts and entertainment, over 25 museums, historical societies and local businesses have all stepped forward to give patrons a taste of what it was like to live in wartime Brisbane; feel the strength of a Wirraway engine as you get up close and personnel, or tap your feet to the tunes of a live Big Band. Take a jitterbug or swing dance lesson; munch on a Yankee hamburger and pose for a photo with a troop of American GIs next to a US military jeep!

The public will be immersed in the sights and sounds of an era that changed their city forever.

A New History Book***‘A Remarkable Gift, 100 years of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust’***

This book, written by Kay Fraser, is published by The University of Queensland Press. It is primarily a history of the first 100 years of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, a Sydney based charity, from 1912 to 2012.

The first chapters of the book tell the early story of Walter and Eliza Hall, before the Trust was set up, and detail their relationship with Cobb & Co and then the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company set up in 1886 in Queensland.

Walter Hall is central to the history of Mount Morgan – he was part of the first group of shareholders who set up the mining company – and until his death in 1911 his interest and involvement in the company was an important part of his life. His wealth was, in part, from the mining company and enabled him to become one of Australia's early philanthropists. It was that wealth that enabled his wife, Eliza, to set up the Trust in his memory and in the process help many Australians experiencing financial hardship.

Those interested in the history of Mount Morgan will find previously unknown references to Walter Hall and his relationship with the mine and those who lived and worked in Mount Morgan. The importance of the Trust to the life of many Queenslanders and particularly those in Mount Morgan is also explored.

[The book is available from Helen Cook, the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, Tel: 02 9264 9480 or Email: \[wehalltrust@bigpond.com\]\(mailto:wehalltrust@bigpond.com\)](#)

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

JULY 2012

Wednesday 11 July Talk 12.30 - 1.30 pm

The 1912 General Strike

Ian Hadwen

Thursday 12 July Council Meeting

Monday 16 July *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR SPEAKER FOR JULY

Ian Hadwen is a past President of the RHSQ, a fellow of the Society and co-author of the Society's book Brisbane's Historic North Bank. He will discuss the 1912 General Strike which paralysed Brisbane a century ago.

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Subscriptions (with GST):

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