



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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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



RHSQ Photograph

A NEW HISTORIC PRECINCT SIGN

The photograph above shows most of the members who contributed towards the Historic Precinct Signs. They are standing next to the one near the Botanic Gardens. From the left are: Ruth Kerr, Bill Elliott, Helen McMonagle, Jean Stewart, Jeff O'Mara and Marilyn England. Absent contributors are: Maryanne Pender, Carol Goodwin and Che Aberdeen.

Text: Helen McMonagle

President's Report for April

It is with great pleasure that I start my report for May by introducing our new Vice President, Dean Prangley, elected by Council after Denver Beanland resigned from the position in February. Dean has been a member of the RHSQ and volunteer guide since 2010, and Chair of the Building Committee since 2012. Dean brings with him extensive corporate and management experience through conducting his own business from 1975 to 2008, which involved the sale and lease of industrial property through his company Scan Industrial Property Consultants, and developing commercial and industrial premises for clients. Dean was a member of the Rotary Club of Rocklea for 35 years and holds a Paul Harris Fellowship. Dean was also President of The Brisbane Club in 1998 and is on the committee of their heritage group. On behalf of the Society I welcome him wholeheartedly to his new role as Vice-President of The RHSQ.

The RHSQ has been involved in a number of media opportunities recently, including an article in the *Brisbane Times* regarding the Historic Precinct Signs research provided and articles written for the *Courier Mail* by Val Donovan and Dean Prangley, interviews on 612 ABC, 4BC and 4KQ by Ian Bonaccorso, Val Donovan and Dean Prangley, and a segment filmed with Janice Hess for the *Great South East* which will air on 12 May 2013. It is wonderful that so much publicity is being afforded to the Society, and it is hoped that this will translate into new members and greater community attendance at our events.

On Friday 22 March 2013, Lord Mayor Graham Quirk launched Denver Beanland's new book *The Queensland Caesar: Sir Thomas McIlwraith* at a cocktail reception held at the Commissariat Store. It is a great compliment to Denver that a number of high profile guests were in attendance, and it was regarded by all as a wonderful evening. The March 'At Home' was held the next afternoon, with speakers Denver Beanland, Andrew Darbyshire and Jon Stanford providing an interesting array of topics, and Honorary Exhibitions Curator Janice Hess speaking about the new Post Office Exhibition currently on display on the middle floor.

The Wednesday talks which have been presented so far this year include *The Background to the birth of Miegunyah, 1950-1968* by Jean Stewart in March and *The first Australian unit to see action in WWI* by Graeme Nicholson on 10 April. Both were highly entertaining and informative, and were well-attended by Society members. This month Joy Ware will speak about her book *Altnachree, an Irish Castle,*

a Family and a Man with a Passion: the story of James Douglas Ogilby'. The talk will then be followed by a Deciphering Handwriting Skills Workshop, presented by Saadia Thomson-Dwyer, Senior Reference Archivist at the Queensland State Archives. The skills workshop is an opportunity for researchers and family historians to learn tricks for reading old handwritten documents such as letters and official reports, which can be difficult for those starting out.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the launch of Emeritus Professor Kay Saunders' new book *Deadly Australian Women* on Friday 17 May 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm 2013 at the Commissariat Store. Also, come along to our Centenary Open Day, which is planned for Sunday 2 June 2013, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. I hope that you will be able to join us for an enjoyable day of interesting talks, music and a viewing of period films.

On the 26 May 11.30 am - 3.00 pm we are hosting an 'At Home' in partnership with Italian Week. Registration will be at 11.30 am. Guest speakers will include Davide Cottone and Peter Connell. Entry fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 concession. Afternoon tea will be available (gold coin donation) - please find details about this event as they arise on our website www.queenslandhistory.org.au.

As was mentioned in my report last month, suggestions made by members at the President's Conversazioni in March have been assigned to committee-based groups and are being considered at committee meetings. I will include a report on these discussions in next month's *Bulletin*.

