



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



Photo: Janice Hess

Book: Pugh's Almanac 1913

As 2013 is the centenary year for the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, many events have been planned for this celebration. The *Glimpses of Queensland 1913* exhibition will feature 'treasures' from the RHSQ collections. Many have never been shown before and relate to the year of 1913 when the society was founded. Jean Stewart has been researching material and Lindsay Smith has been scanning photographs of significance. This exhibition opens in the *Welsby Library* on 2 June. The display will also be available for viewing on Seminar Day 22 June on the top floor. The exhibition will run until November. The book 'Pugh's Almanac', which was an annual commercial guide to Queensland businesses, places and events, is one of the interesting pieces that will be on display.

Janice Hess

President's Report for May

I begin my report with some very exciting news. After two and a half years, I am pleased to confirm that the reconstruction of the William Street wall has been completed along with a host of other repairs. On Monday 20 May Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Honourable Tim Mander MP rededicated the Commissariat Store as part of a ceremony on the ground floor. On behalf of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, I would like to thank the Minister and all the workers involved in repairing the Commissariat Store and its grounds after the damage caused during the January 2011 floods. I encourage all members to come to the Commissariat Store to view the finished result – the stone masons have done a fantastic job and the building and its surrounds look beautiful.

There were a number of events which occurred over the last month including The Great Houses of Ipswich Bus Tour on Saturday 4 May. Thirty-three RHSQ members, including three from the Warwick and District Historical Society and two from the Wynnum and District Historical Society travelled by coach to Ipswich and enjoyed morning tea in Queens Park, tours of four heritage buildings (*Claremont, Gainsborough, Gooloowan* and *Rockton*) and lunch at Denmark Hill Conservation Park. Cuisine on Cue provided a very generous individual lunch box for each person and our driver from Brisbane Bus Lines went above and beyond his job for the day. Whilst all four properties we visited were very interesting and special in their own way, *Gooloowan* was voted the people's favourite. We were very fortunate to have viewed this property as it was not open to the general public. At all the properties, the owners gave a presentation of the history of the house and allowed us to wander around at our own discretion. All those who attended informed me that they are keen to take part in regular tours, so I will work towards organising another bus trip in October.

The lunch-time talk by Joy Ware about her new book *Altnachree - An Irish Castle, a Family and A Man with a Passion* on 8 May was followed by a Deciphering Handwriting Workshop, which was conducted by Saadia Thomson-Dwyer of the Queensland State Archives. The workshop provided many useful tips for researchers using primary documents, and I found the section about old legal and Latin terms particularly helpful.

The Society was honoured to host the launch of Kay Saunders' new publication *Deadly Australian Women* on Friday 17 May. The evening was a great success with almost 100 people attending. Denver Beanland officially launched the book, and both he

and Kay entertained those present with a number of passages from the publication.

As was mentioned in my report last month, suggestions made by members at the President's Conversazioni in March have been broken up into committee-based groups and are being considered at committee meetings. I have written a report on the discussions that have been held so far. This report is included as an insert to this *Bulletin*.

Finally, events listed in *Pugh's Almanac for 1914* for June 1913 include: 7th – an Australian Rules football game was played between New South Wales and Queensland representatives. NSW won with 9 and goals 15 behinds to QLD's 7 goals and 10 behinds; the Mackay-Sarina section of the North Coast railway line opened by the Honorable WT Paget in front of a large crowd; 11th – the remains of the explorer William Landsborough removed from Caloundra and reinterred in Toowong Cemetery; 14th – Kings College, established by the Methodist Church in connection with The University of Queensland officially opened by His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland; 16th – the Convent of St Colomba in Dalby opened and blessed by His Grace Archbishop Duhig; 23rd – the main light at the Pile Lighthouse at the entrance to the Brisbane River exhibited for the first time; 26th – Alderman John McMaster [‘Father of the Brisbane City Council’] presented with a bank deposit slip for 500 sovereigns which had been placed to his credit in recognition of his 42 years of municipal public service; 28th – His Excellency, the Governor opened the Institute of Tropical Medicine at Townsville; The Minister for Railways officially opened the Rockhampton-Jardine section of the North Coast railway line.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for May

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

Chillagoe – The Tom Prior Historic Ford Museum on Airport Road exhibits vintage cars (chiefly Ford) dating from 1925. There are also ex-army trucks. All cars are fully restored and detailed. Tom Prior is a member of the Prior family which operated traction engines between Chillagoe and OK carrying copper concentrate from 1902 to 1910. (*The Wheelbarrow Way* Mareeba to Chillagoe – Ver 6.0 – 3 February 2013, p.8)

