



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*71 years of continuous publication*

**JULY 2013 No. 776**

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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au)



Photograph: Ken Wilkinson

## A Photograph Taken at the Centenary Open Day

In the above photograph taken by the governor's honorary ADC, Lieutenant Ken Wilkinson are, from left to right, Stephen Sheaffe, Grahame Jardine-Vidgen, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wesley AC, Governor of Queensland and Helen McMonagle, President of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

## President's Report for June

This month our centenary celebrations began in style with a Centenary Open Day on Sunday 2 June. The day was well attended by both RHSQ members and the general public. We were also fortunate to have a number of dignitaries present: Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland and Mr Stuart McCosker visited the Open Day mid-morning and honoured us by taking a tour of all of the current exhibitions; Councillor Vicki Howard (Councillor for Central Ward) attended the morning session both out of her own interest and as the representative of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Graham Quirk. Councillor Howard also kindly lent the RHSQ a marquee, which was greatly appreciated especially when the showers came over after lunch. I thank the volunteers who set up and ran the Open Day as well as the Centenary Program Committee for their hard work leading up to the event. The day would not have been the success it was without your significant efforts.

The 2013 Queensland Day Dinner was held on 6 June in the Brisbane Room at the newly renovated Brisbane City Hall. There was a record number of guests this year, with 114 people attending. We were honoured to have many notable dignitaries attend the dinner including: Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland; Mr Stuart McCosker; The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Graham Quirk; the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Anne Quirk; the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection; the State Archivist Ms Janet Prowse; the City Archivist Annabel Lloyd; and Dr Robert 'Uncle Bob' Anderson. The presentation of the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction was a significant part of the evening: there was resounding applause when Dr Ruth Kerr was announced as this year's winner. She is the tenth recipient of this award. Dr Katie McConnel gave a moving citation in honour of Dr Kerr; I also give my personal congratulations.

There has been a number of other activities occurring at the Commissariat Store including an *At Home* on 25 May 2013, which was themed around Italian Week; and an engaging lunch-time talk on 12 June was given by Anthony Simmons entitled *Up a creek with a broken chronometer - Managing the legacy of the Burke and Wills Plant Camp*. The Honourable Glen Elmes MP, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs visited on Tuesday 28 May and was very impressed by our displays, particularly the Italian Presence exhibition.

Jean Stewart and I attended the rededication of the Governor's Library at Old Government House on Wednesday 22 May 2013. Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, performed the official rededication and gave an informative talk. She said that the Governor's Library was pivotal to almost everything of moment that occurred as the Colony of Queensland grew.

Katie McConnel has displayed a number of volumes on loan from the RHSQ in a cabinet along with other publications. The library has been redesigned very cleverly, with stationery and other office equipment displayed on the desk as if the Governor had just stepped out from the room; the Queensland State Archives had provided copies of letters so the letterhead could be copied and this provides a depth to the display. The rededication was followed by a morning tea and viewing of the library.

As always, I would like to end my report with a list of notable events from *Pugh's Almanac for 1913*. July 1913 appears to have been a very interesting month, culminating on the 28<sup>th</sup> with a literal bang. Events include: 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Honourable WT Paget, Minister for Railways, opened the Barcaldine-Aramac tramway to traffic; 8<sup>th</sup> – The new surgical wing and operating theatre at the Ipswich Hospital was opened by His Excellency Sir William MacGregor GCMG CB, the Governor of Queensland; 10<sup>th</sup> - During a visit to Bowen, His Excellency presented Bowen State School with a portrait of the King George V and Queen Mary; 12<sup>th</sup> – The Yeronga bowling green was opened by Premier Denham; 17<sup>th</sup> – An announcement was made that a new tug with fire fighting and salvage capabilities was being built for AUSN Co. for use in the Port of Brisbane, to be delivered in December 1913. The announcement also stated that the tug would be the most powerful in the Commonwealth; 17<sup>th</sup> - £8800 was received by the Ipswich Hospital as the first instalment of a bequest under the Will of the late Mr Highmoor Watson, formerly of Blackbutt; 21<sup>st</sup> – Mr TA Jackson, an engineer working at the Merinda Meat Works, tested a sample of Bowen River coal and made an announcement that it burned well, gave plenty of steam, and was equal to the coal being mined at Ipswich; 24<sup>th</sup> – Lady Bell donated two book cases and a cabinet from Jimbour to the Dalby School of Arts; 28<sup>th</sup> – A series of five man-holes at the corner of George and Turbot Streets, used by the Postal Department for the underground working of the telephone and telegraph wires, blew out creating a sensational explosion; 30<sup>th</sup> – a petition containing the names of 440 rate payers of the town of Warwick was signed for presentation to the Home Secretary, which

requested the Governor-in-Council to remove the Town Council from Office.

