



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

AUGUST 2012 No. 766

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: Brisbane City Council B54 - 29955

BRISBANE'S FIRST ELECTRIC TRAM

Old No 47 pictured was one of the first electric trams to operate in Brisbane. They were often called 'California Combination', but were officially referred to as 'Standard Combination'. Most users called them 'Matchboxes'.

There were 63 of these trams built between 1897 and 1904. The first of these, operated by the Brisbane Tramways Company, travelled along Stanley Street, South Brisbane beginning on 16 June 1897. The last one was withdrawn from service in 1952.

Old No 47 is still operating at the Brisbane Tramway Museum, Ferny Grove.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report for July

History is our core business but as it is inextricably linked with our heritage we are looking forward to the forthcoming At Home to be held on Saturday 25 August at RHSQ, with the Queensland Heritage Council. The day will be opened by Councillor Amanda Cooper, Brisbane City Council Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning and Development Assessment Committee who has been so involved with the development of the historic precinct. Registration starts at 9.30 am for a 10.00 start. Morning tea will be provided and you are invited to bring lunch, or to purchase it nearby, and enjoy the adjacent parks or indeed the Commissariat Store.

We are particularly pleased that the Department of Public Works has now had the track lighting repaired in this, and surely our favourite, heritage building, and you will see they have attended to some other pressing maintenance issues.

Our Wednesday speaker this month, as well as his topic, will be familiar to many of you as he has written widely about art and the decorative arts. Glenn Cooke, from the Queensland Art Gallery, will speak about Vida Lahey's Floral Palette. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear from one who is passionate about our painted past.

Remember we like to hear about possible talks and papers and the program for 2013 is already taking shape. It will be our Centenary year and the Centenary Committee, chaired by Helen McMonagle from the Society's Council, has been busy making sure it will be a memorable one. The idea of a Centenary Fair is fast becoming a reality and would provide an opportunity for many participants to celebrate what happened in Queensland 100 years ago.

Queensland State Archives is busily preparing to host the International Council on Archives Congress 2012 from 20 to 24 August, in Brisbane. There will be a fine range of international speakers, and registration has commenced at the beginning of this month. For further update visit the website at www.ica2012.com.

The Society's website is in the process of being rebuilt, under the expert direction of our member Nick Wall in conjunction with the Website Committee. It has always been good but soon it will be even better, with new applications making a great deal more information and interaction possible. We hope to be able to provide better space to showcase news and activities relating to our members and fellow societies and have much greater pictorial capability.

Thank you to all of you who have agreed to receive your *Bulletin* by email as we are keen to keep our running costs as low as possible to conserve funds. The recent Council meeting heard from the Honorary Treasurer that we have made a small surplus and this is a very good result considering the disruptions we have faced in the last 18 months.

We still need more volunteer guides for the Museum, as there are ever-increasing numbers of visitors particularly as interest in our penal history grows. Training is provided, and if you would care to do this, please contact our Manager, Christina Michie, during office hours.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for July

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

Boompa – Innooroolabar – Caroline Innes named the property in 1939. Her husband, Sidney, had bought it from Tom Wade that year. Caroline Innes made the name up from a combination of Innes – INN; Walla – LA; Barolin – Bar. INN ... LABAR. Mystery surrounds the 'ooroo' in the middle. (Woocoo Historical Society *Newsletter* June 2012, vol.26 no.2 p.4)

Boonara Homestead near Goomeri was 150 years old in May 2012. Celebrations were planned for Saturday, 26 May in association with Goomeri's Pumpkin festival. The homestead was originally built in 1862 for David Jones, head of the department store family. The Goodchild family now own it and operate a B&B. (*Gympie Times* 12 May 2012 p.29 including photograph of homestead)

Brooloo – Demolition of the public hall at Brooloo took place in May 2012 after the Gympie Regional Council declared it structurally unsound. Valdora Earthmoving undertook the demolition. The hall's mountain ash timber floor is being retained for use in a new hall. (*Gympie Times* 26 May 2012 p.2 including photograph of hall being demolished)

