



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

OCTOBER 2012 No. 768

The newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Patron: Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland

President: Helen McMonagle

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au



Photos: Graeme Nicholson

OUR RETAINING WALL REPAIR IS PROGRESSING

The photographs above show that progress is being made on the repairs to the retaining wall between the Commissariat and William Street. This wall was partially destroyed in the floods of early 2011. A photograph of the devastation caused at the Commissariat can be found on the front cover of February 2011 issue of *The Bulletin*. Further photographs were published in the March issue.

It has been a long time since repairs to the building and the wall commenced. The building has been repaired and hopefully it will not be too long before the wall is completed and we will once again have parking space.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report for September

To begin, I would like to thank the members and Council of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland for the honour they have bestowed upon me in electing me President. I am fully cognisant of the important role and responsibilities which accompany this position, and I will endeavour to act with the best interests of the Society in mind.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent leadership shown by Carolyn Nolan over the last three years, guiding the Society and Museum through the turbulent months after the January 2011 floods, overseeing a change in managers for the Commissariat Store and promoting community awareness of both the Society and Commissariat Store. Carolyn has left very big shoes to fill, and I hope that I can achieve the same level of success with the dignity and grace she has exhibited.

I have thought long and hard about what I would like to achieve during my term, and this is covered under three broad themes: First and foremost, I want to continue to increase community awareness of and participation in RHSQ activities. Attention needs to be given towards marketing tours of the Commissariat Store including the promotion of school visits to teachers and schools, and contacting external tour operators to attract more tourists.

It is also imperative that we continue to build awareness in government and business sectors of our position as Queensland's Peak History Body in order to attract greater sponsorship for projects such as the conservation of our prized artefacts, and to support our various Society events which are designed to promote Queensland's unique past.

Finally, I look forward to developing closer working relationships with our affiliated historical societies based in regional centres throughout Queensland.

Our Society celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2013, and as Chair of the Centenary Celebrations Committee I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few of the events planned in our year-long celebration: On 2 June (the 60th anniversary of the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation): a Centenary Fair will be held on the Commissariat Store grounds and Miller Park as part of Queensland Week. Attractions will include vintage cars, food, music, historic talks and films, and we will be inviting regional historical societies to take part by setting up stalls displaying their own unique history. The Growing Older and Living Dangerously (GOLD) initiative run by Brisbane City Council, the Queensland State Archives and National Trust of Queensland will also take part in the event, and we are looking forward to

working with them to create a fun filled informative day which will attract various groups from the community.

On 6 June: the Queensland Day Dinner will be held at the newly renovated Brisbane City Hall and on 21 August : the Centenary Dinner will be held in the Grand Ballroom at Tattersalls Club, Queen Street Brisbane. Numerous other events are being planned for the rest of the year so please look out for further details about these in upcoming *RHSQ Bulletins*.

Next year's events will be a celebration of the Society's past and a view towards the future. Through the use of social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as the imminent launch of our new website, the Society is engaging with a new generation of budding historians. The Queensland History Journal and Welsby Library continue as the cornerstones of the Society and support our position as Queensland's Peak History Body, providing unique research opportunities for historians both professional and amateur.

American writer Dale Carnegie stated, 'People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.' I think that the passion exhibited by everyone involved in the Royal Historical Society of Queensland towards the conservation and promotion of Queensland's heritage and history will ensure the enduring success of our Society for another hundred years. I look forward to working with you towards this goal.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for September

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

Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division), an affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland was formed in 1957 and has now run over 950 railway excursions. The latest one was the Vinelander to Stanthorpe on 25 and 26 August with a dinner at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. (*Bayside Star* 8 August 2012 p.27)

Blackbutt – Greg Hallam, Society member and Queensland Rail staff member, describes the centenary celebrations of the railway arriving in Blackbutt: 'Even though the railway line closed 20 years ago, they still love Queensland Rail up in Blackbutt. Saturday 8 September was NOT the actual railway centenary, as was told to the crowds by the locals but, in time honoured tradition of such things the recognition was brought forward from December, to coincide with the *Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt*

Festival on 2 September 2012. The local heritage group meet in a place called *Nukku Nook*, which used to be the old Nukku State School, (a one teacher school), which was transplanted to the old Blackbutt railway station location last year. It used to have an enrolment of about 20 tops, so it was rather cosy for the day. Hence the outside activities. For the railway centenary in such a confined space they put on a great little display of railway memorabilia, and again about 250 people rolled through on the day. At the original opening in 1912 the Wondai/Blackbutt town band played for the occasion, so in keeping with history, the Wondai band again performed for the event. A great example of country spirit, is how one recreates the arrival of the first official steam train into the town, when one does not have a railway? Eminently simple! One brings a steam traction engine in from Kingaroy, and with it blowing its whistle (and providing great theatrical effects), it then parts the blue ribbon held by two young ladies in a recreation of what happened a century ago. Also, one gets a ride on an amusement train, without rails, to transport people around.

