



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

71 years of continuous publication

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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



Photos: Graeme Nicholson

GLIMPSES OF QUEENSLAND 1913 EXHIBITION

This exhibition, which opened on 22 June, offers a glimpse into Queensland during 1913. The display features 'treasures' of historic material and photos from the Welsby Library. The year 1913 was significant for both the Commissariat Store and The (Royal) Historical Society of Queensland. The first meeting of the Society was held in 1913 at the Albert Hall and subsequently at the then University of Queensland, now Old Government House. Names of the first committee members and the members of the Historical Society of Queensland in 1913 are featured. Also, examples of the Presidents' Commemorative Medal (insert) are displayed. The exhibition closes in November.

Janice Hess
Museum Curator

President's Report for July

June and July have been extremely busy but productive, with great outcomes for the RHSQ in terms of publicity. Past President Ian Hadwen and Commissariat Store Manager Christina Michie spoke with Tony Moore from the *Brisbane Times* and the National Trust of Queensland's Sue Finnigan and Stewart Armstrong about the proposed redevelopment of William Street, with an article appearing online on Saturday 13 July. That same day, I was a guest on David Gibson's 'Matters Historical and Hysterical' show on 4BC radio with John Scott, who asked about the RHSQ's history and centenary celebrations. Sincere thanks to Tony, David and John for their help in promoting the role of our Society.

We were also very excited to have visits at the Commissariat Store from two important heritage bodies, the Ipswich City Council's Heritage Consultative Committee on 27 June and Queensland Heritage Committee on 12 July 2013. It was a wonderful opportunity to show off the museum and both organisations were impressed with the exhibition displays and building restoration. Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare and a special thank you to our volunteer Colin McFarlane who took the Ipswich representatives on their tour of the Commissariat Store.

We also took part in the Ipswich City Council's celebration of Queens Park's 150th birthday on Sunday 14 July setting up a stall to sell books and promote our activities. Thank you to Ken Sbeghan and Maryanne Pender for staffing the stall with me.

The program of centenary events is well underway with the Centenary Seminar having been a great success on 22 June 2013, and the Centenary Dinner fast approaching on 21 August. We encourage you to invite your family and friends to this once in a lifetime event, and I look forward to celebrating our Society's 100th birthday with you all.

Jean Stewart, Ian Hadwen and the library team are busily planning the RHSQ book auction for Friday 2 August – you can pick up an auction catalogue from both our website and the Commissariat Store.

Please remember to return your registration forms for the Centenary Reception at Government House on 17 September 2013 as these are due by 2 August. This is the last official celebration of our centenary and will be a wonderful night.

Finally, I would like to end my report by acknowledging the years of dedication to the RHSQ and Commissariat Store by volunteer guide Don Murray. It is with great sadness that we say good bye to Don, as he leaves us to focus on his other volunteer

activities. Don has brought enthusiasm, professionalism and a cheeky sense of humour to the museum every Tuesday for many years, and I and the other Tuesday team members will miss him very much. On behalf of the RHSQ members and volunteers, I wish Don all the very best for the future. A morning tea to say farewell to Don will be held at the Commissariat on 30 July.

Helen McMonagle
President

Notable events from *Pugh's Almanac* for August 1913: 1st – The Yarraman Wood Pulp Works formally opened by the Governor; 4th - Ceremony of turning the first sod of the Dalby to Jandowae railway performed by the Honorable W T Paget; 7th – Government report showed there were 600 motor cars, 130 motor cycles and 14 motor lorries or heavy motor vehicles registered in the Brisbane traffic district; 13th – A record attendance reached for that year's Brisbane Exhibition, estimated at 57,100 compared to 57,000 the previous year; 15th – a tender of £11,500 by H D Miller accepted by the state government to build the technical college at Warwick; 22nd – First sod of the Logan Village to Canungra railway line turned by the Minister for Railways; 29th – A scientific team from the Carnegie Institute arrived in Brisbane on their way to study the Great Barrier Reef.