Brooweena – John and Pat Oxenham of Maryborough donated a model sawmill in working order to the Woocoo Historical Society. It was made by the late Bob Oxenham of Maryborough. It is on display in the Barn. (Woocoo Historical Society *Newsletter* June 2012, vol.26 no.2 p.7)

Cooktown – Cooktown Re-enactment Association has been awarded a Commonwealth government 'Your Community Heritage' grant to develop a state-of-the-art interactive mobile audio tour of the town – entitled *The Cooktown Historical and Cultural Self-Guided Walking Tour*. It will be able to

be used in player devices and smart phones. It will include indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage. Accoustiguide, an international company specializing in these types of systems will be engaged to enable the project. British actors will take the part of Cook, Banks and other officers on the *Endeavour*. When the project is completed player devices and headphones will be available at Nature's Power House at Cooktown. (*Cooktown Local News* 7-13 June 2012 p.3 including photograph)

Cooroy – Queensland Rail has begun repair and maintenance work on heritage listed Cooroy railway station and goods shed. It is one of the few remaining timber railway station buildings in situ in Queensland, and also on an operating railway. A station was first opened at Cooroy in May 1891. (*Noosa News* 3 July 2012 p.6)

Dalveen – The bell at the Dalveen Uniting Church has been given to the community after the closure of the church on 24 June 2012. The bell had originally been the time bell at Cliff and Stan Pidgeon's local brickworks. The church was opened on 11 July 1955. It had been built by a volunteer work force of nine men and had a polished wooden floor. (*Border Post* 28 June 2012 p.4 including photo)

Gympie – Member of Gympie Red Cross, Julia Lawrence OAM of Rifle Range Road, Gympie is collecting historical material on the history of the Gympie branch. It was revived by Gympie Mayor, Alderman Ron Witham in 1948 when Mrs Joyce Wilmer was elected president. There were also branches at Woolooga / Widgee, Tin Can Bay / Rainbow Beach. (*Gympie Times* 12 May 2012 p.11 email: juliagympie1@hotmail.com)

Longreach – The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame horse expo for July 2012 was cancelled following the Shire Council's realisation that the site is a potential habitat for the endangered Julia Creek Dunnart (small nocturnal marsupial). The dunnart was identified in 1931 but not recognized as a species until 1979. Four specimens were collected between 1931 and 1972 between Julia Creek and Richmond and in 1991-1992 a further three on the surrounding downs country. The Shire Council who were to undertake earthworks to assist the Hall of Fame in holding the event are addressing environmental protection issues with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. The cancellation will have an economic impact until the issue is resolved for the Hall of Fame. (*Longreach Leader* 1 June 2012 p.3 including photograph)

Normanton – A boomerang from Normanton area was sold at auction recently for a bid of \$11,000. It was bought by the Museum Victoria at Leonard

Joel's quarterly Sunday art sale in April 2012. The boomerang has the name of Percy Galbraith engraved on it. He was the Protector of Aboriginals in the area for a time. The museum also bought another boomerang for a bid of \$7000, thought to be from Cherbourg, but it is unprovenanced. (*Australian Financial Review* 12 April 2012 p.57 including photograph)

Ravenshoe – The tourist train recommenced on Sunday, 24 June with Transport Department approval – after a derailment a month earlier. The Ravenshoe Railway Committee will hold a public meeting to explain the proposed rail repairs and a proposal to reinstate the Ravenshoe caravan park which 'grey nomads' had used. The Tablelands regional Council had requested upgrades to the park. The application for Material Change of Use in January 2012 attracted 563 submissions of which only three were opposed in any way. \$50,000 is required to repair the derailed carriages and to repair the 7 km of track between Ravenshoe and Tomoulin. (*Atherton Tablelander* 26 June 2012 pp.1,4; *Weekend Cairns Post* 30 June 2012 p.20)

Wallangarra - In 1929 Queensland Rail was encouraging healthy eating. At the railway refreshment rooms at Wallangarra a slice of "exotic" pineapple was served to every person. Modern "juice extractors" were also installed at Central and South Brisbane railway stations. (*MX Brisbane* 27 June 2012 p. 19)

Research Report for July

Enquiries continue to come in at a great rate and I often wish the library was bigger so that we had some chance at least of helping those enquirers. Most of our attempts to find material are ineffectual. However, by putting the list in the *Bulletin* every month we hope to, and often do receive suggestions and information from our members which can be passed on to the enquirers.

