



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2012 No. 767

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: Queensland Museum

BERT HINKLER'S AVRO BABY IS NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE HINKLER HALL OF AVIATION, BUNDABERG

Bert Hinkler's Avro Baby has been moved from the Queensland Museum to Bundaberg, Bert's home town. In the Hinkler Hall of Aviation his 'Baby' is on display with other aircraft he flew in his short, but spectacular career. Visitors can view the displayed aircraft and there is a theatre where you can watch the history of Bert's career from the time at age 19 he built his first glider to 1933 when he crashed his aircraft in the Italian Alps.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report for August

The International Congress of Archivists this year has been held in a State rich in history and heritage. As Queensland's peak history body our Society is in a good position to see just how much is happening here: the valuable research being undertaken, the excellent publications, and the huge numbers of people who give time and considerable expertise to preserving our past. The technological advances have made many of our primary resources much more accessible, and interaction between historical groups is growing rapidly.

Ruth Kerr has been elected President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, and was congratulated at our recent Council meeting. It has been a great pleasure working with Don Garden, and we look forward to another period of great cooperation in the interests of Australian history.

Work on the Commissariat Store is progressing, slowly but surely. The concrete panelled wall is in place and the convict blocks are being laid out in preparation for the restoration of the stone wall. Who ever said there are no stone buildings in Queensland, only tin and timber? Not only are there stone buildings, there are wonderful stonemasons. The reception desk has been lowered by the Department of Public Works, the lighting has been repaired, and other maintenance issues have been attended to.

The Dig Tree Advisory Committee has welcomed the report of professional Arborist, Adam Tom. Further action will be taken to ensure, as much as is possible when dealing with Nature, that the tree will continue its long and healthy life for many years to come.

The Membership Committee recommended that a corporate membership be made available and this was approved at the recent Council meeting. This will allow members of a government departmental unit, local government unit, or company, to have members of that entity gain the benefits of a discount, should one be offered, if their members are attending a function, or for library research. This gives another way to join the Society and enjoy the benefits of membership. We have been around for almost a century and as well as looking back we must look to the future, and you, the members, and those yet to join, are our future.

This is my last President's report for the *Bulletin* as by the time of the Annual General Meeting I will have been in the position for the maximum three years. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to you all for reading my reports and to *Bulletin* Editor, Graeme Nicholson (who has

now edited 50 issues of this publication) for his help and support during the last three years.

I hope to see you on Thursday 13 September for the AGM, which will be followed as usual by the Clem Lack Oration, to be delivered this year by our member Judith McKay – 'The Australian Inland Mission: celebrating 100 years'. Centenarians should stick together.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland News for August

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

Cooktown – Ernest Sydney Ashue, of Chinese ancestry, served in World War I. He was born in Cooktown in 1889 to Samuel Ashue and Rosina Clark. Samuel was an Anglo-Chinese Linguist (appointed 1875) and a Commission Agent. He had worked with an English family and was naturalised in Australia in 1882. He resided at the corner of Walker and John Streets. By 1900 the family was living in Charters Towers. When he enlisted he was a chauffeur. He had been a member of the 3rd Queensland (Kennedy) Regiment which was sent from Townsville to Thursday Island at the outbreak of war and mobilised as an infantry unit. Ernest enlisted in Brisbane on 17 September 1914 as a driver in first Division Supply Column and embarked at Melbourne on the *Ceramic* on 22 December 1914. He went to Britain and then to France. He suffered many illnesses during the war including nephritis. He returned to Australia on 16 July 1917 and died at 6th Australian General Hospital at Kangaroo Point, aged 28 years. (*Cooktown Local News* 24 April – 2 May 2012 p.8)

Green Island – The Queensland Heritage Council has recommended that the Green Island Underwater Observatory (Lot 188 on SP113640) be entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. It will consider the matter again on 28 September. The Observatory is adjacent to the Green island Jetty on Green Island.

Mutchilba - The town is to obtain its name again. The fact has become a problem for residents who did not know that they had been included in Dimbulah. The issue has been publicised in the *Weekend Australian* on 14-15 July 2012 where it was stated that in 1999 the local shire had advised a Commonwealth government review of localities in Australia that Mutchilba be merged with Dimbulah and lose its place name. Local residents were very concerned when they realised and it has been an issue for emergency services agencies and residents seeking emergency service assistance. Minister for Natural

Resources in Queensland, Hon Andrew Cripps MP, has decided to reinstate the name Mutchilba and announced the change back. Mutchilba is an agricultural centre with approximately 1000 residents in the town and surrounding farms. It began as a tobacco growing area and Mutchilba had a railway station. (*Weekend Australian* 14-15 July 2012 p.5 including photograph)

Beaudesert - The Historical Society of Beaudesert now has its history catalogue/index on the Beaudesert Museum's website. The index covers historical documents relating to the Beaudesert district and the wider Scenic Rim Region. After its recent upgrade, it is in the form of a 1570 page pdf document. The index is free to download by googling: www.beaudesertmuseum.org.au then going to 'Research' on the right side of the homepage and clicking 'Archives and Library'. Because of the size of the index it may take several minutes to download.