Dimbulah – The Railway Station Historic Museum and Information Centre is open 9am – 3pm daily. It is part of the Stop Revive Survive Service but also has historical displays and local art. (*The Wheelbarrow Way* Mareeba to Chillagoe – Ver 6.0 –

3 February 2013, p.5)

Ebagoolah, south of Coen – In the early 1900s it was a promising goldfield. The main mines were Caledonia, Hamilton King, May Queen, Hidden Treasure, Gold Mount and No.2 South Golden Treasure. The stone was crushed at the Ada Stewart battery. The field was in decline by 1913. George Henry Hopkins, aged 13 years, and born in Croydon, won a State Scholarship from Ebagoolah to Townsville Grammar School in 1913. It took him 4.5 days to travel from Ebagoolah to Laura with the mailman in April. He then went by train to Cooktown and *Aramac* ship to Townsville arriving on 23 April 1913. He joined the State Public Service in 1916. He settled later in Ingham district. He died in 1984 and is buried in Ingham cemetery. (*Cooktown Local News* 4-10 April 2013 p.11 including photo of Ebagoolah battery and quoting from *North Queensland Register* 19 September 1904, and *Townsville Daily Bulletin* 30 April 1913 and *Northern Miner* 27 January 1916)

Glass House Mountains – The naming of the town was discussed in the *Glasshouse Country News* on 13 March 2013. According to the Queensland Place Names section of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website, the name of the township was officially gazetted as 'Glass House Mountains', but no date was stated. In 1987 the United Fruit Growers Co-operative Association Limited were informed similarly by the Place Names Board. The Brisbane *Courier* stated on 28 February 1914 on page 4 that 'Since 1891 the [railway] station at 44 miles 15 chains (between Beerburrum and Beerwah), on the North Coast line, has been known as "Glass Mountains." In order to be historically correct the approval of the Governor in Council has been secured to renaming the station Glass House Mountains.' (*Glasshouse Country News* 13 March 2013 p.8 including photograph of the railway station in approx 1914)

Separate historical research on Glass House Mountains in John D Kerr's Railway Database indicates that, from 21 January 1891, the stopping place at 44 miles 62 chains (71 kms) previously known as Coonoowrin would in future be known as Glass Mountains. Glass Mountains was renamed and gazetted Glass House Mountains on 27 February 1914. Glass House Mountains was opened as a staff station in May 1914. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 1891 vol.52 p.285 and 7 March 1914 vol CII no. 67 p.795; *Weekly Notices* (Queensland Railways) No. 299 and 325)

Ipswich –The first fire engine in Ipswich had been imported by the Minister for Lands and Works, Honorable Arthur Macalister for Queensland

Railways. It arrived in the *Sunda* (Black Ball line) on 26 May 1865. It was first used in Ipswich under the command of locomotive foreman, JW Bedford on a fire in the back of Cribb and Foot's premises in Bell Street. In 1878 efforts were made to form an Ipswich Fire Brigade as the town had reticulated water from the river. A meeting was held in the Temperance Hall in West Street on 15 July 1878 to establish the Ipswich Fire Brigade. RT Darker of Queensland Railways was its superintendent. The first site of the Ipswich Fire Brigade was in Nicholas Street in 1878. (*Queensland Times* 27 April 2013 p.20 including photograph of members of the fire brigade in 1878)

Ipswich – The Queensland Coal Miners' Association was formed at the end of 1877. The Committee formed at the open air meeting in North Ipswich comprised: E Gittens (Chairman and Secretary), R Burns, R Archibald, Jas Bennet, JH Ingram, Michael Jeffries, H Marshall, W Muir and JM Vicars. (*Queensland Times* 27 April 2013 p.20)

Oakey – *Silverleigh* – *Toowoomba Chronicle* has been featuring historical photographs of agricultural machinery on *Silverleigh*. They were sent in to the newspaper by Ron Kajewski. Charles Kajewski settled there in the late 1800s. He began with a dairy farm and then converted to grain. On 7 December 1949 the first crawler tractor was bought for the farm. A colour photograph in the newspaper shows Ron Kajewski on a Caterpillar D6 pulling Massey Ferguson combine planters on *Silverleigh* during planting, with Len Kajewski on the planter supervising. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 22 April 2013 p.14 and 27 April 2013 p.30 including photos)

Tingalpa – Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery held their AGM on 13 April 2013 at the Christ Church Chapel. Their annual report recorded that on 27 October 1868 Bishop Tuffnell declared the land a cemetery, stating 'We do solemnly set apart and consecrate the said piece of land to be forever hereafter used as a place of interment for the bodies of the dead.' Christ Church was decommissioned in 1996. The Friends Group was formed in 2002. Restoration work has been done with support of the Brisbane Diocese of the Anglican Church.

