



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



THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS A REMINDER OF THE FAMILIES THAT WERE LEFT AT HOME WHEN THEIR LOVED ONES WENT TO FIGHT IN WWI.

Sadly, the loved one of this family never returned, being killed-in-action on ANZAC Day 1918. On the back of this photograph are the words: *'To Dear Daddy, with best love from all your loved ones hoping you will receive this safely. We have received no letter from you since December. Hope to have one soon. Have posted letter also - Love XXXXXXXX'*

This photograph and others can be seen at the WWI Centenary Exhibition 'Rumours: stories from the Great war' which is scheduled to open on 26 April at the Commissariat Store.

President's Report

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a very merry festive season and that your year has started well.

The centenary last year was a great opportunity for our Society to take stock of our important history and look forward to an innovative and energetic future. The final event for last year, our Separation Day Cocktails, was a great success with the Honourable Tim Mander MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works, speaking to an audience of 69 people about the significance of the Commissariat Store and the wider Queen's Wharf precinct (now Queen's Wharf Brisbane).



Photo: John Pearn

The Honourable Tim Mander MP



Photo: John Pearn

John Pearn; The Honourable Tim Mander MP; Helen McMonagle and Niles Avery inspecting items at the event

Carolyn Nolan also gave a short talk about the importance of Separation Day, and the Queensland State Archives provided a unique gift for our guests – a digitised copy of the original Proclamation document! Cuisine on Cue kindly donated their catering services for the evening, and RHSQ member Carol Goodwin designed the invitations and flyers. Thank you to Minister Mander, Carolyn, Cuisine on Cue, Carol, the Corporate Membership team and Program Committee who organised the evening

together, and all the volunteers who helped make the night such a success.

The redevelopment of Queen's Wharf Brisbane is uppermost in many of our minds at the moment, and I wanted to reassure members that the Society is in discussion with the State Government, the National Trust of Queensland and other passionate groups and individuals to ensure the history and heritage of the precinct is incorporated within the design framework of the development, to create a tasteful blend of old and new. It was recently suggested to me that the RHSQ illustrated great foresight 15 years ago in recognising the Commissariat Store as Queensland's most significant heritage building, and applying for a federal grant of \$1.1m (which was matched by the state government at the time), which in turn will allow the building to feature strongly within this new precinct. I have to say I am thrilled that the Commissariat Store's place in history is finally being recognised along with the other heritage buildings in the area.

With the coming of a new year, it is important to think about what the next twelve months hold in store. I have therefore created a small synopsis of some of the many activities and projects which are being planned for the first half of 2014: our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, kindly invited us to take part in the Government House Open Day on Australia Day, and this is our first formal activity for the year. The Wednesday lunchtime talks program opens with a presentation from Mike Vitobello Acting Project Manager at the Registry for Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM), about the role the registry has played in Queensland historically, and its plans for the future. There will be four 'At Homes' this year, with themes such as *Rumours: stories from the Great War* (Sat 26 April, as part of the NTQ Heritage Festival), *Queensland's Natural History*, and *Murder and Mayhem in Queensland* (for which we are looking to involve the Queensland Police Service, given it is their 150th birthday this year). Our exciting new World War One exhibition is presently being curated by RHSQ member Tim Roberts and a team of volunteers – this exhibition will be launched as part of the 26 April 'At Home'. New interactive displays are underway for the museum, and this year the Society will be looking at innovative ways of displaying the museum collection such as the development of virtual exhibitions. Our Education Officer Colin McFarlane, and his team members Jessica Carey and Rebecca Williams, are working hard to ensure school tours of the Commissariat Store reflect the changing learning requirements of the

national curriculum, whilst remaining fun and engaging for the students. The Publication and Research Teams are busily working on an exciting new book, and a massive digitisation project is about to commence thanks to a generous grant promised by the Premier. I could take up the whole newsletter talking about the activities currently underway, and I encourage anyone who is interested in becoming involved to contact our office for more details.