Morven Historical Museum Inc has had a successful year so far with 120 more people through the Museum than the previous highest year. They are having a new shed built to house more equipment and displays. The school is celebrating its centenary on 7, 8 and 9 September and is publishing a book. (Ethel Johnson, Hon Treasurer, Morven Historical Museum Inc {affiliated society with RHSQ})

Obituaries

Leith Fenton Barter joined the Royal Historical Society of Queensland Society on 1 October 1998. He died on 9 July 2012 aged 64 years. Leith had been a librarian in the Northern Territory Library. He had been actively involved in the Historical Society of the Northern Territory and was made a Life Member. He came to Queensland in the late 1990s. He worked a librarian and historian at the Pine Rivers Library until his retirement in 2010. He presented many historical talks to the Pine Rivers Historical Museum and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. At the time of his death he was finishing a history of the Moreton Bay region. (Historical Society of the Northern Territory *Newsletter* August 2012 p.3 and RHSQ sources)

Diane Menghetti died on 18 June 2012. Diane joined the Society on 5 July 1988 and published several papers in the Society's *Journal*:

- 'Mine and Town - Health and Safety on Charters Towers' Volume XIII, No. 6, May 1988 pp.215-228; and
- 'From Underground to opencut: The deskilling of the coal miner?' Volume 16 No. 8, November 1997 pp.353-370.

Diane was a lecturer in history at James Cook

University of Northern Queensland. Her research interests were mining, radical politics and Italian immigration. She wrote a social history of aspects of Charters Towers: *I remember: memories of Charters Towers* (published by James Cook University in 1989) and undertook mining heritage studies of Charters Towers and Ravenswood. She wrote nine books and around 70 papers. Diane was President of the Queensland National Trust in 2006-2007 and represented the Trust on the Queensland Heritage Council. She was also a committee member of the Australian Mining History Association.

Research Report for August

An interesting mix of enquiries this month has led to two satisfied customers joining the Society and several people returning to follow fresh interests. For those who came in to use the Thursday facility we were asked for information on the following: aspects of central Queensland history; Patrick Logan; various houses in Toowong; William Clancy Little MLA; indigenous people working in timber mills; immigrants arriving on the ships *Chyebassa* and *Scottish Hero*; A E Moore; Welsby's association with Rugby Union; and some aspects of Queensland rail history.

Enquiries received by phone, mail or email included the following: Alliance Hotel, Spring Hill; the history of fashion; stories about family heirlooms; pictures of James and Andrew Doyle; the history of the Kodak building on St Paul's Terrace; history of Proston near Kingaroy; the Scenic Rim; the blackbirding ship *Isabella*; members of the Mounted Infantry in Gatton area in 1891; the Primitive Methodist Church, Taringa; family history of John and Martha Livesey; Brisbane photographers in World War II as a source for family history; James McPherson, the bushranger; penal settlement details for a student making a film; photos of western suburbs people; Thursday Island Anglican Church Hall; material on Queensland's involvement in World War I; photograph of Narcisse Pelletier; and early land settlement on the Darling Downs.

We have hardly drawn breath especially as two of our staff have not been able to come in on several days lately.

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.

At the National Archives of Australia

Seminars for September and October at the National Archives, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill. Free entry, bookings essential, telephone 3249 4226

Saturday 15 September 10.00 - 11.30 am 'Archival Anecdotes: Strange and unusual records'

With over 375 km of paper records stored in repositories across Australia, you would expect to find some strange things in the National Archives. This seminar looks at some of our more unusual records.

Wednesday 17 and Saturday 20 October 10.00 - 11.30 am

'The Bradford Expedition'

In 1882, John Richard Bradford was commissioned to survey a telegraph line from Fairview to Cape York Peninsula and across the Torres Strait to Thursday Island. Bradford's journal elicits images of a bygone era of explorers and pioneers; the conquest of wilderness and the excitement of new discovery. Rediscover this era from his original expedition journal and survey maps.

At the Queensland Women's Historical Association

Thursday 13 September 10.30 am
Morning Tea and Talk

'A Short History of Flying Boats and their Operation on the Brisbane River 1924 to 1953'

Guest Speaker: Dr Graeme Nicholson, Editor of *The RHSQ Bulletin*

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

Saturday 29 September 10.30 am

A Special Talk and Display

'The Social History of Rag Rugs - a Dying Art'

Guest Speaker: Denise Barbero, former teacher in the art of making rag rugs.

