



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



First Contact Memorial Opening Day, 27 May 2013 Members of the Official Party with Mapoon Rangers and Guests at Cullen Point boat ramp (story page 2)

From left: Mr Stuart McCosker; Mr Lawry Booth (Senior Ranger); Councillor Peter Guivarra (Mayor); Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC (Governor of Queensland); Mrs Roberta Kuiper; Captain Kasper Kuiper RON (Honorary Netherlands Consul for Queensland); Mr John Tabuai (Senior Patrol Ranger); Mr Jeffrey Mellefont (Editor, *Signals* magazine, Australian National Maritime Museum); Mr Fred de Graaf (President of the Netherlands Senate); Mr Geert Jan Hamilton (Secretary-General, Netherlands Senate); Ms Kate Copeland (Queensland Health); Her Excellency Mrs Annemieke Ruigrok (Netherlands Ambassador to Australia); Mr Rupert Gerritsen (Editor of the booklet *Duyfken*); Mrs Kaylene Manderson, Mr Rene Ratsma (Van Oord); Mr Martin Meijers (Van Oord); Mr Evert Peet; Ms Carolien Burgering (Van Oord); Dr Leanne Day; Mr Geoff Wharton.

Photo courtesy of Ms Christine Howes.

President's Report for August

With our Society's centenary celebrations well underway, the last month has been spent preparing for our tri-annual Book Auction, Centenary Dinner and the Centenary Reception.

State Librarian Janette Wright visited the Commissariat Store on Monday 22 July. Ruth Kerr, Jean Stewart and Marilyn England were on hand to show her around the museum and Welsby Library with me. We talked about the SLQ's plans for digitisation and how this relates to the RHSQ's collection over morning tea.

This month our Honorary Exhibitions Curator Janice Hess, with Niles Elvery on behalf of the Queensland State Archives, put together a new exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Australian South Sea Islanders to Queensland. It may be viewed on the middle level of the Commissariat Store, and there will be an official launch of the exhibit at our next 'At Home' on 19 October. Thank you to everyone who helped Janice put this display together including Jean Stewart and Graeme Nicholson.

Also to be launched at the 19 October 'At Home' is a display of newly framed panoramas in the stairwell of the Commissariat Store. The panoramas were able to be framed due to a grant from the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.

On 2 August our fifth Book Auction was held, raising a significant amount for the society. Bruce Blocksidge from Blockside and Ferguson Ltd kindly provided his services as auctioneer for the night and did a wonderful job. Thank you to Jean Stewart and everyone who helped in the preparation and on the night; it was a lovely evening – there's nothing like the smell of old books, wine and congenial company to raise the spirits!

Finally, I would like to end the formal part of 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 cheeky sense of humour to the museum every Tuesday for over 12 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.

Notable events which occurred in September 1913 (taken from *Pugh's Almanac for 1914*): 4th - Messrs J C Linedale, W H Rands, and C F V Jackson appointed a board to report on the application of Mr Thomas Mills of Charters Towers for a subsidy of

£60,000 for a shaft to be sunk to 4000 feet at Charters Towers; 8th – the Railway Commissioner opened traffic at the new bridge across the Burdekin River at Inkerman; 22nd – Ernest Austin, convicted of the murder of Ivy Alexandra Mitchell at Samford, executed in Boggo Road Gaol; 25th - Vernon C. Redwood awarded £500 damages from S C W Robinson, part proprietor of the *Darling Downs Gazette*, for alleged defamation.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for August

News From Around the State

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

Chillagoe – Long term resident and Ford vehicle collector, Tom Prior, was honoured in Chillagoe on 27 July. The Tommy Prior Tribute Weekend was held at Eco Lodge to celebrate Tom Prior's life-long dedication to servicing rural communities. Tom Prior is 75 years old and has 25 Fords. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 26 July 2013 p.4)

Cooktown – The Anzac Park arch is being refurbished by the Cooktown RSL and the Cook Shire Council. A grant for the purpose was obtained by the Member for Leichhardt, Mr Warren Entsch MP under the Commonwealth government's program to commemorate the centenary of World War I. (*Cooktown Local News* 18-24 July 2013 p.6 including photograph)

Mapoon – The First Contact Memorial at Mapoon was unveiled by Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AC on 27 May 2013. It was a highly significant event with Mapoon Elders: Mr Jimmy Bond, Mrs Alma Day, Mrs Zoe de Jersey, Mrs Harriet Flinders, Mrs Priscilla Hudson, Mrs Florence Luff with Mrs Lottie Luff, Mrs Grace McLachlan with Ms Linda McLachlan, Mrs Delores Nixon and Mrs Roberta Toby and dignitaries present.

