



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2012 No. 769

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

THE SINGING SHIP AT CHURCHILL'S LOOKOUT, EMU PARK

Above is a photograph of The Singing Ship built to commemorate the bicentenary of the exploration of the east coast of Australia by James Cook in 1770. This monument was built by Mr Steve Kele using a model built by Mrs Peggy Westmorland. The Ship is built on a slab thirty feet in diameter and two feet thick. It was officially opened on 30 May 1970 by the Honourable Ian Sinclair MP, Minister for Shipping.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report for October

What a busy month! Since the AGM in September the Society has held two successful events, work has progressed on the building repairs, and numerous projects continue to keep Society members and volunteers very busy indeed.

I would like to congratulate Denver Beanland who was elected to the position of Vice-President by the Council at the last meeting, and to welcome new Councillors Che Aberdeen and Nick Wall. Both Che and Nick have worked conscientiously for the RHSQ for the last two years, volunteering to work on event days and working with a number of committees including organising the re-development of our website (Nick) and the Membership Committee (Che). I would also like to recognise the hard work of former Councillors Janet Hogan, Manfred Cross, Richard Morgan and Bill Elliott, and thank them for their continued support of the RHSQ. Bill continues as Chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, and both Manfred and Bill are making significant contributions towards the upcoming Centenary program. Richard will continue as our contact with the Newstead House Board of Trustees, and we thank Janet for her significant contributions towards the RHSQ for many years.

Council also undertook the annual committee elections, and I would like to acknowledge the Chairs and Honoraries of each committee: *Awards* – Ruth Kerr; *Centenary Program Committee* – Helen McMonagle; *Exhibition Curators* – Janice Hess (Honorary Exhibition Curator) and Robyn Stephensen (Assistant Honorary Exhibition Curator); *Grants Coordinator* – Rebecca Ling; *Marketing and Communications* – Bill Elliott; *Membership* – Denver Beanland; *Museum* – Marilyn England; *Program* – Carolyn Nolan; *Publications* – Ruth Kerr; *Website Manager* – Nick Wall. Advisory committees include the 'Dig Tree' Advisory Committee, the Boggo Road Gaol Advisory Committee, the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction Committee, the Northbank Heritage Advisory Committee, and the National Archives of Australia Brisbane Consultative Forum. The Honorary Editor of the Queensland History Journal is Margaret Kowald and the Honorary Assistant Editors are Val Donovan and Ruth Kerr. Dr Graeme Nicholson continues as Editor of the RHSQ *Bulletin* and Marjorie Shackleton as Assistant Editor.

It was with great sadness that the Society received Ken Jewell's letter of resignation this month. I would like to recognise Ken's invaluable support to the Society over many years. He has gone painstakingly through the donation registers in their various ancient formats trying to reunite our museum

objects with their provenance, with great success. His reorganisation of the space in B2 was very practical, and during his time on the Council Ken arranged to move the art works up off the floor and onto the good strong supports that are there now. Ken was also a great guide, continuously updating his knowledge of the Commissariat Store and Queensland's history. We wish Ken all the very best in his future endeavours.

The Brisbane Open House event, organised by the Brisbane Development Association, the National Trust of Queensland and the Office of the Queensland Government Architect, was held on Saturday 6 October 2012. It was a phenomenal success with 720 people passing through the doors of the Commissariat Store between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm – a significant increase from last year which saw an attendance of over 500 people.

A new children's program was introduced this year, which appeared to be a successful drawcard with far more families coming through than in previous years. Thanks to Manager Christina Michie for organising the impressive number of volunteers who helped out on the day, and for smoothing over the hiccups which occurred. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who made the day such a success: Jean Stewart, Che Aberdeen, Beth Johnson, Barbara Harman, Greg McBride, Don Murray, Colin McFarlane, Nick Wall, Estelle Schoch, Joan Nissen, Jane Houben, Malcolm Thomas, Marilyn O'Sullivan, Leisa Day, and Grace and Lyn from the BOH Team.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Society, and we appreciate the time and effort given by everyone who works with the RHSQ and Commissariat Store. If you would like to volunteer your unique services to the Society, please contact either me or Christina Michie.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for October

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

Border Markers – Cameron's, Hadden's and Poeppel's Corners have been nominated for their historic significance for inclusion on the Queensland Heritage Register. These corners mark the boundaries in south west Queensland with New South Wales, South Australia and Northern Territory. Cameron's Corner was marked with a timber post in 1880 and replaced by a concrete one in 1969. (*Warrego Watchman* 6 September 2012 p.5)

Charleville – The future of the historic Warrego Club is being assessed in Charleville. It is currently owned by the Charleville Memorial RSL Club. (*Warrego Watchman* 13 September 2012 p.5)

Maytown – A memorial to the Palmer Goldfield miner, Sam Elliott, was removed recently with permission from the *Palmerville* Holding and re-erected by the Cairns Four Wheel Drive Club at Maytown. The need for the removal occurred because the road to Maytown had been relocated by Cook Shire Council in recent years. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 21 September 2012 p.5)

Peranga on the Oakey – Cooyar Railway celebrated its centenary on 29 September 2012. The railway through Peranga closed in 1964. A photograph of the last train through Peranga was published in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* on 13 September 2012 on page 27.

