



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*71 years of continuous publication*

**OCTOBER 2013 No. 779**

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: Nick Wall

## AT THE CENTENARY DINNER

**This photograph, taken at the Centenary Dinner, shows from left to right; Dr Ruth Kerr, Honorary Secretary, RHSQ; Mr Dean Prangley, Vice-President, RHSQ; Mrs Helen McMonagle, President, RHSQ; Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland and Patron of The RHSQ; The Honourable Campbell Newman, Premier of Queensland.**

### President's Report for September

With our Centenary Year swiftly drawing to a close, the Society has been kept busy undertaking event planning activities as well as continuing to work on our existing projects.

Our gala Centenary Dinner was held on 21 August 2013 in the Grand Ballroom of Tattersalls Club, with 109 attendees including our Society's Patron Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland; Mr Stuart McCosker; and guest speaker the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland. The Premier spoke about the importance of Queensland's history and heritage, and announced a generous grant of \$30,000 to help start our digitisation program. The night was a great success, with the general feeling that the evening was a relaxing celebration of the RHSQ spent amongst friends.

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Commissariat Store on Thursday 12 September 2013. The Clem Lack Oration was given by Dr Ruth Kerr on the history of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. There were several comments afterwards on aspects mentioned about our Society unknown to many of those in attendance. Council elections were conducted by Immediate Past-President Carolyn Nolan for the positions shown at page 4 of this *Bulletin*. Congratulations to all and welcome to our new Councillors Greg McBride and Maryanne Pender.

The last formal celebration of the Society's centenary was the Centenary Reception generously hosted by Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland at Government House on 17 September 2013. Her Excellency gave a speech identifying important parts of the RHSQ's history, and the meticulous research for which she is well-known was evident. Her Excellency also presented the Society's new Centenary Medal to eight of this year's recipients - Cynthia Berthelsen, Alan Broughton, Pat Broughton, Val Donovan, Beth Johnson, Margaret Kowald, Lyndsay Smith, and Jean Stewart. Kay Cohen and Carolyn Nolan were unable to attend so will be presented with their award at a later date.

In keeping with our Society's constitution to support regional historical societies and their projects, RHSQ Councillor Che Aberdeen and I travelled to Eidsvold on 13-15 September 2013 to attend the launch of the new Bancroft Family exhibition at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, performed by another of our RHSQ Councillors, John Pearn. The exhibition, open until the end of October, was well attended by family and friends of the Bancroft family, and the curators Evelyn Bancroft and Diana Hacker have put together a very interesting display. We were treated to a tour of the Eidsvold Historic Complex and a delicious afternoon tea after the exhibition launch. I highly recommend members visit both venues as they provide a unique and entertaining insight into the area's history. On the way to Eidsvold, Che and I visited the Gayndah Museum and were warmly welcomed by Gayndah and District Historical Society executives Cynthia Berthelsen (President), John Wein (Secretary) and Mary McIntyre (Treasurer). John showed us photos of the devastation wrought by flooding in January this year, and it is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of their society members and the Gayndah community that the museum is back in business with interesting and educational displays spread over a significant area including three buildings and sheds

outside. There is also an aquarium holding two lung fish and blue-claw crayfish, which is used in their educational tours.

Che and I thank the Gayndah and District Historical Society, Eidsvold and District Historical Society and the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre for their friendly welcome and for looking after us so well. Che and I intend to undertake visits to regional historical societies on a regular basis and welcome members to travel with us – I will advertise our next trip in the *Bulletin*, so keep a look out.

Finally, some of you may have noticed the Commissariat Store on the *Flashback* segment of Channel 7 News on Sunday 15 September 2013. The segment was looking at Boggo Road Gaol and featured our hanging beam, as well as other footage of the building.

Notable events which occurred in October 1913 (taken from *Pugh's Almanac for 1914*): 1<sup>st</sup> – The Brisbane Ambulance Brigade travelled a then-record distance of 76 miles to attend a case at Pimpama; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 800 banana plants despatched to Cairns for an experiment in connection with the diseases noted in the banana plantations; 4<sup>th</sup> – the Dr Phillips Memorial Operating Theatre connected with the Warwick Hospital was opened His Excellency Sir William MacGregor, Governor of Queensland, appointed honorary colonel of the Army Medical Corps; 6<sup>th</sup> – It was reported that a coal seam over four feet thick had been struck in the Nundah coal mine; 14<sup>th</sup> – Mr W H Ryder, ISO, retired from the position of Under Secretary of the Home Department after nearly 52 years active connection with the Government service. Mr W J Gall, was appointed as his successor; 20<sup>th</sup> – Mr Geisler caught 24 lung fish [*neoceratodus forsteri*] in the Burnett River near Gayndah, with some of the specimens several feet in length; 21<sup>st</sup> – Dr Jean White, in charge of the prickly pear experiments in Dulacca, reported that she had made a significant discovery in the destruction of the plant using the vapour of arsenic trioxide [Dr White wrote that she believed the only real solution lay in discovering some parasite or insect...in 1926 the moth *Cactoblastis cactorum* was introduced]; 25<sup>th</sup> – A successful flight was made by A W Jones from the Ascot racecourse with a registered height of 1500 feet, equalling the greatest height yet attained in Australia.