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

At the Queensland State Archives Seminars

Tuesday 25 September 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Lecture Theatre 2
'Getting Started'

Learn about the Queensland State Archives collection and how best to find the information you are seeking. This seminar, presented by one of our experienced reference archivists, provides you with the basis you need to start your research at QSA. The seminar includes a short tour.

Entry is free. To book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email: info@archives.qld.gov.au

Tuesday 23 October 10.00 - 11.00 am
Lecture Theatre 2
'Archives Search'

This seminar provides researchers with an introduction to our searchable catalogue *ArchivesSearch* which can be accessed online or in the Public Search Room at Queensland State Archives.

Entry is free. To book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email

At the Brisbane Square Library

'Brisbane's Modern Past' talk series
'CSI Brisbane'

Forensic scientist Dr Peter Culshaw will explore the origins of forensic science including its development in Queensland. He will also look at how the Government Chemical Laboratory evolved from its origins in the 1870s to become the world class facility that it is today.

Saturday 22 September 10.30 am - 12 noon
266 George Street, Brisbane
Telephone 3403 4166 to book a seat

At the Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum



September 1 and 2 Spring Home and Garden Festival

199 -205 Main Street Beenleigh

For more information telephone 07 3382 0608 or email: Event Manager@oldbeenleightown.com.au

New Members

Darby Hong	Indooroopilly
Murray Bird	Newmarket
Charles Musson and Josephine Ross	Burpengary
Catherine Clarke	Moorooka
Jonathon Sise	Dingley Village Vic
Andrew Powell	Maleny
Melissa Webster	Wynnum North

Museum Curator's Report



Italian Velvet Bedspread

Preparations are now well underway for the *Italian Presence* exhibition, which will open on November 24 at the Commissariat Store Museum.

The Italian velvet bedspread is one of the objects that will be on display. It is believed that this bedspread was purchased by Rosaria Patane on her first return visit to Italy in 1959. It is a vintage Italian double bedspread made of soft velvet with decorative flower designs and cherubs. This type of bedspread was very much in vogue with the Queensland Italians during the 1950s up to the 1980s. The bedspread will be on loan from Grace Bonaccorso for the duration of the exhibition.

Other interesting objects to be on display include: a spaghetti machine, a souvenir miniature Sicilian horse and cart, clay moulds, a sugar cane knife and some beautiful Murano glass.

This exhibition is one not to be missed.

Janice Hess
Honorary Museum Curator
Robyn Stephensen
Assistant Honorary Museum Curator

Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery

The Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family

History Society plans to issue another publication containing stories about the lives of people buried in its 'backyard' – the Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery.

If you would like to submit a story, to a maximum of 1,000 words, you are invited to contact the Secretary at the following address. The closing date for submissions is 1 December 2012.

For more information, please contact the Secretary, Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society, PO Box 2229 Toowoomba BC Qld 4350 or email: tddfhs@westnet.com.au

New History Book

'Bert Hinkler: The Most Daring Man in the World'

by Grantly Kieza, HarperCollins \$32.99

In his book Grantly Kieza details the life of one of Australia's most famous aviators from his early life in Bundaberg through his time in the United Kingdom, flying in World War I and working as a test pilot for A V Roe and Company in Southampton until his death in the Italian Alps.

Outline of the paper for the RHSQ talk 12 September 2012

by Dr Hilary Davies

'Surveying Success: The Rise of the Hume Family in Colonial Queensland'

Walter and Katie Hume's story is one of social mobility in colonial Queensland between 1863 and 1901 as they rose in status and wealth from promising middle-class origins to membership of Queensland's social elite. It exemplifies the personal traits, social background and conformity with dominant British Victorian middle-class culture necessary to exploit the opportunities for success in the colony. Resident in Toowoomba and Brisbane, their network of family, friends and acquaintances was anchored to two powerful centres of the colony – the Darling Downs and the capital. This talk outlines how the Humes achieved their success.

Hilary Davies gained her PhD with a thesis examining middle-class social mobility in colonial Queensland using the Hume family as a case study. This has since been published as *Surveying Success: The Hume Family in Colonial Queensland*. She currently works as a Senior Heritage Officer in the Heritage branch of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2012

Thursday 6 September Council Meeting
Wednesday 12 September talk - see article above
Thursday 13 September Annual General Meeting as notified previously
Saturday 15 September *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR SPEAKER AT THE AGM

Judith McKay will present the Clem Lack Oration entitled 'The Australian Inland Mission'

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