I enjoyed looking through Pugh's Almanac last year to discover what happened throughout 1913, so I thought I'd continue onto 1914 (Taken from *Pugh's (Queensland) Official Almanac, Directory and Gazetteer, for January 1915*): 9th – Serious motor accident at Mount Coot-tha with 13 out of 25 passengers injured when a motor bus lost control and capsized; 12th – South Brisbane Council decline to renew the licence for the Brisbane Cricket Ground until its Trustees guarantee to comply with an Act which prohibits electric light racing (races, however, were regularly held throughout the year despite this); 14th – A droving disaster was reported from Hughenden, where 1000 ewes from Oondooroo out of a drove of 12,000 died after drinking from the Malboona bore; 20th – the claims from the Murphy Creek railway disaster are settled, amounting to £7750; 27th - The Salvation Army Home at Taringa is totally destroyed by fire, causing the death of three of the inmates – a fellow inmate was charged with arson but was acquitted; 29th – Molybdenite (one of the most valuable of the base metals) discovered at Bamford, on the Chillagoe line.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for January News From Around the State

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

Cooktown – Expressions of interest are being sought from bronze work artists for a statue of an Aboriginal who instigated the first recorded reconciliation between Captain Cook and the Endeavour River Bama-ngay during Cook's 48 day stay on the Endeavour River in 1770. The Captain Cook Re-enactment Association President, Ms Loretta Sullivan, stated that they are still seeking funding sources for the statue. Others involved are Bama historian, Alberta Hornsby, and Waymbuurr Warra Traditional Owner, Erica Deeral. Six meetings between Aboriginals and Cook's party were recorded in Cook's journal. One of Cook's crew, Sydney Parkinson recorded 132 Guugu Yimithirr words and

phrases in his journal including the word kangaroo (gunguuru). A reconciliation occurred following Cook's party taking turtle for food. An Aboriginal man of small stature emerged from the rocks with the tip of his spear broken off indicating forgiveness. The proposed site for the statue is Reconciliation Rocks. (*Cooktown Local News* 12 December 2013 p.4)

Gympie – The Gympie Regional Council is supporting Gympie Muster and the Mary Valley Heritage Railway (MVHR) financially. The Muster will receive a \$300,000 interest free loan. The Council and MVHR are establishing a community trust as a company limited by guarantee. The Council will be the holding company which appoints the board to run the trust. The Council will hold the licence to operate MVHR and will sub-lease it. The State Government accepted the structure as a condition of providing the \$2 million funding for the railway. Local state member, Mr David Gibson MP met with the MVHR on 8 January and explained the Government requirements involving new systems of accountability and financial administration, as part of a package to revitalise the service. (*Gympie Times* 23 November 2013 p.4 including photograph and 9 January 2014 p.7; *Sunshine Coast Daily* 9 January 2014 p.9)

Gympie – Timber men of Gympie, Mr Keith Robertson, Mr Greg O'Sullivan and Mr Steve Grice, have called for a statue of Mr Vic Summers, eight times world champion axe man (now 94 years old) to be erected at the Monkland Street entry to Gympie. Gympie Regional Council is erecting a monument to the timber industry. (*Gympie Times* 14 December 2013 p.7 including two photographs)

Lakeland – The town is named after William Lakeland, an explorer and mineral prospector in Cape York. Lakeland was born in Sydney in 1840. In 1873 Lakeland and Christie Palmerston prospected the newly discovered Palmer River goldfield. In partnership with Robert Sefton he discovered gold on the Batavia River which later became known as the Wenlock River. They also discovered the Coen goldfield. Lakeland also discovered the Hamilton and Claudie Rivers. Lakeland was a member of JT Embley's survey expeditions in 1884-1885. He discovered wolfram near the Pascoe River, later known as the Bowden field after one of the expedition members. In 1900 he was the owner of the battery at Neville Creek near Laura. Lakeland died in 1920 en route from Coen to Mount Carter but his remains were not discovered until 1923. A marble headstone was erected in 1924-1925 where his remains were found. (*Cooktown Local News* 28 November 2013 p.9 including photograph of

Lakeland and his family)

Mareeba – The Mareeba Shire Hall has been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register in November 2013. The Tableland Regional Council opposed the listing stating that they believed the listing reduced the Council's capacity to maintain the building. The Shire Hall was listed because of its historical, architectural, aesthetic and creative significance. The Minister, The Honourable Andrew Powell MP said that the 'Mareeba Shire Council made a bold statement by commissioning this building in the 1950s. This was a bigger story than the architecture; the innovative design of this public building showed positivity for the future.' The building is the home of the Police Citizens Youth Club and is an emergency shelter in cyclones. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 29 November 2013 p.4 including photograph)