Helen McMonagle  
President

## Queensland News for September

### News From Around the State

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

**Bundaberg - Bundaberg Railway Museum** set the date for the reopening of the Museum for the 28 September 2013. They plan to have an open day from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm. (Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society President – 10 September 2013)

**Cairns** - The Cairns Museum which Cairns and District Historical Society operates closed after 30 years on 20 September 2013 for renovations of the School of Arts building. The Society invited all past and present members to a last viewing of the present museum on Saturday 21 from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. The Society is moving to the old Cairns Post Office for the duration of the renovations. (Cairns and District Historical Society email – 16 September 2013)

**Charters Towers** – The Council has been unable to secure a suitable short-term commercial tenant for the heritage listed Wherry House. The Dalrymple Community Cultural Trust indicated interest in taking on the 124 year old building and using it for an art gallery. It would enable art works stored in the World Theatre to be displayed. The two storey masonry building was built in 1889 for the Bank of New South Wales. It was designed by north Queensland architects Eyre and Munro. (*Northern Miner* {Charters Towers} 9 August 2013 pp 1-2 including photograph)

**Charters Towers** – Michael Brumby wrote up the story of Harry ‘Breaker’ Morant at Charters Towers for the *Northern Miner*. Harry Morant married Daisy O’Dwyer at the home of Mrs Veal in Plant Street. They were employed on *Fanning Downs* station east of the Burdekin River. They stayed at John Brooks’ *Enterprise* Hotel in Queenton for two weeks in 1884. Morant borrowed a saddle belonging to a man named Green and was arrested for larceny. Morant had sought to sell the saddle for £3 to George Palmer, accountant at the Burdekin River Brewery. No definite arrangement was made for the sale and the saddle was given back to Brooks. Morant and Palmer drove off 36 pigs from the property of dairyman, James Reardon, between the Burdekin bridge and *Fanning Downs*, claiming they were wild. No case could be proven against them. Morant left Charters Towers ahead of being charged for passing fraudulent cheques. He was caught near the Anabranche of the Burdekin and arrested by Sergeant Quinn. (*Northern Miner* 21 June 2013 p.12 including photograph of a painting of the

Burdekin River bridge – held by The Charters Towers and Dalrymple Archives Group)

**Cooktown** – Nature’s PowerHouse at the Botanic Gardens has received copies of two paintings done by Vera Scarth-Johnson in the 1970s in Western Australia. They were sent by Rob and Peggy Walker of Naracoorte who visited Cooktown recently. A copy of the article by Carol Parker in *Vogue Australia* around 1973 was also sent and published in the *Cooktown Local News* of 25-31 July 2013 on page 11.

**Cooktown Show Committee of 1913** was pictured in the *Cooktown Local News*. Those pictured were: W. Molle, owner of *Springvale Station*; A Tregear, Clerk of Petty Sessions; Charlie Bromfield, judge at the show; George Love, licensee of *Great Northern Hotel*; Charles Patching, solicitor and Honorary Secretary, Show Society; and R. Wallace, manager of Queensland National Bank; Jack Kerr, manager of *Butcher Hill* station; W Andrews, manager Howard Smith’s Shipping; Norman Gibson, *King’s Plains* station; S Brown, manager, Burns Philp & Co; J Murray, AUSN Shipping Agent; P C Fuller, dairy farmer, Endeavour River; Joe Raleigh, manager, Roaring Meg mine; and George Goodman, newspaperman. (*Cooktown Local News* 11-17 July 1913 p.10)

**Cooroy** – The centenary of the dedication of the Anglican Church of the Holy Nativity at Cooroy was celebrated on Sunday 18 August 2013 with Archbishop Phillip Aspinall attending with 80 other people. Alan McGrath and Ruth Kerr were the only descendants of a member of the original committee, William Cambage, in attendance. (Personal information)