Finally, events listed in *Pugh's Almanac for 1914* for May 1913 include: 1st - all 166 township allotments offered for sale in Kilcoy by Mr Watts, District Crown Lands Agent, sold; 2nd - earthquake reported felt at Kingaroy and neighbouring towns early in the morning; 4th - John Oliver Feetham enthroned as Bishop of North Queensland in St James' Cathedral, Townsville; 5th - Eight Hour Day (now known as Labour Day) celebrated as a public holiday in Brisbane; 6th - the Cordalba-Dallarnil railway opened by the Hon. W. T. Paget; 19th - turning of the first sod of the Mount Mulligan railway performed by His Excellency the Governor, in the presence of several thousand spectators from Cairns and the hinterland; 22nd - loan of £250,000 to the Mackay Harbour Board approved for the new harbour scheme; 24th - first sod of the Pialba-Urangan railway turned by the Premier.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for April

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

Cooktown - In early December 2012 a human skeleton was discovered on North Shore beach. It is believed to be of historic origin. Bev Shay of Cooktown Historical Society has been researching the deaths of French sailors in 1879 on the L'Allier of 2040 tonnes and which carried 228 soldiers and a crew of 102. They died of typhoid and were buried on North Shore. There were 13 deaths recorded by the Registrar of Deaths in Cooktown: Augustin Nicot (22 yrs), Jean Marie Foucault (22 yrs), Jean Adolphe Bernard (22 yrs), Emmanuel Jean Allat (20 yrs), Jean Marie Pouly, Jules Boulanger, Valentin Maze, Louis Rene Desmos, Victor Letourneau, Jean Marie Urban, Louis Drouillet, Louis Marie Le Floch and Jean Marie Duret.

A monument was erected to the French sailors by Captain Colombea and a fence was erected around the graves in 1879. The fence and monument burnt down and in 1887 the captain of the French frigate, Volga, erected a new fence and an obelisk. *The Brisbane Courier* of 30 September 1904 reported discovery of the graves by young boys. In April 1905 there were articles in *The Brisbane Courier* stating that the burial site on North Shore was unknown. Archibald Meston stated that on return from a walking trip to Mount Saunders in 1889 he came upon a round topped marble slab protruding two feet (61 cm) out of the sand. There was a statement that French sailors were buried there. *The North Queensland Register* on 24 April 1905 reported that Douglas Hall had found the remains, a brass button stamped 'Lyon', mirror, remains of a white shirt, candle and a Napoleon gold coin. *The Brisbane Courier* of 4 May 1905 reported that a Requiem Mass was held at St Mary's at Cooktown by Reverend Father Dempsey, which was attended by 500 people including 250 school children. A procession to the cemetery took place and the Mayor Seagren, Lee Bryce the Mining Warden, Kortum (German Consul), Boddington a federal officer, Quilliam (Waterside Workers Union) and Cr Jensen of Daintree Shire were pall bearers. The British and French flags were intertwined above the grave. On 16 July 1907 it was reported that a suitable memorial completed by A L Petrie arrived in Cooktown. (*Cooktown Local News* 13 December 2012 p.1, 20-26 quoting from *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 December 1887; and December 2012 p.10 including photograph of monument in cemetery)

Eidsvold - The 99 years old historic house, Ormsary, owned by Richard and Jane Reiser at

Eidsvold has an uncertain future following the January 2013 floods which were said to be metres above the 1942 flood. The house was built by Eidsvold Shire Clerk, William Wilson Farquhar. The present owners completed renovations in November 2012. The house was washed off its blocks in the recent flood and antique furniture washed down the Burnett River. (*Central and North Burnett Times* 7 March 2013 p.5 including photograph)

Gayndah - During the Australia Day weekend Burnett River flood of unprecedented levels the Gayndah and District Historical Society's museum was severely flooded. President, Cynthia Berthelsen, spoke of the excellent work that the police and council workmen did to assist townspeople during the flood. She wrote a Letter to the Editor of the *Central and North Burnett Times* on 7 March 2013 thanking all the helpers for the Society following the damage to the museum's machinery and displays. Water is being drained out of all the machinery progressively. Korean backpackers had worked on the first day after the floodwaters went down to clear the yard to provide access to the buildings and also lifting furniture and cleaning the office. Carpenters and people from other towns assisted with the clean-up. The work is on-going with people coming every day to work. (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-31/frustration-grows-as-flooded-communities-clean-up/4494406> - 31 January 2013; *Central and North Burnett Times* 7 March 2013 p.12)

Ipswich - Queensland Museum's German Mephisto tank is having forensic analysis done on it to assess what occurred in its final combat at Villers-Bretonneaux in France on 24 April 1918. It is an A7V Sturmpanzerwagen tank. It was recovered out of a fresh shell crater at Monument Wood by 26th battalion (mainly Queenslanders) on 22 July 1918. It was sent to Australia as a war trophy, arriving at Norman Wharf in June 1919 and towed to Queensland Museum. CSIRO and police forensic officers are examining Mephisto at the Ipswich Workshops Rail Museum. (*Queensland Times* 16 March 2013 p.8 including photograph)

Kilkivan - The Masonic Lodge is celebrating its centenary in 2013 with the holding of an Open Day on 16 March. There are 30 members of the lodge. (Kilkivan & Goomeri Community 9 March 2013 p.[1])

Kilkivan District Historical Society & Museum has been instrumental in having numerous locally acknowledged Geographical Features in the area officially named, including: Mount Boo Boo, Mount Kilkivan, and five gullies: Bakers, German, Italian, Star and Skibereen (named after mines in the gullies).