Queensland News for July

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

Charters Towers – The regional council is considering transforming a number of council owned buildings into apartments to reduce vandalism in the area. The council had been considering leasing the ground floor of Wherry House. The town plan would have to be amended to allow for buildings such as the World Theatre, Collins Pharmacy and Westpac Bank to offer apartment style living. Council has also announced that Gladstone Creek beside Venus Gold battery will be a permanently filled water feature. (*Northern Miner* 21 June 2013 p.4 including colour photograph of Wherry House)

Chillagoe – On Saturday 1 June 2013 the Chillagoe Court House Museum was officially opened by Magistrate Tom Braes. He had grown up in the region and had visited Chillagoe and Mungana for holidays as a child. The Court House Museum has been developed over several years by the Chillagoe Alliance Inc, a community history and cultural group. The Museum has been installed in the Court Room of

the Court House and contains court and police artefacts and copies of historical documents. A mock court scene was played out before 80 people in attendance. Police had also occupied part of the building over many years and Inspector Rolf Straatemeier of Mareeba, spoke on behalf of the police contingent. After a visit to the Chillagoe Cemetery for a historic tribute to the Atherton Family led by Cr Evan McGrath, and lunch, historic talks were held in the afternoon. These talks were presented by Ruth Kerr on the history of the development of the Chillagoe mines and smelters and an overview of the Mungana Scandal in the 1920s, Robin Smith spoke about the personalities involved in the Mungana Scandal, former Premiers Theodore and McCormack; Mining Warden, R A Dunlop; Chillagoe Smelters Manager Peter Goddard; and miner Fred Reid (whose grand daughter was present). Retired Police Sergeant Norris Carney spoke on life as a policeman at Chillagoe in the late 1960s and 1970s. (Notes on personal visit by Ruth Kerr)

Gympie - Imbil Railway – The Mary Valley Rattler train recommenced passenger services in the Gympie Yard area on 9 June. It had been off the rails for several months because of problems with the tracks. Thorough inspections and servicing of the rail vehicles have been done together with track work in the rail yard. \$2 million has been allocated by the Queensland state government to refurbish the permanent way of the Mary Valley rail line for the Mary Valley Heritage Rail Association. (*Sunshine Coast Daily* 28 May 2013 p.4 and personal communication with MVHRA committee member)

Mount Garnet – The Tableland Regional Council is supporting local people including Giles and Ken Atkinson in nominating *Wairuna* station homestead and cemetery for entry on the Queensland Heritage Register. The station was bought by James Atkinson in 1881. *Wairuna* station land is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service who have indicated a desire to demolish the homestead which received some roof damage in cyclone *Yasi*. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 14 June 2013 p.9)

Muttaburra – A life size Muttaburrasaurus sculpture was unveiled on the weekend of 19-20 June 2013, 50 years after the first dinosaur were recorded on Doug Langdon's property near Muttaburra. Barcaldine artist Milynda Rogers consulted local people. The artwork was part of the 'Art from the Heart' Program run by Cicadas, the art development arm of the Remote Area Planning and Development Board to support arts and cultural activities in remote areas. (*Longreach Leader* 21 June 2013 p.3 including

photograph of the sculpture and the artist, Doug Langdon and Louise Campbell of Cicadas)