Tewantin – Local residents and the Tewantin Heritage and Historical Society are very concerned about the future of the house gifted to the Shire Council by Mrs Esme Tait in June 2004. Committee member, June Colley, expressed her disappointment about the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's report finding in its Wallace Park draft master plan that the Tait Duke Cottage 'is intrusive to the cultural heritage values of Wallace Park and should be relocated to an alternative site.' The review found that 'The placement of the cottage on the village green and the clear view from Eumundi Road had led to the Tait Duke Cottage being misidentified as the Wallace House. The house has no heritage significance to the Wallace Park (Wallace) family or the Noosaville area.' Four community groups have expressed interest in relocating the house to another site. The area now has a new shire council, the Noosa Shire Council, re-formed out of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council following a referendum. (*Noosa News* 25 June 2013 pp.1,4 including photograph)

Obituary

Win Davson MBE FTCL AASA who was an enthusiastic and active member of the Society in many ways for a very long time died aged 92 in November 2013. Win was an artist and dramatist and local historian at Gatton. Win was a member of the Society for 51 years, having joined on 23 January 1962. In her paper to a meeting of the Society on 23 May 1974 she outlined her life story to that point and drama career. Win spent her first nine years on her parents' property, *Pine Tree Park*, at Amby in western Queensland. Her mother was active in the CWA and the Anglican Church and organised fund raising concerts for the church building fund. They

moved to Wynnum. Her grandfather, JT Sandison, was founder of the Victoria Pottery at Annerley in the 1890s (which she wrote about in 1999) and a Wynnum Shire Councillor for 20 years to 1924. Win participated in school plays at Brisbane State High School. During World War II Win was drama director of the Wynnum and Manly Younger Set War Workers from 1943 to 1945. They performed plays at Fort Lytton and Wynnum. Win formed the Mercury Theatre on 7 July 1949 at Star Theatre in Wynnum Central with the play, 'Milestones', by Arnold Bennett and Edward Knoblock. It was formed as a 'vital and enduring cultural force voicing and serving the needs of a well populated district...' (p.96 of 1973-74 *Journal* volume). Soon after, the Gatton Mercury Theatre was formed as a separate independent branch of Mercury Wynnum. The Gatton theatre group soon had over 100 members. The theatre group opened Gatton's festival in 1955 for the centenary. In April 1957 Win led the formation of the Children's Theatre in Gatton and a similar group was formed in Wynnum. Win and the Gatton group advocated the annual observance of an Australia wide Theatre Week to focus on the benefits of living theatre in the community. A significant achievement of the group was the holding of Australian Little Theatre Week in 1959. Win encouraged little theatre groups to write their histories and a large collection was established in Australia. The Gatton group also obtained its own rooms in Lyttleton Park which enabled it to expand its activities to art as well. On 10 October 1970 the local member, Sir Gordon Chalk MP opened new and larger club rooms for the theatre in Gatton. Win continued to encourage and support drama and theatre until her life's end.

Win contributed news for the Society *Bulletin* over many years about the art shows and history events in the Gatton area. Win was a spirited speaker at our conferences and had a number of articles published in the Royal Historical Society of Queensland *Journal* :

- 'Making History Live: Queensland's Mercury Theatre [Wynnum, Gatton]', Volume IX No. 5 1973-1974 pp. 94 -100;
- 'Voluntary Aid Detachments', Volume XV, No. 2, May 1993, pp.98 – 100; and
- 'The Annerley Pottery', Volume 17 No. 4, November 1999, pp.191-192.

Ruth S. Kerr

New Members

Terence Morrish	Mooloolaba
Russell Eacott	Moorooka
Mark Stephens	Auchenflower
Stella Gardner	Mt Gravatt

Panorama Provenance Workshop



What was this chap up to? What was so interesting behind the fence screen? If you enjoy dating photographs based on your knowledge of Brisbane's history and have a couple of hours to spare, please join us on Tuesday 4 March for a working session examining items from our panorama collection. This initial workshop, the promised follow up to the recent At Home presentation, will have a Brisbane River theme. No need to bring your magnifying glass: we will use enlarged images on the screen. If you would like to participate please leave your details with reception (Telephone: 3221 4198) in advance (numbers limited) so we can forward briefing material a few days beforehand.