Byrnes Reserve near the Woolooga Turnoff was a Camping and Water Reserve and has been officially recognized with that name. It is believed to have been named after a local selector, Mark Hobson Byrne. (*Kilkivan & Goomeri Community* 9 March 2013 p.[2])

Maryborough - The Green Group have purchased the Heritage listed Maryborough railway station building within the land they propose to develop at a cost of \$25 million. The National Trust has indicated its support for the conservation of the heritage buildings. The Executive Officer of the National Trust was reported in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* that 'the submission [made by the National Trust to the Fraser Coast Regional Council] was to ensure that this conservation work on heritage buildings outlined in the proposal actually took place.' (*Fraser Coast Chronicle* 22 March 2013 p.2)

Monto - Seventy-five years of Monto shire have been recognised with the unveiling by Cr Paul Lobegeier of a plaque at the Gary Williams Memorial Centre in Newton Street in Monto. The plaque records the names of those living in Monto shire when it was created in 1932 and who were still living there at the time of amalgamation in 2007. Around 100 people attended, the oldest being Mr Joe Otto aged 100 years. (*Central and North Burnett Times* 7 March 2013 p.6 including five photographs)

Mundubbera - Glenbrae school building (1914-1962) is now utilised as a museum display space at Mundubbera's Historical Society's Museum complex in Frank McCauley Street, Mundubbera. It was relocated there in mid 2009 after being used as a Scout Hut in Mundubbera. It has been gradually transformed by volunteer labour. It was to be opened on 23 March at an Open Day. (*Central and North Burnett Times* 21 March 2013 p.5 including small photograph)

North Ipswich - The meeting of the St Joseph's School Committee at Liverpool Estate in North Ipswich on 9 February 1913 was featured in the historical section of the *Queensland Times* on 16 March 2013, F J Price and F Heffernan were joint Secretaries and E J Pender, Treasurer. The Committee decided to write to the Commissioner for Railways seeking the opening of a level crossing over the Tivoli railway to provide access to the church and school from the southern side of the line. (*Queensland Times* 16 March 2013p.19)

St George - Mrs Robyn Fuhrmeister, local historian of St George, has recorded the discovery of a memento of the Royal Hotel in St George. A perfectly preserved pepper shaker (with the hotel and town names printed on the side) from the hotel was

located by children, Lochie and Georgina Waters in the bare riverbed of the Jack Taylor Weir on 27 January 2013. The Royal Hotel was situated at the corner of Grey and Victoria Streets where the St George State School is now situated. The hotel burnt down in the early 1960s. The children also located a number of old pennies and a soiled \$10 note. (*Balonne Beacon* 7 February 2013 p.7 including photographs of the hotel and the children and the pepper shaker)

Townsville - Local railway heritage volunteers in Townsville, led by Mr Jack Hutton, have been asked by a Queensland Rail official in February 2013 to form a partnership with a private sector partner in order to preserve the railway heritage artifacts. The group has expressed great disappointment with Queensland Rail's position. Among their collection are some seats said to be original Kuranda railway seats. The objects are currently stored in a railway building at Stuart. (*Townsville Bulletin* 25 February 2013 p.1)

Obituary

Alfred (Bomber) Johnson 1933-2013

Alf (Bomber) Johnson was the ranger at the Burke and Wills 'Dig Tree' Reserve on Cooper Creek on *Nappa Merrie* station, of which The Royal Historical Society of Queensland is Trustee. Alf gravitated to this work in the late 1990s from his pastoral station work on *Nappa Merrie* sub leased by S Kidman Pty Ltd from Santos Limited. Alf was supported strongly in his work by the Society's 'Dig Tree' Reserve Advisory Committee comprising Santos Limited, S Kidman Pty Ltd, state government departments administering the land and heritage legislation, and the Bulloo Shire Council.

Alf provided a wonderful outback hospitality and management role on the site informing visitors of the history of the site and guiding them to a suitable camping site downstream. Alf had education material for visitors in support of the Society's large interpretative sign on the reserve.

At its 2012 Annual General Meeting the Society awarded an Honorary MacGregor Medal to Alf (Bomber) Johnson for his work as Ranger at the 'Dig Tree' Reserve. It was presented to him at the Charleville Hospital in the first week of March 2013. Bomber won a British Empire Medal in 1974 for voluntary services flying in his own aircraft at his own cost, relief medicine and mail in, and sick people out of small isolated places floodbound for months in

far western Qld in 1974. He had volunteered to help people all his life.