This month our queries have included the following: historical memorabilia of the Brisbane branch of the Victoria League; request for support for some people protesting about the demolition of the old Burnett hardwood mill at Bundaberg; the name of a convict who may have helped build the Commissariat Store; a picture of the model of the silver trowel presented to Sir Samuel Griffith and made by Charles Allen Brown, a Brisbane jeweller and goldsmith; kitchen utensils which may have been given by the family of Margaret Smith (Stack) to Newstead House; article by J J Hogg on the Palmer River in 1873; German families who settled in Milman (Jardine) 1909-1910; Reginald Charles

Bulcock, acting commissioner of Railways in Queensland; the 1974 flood; material for a river exhibition being planned by the Museum of Brisbane; name of the suburb Kenmore; references in Votes & Proceedings relating to early Queensland railways; heirlooms for a project by a *Sunday Mail* journalist; Alliance Hotel, Spring Hill; photos of *Rhos-y-medre*, Toowong; Louisa Elizabeth Susannah Daisy Pearn, Matron on Palm Island 1935; Arthur Aldridge a performer with the Follies in the 1920s; and Queensland fashion.

We also received a request from Qantas about our ownership of the Qantas ticket No 1 donated to the Society by Alexander Kennedy who was once on the HSQ Council until 1930 and was the first passenger on the first Qantas plane. We sent a response detailing the condition of the ticket and giving its provenance.

Unlock the Past Expo; Six of us staffed the RHSQ stall over three days in June. It was an excellent opportunity for networking with like minded organisations and we distributed many brochures, sold hundreds of duplicate photos, books and Journals making almost \$200. We also received some research enquiries mostly about family history and one on Pine Mountain which is having a Back to Pine Mountain day later this year. I have contacted all those enquirers since.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Coming Events

At the Commissariat

The Annual General Meeting of our Society is to be held on **Thursday 13 September at 6.00 pm** at the Commissariat Store. Nomination forms for positions on the Council have been distributed. Please note the **revised Agenda** for this meeting that is included at an insert to the *Bulletin*.

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. **Registration commences at 9.30 am.**

At the National Archives of Australia

Thursday 16 and Saturday 18 August 10.00 - 11.30 am at the National Archives, 16 Corporate

Drive, Cannon Hill. Free entry, bookings essential, telephone 3249 4226

'Making Australia Home: Chinese'

From 1888 the restrictions on the movement of Chinese and other Asian residents generated a large volume of personal records, now a valuable source for family and social history.

At the Queensland Women's Historical Association

Thursday 9 August 10.30 am

Morning Tea and Talk

'Royalty on the River - 150 Years of Royal Occasions around the Brisbane River'

Guest Speaker: David Jones, Volunteer Queensland Maritime Museum Library and Author

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

At the Queensland State Archives International Council on Archives Congress (ICA2012)

Rub shoulders with the world's top archivists

20 - 24 August

To view the program and register, visit: www.ica2012.com

At the Brisbane Square Library

'Brisbane's Modern Past' talk series

'The evolution of Boggo Road'

Saturday 11 August 10.30 am - 12 noon

Telephone 3403 4166 to book a seat

NEW MEMBERS

Mal Mutimer	Moorooka
Jane and Samantha Harding	Coolum Beach
Museum of Brisbane	Brisbane
Dana Peak Edwards	Algester
Janeth Deen	Sunnybank.
Maryanne Pender	Moorooka
Thomas Freeman	Middle Park
Ed Duhs	Sunnybank
Geoff Millman	Fig Tree Pocket

Museum Curator's Report

THE ITALIAN PRESENCE

The *Italian Presence* display is well underway with Robyn Stephensen spending much time on research, photos and text while I was away overseas.