Andrew Darbyshire

Museum Report

As we welcome the New Year, the RHSQ museum team has been hard at work developing a new exhibition, which will open on 26 April 2014. 'Rumours: stories from the Great War' commemorates the centenary of the First World War, and will use objects, photographs and documents from the RHSQ's collection to evidence Australia's involvement in the First World War battlefield. Significant stories from the home front will give a glimpse into everyday life in Australia during the war years, and show how Queenslanders supported the troops from the home front. The exhibition will replace the tremendously popular Italian exhibition, which was curated by Janice Hess. Please come in and see the exhibit before it is demounted in mid-April.

I'd like to extend my thanks to the many people who have supported this project so far, including several members who generously responded to our call to contribute their stories about the Great War. I'd also like to extend sincere thanks to my colleagues at the RHSQ who have donated so many hours to establishing and assisting with the development of

this latest exhibition. We look forward to welcoming you to the Commissariat Store Museum soon.

Timothy Roberts

A Request for World War I Material

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland's Honorary Curators, Sandra Vidovic and Timothy Roberts, seek the help of fellow members to provide additional content and/or artifacts for the upcoming ANZAC Centenary Exhibition. It is crucial in the collection process to target local communities and members who have a story to tell about a father, brother, mother or grandparents during the time of WWI. If you are willing to share your story and would like your relative to be recognised in our upcoming exhibition, we would like to hear from you.

What we are looking for are small artifacts or stories which relate to any of the following:

- The ANZACs
- Everyday Brisbane stories during WWI
- Stories of nurses, factory workers or soldiers.
- Stories relating to the European communities of WWI, both in Brisbane and overseas.

[Please send your contributions by email ATTENTION EXHIBITION CURATORS to info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au)

Research Report for January

Research queries have started with a vengeance Already this year. The following have been attended to: Pettigrew's sawmill; Gonzacks/Campbell family of Amity Point; First Fleeters Owen Cavanaugh and Margaret Darnell; 1974 floods; Logan Jack's Reports on Mount Morgan gold mine; the Keniffs; passengers on the ship *Amity*; Brisbane River riparian vegetation; *Riversdale* the home of the Reverend Mowbray of Mowbray Park fame; the Post Office building at Munbilla; and Cornwall Street, Greenslopes.

Jean Stewart

Honorary Researcher

FRONT PAGE PHOTO

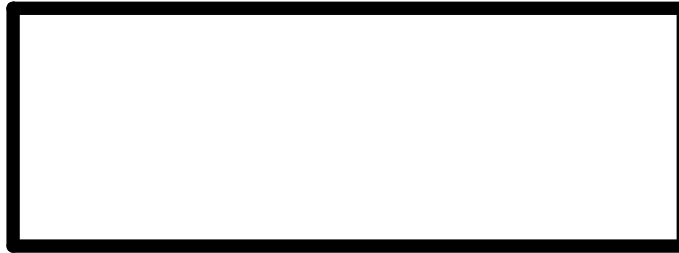
The front page photo is of my grandmother, Sarah Annie Goulding, and her children - my mother is on the left. Her husband and father of the children, William Henry Goulding, joined the army in 1914 and saw service with both the AN&MEF and AIF. The photo travelled to France and was returned with his effects.

Graeme Nicholson

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
FEBRUARY 2014

Wednesday 12 February 12.30 - 1.30 pm Talk
 'A brief update of QLD RBDM activity during 2013
 and future plans - the Revitalisation Program'
 Mike Vitobello

Thursday 13 February Council Meeting

Your Wednesday speaker for
February

Mike Vitobello, Acting Project Manager,
 Queensland Registry of Births Deaths and
 Marriages. His topic is 'A brief update of QLD
 RBDM activity during 2013 and future plans – the
 Revitalisation Program'.

Contact details:

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Corporate/Institutions	\$275.00
Life membership – purchased after 10 years	\$5,500.00

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

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