



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

MARCH 2013 No. 772

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: Katie McConnel

Historian and Curator of Old Government House, Dr Katie McConnel photographed whilst on tour at Hardwick Hall, UK, as part of her Alex Copland Attingham Scholarship.

President's Report for February

In true Queensland fashion, January and February have been trials of flood, fire, storms and heat. Fortunately the Commissariat Store was unaffected by the flooding which occurred in Brisbane's CBD. My thoughts however are with our members who suffered through this time, and on behalf of the Society I pass on our deep concerns and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

On a more positive note, it is with great delight that I acknowledge and congratulate the Australia Day Honours awarded to three members of the RHSQ: The Honourable Justice Margaret Jean White AO was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the judiciary and the law, through leadership in administration, contributions to education and law reform, and to the community of Queensland; Dr Ian William Marshall AM was appointed Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community of Queensland as a medical practitioner and through contributions to the cattle industry and rural education; Professor Emeritus Maurice William French AM was appointed Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to tertiary education through a range of leadership roles, to the preservation of local history, and to the study of the humanities; and Professor John Pearn AM was honoured as an Australia Day Ambassador.

Paul Seto and the Maritime Museum organised a commemorative event on 10 February 2013 for the capsizing of the ferry *Pearl*, which occurred on the Brisbane River between Queens Wharf Road and the present site of the Maritime Museum on 13 February 1896. I attended and was very impressed by the program for the afternoon, which included presentations by descendants of those involved; the names of the victims read out and a flower thrown into the river for each of the 29 people who perished. I thank Paul for inviting the Society to participate in such an important commemorative event.

On 13 February 2013, the Society was honoured by the attendance of our patron, The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, at our February lunchtime talk, presented by Michael (Mick) Davies on *The First 100 Years of the Queensland Ambulance*. We sincerely thank Her Excellency for showing such an avid interest in our program.

We were sad to farewell Kate Pharey and Robyn Stephenson this month. Kate worked diligently with Treasurer Barrie Rollason to put the Society's financial records in order, and maintain

them over the last few years. Robyn, as Honorary Assistant Exhibitions Curator has worked tirelessly with Honorary Exhibitions Curator Janice Hess over the last decade to put together exhibitions at the Commissariat Store. They will be missed by all at the Society and I wish them happiness in their future endeavours. Commissariat Store Manager Christina Michie has since taken on the book-keeping tasks with enthusiasm, and we warmly welcome her to the new role.

I must also tender my sincere apologies for a mistake I made in the December *Bulletin* – the Society's longest serving member is actually Dr Samuel Rayner, who joined the HSQ as a life member on 23 October 1945. Dr Rayner has an accomplished career in education; I would like to take this opportunity to honour Dr Rayner by sharing some of his many achievements with you.

In 1941, Dr Rayner was awarded the Archibald Scholarship and the Thomas Morrow Prize after completing his Arts degree at The University of Queensland. He gained his Master of Arts (History) in 1947, and taught at the Church of England Grammar School (his alma mater) and Nambour Rural School before completing his Bachelor of Education (Honours) and Master of Education at The University of Melbourne. He was awarded the Cohen Prize for both theses.



(Photograph of Dr Sam Rayner, The University of Queensland Archives S175 Item 13)

After receiving the Fulbright Scholarship, Dr Rayner completed his doctorate in Education at the University of Illinois and was appointed Assistant Registrar (Academic) at The University of Queensland in 1958, Deputy Registrar in 1961, and Registrar in 1970. During his time at the University of Queensland, he worked closely with Vice-Chancellors including J D Story, Professors Sir Fred Schonell, Sir Zelman Cowen and Brian Wilson AO. Dr Rayner has also written several books and journal articles on education. On behalf of the RHSQ I would like to thank him for his long-standing support of the Society.

Finally, as promised last month, I have gone through Pugh's Almanac, and have uncovered the following significant events which occurred in March 1913: 11 March: The first sitting of the Industrial Court, constituted under the Industrial Peace Bill was held before His Honour Judge Macnaughton; 15 March: His Excellency the Governor Sir William MacGregor was re-appointed Chancellor, and Mr R H Roe appointed Vice-Chancellor, of The Queensland University; 18 March: Queensland University academic year opens with 200 students; 26 March: 'Associated Farmers of Queensland' cooperative body was formed to deal with the marketing of produce; 27 March: Foundation stone of the Ambulance Brigade's new building in Bundaberg was laid by the Honourable A Gibson; 30 March: new church at Warra in the Dalby district opened and blessed by His Grace Archbishop Duhig.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for February

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

Bundaberg - Australian Sugar Cane Railway

– Member, Ms Wendy Driver indicated on 30 January that on the previous day the flood waters were 'up to the ticket window and rising!!!' At that rate it is above the top of the doors in the training room. Local opinion was that the water is travelling at 70-80kms an hour. On that basis the Bundaberg Railway Museum (North Bundaberg Station precinct) will also be well under water. (Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society News Officer – Email to Members on 30 January 2013)

