



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

DECEMBER 2012 No. 770

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



Photo: Joe Patti

A Butter Making Demonstration at Landsborough

A twelve person visiting party from RHSQ enjoyed a very warm welcome at the Landsborough Historical Museum (LHM) on Monday 5 November 2012. The LHM has a very well presented display of objects of relevance to the Landsborough and wider district, including collections of material about (from) Sir Frank Nicklin, William Landsborough, Caloundra Lighthouse, telephones of yesteryear, clothes irons, wood working and cutting tools, china ware, dentistry equipment, photography equipment, farm machinery, books, historical records and much more. Highlights of the visit included demonstrations of butter-making, which was then used to enhance the damper and treacle offered as morning tea. Also, included was a demonstration of old style typesetting by an experienced typesetter utilising a 1914 'Intertype' typesetting machine and using molten metal.

The three-hour visit also afforded newly installed RHSQ President Helen McMonagle an early opportunity to meet representatives of a related historical society in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The visit and enjoyable tour was followed by an equally enjoyable lunch and a cool drink at the nearby country pub.

Joe Patti

President's Report for November

With Christmas fast approaching, this month sees the long anticipated opening of *The Italian Presence* exhibition and launch of Marilyn England's new book *Toowong 1863-2011* on Saturday 24 November. We are fortunate to have the Member for Bulimba, the Honourable Aaron Dillaway MP who will be performing the official opening on behalf of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Glen Elmes MP. Marilyn's book will be launched in the afternoon by prominent Network Ten presenter Lexy Hamilton-Smith. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by the Honorary Exhibition Curator Janice Hess, Honorary Assistant Exhibition Curator Robyn Stephensen, Program Coordinators Carolyn Nolan and Ian Bonaccorso, members Barbara Harman (catering) and Maryanne Pender (marketing), and manager Christina Michie for her administrative support.

Plans are also well underway for events to celebrate the Society's centenary next year, with the first being a 'Not At Home' in Ipswich. A 'Save the Date' has been included in this edition of the *Bulletin*, and a flyer will be circulated shortly with further information.

Our new website has been launched by Website Manager and RHSQ Councillor Nick Wall, with many compliments coming through from other historical bodies for the excellent job Nick and the Website Committee have done. The site hits information tool on the website allows us to see a breakdown of how many people are viewing our website and their general information such as which country they are accessing it from, how many times they look at it and what they look at. Up to 8 November there had been 165 unique visitors to the site, which shows a promising interest in the Society. On Monday 5 November 2012, Joe Patti led an expedition of 10 members on a visit to the Landsborough Museum where we were treated demonstrations of butter churning and type-setting, and a delicious morning tea of damper, freshly churned butter and various condiments. The museum is run in a highly professional manner by volunteers from the Landsborough & District Historical Society Inc., who opened the museum especially for our party and made us feel very welcome indeed - we hope that they will take us up on an offer to visit our own Commissariat Store. I would like to thank Joe for organising a wonderful day, and also the Landsborough & District Historical Society for hosting us.

Finally, I would like to invite all members to attend a workshop to be held at the start of February, which will involve committees outlining their plans for the coming year, the discussion of solutions to problems the Society is facing at present, and provide a platform for members to speak directly with Council regarding any suggestions they may have. I encourage you to attend the meeting, however if this is not possible, please feel free to complete the 'Suggestion Form' enclosed with this Bulletin and return it to the office by 2 February 2013. I greatly appreciate any suggestions on how the RHSQ can go forward into our next century.

Helen McMonagle
President

A Tribute to Manfred Cross

We would like to acknowledge the work of Manfred Cross, who resigned his from his position as Vice-President of the RHSQ in September. Manfred held the Federal seat of Brisbane from 1961 to 1975, was re-elected in 1980 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1990. He was the Parliamentary Representative on the Council of the National Library from 1973 to 1975 and from 1980 to 1989. He is a former Chairman of the State Library Board of Queensland, a keen local historian, and the RHSQ's longest-serving member.

Manfred was a highly successful Chair of the Programme Committee for many years, calling on his wide circle of friends and acquaintances to bring some wonderful speakers, along with his own highly informative and entertaining addresses. Manfred has also been a very active member of the Dig Tree Advisory Committee, making numerous trips out to the Dig Tree Reserve to assist in our commitment there as Trustee. Both Manfred and his wife Barbara are staunch supporters of the Society and we thank them wholeheartedly for their years of dedication and hard work.