Helen McMonagle  
President



Photo: Timothy Roberts

**The Honourable Tim Manders, Minister for Housing and Public Works, rededicating the Commissariat Store on Monday 20 May.**

## Queensland News for June

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

**Gympie** - Peter Gerrard holds an extensive collection of equipment and memorabilia which he has collected over decades – cream separators, carbide lamps, the St Patrick’s School bell, Peter’s Ice Cream signs from Fred Choy’s fruit shop, 1950s ice chest, hand operated plunger washing machine, advertising signs for building materials including asbestos, low pressure operating mobile steam engine, and a door said to be from Beechworth’s old jail (Victoria). Peter’s father, Denny Gerrard, had a butcher shop where Nash’s Arcade is today. (*Gympie Times* 25 May 2013 p. 9 including six photos)

**Gympie** - The original 1942 International fire truck has been transferred to the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum on 31 May 2013 by Clayton’s Towing. It will be housed beside a vintage Gympie ambulance. The International fire truck participated in extinguishing the Northumberland Hotel fire in 1969 and was also used at Tiaro. It was also used in Gympie Gold Rush celebrations and Christmas events in Gympie. Restoration of the truck was overseen by Graham Alder who served at Gympie’s fire brigade for 49 years. (*Gympie Times* 1 June 2013 p.4 including photograph)

**Herberton** - A Pioneer Weekend was held at

the Herberton Historic Village privately owned by Craig and Connie Kimberley on 4 and 5 May 2013. It featured the Model N tractor built by John Deere (said to be one of only two in Australia). The Village also holds a 1937 RB Model Tractor and a Model B from 1935. These tractors were built using designs of the Waterloo Engine company which John Deere purchased. (It was not stated from where these tractors were obtained by the former Herberton Village owner, Harry Skinner.) The Pioneer Weekend 2013 program included wood chopping, operation of the *Herberton Times* presses, demonstrations of morse code, whip cracking, exhibition of historic engines, the Hillbilly Goats entertainment, and the new Pioneer Camp serving stew and damper. A 1923 Harley Davidson, a Ruston Hornsby traction engine, other steam engines and mining stamp batteries were also planned to operate. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 3 May 2013 p.16 including photograph of 1916 Waterloo Boy John Deere Tractor)

**Mount Mulligan and Wolfram Camp** - Dimbulah QCWA members have mounted a permanent display comprising newspaper cuttings, personal accounts, photos and letters, entitled, ‘We remember Mount Mulligan and Wolfram Camp’, at the Dimbulah QVWA Hall. It opened on 17 May. The display commemorates the coal mine disaster at Mount Mulligan in 1921 and celebrates life in Mount Mulligan and Wolfram Camp towns. An art exhibition, ‘This Land Around Us’, by local artist, Gioia Dalla Lana, complements the historical display, open for the start of the Great Wheelbarrow Race to Chillagoe. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 10 May 2013 p.26)

**Roma** - On 19 April 2013 Maranoa Shire Council unveiled its Roma town marker stones commemorating the flood heights from 1917 to 2013. *The Western Star* published a photograph of a commemoration stone with Deputy Mayor Scott Wason, local historians Peter Keegan and Lyn Kajewski and Councillor Cameron O’Neil. The history of the floods is depicted in photographic images and written word etched into stone. There are three signs placed at the entries to the town on the Warrego Highway and the Carnarvon Highway near the airport. The Roma Historical Society provided historical information. One of the largest floods was in 1864 when it rained for 17 days and nights. Water covered an expanse from Bungeworgorai Creek to the site of the former Racecourse. Thousands of sheep, cattle and horses were said to have been swept away. Moving of the town to Hodgson was considered but not proceeded with. (*The Western Star* 23 April 2013 p.5 including photograph; and personal visit on 23 April 2013)