Queensland Rail's display was greatly appreciated, and the first trial of our community history DVD was well received. We use images from Eric Marggraf's collection plus the Historical Collection, so it is another cost effective way to tell the story of the railways in Queensland. There was also a reunion of former railway employees on the Brisbane Valley line, which worked well'. (Greg Hallam's Report on *Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt* Event 10 September 2012).

Bundaberg – The book, *Built by Bundaberg Foundry*, by two Society members, Brian Webber and John Browning, was launched in Bundaberg on 21 August at the foundry. The book outlines the history of eight steam trains built in 1952-53 and 11 small diesels built in 1953-63 at the foundry. The book is on sale at the Australian Sugar Cane Railway Museum in Bundaberg for \$20. (*News Mail* [Bundaberg] 22 August 2012 p.2 including photograph).

Imbil – Mary Valley State College (formerly Imbil State High School) celebrated its 50th anniversary on 22 September. The high school was originally conducted in the Imbil Public Hall and the former Brooloo State School which was transported into town. There were 26 students when it began. The new school was built on a former vegetable farm in Edward Street. (*Gympie Times* 11 August 2012 p.14 including photograph of Form 3 students in 1962 and of the Brooloo school building being hauled by a truck).

Goomburra – The railway centenary was celebrated on 19 August 2012. The Southern Downs Steam Railway arranged steam train trips to the town from Clifton and Warwick. Society member and Queensland Rail Historian, Greg Hallam, attended. Historical displays were mounted in the Goomburra Hall and DVDs shown. (*Warwick Daily News* 14 August 2012 p.9)

Nambour - On Wednesday, 1 June ex-Moreton Mill steam locomotive *Bli-Bli* (John Fowler 0-4-2 No 14418) was moved from Muller Park, Bli Bli to the grounds of the Nambour and District Historical Museum, Nambour. The loco is not in a good state with vandals having stolen all the brass off it and the salt air not doing the rest of it any favours. The loco is to be tidied up, a roof erected over it and the locomotive fenced in. (*Durundur Railway Bulletin* (ANGRMS) vol.33 no.317, September - October 2012, p. 11 and Cane Trains discussion group)

Roma held its 150th anniversary celebrations from 27 August to 3 September. The anniversary celebrated was of the gazettal of Roma as a town. The celebrations were held at the Big Rig Parklands. A vintage tea party was also arranged at *Mount Abundance* homestead for 2 September. (*Western Star* 24 August 2012 p.8 including photograph of a historic tea party at *Mount Abundance*)

Toowoomba – A photograph in 1971 of the Mother's Memorial in Margaret Street featured in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* on 27 August 2012 on page 18. The memorial was completed in 1922 and dedicated to local men who died in World War I. The memorial was relocated to east Street Park in 1985.

Wolfram Camp – The Wolfram Camp mine has been reopened by Wolfram Camp Mining, a division of Deutsche Rohstoff AG of Germany. Project development had begun in July 2011 and the first shipment of wolfram from Australia occurred in February 2012. The company is planning to produce 7,000 tonnes of wolfram concentrate over the next four years and 800 tonnes of molybdenum. Wolfram mining began in the area in 1894 and was developed by John Moffat's Irvinebank Mining Company Pty Ltd. The nearby remains of the Thermo Electric Ore Reduction Corporation Limited's mill which operated 1918-1920 are on the Queensland heritage Register. The role of wolfram mining in North Queensland before World War I was research and written up by Ruth Kerr in her paper, 'German Demand for Wolfram, Tin and Copper in North Queensland, 1890 - 1914'. (*Zeitschrift fur Unternehmensgeschichte* (ZUG) (German Society for Business History), vol.36 no.2, 1991, pp.61-75; *Tablelands Advertiser* 27 July 2012 p.3.

New Council Members

Below is the list of elected members of the Society's Council following the AGM:

President: Helen McMonagle
 Honorary Secretary: Ruth Kerr
 Honorary Treasurer: Barrie Rollason
 Councillors: Che Aberdeen
 Denver Beanland
 Marilyn England
 Hilary Fisher
 Rebecca Ling
 John Pearn
 Dean Prangley
 Jean Stewart
 Carolyn Nolan
 (immediate past President)

(There were no nominations for the Vice President positions.)

Research Report for September

Three of our staff have been away this month – one to write a history report and two travelling. So it is as well that there have been fewer queries than usual. We have been asked about Central Western Queensland history; Brisbane River for an exhibition; photos of George Street precinct and Eagle Farm; Alan Fletcher Research Station at Sherwood; Queensland Mining heritage; a silky oak filling cabinet; images of an ‘American’ style two storey farm house; image of 1912 Strike Coupon; value of a collection of books relating to the Rockmount District on the Darling Downs; Sutton & Co; photo of Samuel Griffith; Sandgate railway; indigenous basket weaving styles; images of the Commissariat Store; Croydon Junction; Rose Campbell née Clayton; Stodart Military Cross; vessels connected with Woody Point; Sunshine Coast, Buderim and Yandina; and ice and iceworks.