Stradbroke Island – The Queensland Heritage Council decided on 28 September 2012 not to enter the former Tipplers Tavern building on the Heritage Register as it does not satisfy one or more of the criteria listed in s.35 (1) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (Information supplied by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and *Queensland Government Gazette* 12 October 2012)

Yeppoon - A letter to the editor of the *Capricorn Coast Mirror* on 19 September 2012 was very critical of the government's proposal to sell the local unused railway station building. The author advocated re-use to promote the town's tourism. (*Capricorn Coast Mirror* 19 September 2012 p.10)

Research Report for October

The following requests have been made this month: the age of a house in Herston (more details were requested and advice given on how to trace the history of a house); Journal of Australian Studies; Dr Sandford Jackson and his contribution to the Society; images of the equipment used by McDowell for Radio 4CM; conscription debates during World War I; a jetty at Cleveland during the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement period; passengers arriving on the *Artemesia*; and David Bull of Cooroy. It has been a quiet period but Lyndsay Smith's return from holidays has enabled the clearance of a backlog of requests for copies of photos in the collection. Kay Cohen has also returned from overseas.

A visit from the president and research officer of the Blackbird organisation based in Townsville saw the examination of the petition for the release of mariners on the ship the *Hopeful* who were tried for killing people while they were blackbirding in New

Guinea. Other material on such ships was also examined.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Library Report October

Catalogue: Many typographical and other errors have been corrected. The listing of and checking of the Government Papers in the collection has continued. More photos and Photo Album images have been added to the collection.

Repair and restoration of items in the Collection: The Flinders Charts and Volumes 1 and 2 of ML Fox, *History of Queensland* and a copy of *Votes & Proceedings* have recently been professionally rebound thus increasing the value of these items. Further consideration is to be given to conservation of some books and manuscripts in the collection.

Offers: Several items have been offered to the Society. We have accepted some etchings of buildings in Brisbane in a small set from the Second World War period; and after viewing some material relating to a former teacher of Somerville House we have advised the donors that it would be best to donate them to the school which has a highly developed archives collection.

Cilento Papers: We have recently been informed that Ruth Cilento is offering Sir Raphael Cilento's remaining papers to the State Library and to the Fryer Library. We will seek information about any items which would be relevant for our collection and would reflect his work during his long association with the Society.

Jean Stewart and Ruth Kerr

Coming Events

At the National Archives of Australia

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

Saturday 17 and Wednesday 21 November 10.00 - 11.30 am

'Using Archives Online'

More than 3.5 million online searches are made in RecordSearch each year. At this seminar discover how you can maximise your online search success, and what is in store for online access in the future.

Saturday 15 and Wednesday 19 December 10.00 - 11.00 am

'National Archives plans for 2013'

Join Queensland State Director, David Swift, over

morning tea to hear a review of National Archives work in 2012 and our plans for 2013.

At the Queensland Women's Historical Association

Thursday 8 November 10.30 am

Morning Tea and Talk

'District Court: A Court for all Queenslanders'

The paper on the history of the District Court of Queensland traces the highs and lows of the court from its establishment in 1865 and is mainly focused on the period until 1922 when it was abolished. We will also touch on the colourful character of some of the judges who made up the court. This presentation is based on the book *A Case Apart: The District Court of Queensland*.

Guest Speaker is Dr Denver Beanland, Historian and former Queensland MLA and Brisbane City Council Alderman.

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

At the Queensland State Archives Seminars

Thursday 8 November 8.30 - 10.00 am

Public Search Room

'Using Microform Workshop'

Learn how to use the Archive's microform equipment. You will be required to bring your own USB.

Saturday 10 November 9.00 - 11.00 am

Lecture Theatre 2

'Getting Started'

Learn about the QSA collection and how best to find the information you require. This seminar is presented by one of the experienced staff and includes a short tour

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. RSVP as soon as possible as seats are limited.

'Brisbane's Modern Past' Talk Series

Brisbane Square Library

266 George Street

Telephone 3403 4166 to book a seat

Saturday 17 November 10.30 am - 12 noon

'The Plague in Brisbane'

In 1900 a very unwelcome visitor arrived in Brisbane from Sydney. It was the plague, the Black Death, carried by the fleas on rats; and although its arrival was not unexpected, little seems to have been done to prepare for it. The city was in crisis, as victims and their families were packed off to isolation camps. The disease died down after a time - but then it returned, again and again. Writer Pamela Rushby, will share the fruits of her research into this dark period of Brisbane's History.