Tin Can Bay – Pettigrew's Timber Tramway Complex was entered on the Queensland Heritage Register on 12 July 2013 by the Queensland Heritage Council. This was the culmination of advocacy by Society members Elaine Brown and Ruth Kerr, and advanced by the Cultural Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. A significant aspect of the listing is that of the recognition of European history and technical endeavour within a National Park. The historical research on Pettigrew's tramway and the locomotive, *Mary Ann*, was initiated by the late John Kerr in 1969 and his article, 'The Calooli Creek and Thanna Railway, Tin Can Bay: Queensland's First Private Railway and First Queensland-built Locomotive' *Queensland Heritage*, November 1970, vol.2, no.3, pp.14-20. The locomotive commenced to run on 30 June 1873. The 140th anniversary of that event was celebrated in Maryborough on Sunday 30 June 2013, when Mr Peter Olds of Olds Engineering, Maryborough, invited descendents of the Pettigrew and Sim families and Elaine and Geoff Brown and Ruth Kerr to attend for a kauri pine planting ceremony in Kent Street, Maryborough. The Mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Gerard O'Connell, presided. Utilising the photography in John Kerr's article, Peter Olds had constructed a small model of *Mary Ann* in the mid 1970s. In the 1990s he constructed a full size model which was completed in 1998. The current *Mary Ann* has now been running in central Maryborough for 14 years as a tourist train. On 30 June Maryborough City Whistle Stop Inc ran trips for the public all day in association with the Mary Poppins Festival. (Notes on personal visit by Ruth Kerr)

Wallangarra – The State School will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in September 2013. The original school committee – George Bashford and Reuben Bashford (railway contractors), James McCook, Samuel Williams, Arthur George, Mathew Henry, Thomas Bradley, Alfred Crisp and George Williams - was formed in December 1885 and there were around 100 children likely to attend. Departmental response was slow. In November 1887 the school committee recommended Arthur James Stevenson as teacher. Meanwhile a local school was held in a bark church (8 X 5 X 1.8 metres) with hardwood floor. The Provisional School was opened on 13 February 1888 with Alfred Stevenson as teacher. He resigned after one month and Roger MacGinley was appointed. Due to the large attendance the school moved to the Catholic Chapel

in March 1888. By September 1888 the Committee had raised £110 as subsidy for a school building. On 27 September 1888 the new school building was complete and ready for occupation and was recognised as a state school from 3 November 1888. The average attendance in 1890 was 40 and in 1893 76. A stove heater was sent to the school by the department in May 1893. A tennis court was constructed in 1940. The school attendance in 1942 was 144 because of the increased population during World War II. Beautification of the grounds and extension of buildings and cultural and sporting activities occurred in the 1980s. A new building was obtained in the Commonwealth government BER scheme and the current enrolment is 66. (Stanthorpe *Border Post* 25 June 2013 p.13 including photograph of the school in 1987)

Winton & Ilfracombe had a player from the first British and Irish Lions Rugby Union tour of Australia in 1888. Robert Burnett and his brother William played for Roxburgh County and Hawick Rugby Football Club and were selected to play forward and half back respectively in the team. They played 16 rugby union matches in Australia and 19 AFL games which they learnt on arrival in Australia. After the Brisbane match Robert selected land near Winton and then opened sheep scouring factories. Robert was founder member and manager of Edkins Marsh and Co which operated sheep washing facilities in Longreach, Ilfracombe, Julia Creek, Richmond and Maxwelton. Robert retired to St Kilda and married Mary Finlay, granddaughter of a former mayor of Melbourne in 1897. William emigrated to the United States and set up a sheep property with fellow Lions team member Alex Laing. (*Longreach Leader* 21 June 2013 p.10 including photograph of 1888 Lions team (from World Rugby Museum, Twickenham).

Queensland Births Deaths and Marriages Available Electronically

Queensland Attorney-General, Honorable Jarrod Bleijie MP, has announced that scans of nearly 650,000 historical records from Births, Deaths and Marriages can now be accessed through an enhanced family research web service provided by the state government.

These records can now be downloaded instantly to home computers, tablets and smart phones at a greatly reduced cost. The Attorney General stated that the Queensland Registry holds around 6,000,000 life event records and expects to have them all digitised

by 2015. The digitisation provides another preservation format.

Historians can now download a scanned image for \$20, compared to \$39 previously for a hard copy certificate ordered over the counter. The event records register dates back to 1829.

The release of the digitized records coincided with the 2013 Mary Poppins festival in Maryborough. The birth registration for P L Travers – the creator of Mary Poppins – reveals she was born Helen Lyndon Goff at Maryborough in 1899. Her father was a bank manager whose home overlooked the Mary River.