One hundred people attended the outback funeral service for Alf and his ashes were interred in the Eromanga cemetery. He always described Eromanga as his home.

Ruth Kerr

Research Report for April

The following requests were attended to in the last month which was extremely busy: wording on the plaque placed in Matthew Flinders Park at Tibrogargan Creek in 1963 for a replacement to be made; details on C A Brown, silversmith for a biography; house called *Clovia* owned by Cramond & Stark of Toowoomba; article by LE Slaughter on Norman Creek and surroundings; Queensland's involvement in World War I for personal aspects of life at the front and letters from troops to their families; buildings on Queen Street in 1860s and 1870s; memories of Brisbane for a US Naval veteran stationed here in World War II; pink snapper fishery in Queensland, 1860s -1960s; Eagle Farm Women's Prison buildings in brick or stone?; *Mirfield* homestead in Glebe St, East Ipswich; various people who lived near Murdering Creek (Lake Weyba, Noosa); vacant allotment on corner of Grey and Melbourne Streets, South Brisbane; family history of John and Anne Graham who came from Ireland on the *Queen Bee* in March 1861; ship *Bayswater*; rat catching teams in Brisbane; farm on South Brisbane in 19th century; William Pettigrew and Caloola tramway; images of Wyalong Dams; Arthur Moore; Newstead House; and veterinary surgeons in Ipswich.

Sarah Vogler, reporter from *Courier-Mail* requested information on previous buildings at 1 William Street which is being prepared for a new multi-storey building. Val Donovan did considerable research and supplied information and pictures. Three versions of this appeared – one in the printed version of the *Courier-Mail* which carried the picture (unacknowledged) and some text but did not mention the Society, another in the on line version which did mention the Society and included the picture, and another longer article in *The Telegraph*. Val Donovan and Dean Prangley were interviewed on the radio and commented on the archaeological significance and history of the site and its importance in the Historic Precinct of Brisbane.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Museum Curator's Report



Photo: Janice Hess
RHSQ Collection

An Object from the Collection

A Wooden Foot and Ankle Joint

St Helena Penal Establishment

It was not unusual for prisoners to have wooden feet, legs, hooks and pegs to replace amputated limbs. This object is presently displayed in the St Helena Penal Establishment exhibition on the first floor of the museum.

New Exhibitions

The Centenary of the RHSQ will be represented by a display on the top floor of the museum in June. This will be followed by the *Australian South Sea Islanders* exhibition in July.

The *Aviation in Queensland* exhibition is also in progress with research on such pilots as Bert Hinkler and Amy Johnson. This exhibition will be opened in November 2013.

Janice Hess
Honorary Museum Curator

New Members

Helen Rosolen	Chapel Hill
Shona Howieson	City East
Christine Bozhoff	Gordon Park
Mary Howells	Wellington Point
Kathryn Simpson	Eumundi
Fiona S Simpson	Brisbane

The Commissariat on TV

Do not forget to watch the Channel 7 show '*The Great Southeast*' on 12 May which features the Italian Presence Exhibition at the Commissariat.

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

MAY 2013

- Wednesday 8 May 12.30 pm** Talk
 ‘Altnachree, An Irish Castle, A Family and A Man
 with a Passion: the story of James Douglas Ogilby’
 Joy Ware
- Thursday 9 May** Council meeting
- Sunday 12 May** Channel 7 show featuring the Italian
 Presence exhibition
- Wednesday 15 May** *Bulletin* Deadline
- Friday 17 May 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm** Book Launch at
 the Commissariat
- Sunday 26 May 11.30 am - 3.00 pm** ‘At Home’

YOUR SPEAKER FOR MAY

Your speaker is Joy Ware, who will speak
 about: ‘Altnachree, An Irish Castle, A Family and A
 Man with a Passion: the story of James Douglas
 Ogilby’.

James Douglas Ogilby, a fish scientist at the
 Australian Museum and later the Queensland Mu-
 seum, who arrived in Australia in 1885 is the sub-
 ject of this talk dealing with his Irish connections
 and his distinguished life in Australia as a research
 scientist.

Joy Ware is the great-granddaughter of Ogil-
 by’s sister Ada Miller who came to Australia in
 1875. Joy grew up in Sydney and has lived in the
 Blue mountains since 1986. Her book will be avail-
 able for \$ 35.00 at the Commissariat.

This talk will be followed by a Deciphering
 Handwriting workshop - details from the Society.

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