The official party included:

Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Penelope Wensley AC and Mr Stuart McCosker; Mr Fred de Graaf, President of the Senate Netherlands Parliament; Mr Geert Jan Hamilton, Secretary-General, Netherlands Senate; Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mrs Annemieke Ruigrok and Mr Evert Peet; Hon Netherlands Consul for Queensland, Captain Kapser Kuiper and Mrs Roberta Kuiper; Mr Amando Torres, Chief Operating Officer of RTA Bauxite & Alumina Pacific

Operations and Mrs Marta Torres; Mr Gareth Manderson, General Manager Weipa Operations, RTA and Mrs Kaylene Manderson; Mr Jim Singer, General Manager Communication and External Relations RTA; Mr Martin Meijers, Managing Director Van Oord Australia; Mr Rene Ratsma, QHSE Manager, Van Oord; Ms Caroline Burgering, Marketing & PR Officer, Van Oord; Mr David Kempton MP, Assistant Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Affairs and Member for Cook; Ms Florence Charger, Chair Western Cape Communities Trust; Mr William Busch, Chair of Mapoon interim Land and Sea Advisory Committee; Mayor, Councillor Peter Guivarra; and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Aileen Addo.

The Memorial commemorates the first documented visit by Europeans to Australia. The crew of the Dutch East India Company vessel, *Duyfken*, sailed to the Cape York Peninsula area in March 1606, looking for trade opportunities. The research and preparation of the cultural and historical plaques on behalf of the Mapoon People, the Netherlands Parliament and the Queensland Government was undertaken by professional historian and Royal Historical Society of Queensland member, Mr Geoff Wharton, who has had a long standing association with the Cape York Region. The bronze plaques that are set in concrete under and aluminum silhouette of the *Duyfken* are displayed in two parts: on the west information about the Mapoon People and on the east the historical information about the Dutch voyages and first contact with the Mapoon People. Reverend Michelle Cook conducted the Mapoon Aghama Tja'a Choir at the official ceremony. The book, *The Duyfken: Unveiling of the First Contact Memorial*, contains chapters, by RHSQ Society members, Colin Sheehan and Geoff Wharton and William Janszoon's explorations for the VOC and the first contact memorial in the Mapoon Shire, respectively. (*The Western Cape Bulletin* 29 May 2013; Memorial Official Opening Programme; *The Duyfken: Unveiling of the First Contact Memorial*, book published by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Canberra and the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council).

Wengenville – The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association are organizing a Back to Wengenville reunion at Wengenville on Saturday 5 October 2013. The town existed from 1922 when Lars Andersen's sawmill and tramway were operating. Forty men were employed at its peak and it closed in 1962. John Kerr and Malcolm Philpott wrote up the history of the tramway and it was published in *Queensland Heritage* in November 1973

(vol 2 no 9 pp. 21-29). Details of the reunion can be obtained at email: ron.audrey@bigpond.com. (*Gympie Times* 10 August 2013 p. 12)

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

Lana Czarniecki	Middle Park
Gordon Dean	West End
Lisa Jackson	Point Lookout
Philip McGrory	Chermside West
Nicole Larrescy	Acacia Ridge
Jaimie Robertson	Bardon
Duncan Michie	Victoria Point

NATIONAL ARCHIVES SEMINAR **'BANNED BOOKS'**

During most of the 20th century Australia was one of the strictest censors in the western world. This seminar will look at the history of censorship and what was banned in Australia.

Morning tea provided. Parking available.

Wednesday 18 September, 10–11.30am and
Saturday 21 September, 10–11.30am

16 Corporate Drive
 CANNON HILL QLD 4170

Research Report for August

Queries this month have included: William Grady, convict, arrived on the *Amity*; personal details on Henry Wade, Surveyor; transcript of the debate held by RHSQ on the Mayne Inheritance; photo of Emma (Norton) Oxley; William Holmes, first director of the Australian Museum who was killed in Moreton Bay while on an expedition in 1831; house at 397 Hawkesbury Rd, Anstead; sale of four images of Kanakas and the Native Trackers sent to help catch the Kelly Gang; more assistance to the Supreme Court on capital punishment; German farmers; Alice River Commune, Thomas Pennington and Thomas Henry Evans; Annerley hotels and Census Figures 1859-1900.