The registry's historical records can be searched and ordered through the Births, Deaths and Marriages website at <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/justice-services/births-deaths-and-marriages> (Source: Media Statements 19 June 2013 – Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Honorable J Bleijie MP)

NOTICE OF THE 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.**

Ruth Kerr
Honorary Secretary

New Members

Joy MacDougall	Wishart
Iain MacInnis	Griffith
Glenn Cooke	West End

Research Report for July

Queries continue to flow in and keep us very busy. This month we have dealt with the following: Polynesian Labour Fund and South Sea Islanders; *Dunmore House*, Milton, demolition date; details of

the structure used in the construction of the Story Bridge; a house at 23 Doncaster St, Hendra; an image of Fountain's Camp on the Ipswich-Toowoomba Railway line; the *Santa Cruz* incident at Mackay; the Old Vienna Cafe in Queen Street; family history for Catherine Hazel Heale and Joan Colebrook; the Guyatt family; Emily Holder Cowl, member of the Historical Society of Queensland in 1913; a request from a descendant of the Marquis of Normanby seeking assistance with writing a book on his Normanby ancestry and the Leith-Hay family; details on the Commissariat Store for PDT Architects who are preparing material for the Open House booklet; an image of Native trackers who were sent south to assist in the capture of the Kelly Gang; and Queen's Park, Mackay. We supplied a number of images of early Annerley for display in the new Woolworths complex at Annerley.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Visit to the Regatta Hotel, Toowong

On 3 June, at the invitation of Erin Masterton, the Marketing and PR Manager of the Regatta Hotel, Val Donovan, representing The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, visited the hotel along with members of other Brisbane historical societies. The invitation was at the instigation of Leigh Chamberlain, who has written an article on the history of the Regatta, as it is fondly known, which will be published in a forthcoming edition of the Queensland History Journal.

If anyone who reads this has any information that they wish to be included in the Regatta collection would they please contact Erin Masterton on 07 3871 9595.

Val Donovan
Honorary Research Officer and
Assistant Editor Queensland History Journal

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES SEMINAR

Tuesday 20 August 10.00 - 11.00 am
Lecture Theatre 2

'Discover how to get the best out of ArchivesSearch, the Queensland State Archives' online catalogue. This seminar will teach you more advanced techniques to locate records of interest and will give useful tips for finding what you want'.

Entry is free
QSA Compton Road Runcorn
Telephone: 3131 7777

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**

Blocksidge & Ferguson Real Estate have kindly donated
their services to conduct this auction

The Queensland Women's Historical Association Inc

ACTIVITY

Thursday 8 August

Morning Tea 10.30 am and Talk at 11.00

Guest Speaker: Glenys Cheng, Quilter
'One Wagga, Many Quilts: personal quilts
from the thrifty days of the depression, to a
blue ribbon winner in the 21st century'.

\$10.00 QWHA members

\$12.00 non-members

Telephone: (07) 3252 2979

**Venue: 'Miegunyah' House museum
35 Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills Qld**

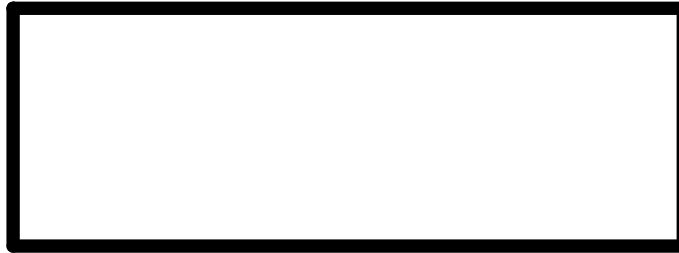


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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

AUGUST 2013

Friday 2 August 6.00 pm Book Auction
Wednesday 14 August 12.30 pm NO TALK
Thursday 15 August Council Meeting
Thursday 15 August *Bulletin* deadline

YOUR SPEAKER FOR AUGUST

There is no talk for August as the second Wednesday is Show Day this year

Contact details:

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