New Members

Claire Marshall

Frances Kendall

Keith Laker

Sonia Minniecon

Eugene Murphy

Meredith Walker

Christopher Schuetz

Erin Coster

Avon Swain

Peter W Bray

Fortitude Valley

Durack

Thornlands

Nth Mackay

Pittsworth

Buderim

Wavell Heights

Newtown

Northgate

Hamilton

MUSEUM CURATOR'S REPORT

ITALIAN PRESENCE IN QUEENSLAND

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

EXHIBITION CLOSURE 30TH MAY 2014

OPEN: THURSDAY TO FRIDAY 10.00AM - 4.00PM (LASTS DAY 10.00AM - 3.00PM)
PH: 07 3221 4198

The poster for the exhibition, which was designed by Melbourne Illustrator Megan Hess, features some interesting photos and objects that will be on display. These include the photos of Father Jerome Davadi, who helped start the wine industry in Stanthorpe, Guiseppa and Noelene (Surnames unknown) in an apple orchard and Carmela Marino with her children Lucia and Sebastiano.

Following a meeting with Maria Tyre and her husband Colin some wonderful Italian lace, which was hand worked by her mother Angela Domanti, has been donated for the exhibition. The museum thanks Maria Tyre for the loan this beautiful work.

The mounting of photos and text is underway and the exhibition is coming together with installation to take place in early November.

The open day is November 24 and for further information please contact the museum on 32214198. This is an exciting exhibition that should not be missed.

Janice Hess
Hon. Museum Curator
Robyn Stephensen
Assist. Hon. Museum Curator

Mephisto

As Remembrance Day 2012 approaches I feel it is timely to publish a letter I received earlier this year from Neville MacPherson. Here it is. Ed

‘It was fascinating that the German tank, Mephisto, was featured on the front page of the April Bulletin.

There is so much for Queenslanders to celebrate in having it at the new Museum over at Southbank. Originally, it was over at Bowen Hills and many a child (including me) played in it/on it during its time there. Now, it is behind glass and you can't get anywhere near it. A fellow (Mark Whitmore??), who I met when he was at the AWM in Canberra (about 10 years ago he took up a posting in London at the IWM), wrote a book on Mephisto. The book is worth reading.

Did you realize that it is THE ONLY German tank which survives from WWI: that it was captured at Villers-Brettoneaux (where that other great and substantial Queensland, Sir William Glasgow, whose statue was removed from Roma Street and is now located overlooking Adelaide Street near the Shrine, was in command of the 'other' (forgotten) Brigade who captured the now Australian monument [will those darn Victorians and their 'Pompey' Elliott - the man who, very sadly, committed suicide in the

early 1930s - let us forget their man who led the 'otherbrigade'!?!].

A couple of years ago (around July, 2009), my wife and I squeezed in a tour of the Western Front. The tour was arranged by a Kenmore company, but was led by a former British fellow who lived in France (I reckon he would have been, at best, a WO2 in the British Army - and probably from the Provost Corps, at that!!) Anyway, we went to V-B and I thought that Mephisto would be front and centre of any visit there, particularly given that most of the tour group were Queenslanders, who were my vintage and probably saw Mephisto at the old museum at Bowen Hills; given that the tour group was from Kenmore (although the tour leader had never visited Brisbane, let alone Australia); and given my express desire to see where Mephisto was captured (which was not very far from V-B). However, despite the promise, we were shown instead a model of Mephisto in the V-B Museum; then, when we got out of the Museum, we turned right instead of left (where Mephisto was captured - the first 'tank on tank' battle in history, in which Mephisto had participated!) and were taken to the Adelaide Cemetery to see the tomb of the 'unknown soldier', which we were all supposed to be interested in (we were, but not overly so!!); lastly, on the bus back to our hotel, we saw a VERY dated video about Mephisto which featured Mark Whitmore when he was still at the Qld Museum (the video must have been about 20 years out of date!). I still feel cheated!!

Finally, did you realize that German delegation came out to Brisbane in order to take accurate measurements of the tank so that a replica of Mephisto could be built in Germany? I'd say that both the Germans and the English would give their eye teeth for the original!! Take care,

Neville MacPherson'



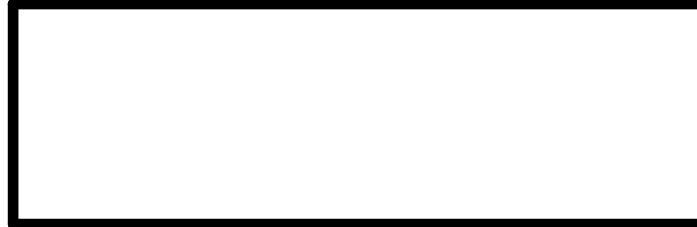
Photo: Graeme Nicholson

A photo of Mephisto in its glass case at the Queensland Museum before it was removed for restoration. It is not back yet.

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

NOVEMBER 2012

Thursday 8 November Council Meeting

Wednesday 14 November talk 12.30 pm

‘George Hart Taylor: A Rediscovered Queensland Colonial Artist’

Dianne Byrne

Thursday 15 November *Bulletin* Deadline

Saturday 24 November Opening of the Italian

Exhibition 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Registration 9.30 am

YOUR SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER

The speaker for Wednesday 14 November is Dianne Byrne who is Curator of Original Materials at the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. She is the author of *A Travelling Photographer in Colonial Queensland: the work of William Boag* and has written on Queensland colonial art and decorative arts.

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:

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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