We have also received a note from Michael Rimmer, a Queensland historian now living in England who has discovered that the grave of Sir George Ferguson Bowen and his wife, Lady Diamantina, in Kensal Green Cemetery in London is in poor condition was not known to the Cemetery Manager and not listed in the Cemetery's 'Book of Celebrities' and he suggested that something should be done about restoring it. We have referred the matter to the Premier.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

A New Addition to the Welsby Library

ALEXANDER MICKHAILOVICH ZUZENKO

Undesirable: Captain Zuzenko and Workers of Australia and the World by Kevin Windle (Australian Scholarly Publishing, Kew, Vic) \$39.95. (296pp, ISBN 978 1 9218 75 755, index, biblio, endnotes, illus.)

Kevin Windle, a prominent scholar of Russian Language and History at ANU has produced a fascinating account of the beginnings of the Communist Party in Australia and the difficulties of the early days of the USSR through the life of a remarkable man, Alexander Zuzenko. It is a very gripping story of a man at the forefront of radical and communist activity in Australia before and after his deportation to Russia, in America, again in Australia and less prominently in England until he went to his death during Stalin's regime under Article 58 of the Soviet criminal code as a spy, enemy and traitor. It deals with the privations his family suffered as they were caught up in the turmoil of his life, with the only peaceful and comfortable time during his period as a ship's captain from 1924 until 1938 when they lived

in relative comfort in a well appointed apartment in Moscow until his sudden arrest, trial and execution, details of which were not learned by his wife and family until many years later when his membership of the Communist Party was posthumously restored in 1956.

For Queensland readers the detail of his life from 1911 is of great interest as it puts action in Australia within the context of one of the great revolutions in history. Born in Riga in Latvia in 1884 Zuzenko became swept up in the revolutionary fervour and radical movements in the Russian Empire early and quickly became involved in strike action. He followed many of the Russian immigrants who were attracted to the Australian mining and agricultural industries in the period 1910 to 1914 as wages were relatively high. Zuzenko gained experience in mining and cane districts and became an organizer of the International Workers of the World on the mining fields.

Almost immediately he began writing to Soviet newspapers about the exploitation of itinerant miners who opened up mines for capitalist owners in remote Australia eg. Selwyn, Kuridala, Mount Cuthbert, Duchess (on the Cloncurry field). Broken Hill was referred to as the 'Red Petrograd of Australia'. He also referred to Mount Morgan where his father-in-law, Michael Rosenberg from Siberia, worked and became involved quickly in the Union of Russian Workers (URW) with Zuzenko who married Civa Rosenberg on 9 February 1919 at the Registry Office in Brisbane. In the radical newspapers of the time Zuzenko wrote the articles and his wife acted as editor.

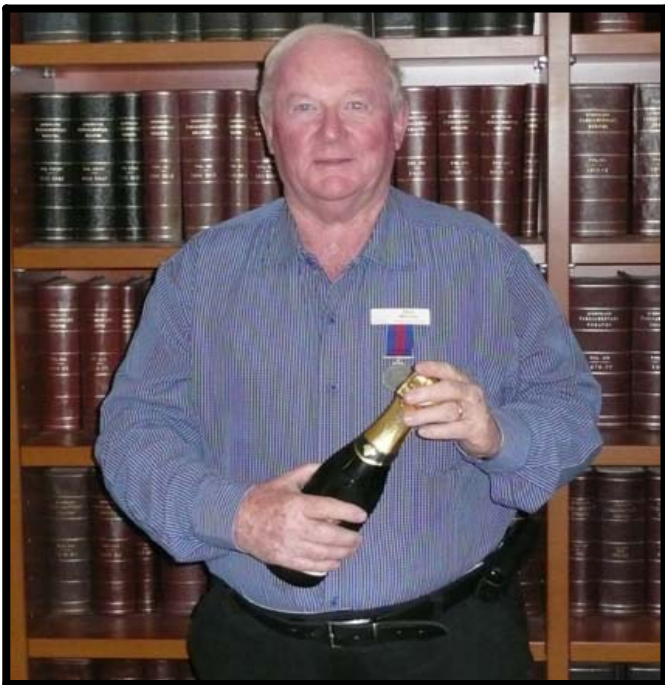
Radical groups spread over a wide spectrum – URW established in Brisbane in 1911 was on the Left and Anarchists were established on the Far Left in 1915. The URW became the focus of industrial and political agitation for all workers as well as Russian immigrants. Zuzenko became a vigorous and prolific writer who gave insights into the personalities of the workers and their leaders and the conflicting opinions held by them. He was a very big man and was prominent as the leader in the Red Flag Riots in Brisbane in 1919 described in graphic detail in the chapter 'A Very Violent Agitator' and the event had repercussions throughout the world.