**Gympie** – The Gympie Turf Club has recently received racing memorabilia from the McGuinness family. Edward John McGuinness was a Brisbane doctor in the 1940s and 1950s. He was born in Gympie where his father was a miner and chairman of the No.2 Great South Eastern company. John McGuinness won the 1948 President’s Day Cup in Gympie with galloper *Cabarita*. The cup and photographs have now been donated by the family to the Gympie Turf Club. The *Gympie Times* reported that in 1975 Dr McGuinness donated a Gympie Show medal awarded in 1900 to No.2 Great Eastern mine to the Gympie Historical Museum. The *Gympie Times* of 11 January 1975 recorded the donation and that it was displayed. The newspaper reported that the medal was stolen a few days later. (*Gympie Times* 20 July 2013 p.19 quoting *Gympie Times* 11 January 1975)

**Gympie – Mary Valley Heritage Railway (MVHR)** – The MVHR’s diesel (1632) is being used as a shunt locomotive at Downer EDI in

Maryborough. This provides a new revenue opportunity for MVHR. Also volunteer gangs have replaced 54 sleepers in the Gympie rail yard and immediately south of the station. A new community trust is being formed. \$2 million of state government funding has been secured. (*Gympie Times* 13 July 2013 p. 7 and 10 August 2013 p.7 including photographs)

**Kilcoy** - The Kilcoy District Historical Society Inc is planning a community celebration in Yowie Park, Hope Street, Kilcoy on 30 November 2013 to commemorate the opening of the Woodford to Kilcoy railway line in 1913. The line has been closed since 1964. The Historical Society's Hall of History stands where the railway station was situated. The activities and entertainment will commence from 9.00 am that day on the original station site. It is also Kilcoy Markets day and the community's End of Spring Festival day in the Park. Anyone with memorabilia, memoirs or photographs or enquiries should contact the Kilcoy District Historical Society (Carmel Rohl – [regit1950@westnet.com.au](mailto:regit1950@westnet.com.au)). (Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society Inc President – 16 September 2013; and website [www.kilcoydistricthistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kilcoydistricthistoricalsociety.com) Facebook: Kilcoy District Historical Society Twitter: KilcoyHistory)

**Logan Village's** new illuminating heritage attraction was to be officially launched on 16 August 2013. The 'Forest of Memories', an installation of several two metre high internally-lit metal totems with images of historic people from the area. It is erected in front of the old railway station on Logan Village's main street. Mayor Pam Parker officially opened the Forest of Memories. The installation includes LED lights to illuminate the totems at night. The \$150,000 project, which includes landscaping and infrastructure improvements, was initiated by Councillor Don Petersen. (*Jimboomba Times* 14 Aug 2013 p.8)

**Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group** – Ms Jennifer Clark presented the family story of Christopher Porter at the Annual Pioneers' Dinner on 25 August 2013. Jennifer has written and published a book on Christopher Porter's family – *Bricks and Mortar* (<http://www.blurb/b/3258050-bricks-mortar> - Price \$50.95 soft cover, \$65.95 hardcover)

At the dinner Jennifer summarised the family's history. They established *Mooraree* sugar plantation at Doughboy. Christopher Porter was born in 1801. He became a plasterer in Wiltshire. He arrived in Australia in 1852 and the Australian Inland Carrying Company that he established in Geelong failed. He arrived in Brisbane in 1860 and established himself as

City Surveyor and Architect. He worked on *Kedron Lodge, Montpellier* and the Normal School. On 23 December 1861 he bought 659 acres of land at Bulimba. It was called *Mooraree* (plenty of water) and began growing sugar in the mid 1860s. The sugar mill was described in detail in *The Brisbane Courier* of 21 September 1870. The plantation was auctioned in 1874, as advertised in *The Brisbane Courier* of 14 November 1874. There was an eight roomed house, workers' huts, and the mill had a capacity of one ton of sugar per day. The Tubbs side of the large family went to Western Australia during the gold rush and their work around Nullagine is recorded in the *North West Times* 20 February 1892 and the *West Australian* 29 November 1921. (Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group Inc Newsletter No.32, July 2013 and Speech at Dinner on 25 August 2013)

**Rossville, Cape York** – The Rossville Historical Society has received \$1550 from Cook Shire Council for their 'Historical Tales from Rossville' project. Local elders and long-term residents will record stories about Rossville's past, so preserving them for the future. (*Cooktown Local News* 11-17 July 2013 p.6)

**Woolooga** – The town's hotel, shop and 100 years old hall reopened for business on 9 August 2013 after the January 2013 floods. Woolooga people worked with Mr Barry Hawke to restore the historic buildings for business. They comprise the total public businesses in the town. The State School is still open but the railway has closed and the station building has been removed. The Deputy Mayor of the Gympie Regional Council visited the town for the re-opening. (*Gympie Times* 10 August 2013 p.6)

#### RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2013

<b>President</b>	<b>Helen McMonagle</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dean Prangley</b>
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	<b>Ruth Kerr</b>
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	<b>Barrie Rollason</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Che Aberdeen</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Denver Beanland</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Marilyn England</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Rebecca Ling</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Greg McBride</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>John Pearn</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Mary Anne Pender</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Jean Stewart</b>
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Nick Wall</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Carolyn Nolan</b>

## New Members

Richard Colin Sayers	Kallangur
Kim Elizabeth Richards	Thornlands
Robert Clifton-Steele	Chatswood NSW
Delwyn Jones	Tamborine Mountain
Christine Lainson	Tamborine Mountain
Michael Latter	Bethania
Jane E Standerwick	Upper Caboolture
Murray Johnson	Ningi

## Research Report for September

In spite of all but two of our team being away travelling or otherwise engaged with ill relatives, we have kept up with the month's queries which included: photo showing Irvinebank highlighting Governor MacGregor; query on Ruth Bunting – connection with Herschfeldt family; photos and information on the South Burnett; image of Nugent Wade Brown; Sachs Manufacturing Works, Brookes Street, Fortitude Valley; image of Helen Marjoribanks Chester; Emily Milmen and the guest house *Netherway*, 193 North Quay; *Tremaine*, 49 Accession Street, Bardon; Frank Davies, son of John Davies, Mayor of South Brisbane, c.1906; *Bronte* in Wynnum Road; history of Pamphlett Bridge and Strong Avenue, Graceville; John Henry Pepper, Clement Wragge and William Whitehouse Collins; origin of the name Mt Mahomet; pioneering settlements in Moreton Bay; Bishop Hale and photos of Brisbane streets and church interiors; and Henry Marjoribanks Chester in New Guinea.

An enquiry was made on behalf of the son of sculptor Nora Nathan whose miniature sculptures are held in our Museum collection. He will visit to see them when next he is in Brisbane. A member of the Francis family who farmed at Corinda and are remembered in the Francis Lookout on Dewar Street, Corinda, sent for us to see and return, a photograph of the farm and the view from it to the hills in the distance. We now have a copy of the photograph in the collection.

Jean Stewart  
Honorary Research Officer

## Congratulations Professor Clive Moore

Congratulations to our member, Professor Clive Moore who has now assumed the McCaughey Chair in History at the University of Queensland. This Chair is one of the oldest named chairs at the University, having been established in 1922. Previous occupants of the chair have been Professors John Moorhead, Malcolm Tomis, Gordon Greenwood and

Henry A Alcock. The Chair has been granted to Clive on the basis of academic distinction and achievement.

## A New History Book

*A Short History of the Australian Country Press* by Rod Kirkpatrick. (256 pages, 26 page index, biblio, 19<sup>th</sup> century chronology of newspapers for each colony, 35 tables, 34 illus, soft cover, ISBN 978 0 9803128 5 0. Published in June 2013. Price: \$50 plus \$8 postage. Available from Rod Kirkpatrick, P.O. Box 8294, Mount Pleasant Qld 4740 (Ph: 07 4942 7005)

## Museum Curator's Report



Photo: Janice Hess

**George Diggles' family and friends with the reference books, which Silvester Diggles brought with him to Australia in 1853**

The Society held a morning tea for George Diggles and his family and friends on 27 August. The Society appreciates the donation of Silvester Diggles' telescope, which is now on display on the middle floor of the museum in the *Early Queensland* cabinet.

The Australian South Sea Islanders Exhibition is attracting interest with its many documents, photographs and text relating to the Pacific islanders who came to Queensland from 1853. The exhibition will be officially opened on 19 October.

The Aviation in Queensland exhibition is well underway with photographs, text and objects being gathered. Thanks to Graeme Nicholson for the building of stands for the framed photographs from the RHSQ collection. The exhibition will open on 23 November 2013.

Janice Hess  
Honorary Museum Curator

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## IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

### OCTOBER 2013

**Wednesday 9 October 12.30 pm**

‘Under the Southern Cross: The Quest for a New  
 Homeland’

Maria Gaudiella

**Thursday 10 October** Council Meeting

**Tuesday 15 October** *Bulletin* deadline

### YOUR SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER

Maria Gaudiella is the eldest daughter of a first  
 generation Australian father of Italian Descent and an  
 Italian born mother. She wrote this family history and  
 historical narrative dedicated to her father’s memory.

### Queensland History Journal

#### August Edition

The editors have become aware that  
 some of the August Edition of the  
 Queensland History Journal are not  
 printed correctly. Some pages are in the  
 wrong order or upside down. If you have  
 one of these, please email:  
[info\[info@queenslandhistory.org.au\]](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)  
 or telephone (07) 3221 4198

#### Contact details:

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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#### 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

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 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