Save the Date

The RHSQ invites all members and their families and friends to our first 'Not At Home' for 2013, which will be a public discussion set in 1860 and based upon Ipswich's bid to become the capital of the new colony of Queensland. The event is titled *Brisbane versus Ipswich 1860: Should Ipswich be the capital of Queensland*, and will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 23 February 2013 at The University of Queensland, Ipswich Campus Auditorium. More details will be posted in the *Bulletin* over the coming months.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for November

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

Charleville – A 1928 photograph looking south westerly down Edward Street was published on page 2 of the *Western Times* on 18 October 2012. It was taken from the roof of the School of Arts. It shows the roof of the band stand, Calcino's Charleville Motors, Bill Grice's Wagon Works, Dr Shannessy's private Hospital, the new picture theatre and private homes. Cedar trees lined the street.

Charleville – Historical Society member, George Balsillie, described some of the historical collection in a report for the *Warrego Watchman* newspaper. One room of Charleville's 125 years old Historic House is laid out as a banquet hall. Another has century old organs and there are rare old ambulances at the rear. The house does have a vault for preservation of the Historical Society's valuable research documents. Some historic engines were damaged in the 1990 flood. The Historical Society purchased the former bank and boarding house in 1973 with George Balsillie and other farmers acting as guarantors for a \$6,500 loan. The collection began with some firearms in 1973. Salvage of rubbish dumps at *Thylungra* and *Milo* provided valuable artifacts for display. The Presbyterian Estey organ, a Ronish piano, Marshall steam engine and a 1920s rail ambulance illustrate the range of exhibits. There are around 30 visitors per day to the museum and historical research may also be undertaken. (*Warrego Watchman* 18 October 2012 pp.1-2.)

Cooktown – An obituary of one of the Cooktown Historical Society's very active members, John Shay (12 October 1948 – 20 September 2012), appeared in the *Cooktown Local News* 11-17 October 2012 p.7. John was a Vietnam veteran (1970-1971) serving in the military from 1965 to 1986. He then attended Teachers College at Griffith University and was appointed to Cooktown State High School where he taught Manual Arts and Graphics from 1988 to 1998. He was a founding member of a number of societies and charities and welfare agencies in Cooktown. He was also involved in the Pandanus Park War veterans Retreat at Kalpowar on Cape York. When he left school teaching in 1998 he committed his time to the Historical Society establishing displays and a historical archive. He and his wife, Bev, were a team. They were both awarded an OAM for their roles in 2009. They wrote many historical leaflets and booklets on the history of the Cooktown region. (*Cooktown Local News* 11-17 October 2012 p.7 including photograph)

Longreach – Fifteen members of the Longreach

Historical and Archival Research Group appeared in a photograph in the local newspaper promoting their display in the old TAB building in Eagle Street celebrating the history of Longreach through the history of its residents. Current residents are able to contribute further information and memorabilia. A brief outline of the history of Longreach since 1863 was published. Explorer, William Landsborough, cattleman Ned Buchanan and Edward Cornish were involved in establishing the Scottish Australian Company in 1863 on a very large pastoral property, *Bowen Downs* of 2,000 square miles. Longreach began as a teamsters' camp supplying *Mount Cornish*, an outstation of *Bowen Downs* which carried 35,000 cattle and up to 300,000 sheep in good years. Town lots were sold in Arilalah and Forest Grove in 1885 but the towns did not prosper because surveyors selected the ridge at the Longreach teamsters' camp as the site for the terminus of the railway. Longreach was gazetted as a town in 1887 and allotments offered for purchase. The national Bank bought one for £107 and JM Savage bought one diagonally opposite for £104. The population was 150 by 1890. There were three hotels, a police station and several stores. In 1895 there were 14 hotels, hospital, three churches, School of Arts, a Show Society and several clubs. The first town bore was drilled in 1902. The Longreach Motor Company and Edwards, Martin Ltd both opened in 1910. Qantas began there in 1920. Reticulated water was introduced in 1938. The population had increased to 5,000 by 1961, a state high school opened in 1966 and Longreach Pastoral College in 1967. The collapse of wool prices and low cattle prices caused the population to decline to 3,800 in 1981. Long serving chairman of the shire council, Sir James Walker, promoted the Stockman's Hall of Fame which opened in 1988. The Qantas Founders Museum followed. The town boasts that it has the largest caravan park in the southern hemisphere. (*Longreach Leader* of 21 September 2012 p.9)