**Roma - Romavilla Winery**, one of Queensland oldest wineries closed in December 2012. Samuel Symons Bassett commenced the vineyard in 1866 on land he purchased in June 1866. He had had experience in the Hunter Valley and had known of grapes having been grown on Mount Abundance station earlier. Bassett expanded the vineyard to 60 acres (24 ha) and sold wine widely in Queensland. By 1889 he had the largest of seven wineries in the Roma area. Bassett was also a storekeeper in Roma with AJ Skinner from 1874 and had interests in Maranoa district pastoral stations. These pastoral investments failed and he returned to the winery in the late 1890s. By 1903 the marketing list for *Romavilla* included port, muscat, burgundy, amontillado, madeira, Chablis, hock, claret, sherry, champagne and sauterne. Samuel's sons took over the winery fully after his death in 1912. William Augustus Bassett took over full management of the property. (He was also interested in pastoral stations, *Crochdantigh* (near Muckadilla), *Karoola Park* and *Ventura Downs* (Surat district).) The *Romavilla* winery was sold after William's death in 1973. The Katarzyna Group based in Fortitude Valley has bought the *Romavilla* winery from the Wall family. *The Western Star* newspaper stated that the Queensland Heritage Council has given approval to upgrade the winery facility at a cost of around \$500,000 and a wine bar and function room will be added. A new roof will be added above the heritage listed roof. Up to 80 motel style accommodation units are planned on the land adjacent to the winery. (*The Western Star* 23 April 2013 p.7 including photograph; Paul D. Wilson, 'Bassett, Samuel Symons (1840–1912)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bassett-samuel-symons-80/text8639>, accessed 14 May 2013)

**Tinaroo** - Tablelands Regional Council Library obtained a Your Community Heritage Grant from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in 2012. The project, 'Tinaroo traces of the past', shares community heritage stories of the Tinaroo town which supported the construction of the dam. Signs featuring old photographs are erected along the foreshore indicating the location of community buildings in the 1950s. There were barracks for single workers; houses for married men and executives; public hall; shops; fire, ambulance and police buildings; and a school. On completion of the dam all were moved to other locations on the Atherton Tableland. (The school was moved to the Parada agricultural research station, and later the Southedge research station as the

administration building. Southedge was sold by the state government in 2012.) Opening of the informative walk was arranged for 25 May 2013. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 10 May 2013 p.4)

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of The ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
QUEENSLAND**

**to be held on THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2013  
at 6.00 pm**

**at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street,  
Brisbane**

**AGENDA for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting**
- 2. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President**
- 3. Consideration of audited annual financial statement**
- 4. Election of the President, the Vice President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, ten Councillors**
- 5. Appointment of a Patron of the Society**
- 6. Appointment of a Honorary Auditor**
- 7. Any other business.**

**Honorary Secretary**

**New Members**

Bruce and Helen Robinson  
Vicki J Howard  
Hannah Larrescy  
Richard Boddington  
Ray Kerkhove  
Sylvia Bannah

Coorparoo  
Fortitude Valley  
Acacia Ridge  
Highgate Hill  
Enoggera  
Boreen Point

**Research Report for June**

A busy month showing the diversity of the queries that we receive from people for a wide range of reasons – mostly it is for family history but often it is for research into material for various publications.

We searched for the following: images of Darra; social snippets in pages of *The Week, August 1913*; personal papers of Thomas Welsby for Stradbroke Island museum; Stephens Lane; Toorak House; origins of convicts transported to Redcliffe; voyage of the *Artemisia* and the people who came on her; official establishment of Beenleigh; Emma Daw, worker at *Franklyn Vale Station*; Brisbane's old underground drains and tunnels; first postmaster at Kingston; columbarium and details of St Paul's Anglican Church, East Brisbane; Red Comb building in Roma Street; history of a house on the corner of Petrie Terrace and Wellington Street; images of Annerley for a wall in a new building for

Woolworths; details of Ernest James and Doreen Alma Lewry who perhaps settled in Nundah; naming of Bribie Island; Peel Island Quarantine Station and Sanitization Depot in Brisbane; what ladies wore to the first race meeting in Taroom in 1859; image of a house near the Indooroopilly Toll Bridge; railway camps on the Ipswich-Toowoomba line; and material on McWhirters and the McWhirter family.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Research Officer