Background searches of the Rockhampton files and history of education in Queensland have been made by an interstate visitor writing a family history. A descendant of Architect Campbell-Wilson sought information on the Brisbane Town Hall built 1864/5 and we were able to produce from our Archives a very early plan of the ground floor of the building designed by W Coote.

Jean Stewart
 Honorary Research Officer

Library Report September

This month we have been grateful for the assistance of a student from Mount Gravatt TAFE

who is studying Cataloguing and has come in on Thursday afternoons to help with accessioning serials, new acquisitions and filing. A small collection of photos of Brisbane in the 1940s has been donated and added to the collection. Several slides showing Bert Hinkler's Avro Baby plane have been donated. A newly appointed volunteer is helping with the many photos and slides awaiting inclusion in the Catalogue. Rebinding of some very worn but valuable works in the Welsby Library has been arranged and examination of other items in need of conservation and repair is being carried out to establish a list so that grants can be applied for.

Jean Stewart and Ruth Kerr.

Coming Events

At the National Archives of Australia

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

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 11 October 10.30 am

Morning Tea and Talk

‘The Importance of being.....Connected’

A brief insight into some of the curious, convenient, casual, cursory, capricious connections in Colonial Times - that will indeed intrigue you

Guest Speaker: Gaye Fitzpatrick, retired teacher with an interest in history

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

At the Queensland State Archives Seminar

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

The RHSQ 'At Home' – 24 November

Featuring the Grand Opening of *The Italian Presence* Exhibition, which will run for 18 months.

This event will also feature talks from prominent historians on Queensland's Italian heritage including Dr Catherine Dewhirst and Dr Stefano Girola, and the launch of Marilyn England's new book based on Toowong's history.

Venue: The Commissariat Store, 115 William Street
BRISBANE

Time: 10.00 am-4.00 pm - registration opens at 9.30

Cost: \$15 (members) and \$20 (non-members) includes a light lunch. Please RSVP as soon as possible as seats are limited.



Convict Lives

Saturday 27 October

with Dr Jennifer Harrison

and Val Blomer (*Convict Connections*), Geoff Doherty and Jan Richardson

. (Cost \$20 for GSQ members; Non-members \$25)

Book at <http://www.gsq.org.au> or post to PO Box 8423, Woolloongabba Q 4102. Enquires: phone GSQ on 3891 5085 or email to gsq1@optusnet.com.au

New Members

Philip Andrew Greig
Kenneth Sbeghan
Sean Lannan
Joan Kelly
Sue Hutley

Springfield Lake
Booval
Burgengary
Redcliffe
Forest Lake

Museum Curators' Report



Soup Tureen, Ladle and Serving Plate from Italy

The above Soup Tureen is one of many beautiful and interesting objects that will feature in the *Italian Presence* exhibition. The colourful glazed ceramic tureen, ladle and serving plate are hand painted and decorated with delicate flowers on top. It was sent from Italy in 1970 as a wedding present. The museum thanks Roslyn Sciasci for the loan of the object for the duration of the exhibition.

During the past month the Museum Conservator Graeme Nicholson has been busy building stands for the display and these are almost completed. Labels, text and photographs covering the areas of Immigration, Wine and Apple Industries, Sugarcane, Culture, Religion and Entertainment have now been printed.

This is a very important exhibition for the museum and its opening on November 24 will be a day of celebration. For more details please contact the museum on 3221 4198.

Janice Hess

Honorary Museum Curator

Robyn Stephensen

. Honorary Assistant Museum Curator

Events in Maryborough

An invitation has been extended to RHSQ members to the opening of a photographic exhibition of places drawn from the recent Fraser Coast local heritage study and put together by the Converge Fraser Coast office. The event will occur at Gataker's Artspace, Maryborough, on Friday 5 October 2012. The time is 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

Please find further information at: <http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/maryborough-open-house>

Royal Historical Society of Queensland
PO Box 12057
Brisbane, George Street QLD 4003
RHSQ Bulletin: PP424022/00019
RHSQ Journal: PP424022/00020

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**



IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

OCTOBER 2012

Monday 1 October Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Saturday 6 October Brisbane Open House

Wednesday 10 October talk - see note in the right hand column

Thursday 11 October Council Meeting

Monday 15 October *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER

The speaker for Wednesday 10 October is Dr Marion Mackenzie and her topic is 'The State Scholarship Examination 1873-1962: Reflections, 50 years on'. The Scholarship examination was an important milestone in the lives of Queensland students at the end of their primary schooling. For many it marked the end of their formal education, but for others it served as a gateway to secondary school and further study.

Dr Marion Mackenzie is a historian who has examined the lives of those who were placed first in the State in the examination. This group biography served as a way of tracing changes in community expectations for boys and girls and the political response to those expectations.

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
Manager:	Christina Michie
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698
E-mail:	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
Website:	www.queenslandhistory.org.au
ABN:	34 217 251 028
Postal:	The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003
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:

Editor A/editor	Dr Graeme Nicholson Marjorie Shackleton
E-mail:	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698.
Postal:	RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003

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	\$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