Some of the city's important historical artefacts may be lost after the Bundaberg Railway Museum went under water. Co-ordinator Graham Hibberd said some of the photos, manuals and other paraphernalia at the North Bundaberg museum could not be

replaced."We have a 100- year-old cash book and old uniforms," he said. "We also have original plans of the Burma Railway." Mr Hibberd said he and the staff tried to plan for the flood as best they could but did not yet know what damage the museum had suffered. A council spokesman said it could be days before staff could safely assess nearby sites such as the Hinkler Hall of Aviation, Cafe 1928 and Fairymead House. (*News Mail*, Bundaberg 31 Jan 2013 p.8)

Cairns – Earlville – Hap Wah Plantation - A commemorative plaque is being unveiled on 24 January 2013 at Stockland Shopping Centre, Earlville Northern Hall, near Angus & Coote Jewellers. It commemorates the 130th anniversary since the first crushing of sugar cane in the Cairns district and is part of the 2013 Chinese New Year celebrations. The plaque honours the Hap Wah plantation (1878 – 1886), its Pioneer Mill and executive manager Andrew Leon, and its historic site, now Stockland Shopping Centre. *Rediscovering Hap Wah*, a researched paper on the Hap Wah plantation, its Pioneer Mill and manager Andrew Leon, will be presented by Julia Volkmar. The Hap Wah enterprise was the first sugar cane grower, producer and exporter of sugar in the Cairns district. It played an essential role in the economic stability of early Cairns and as a Chinese venture it was unique in the Australian sugar industry. The research paper is part of the Cairns Historical Society Bulletin Series (Bulletin No.607, January 2013). Kevin Wong Hoy was the initiator, mentor and co-researcher of the Hap Wah Project. Project partners include Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc, Cairns Historical Society, Cairns North Qld Inc, Cairns Regional Council, Chinese Heritage in Northern Australia Inc, Julia Volkmar and Stockland Shopping Centre, and Barbara Dover, well known artist. Historical Societies of Bowen, Cooktown, Mulgrave Shire (Gordonvale) and Innisfail provided valuable research assistance, particularly relating to the Leon family. (Source: RHSQ Society member, Julia Volkmar, and Cairns Historical Society)

Cooroy – A photograph of Belvedere Newsagency in Diamond Street was published in *Noosa News* on 11 January 2013 on page 14. It has been owned by Gary and Carol Christensen for 21 years. The previous owner, Mrs Fox, named it after a lending library she had owned in Melbourne. Jarman Brothers established a business serving motor car owners in the 1920s and sold petrol and oils as motor cars were being introduced. It also had pool tables, an SP bookmaker at times and a barber. Also featured in the article was a photograph of a bullock team in front of the shops in that part of Cooroy. As

well the article publishes the history of Cooroy – railway opened 1891; town's first shop established in 1907; Cooroy State School opened in 1909; the butter factory in 1915; and the high school in 1963. (*Noosa News* 11 January 2013 pp.14 and 15)

Harrisville – The fully restored Royal Bank of Queensland building (known as the 'old' National Australia Bank) built in 1905 is for sale. Situated on 1012 square metres of land, the building (commercial and residential) has been renovated since purchase in 2003. (*Fassifern Guardian* 9 January 2013 (*Fassifern Guardian* 9 January 2013 p.3)

Kandanga – The memorabilia and artefacts of the Save the Mary Valley Information Centre were saved in the Australia Day weekend flood in the Mary Valley. (*Gympie Times* 2 February 2013 p.14)

Mutdapilly – The research centre, dairy farm, grazing and cultivation land is for sale. The property belongs to the state through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. It was established by the government as a state of the art dairy and cattle husbandry research centre in 1981. It comprises 309.3 ha in approximately 101 paddocks. (*Fassifern Guardian* 13 January 2013)

Roadvale – Ron Jurgensen commenced a museum on his property in 1965. It was a private collection which he gathered. It comprised agricultural objects, 40 motorbikes, three vintage and three classic motor cars, household items and a pianola which came from Aratula. Ownership has passed to Ron's daughter, Jenny Beasley, and her husband Rod. The oldest item is Ron Jurgensen's sulky dating from the 1800s. The museum is open on Sundays and during the week by appointment. Motorbike and car clubs are the largest group of visitors. (*Fassifern Guardian* 13 January 2013 p. 14 including four photographs)

Sellheim Cemetery – Efforts began in 2006 to restore Sellheim Cemetery when the Charters Towers Lions Club led by Jim and Lyn Sandowne began identifying persons buried in the cemetery. James Cook University assisted with location of graves and archaeological work was done in 2007-2008. Construction of a perimeter fence began in 2008. Professor Kett Kennedy commenced historical research on Sellheim and the cemetery in 2009. His book was launched on the eve of the unveiling and blessing of the cemetery on 17 November 2012. The first European to camp near the site of the township of Sellheim including the cemetery was Ludwig Leichhardt on 10 April 1845. The railway through Sellheim was officially opened on 4 December 1882. The Day Dawn and Wyndham Crushing Mill and Burdekin Meat Export Company's meatworks were

constructed at Sellheim in 1888 and 1895 respectively. (*Northern Miner* (Charters Towers) 9 November 2012 p.7 including two photographs)