## Museum Curator's Report

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
RHSQ  
1913 - 2013

**GLIMPSES OF QUEENSLAND 1913**

SIR ARTHUR MORGAN

COMMISSARIAT STORE  
POSTER: DESIGNED BY MEGAN HESS

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

OPEN:  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
10.00AM - 4.00PM  
CLOSED EVERY MONDAY AND  
MONDAY AS WELL AS PUBLIC HOLIDAYS  
PH: 07 3221 4198

Designed by Megan Hess

The above exhibition, which is part of the celebrations for the centenary year of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, is now on display. The exhibition focusing on 1913 comes to life through photographs, text, map, brochures, certificates and books from collections held by the Society in the Welsby Library.

Many interesting people feature in the display including: William Landsborough, Inigo Jones, Sir Arthur Morgan, Fred Johns, WJR Roebuck, Thomas Welsby and Henry A Tardent. Significant photos include: Church picnic at Wolston House; Townsville – Castle Hill; Inns of Court, and the Eskgrove

Football Club. Ruth Kerr, historian and a past President of the Society, has provided text on the North Queensland town of Irvinebank. This text is accompanied by some wonderful photographs of the town in 1913.

This is an important exhibition for the Society and one not to be missed. The display will run until November 2013.

Janice Hess  
Hon. Museum Curator

## Museums Australia National Conference 2013

As the RHSQ Museum Representative, I was awarded the only Museums Australia Queensland Bursary to attend the Museums Australia National Conference 2013 in Canberra during Friday 17 May to Monday 20 May 2013. The theme of the Conference was 'How museums work: people, industry and nation', which addressed a range of applicable interests to our small museum.

Robyn Archer AO, Centenary of Canberra Councillor and Creative Director and Public Advocate of the Arts, opened the Conference by stating, 'We love the object, but need the story'. She then stated, 'Looking into the past is only successful, if highly inventive, and if it connects with present and future'. Dr Patrick Greene OBE, CEO Museum Victoria, added, 'Look to the future by looking at how the future looked to those from the past'.

I would like to acknowledge the RHSQ and Museums Australia Queensland for their assistance and support during the Conference; I am pleased to share the knowledge I gained from the Conference with the RHSQ community.

Meghan Tait  
Museum Policy and Procedures Consultant

## BOOK AUCTION

**AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE  
FRIDAY 2 AUGUST at 6.00 pm**

**INSPECTION at 5.00 to 5.45 pm  
PHONE/FAX BIDS ACCEPTED up to 4.00 pm**

**Light refreshments available 5.00 - 6.00 pm  
Limited PRE-BOOKED free parking available**

**Blockside & Ferguson Real estate have kindly donated  
their services to conduct this auction**

Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
 PO Box 12057 Brisbane, George  
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 RHSQ Bulletin: PP100004098  
 RHSQ Journal: PP100004097

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### IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

#### JULY 2013

**Wednesday 10 July 12.30 pm** Talk  
 '50 Years of the National Trust in Queensland'  
 Stephen Sheaffe

**Thursday 11 July** Council Meeting

**Sunday 15 July** *Bulletin* deadline

#### AUGUST 2013

**Friday 2 August 6.00 pm** Book Auction

### YOUR SPEAKER FOR JULY

Stephen Sheaffe will speak on '50 Years of the National Trust in Queensland'.

Stephen is currently President of the National Trust in Queensland and is a former President of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, having taken on the enormous task of coordinating the refurbishment of the Commissariat Store from 1998-2001. He has also served on the Newstead House Trust so has a close knowledge of heritage issues in Queensland.

#### Contact details:

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
<b>Manager:</b>	Christina Michie
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
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<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au">www.queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
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**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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The Society acknowledges financial assistance from: The Department of Multicultural Affairs; The National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant; 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.

#### Subscriptions:

<b>Ordinary Member</b>	\$66.00
<b>Partner of Member</b>	\$22.00
<b>Junior Member (U18)</b>	\$11.00
<b>Full-time Student (U25)</b>	\$33.00
<b>Affiliated Society</b>	\$55.00
<b>Subscription fee for libraries</b>	\$66.00
<b>Corporate/Institutions</b>	\$275.00
<b>Life membership – purchased after 10 years</b>	\$5,500.00