Obituary

Society member, Emeritus Professor John (Jack) Laverty died on 25 April 2013 after a short illness. He joined the Society in 2007. John Laverty grew up at Mullumbimby NSW and went to high school there and became a school teacher. He was awarded the medal for outstanding merit for his first-class honours thesis at University of Queensland, 'Development of the town of Brisbane 1823-1859.'

His first appointment at The University of Queensland was as a Research Assistant to Professor Gordon Greenwood in the 1955. He moved to External Studies and was promoted to Director and Professor by 1971. He moved back to the History Department with a personal chair in the Department of History, and was granted Emeritus Professor status in 1989, when External Studies closed. Professor John Laverty and Dr Rod Fisher developed the Master's degree concentrating on Local History, that later became a postgraduate degree in Applied (or Public) History.

His major published work was on local government: *Brisbane 1859-1959: a history of local government* (co-authored with Gordon Greenwood). His PhD in history was on *History of Municipal Government in Brisbane in a context of Urban Expansion* (1968). His book *The Making of a Metropolis* (2009) was launched at the Commissariat Store. He was a foundation member of The Brisbane History Group and wrote many historical papers in their publications. He was also a member of the Queensland Historians Institute from 1990 until 2004.

Ruth Kerr

Acknowledgement

The Society was very grateful to receive a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia. The money was used to purchase from BAC Systems a High Density Storage Module Type DR3 1200-9 (known by us as a Plan Drawer Cabinet). It is 2360 mm wide x 110 mm deep x 1200 mm high and has 9 lockable drawers.

It was installed in the former 'office' area of B2 last week (with some difficulty). The supplier, BAC arranged the delivery and the whole cabinet had to be dismantled apart on the footpath outside NT building (just before the rain started) and dragged piece by piece over the stairs in the stairwell down to B2 where it was all reassembled. It was a huge job and we are very grateful to Michael Fauvette from BAC and his offsider for doing it so well. It is an exceptionally grand piece of furniture.

Preparations for filling it are in hand. The recently (2010) restored and duplicate panoramas will be placed in it. Other panoramas in the library collection will be relocated there. To enable these items to be properly stored in the new drawers more conservation materials such as tissue paper and Mylar sleeves were purchased and the framing of four very large panoramas was carried out with the remainder of the Grant funds.

The Society is immensely grateful for the Grant and congratulates Rebecca Ling of the Grants

Committee for lodging the application and overseeing its fulfilment. Jean Stewart of the Library Management with assistance from Andrew Darbyshire and Ken Sbeghen arranged the purchase of the above items.

Jean Stewart

Research Report for May

There have been many enquiries in the last month – all have been attended to immediately and expeditiously. I would remind members that research in the Welsby Library is available on Thursdays from 10 am to 4 pm when the research team and library officers are in attendance. Attention is detailed and immediate and help with understanding and use of the Catalogue is an important feature. As the Library space is used by other Society activities on the other three days when the Commissariat Store is open it is not possible to use library material then for security reasons. However by negotiation some research may be possible with times made by appointment with members of the Research Team who are all volunteers but have a wealth of experience not only in using the Welsby Library but also in the use of other repositories and sources.

This month we have dealt with requests for information on Pettigrew Diaries; John Thorne of Toowoomba; The German Club; Capital Punishment for the Supreme Court Library which is mounting an exhibition; streets in West End; *The Queen of the Colonies* ship and findings of the Maritime Board of Queensland or any references to it by Norman Pixley; the wording on a missing plaque for a road opening on 15 December 1934 at Beerburrum; Thomas Ryan of *Fairview*, Cooran 1920; images of various items in the mining areas of Palmer River, Mt Morgan, Warwick, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Mt Isa, Clermont, Chillagoe and Canoona; Schweida hairdressing; the vacant site on the corner of Thomas and Vulture Streets; E T Romeril and pearling luggers; Japan-Townsville-Australia relations; Journal articles on medical history of Queensland; Journal article by Colin Sheehan on Matthew Henry Marsh; Industrial inspectors of Queensland; photographs of Annerley; plaque erected in memory of William Lumsden Packman erected by the Highland Society of Brisbane; Arthur Lewis and the Massey Bicycle and Sports depot; Drayton history; four watercolour paintings by Thomas Biddulph Hutton; family history of Albert Edward Hall and Eliza Pearl Tronc.

Jean Stewart

Honorary Research Officer

New Members

Colin Sheehan	Yeronga
Brian Rough	Camp Hill
Claire Stewart	Indooroopilly
Diane Godwin	Caloundra
Susanne Steward	Caloundra
Lorraine McCoy	North Tamborine
Russell Collins	Rainworth

Oral History Workshop

The Oral History Association of Australia, Queensland is running a workshop in June 2013 which will cover the basics of doing oral history including interview techniques, ethics and transcribing.