Morven State School held its 125th year celebrations in early September 2012 with over 400 people attending. A mosaic was created and Leonie Eckel prepared an anniversary history book. (*Warrego Watchman* 13 September 2012 p.3 including two photographs)

Roma - The Roma Historical Motor Club celebrated its 30th anniversary with a major rally event and parade at St George and afterwards at Nindigully Hotel. (*Balonne Beacon* 13 September 2012 p.7 including photograph)

Winton – The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum is a finalist in the World Architect festival Awards. The Stage 1 building was designed by Cox

Rayner Architects. There have been more than 12,000 visitors to the museum since its opening in April 2012. (*Longreach Leader* 28 September 2012 p.4)

Suburban History

Paddington – Ithaca Swimming Pool has been operating for more than a century. \$1.2 million of renovations were done in 2009. A photograph taken around 1910 of the Ithaca Baths was published in the *Westside News* on 12 September 2012 p.5.

Research Report for November

Having been away on a trip to Lightning Ridge and inspecting all sorts of historical societies and treasures I was pleased to return to the organised activity of the Commissariat Store. During my absence the research team was busy indeed. They dealt with a wide range of topics including early Brisbane streets and buildings; reports of the Railways Department; the Seal music manuscripts; Mount Molloy; Landsborough; *The Queen of the Colonies*; sundry pastoral properties; the heritage garden of the Old Museum; images of University colleges on Kangaroo Point; the Williams' family connection with St Patrick's Church, Yungaburra; the history of Gardens Point; South Brisbane Dry Dock; the *Artemisia* passengers; and Goodna sandstone.

We were asked if we knew of any descendants of John Oxley who may be living in Brisbane so they could be invited to the unveiling of a plaque at 'Termination Hill', the furthest point reached on his first exploration of the Brisbane River in 1823. We would be happy to supply details of this event to anyone who may qualify.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Library Report November

Conservation of books and manuscripts: Ian Hadwen met with the Library Management Committee on Friday 26 October to examine the books in the Library which are important for the collection and which are in poor condition and in need of repair. About twenty volumes were put aside to seek a quotation for restoration. A procedure has been established to check the manuscripts which may need conservation, but not much progress has been made yet.

Catalogue: The checking of items on the Catalogue is continuing. Work is being done to prepare recently acquired maps and photos as well as the contents of photo albums for accession.

Jean Stewart and Ruth Kerr

RHSQ Committees and Appointments

Awards: Ruth Kerr, John Pearn, Stephen Sheaffe and Ian Hadwen.

Boggo Road Gaol Advisory Committee

Representative: Stephen Sheaffe

Building Committee: Dean Prangley (Chrm), Jean Stewart and the Manager

Centenary Celebrations Committee: Helen McMonagle (Chrm), Maryanne Pender, David Gibson, Carolyn Nolan, Che Aberdeen, Manfred Cross, John Pearn, Jean Stewart, Ruth Kerr, Bill Elliott., Dean Prangley

'Dig Tree' Advisory Committee: Carolyn Nolan (Chrm), John Pearn, Ruth Kerr, Manfred Cross

Exhibition Curators: Jan Hess, Robyn Stephensen.

Grants Co-ordinator: Rebecca Ling

History Week: The meeting resolved that it be subsumed into the Program and centenary Celebrations Committees.

Hon Editor of *Queensland History Journal* and Hon

Assistant Editors: Margaret Kowald, Honorary Editor, and Val Donovan and Ruth Kerr, Assistant Editors

Hon Editor of *Bulletin*: Graeme Nicholson

John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction

Committee: Helen McMonagle (Chrm), John Pearn, Carolyn Nolan

Library Management Officers: Jean Stewart and Ruth Kerr

Marketing and Communications: Bill Elliott (Chrm), Jeff O'Mara, David Gibson, Marilyn England, Barbara Harman, Sasha Broughton, Dean Prangley

Membership Committee: Denver Beanland (Chrm), Che Aberdeen, Di Clancy, Annette McGinn, Greg McBride, Ruth Kerr

Museum: Marilyn England, Hilary Fisher, Meghan Tait, Ken Sbeghen, Jan Hess, Robyn Stephenson, Graeme Nicholson

National Archives of Australian Brisbane

Consultative Forum Representative: Ruth Kerr, Carolyn Nolan

DPW Tenants Committee Representatives: Dean Prangley, Christina Michie

Northbank Heritage Advisory Committee: Carolyn Nolan, Denver Beanland, Bill Elliott