Since returning I have met with Ian Bonaccorso for an updated review and discussed many areas including: marketing, objects, photographs and display stands.



Photo: Italian family having a break from picking apples

This exhibition is sponsored by the Multiculturalism Unit of the Queensland Government and covers 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. Some wonderful photographs and objects will be on display to represent these areas. The exhibition will also feature Italian architect Andrea Stombuco who designed many beautiful buildings including All Hallows Convent, Petrie Bight and *Palma Rosa* at Hamilton. Achille Simonetti, whose sculpture of Bishop James Quinn is in St. Stephen's Cathedral, is also featured.

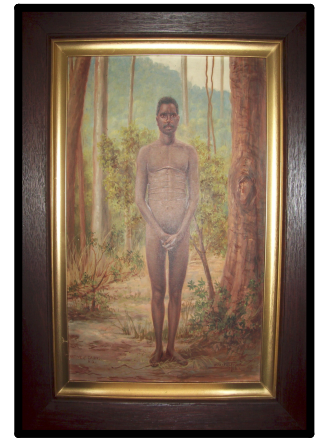
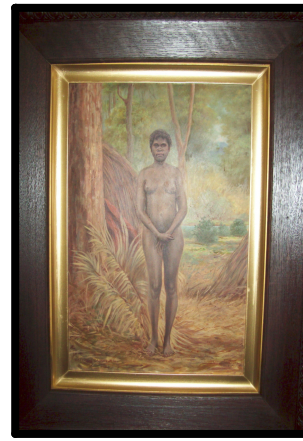
The Italian Community has played an important role in shaping Queensland and today we enjoy many facets of this wonderful culture. This exhibition is a great chance to celebrate the Italian Community in Queensland.

The exhibition will open on Saturday 24 November 2012 at 10.00 am. Over the coming months more information will be published about this exciting event with a glimpse of more photographs and objects.

Janice Hess
Honorary Museum Curator
Robyn Stephensen
Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

A Precis of the talk by W Ross Johnston given at the Commissariat on Wednesday 13 June

I am resurrecting the reputation of Oscar Fristrom. He was a well-acknowledged portrait



Photos by Graeme Nicholson

The Aboriginal Woman and Man in our Collection

painter in Queensland in the late nineteenth – early twentieth centuries, but now has sunk somewhat into obscurity.

Born in Sweden in 1856, Karl Magnus Oskar Friström is reputed to have jumped ship in Brisbane about 1883. He painted many eminent white people – such as Governor Sir Henry Norman, and he undertook many commissions.

In the Queensland setting one can find Aboriginal paintings of Fristrom in the John Oxley Library, the Queensland Art Gallery, the Queensland Museum, the Museum of Brisbane, the University of Queensland Art Museum, Griffith University – and in regional galleries at Ipswich, Moreton Bay and Bundaberg.

The Royal Queensland Historical Society holds three Fristrom Aboriginal paintings. One is of the notorious outlaw/bushranger Jimmy Governor; and two are of Cairns people, an Aboriginal male and an Aboriginal female. So far I have identified over seventy Aboriginal portraits and paintings – although

I cannot trace the current provenance of a number of these. I am now working on a longer paper on this topic for the *Journal*, and in October next year there will be an exhibition of Fristrom's Aboriginal paintings held in the Philip Bacon Gallery on the fourth floor of the State Library of Queensland.



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

The Jimmy Governor Painting

W Ross Johnston

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

AUGUST 2012

Wednesday 8 August Talk 12.30 - 1.30 pm

‘Vida Lahey’s Floral Palette’

Glenn Cooke

Thursday 9 August Council Meeting

Wednesday 15 August Show Day

Wednesday 15 August *Bulletin* Deadline

Saturday 25 August ‘At Home’

Please note registration commences at 9.30 am

YOUR SPEAKER FOR AUGUST

Glenn Cooke, Curator Decorative Art, Queensland Art Gallery will speak about Vida Lahey’s Floral Palette.

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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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:

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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