Saturday 1 June 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Cost \$100 (OHAA members) \$120 non-members

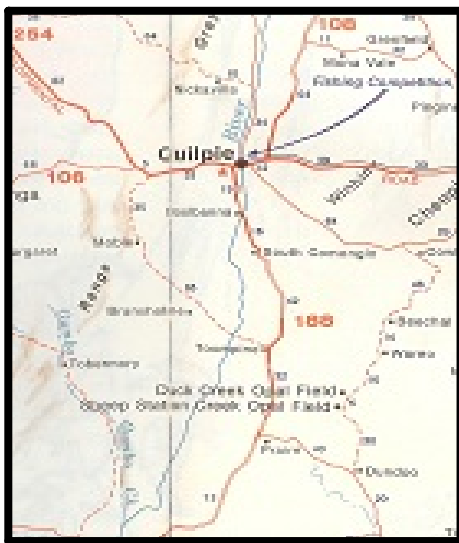
Venue Kenmore Library training room

For detailed information see

<http://www.ohaaqld.org.au> or

contact Suzanne Mulligan on 07 3376 1865

Duck Creek



A Travelog Publications Map of the area

In December 2012 Royal Historical Society Queensland member, Ian Simmonds, donated relics from Duck Creek to the Society. At the same time he gave us the interesting history of Duck Creek where, over the years he had spent a lot of his time fossicking for opals.

The Duck Creek Opal Field was 100 km south of Quilpie and was a thriving opal mining centre from about 1894 to 1905; in 1898 its population rose to 300. During that period a local petition revealed that, among the men living there, many had come from a

wide diversity of backgrounds and a number of them were skilled tradesmen. The arrival of so many to fossick for opals may have been due to the economic depression in the 1890s, and the Federation drought [1902] may have kept many of them there. Although an artesian basin a few miles away provided the miners with excellent water, those who had arrived on horseback or with horse-drawn drays were unable to keep their horses in the area as there was not enough grass to feed them.

Duck Creek became the centre for many smaller places within a radius of fifteen miles. Some of these were One Mile Goodman's Flat and Walbenia (Boran) to the north, and Golconda (Wanna Wanna Creek), Johnson's Tank and Sheep Station Creek to the south.

The town was originally named Duck Holes Creek because of the creek of that name which possibly had holes, but it had few ducks. In the early stages it was referred to as the Toompine mining field but soon became known as Duck Creek or just 'the Creek'.

The town was never surveyed, yet it boasted a police station, school, two stores, one with a Post Office; for a time the Cobb & Co coach called twice a week. As Toompine, 25 miles away, already had a hotel there was none at the mining settlement of Duck Creek.

Originally finds of opal were near the surface, but the easy digging eventually led to shafts down to 30 ft. The main diggings were the 'Old Field' at the creek itself and new Field which was to the NW of this. Nearby Sheep Station Creek lasted longer than the other local mining fields due to Copeland's Store which remained on that field until 1942.

In 1918 the opal fields and the road to Wyandra were surveyed as reserves due to the Beechal No 4 block being needed for re-selection, but by then Duck Creek had been abandoned for many years.

Story as supplied by Ian Simmonds.

Marilyn England
Museum Committee

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum invites you to attend a Wine, Cheese and Ancient Art Event

On Friday 14 June 2013, 6.00 pm at the RD Milns Antiquities Museum, The University of Queensland, Building 9, Level 2. Tickets \$20 per person includes sketching materials and live music.

Please contact Jessica Dowdell, Museum Outreach Officer at antiquitiesmuseum@uq.edu.au or visit our website:

www.uq.edu.au/antiquities

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

JUNE 2013

Thursday 6 June 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm
 Queensland Day Dinner and presentation of the John
 Douglas Kerr Medal
Monday 10 June Queen's Birthday Holiday
Wednesday 12 June 12.30 pm Talk
 'Up the Creek with a Broken Chronometer'
 Anthony Simmons
Thursday 13 June Council Meeting
Saturday 22 June 9.30 am - 3.00 pm
 Centenary Seminar

YOUR SPEAKER FOR JUNE

Dr Anthony Simmons, Principal Heritage Officer, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. His topic will be 'Up a Creek with a Broken Chronometer – Managing the legacy of the Burke and Wills Plant Camp'. The paper is in two parts – the role of the media in helping to highlight the archaeological record of the Plant Camp of the Burke and Wills Expedition whose 150th anniversary was commemorated in 2011 and, secondly, the Queensland Government's response to and management of the conservation of the Plant Camp.

Contact details:

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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