Zuzenko was arrested and deported, eventually arriving after great difficulty and under cruel duress to a turbulent Russia, where he offered to return to Australia to establish the Communist Party leaving his wife and baby daughter to cope on their own in a war torn Moscow. This chapter in his life described the difficulties of travelling to Australia via England

and America in each of which countries he became involved in revolutionary activities and in both ran into difficulties with the authorities resulting in a second deportation from Australia in 1922.

The author uses the necessary archives extensively including Australian Comintern files in Russia (1919-1940). The Australian and United Kingdom archives used are National Archives of Australia, Queensland State Archives, National Library of Australia, Fryer Library, and the National Archives of the United Kingdom and the writings of Zuzenko himself. Civa Zuzenko herself was interviewed by Eric Fried in Leningrad in 1990. She was a heroic figure having endured Stalinism and the war.

Ruth Kerr and Jean Stewart



Don Murray at his Farewell

Photographer: Janice Hess

A farewell luncheon was held on 30 July as a thank-you for Senior Guide, Don Murray. Don has worked in many areas including guiding since 2001 and over the years has relayed the history of Queensland to thousands of visitors from all over the world. He was particularly good with school groups and imparted his knowledge with great skill. He will be greatly missed. The Society wishes him all the best with his new position at the Royal Queensland Yacht Club.

The Commissariat Store has a new exhibition entitled *Australian South Sea Islanders*. This year celebrates the anniversary of the South Sea Islanders

arriving in the Brisbane River on the *Don Juan*. This is a very interesting exhibition, which has been researched by the Queensland State Archives. On display are copies of records held by the Archives including Immigration, Dental, Health and School records. Objects from the RHSQ collections are also represented including *The Hopeful Petition*, bank books and photographs.

Janice Hess
Honorary Museum Curator

The Queensland Women's Historical Association Inc

ACTIVITIES

Saturday 31 August to Sunday 6 October

Display - The Bride Wore White: Weddings from Queensland's Past

Wedding Dresses and Accoutrements from the QWHA collection, including the Gardam story

Admission \$6.00 includes entry to the museum and the exhibition.

Saturday 7 September and Sunday 8 September 10.30 am until 3.00 pm

Vintage Wedding Fair: Stalls, Talks, Fashion Parades

Admission \$6.00 includes entry to the museum and the exhibition.

Thursday 12 September 10.30 am, Talk 11.00 am

'Fashions and Weddings 1920s to 1980s' Guest Speaker: Merrill Retallack

\$10.00 QWHA members

\$12.00 non-members

Includes morning tea

Telephone: (07) 3252 2979

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

Email : qwha@miegunyah.org

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
SEPTEMBER 2013

Wednesday 11 September 12.30 pm
 ‘Have Courage my Darling’: the colonial causes and
 experiences of Lady Lamington
 Katie McConnel
Thursday 12 September Council Meeting
Sunday 15 September *Bulletin* deadline

YOUR SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER

Well known historian Katie McConnel is curator
 of the Old Government House and President of The
 Queensland Historians Association. Her talk will
 explore the reality of vice-regal life through the
 social highs and health lows of an extraordinary
 woman, Lady May Lamington, wife of
 Queensland’s eighth governor

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
Manager:	Christina Michie
Phone:	07 3221 4198
Fax:	07 3221 4698
E-mail:	info@queenslandhistory.org.au
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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

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 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.

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