Program: Carolyn Nolan (Chrm), Barbara Harman, Jean Stewart, Dean Prangley, Che Aberdeen

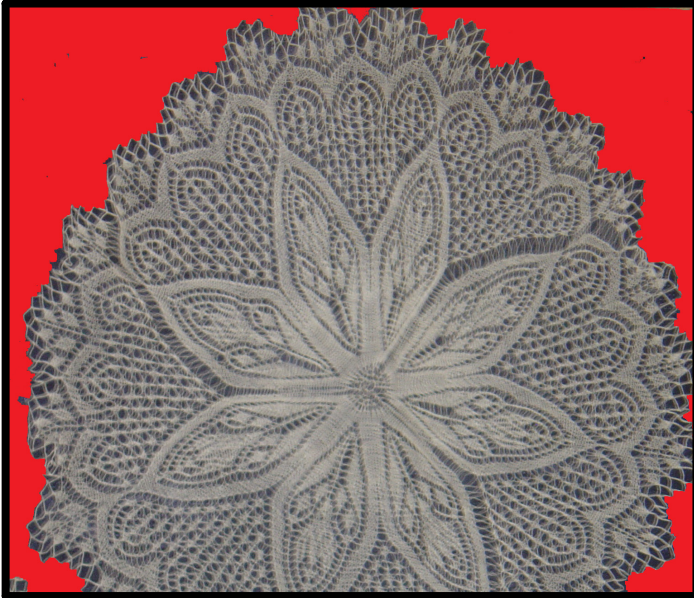
Publications: Ruth Kerr (Chrm), Joe Patti, Margaret Kowald, Val Donovan, Hilary Fisher, Carolyn Nolan, Graeme Nicholson

Website Manager: Nick Wall

The Council appointed Denver Beanland as Vice President of the Society.

The Council appointed Nick Wall as a Councillor.

MUSEUM CURATOR'S REPORT



**Venetian lace by Angela Domanti
1912 - 1978**

The *Italian Presence Exhibition* has had a successful opening with many people enjoying the day and viewing the display. One of the main features in the exhibition is the beautiful hand-knitted pieces of lace worked by Angela Domanti. This lace was worked using sewing cotton instead of crochet cotton. The display includes crochet doilies, tablecloth, fringed towel, sheet and pillow shams featuring cherubs and made from fine Irish linen, which was worked using pulled thread.

The museum thanks Maria Tyre, daughter of Angela Domanti, for the loan of these objects for the duration of the exhibition.

Janice Hess
Honorary Museum Curator
Robyn Stephensen
Honorary Assistant. Museum Curator

New Members

Toowong and District Historical Society	Grange
John and Mary Blake	Spring Hill
Michelle Burgess	Hampton Vic
Martin Playne	Karana Downs
Greg McBride	

The Queensland Migration Heritage Partnership

The Queensland Migration Heritage Partnership is a unique collaboration of Queensland Government cultural agencies and other organisations working together to celebrate and promote Queensland's unique multicultural heritage.

I am delighted to let you know that the collaborative project outlined below is now 'live' – and I invite you and your family, friends and community to be part of these exciting initiatives:

The Queensland Migration Heritage Hub

The Hub is the first website in Queensland that brings together migration heritage resources including research material, images, listings of heritage sites, archival information and records, a wide variety of useful links – as well as the migration stories of Queenslanders.

We are working to upload information on each of the many cultural groups in Queensland (look under *Resources/Communities*), including their histories and current activities. Please feel free to send us information to upload on the page relevant to your community, or post a comment yourself anytime.

You can also post your own story and images of migrating to Queensland. It's very easy to do – just go to the *Share your story page*.

The Queensland Migration heritage Hub is at: www.qldmigrationheritage.com.au

Coming Events

At the National Archives of Australia

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

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 State Archives

Seminar for December at the Queensland State Archives, Compton Road, Runcorn. Free entry, telephone 31317777

Saturday 8 December 10.00 - 12.00 noon

'Australian South Sea Islanders on record'

Royal Historical Society of Queensland
 PO Box 12057
 Brisbane, George Street QLD 4003
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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday 9 December

Proclamation Day

JANUARY 2013

Tuesday 15 January *Bulletin* Deadline

NOTICES.

The Commissariat Store will be closed for the Christmas break from Saturday 22 December until Tuesday 8 January 20-13.

The President, Councillors and Volunteers of the Society wish all our members a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year

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

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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