The John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction

Nomination for the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction, for research and writing of Queensland history has opened for 2013. The award is made jointly by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland). Nominations close on 29 March 2013. Nomination forms can be downloaded at:
http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr_Nom.pdf

New History Books

A Grave View of Sellheim by Kett Kennedy. (ISBN 978-0-9752200-9-2, 115 pages, photographs, maps, acknowledgements, references, appendices) 100 copies were published for public sale. Published by the Dalrymple Regional Lions Club Inc, Charters Towers, 2012. The publishing and printing of the book was underwritten by the Dalrymple Community Cultural Centre Trust. The book is a companion to the Sellheim Cemetery Restoration project by Dalrymple Regional Lions Club, Charters Towers Lions Club, Charters Towers Regional Council and the Queensland Government Community Memorials Restoration Fund. The Charters Towers and Dalrymple Family History Association contributed to the project through research queries.

Smoke and Mirrors, the Rise and Fall of the North Queensland Tobacco Industry 1929-2004 by Marjorie Gilmore. Marjorie is a member of the north Queensland Gilmore family with first hand experience of the tobacco industry. The book was launched at the Mareeba Heritage Centre with 300 people in attendance. Stalwart of the tobacco industry in north Queensland, Remzie Mulla, launched the book. The book tells the stories of the tobacco industry, recording them through the book for posterity. (*Tableland Advertiser* 23 November 2012 p.3 including photograph)

On Friday 22 March at 6.00 pm at The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane the Lord Mayor, Councillor Graham Quirk, will be launching a new history book, *The Queensland Caesar: Sir Thomas McIlwraith* written by RHSQ Vice President, Denver Beanland and published by Boolarong Press.

Anyone who would like to attend should contact Karen on 07 3217 7229 by 17 March. Light refreshments will be served.

Research Report for February

While I was cruising along the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar the Research Team rose to the occasion and handled a very large number of enquiries. These included: Letters written by soldiers in World War I; Scottish settlers in Rockhampton 1861-1914; Christy Palmerston; panoramas of North Quay/River Road; adoption agencies with Brisbane hospitals; photos of a building at Kangaroo Point used by soldiers of the GMDF; a house in Auchenflower built c.1947; Woods' cutting book; St Mary's Catholic Church, Townsville; the commencement of the Blackall Hospital; images of plans of the Brisbane Town Hall; Annie Scourge who was charged in the District Court and ordered to make restitution for property to the value of 25 shillings; a request for a copy of 'A Walk around Sandgate' by the Sandgate and District Historical Society; Holland Park Hotel; Aboriginal Dance Halls in Brisbane; a ship's model made by David Thomas Stewart; identification of a photo of machinery (metal bender) found at North Pine Dam; material on Owen Gorman requested by his great, great, great, granddaughter; a cake shop in Cracknell Road, Annerley near Chardon's corner; the history of some place names – Banana, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Pompuraaw; Toowoomba and Wujal Wujal

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Visitors at RHSQ



The photograph above shows some visitors to the RHSQ who were interested in a model of the *SS James* that was made by David Thomas Stewart and presented to us in the 1980s. The people in the photograph are June Glanville (nee Narracott), great granddaughter of D T Stewart and three of her children, Gaye Cook (nee Glanville), in the blue shirt Pam Wighton (nee Glanville), Ron Glanville and RHSQ historian Val Donovan.

Museum Exhibitions Curator's Report



Photo: Janice Hess

An Object from the RHSQ Collection

BED WARMER Stoneware - English - Leaf decoration, c. 1920

The bed warmer would be filled with hot water and placed under the bed covers for warming the bed. It could also be placed under a travel rug to keep the traveller warm.

Resignation of Robyn Stephensen

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robyn Stephensen, Honorary Assistant Exhibitions Curator, for her assistance with the many exhibitions over the past ten years. I have appreciated her skills, especially in the research area, and wish Robyn the very best for the future.

Janice Hess
Honorary Exhibitions Curator

New Members

David Graham Lowe	Carindale
Riley Kernaghan	Regents Park
Mary Jolliffe	Aspley
Bernie Jefferies	Carindale
Margaret Shield	Capalaba

The 52nd Australian Theatre and Arts Festival - Lockyer Valley Region

is being held from 13 to 18 April at 17 North Street, Gatton. More information is available at: www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/component/events/event/367 or telephone Win Dawson MBE on 5465 2028

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

MARCH 2013

Saturday 9 March 9.00 am - 3.00 pm

RHSQ President's Conversazioni

Wednesday 13 March 12.30 pm Talk

'The Background to the birth of Miegunyah, 1950- 1968'

Jean Stewart

Friday 15 March *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR SPEAKER FOR MARCH

Jean Stewart, Honorary Research Officer, RHSQ:
The Background to the birth of Miegunyah, 1950-1968. Based on material from the archives held in the Welsby Library Jean Stewart will look at the relationship between the The (Queensland) Women's Historical Association and The (Royal) Historical Society of Queensland during this period.

Contact details:

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

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

The Society acknowledges financial assistance from: The Department of Multicultural Affairs; 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.

Open: Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed Saturday Sunday Monday as well as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter