



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

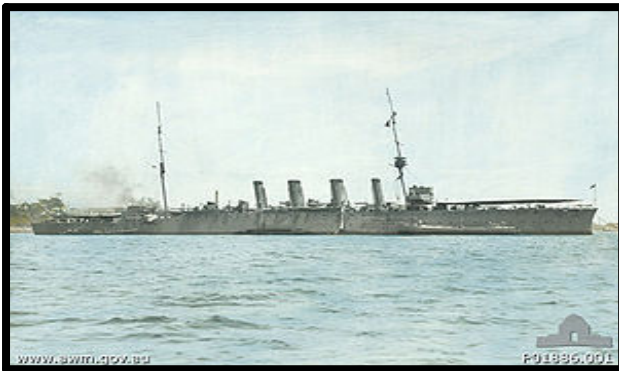
Patron: Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland

President: Helen McMonagle

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

The Four *HMAS Brisbane*

(AWM photos)



***HMAS BRISBANE* (1915)
A TOWN CLASS LIGHT CRUISER
LAUNCHED IN 1915, DECOMMISSIONED
IN 1935**



***HMAS BRISBANE* (D41)
A PERTH CLASS GUIDED MISSILE
DESTROYER LAUNCHED 1966,
DECOMMISSIONED 2001**



***HMAS BRISBANE* (DDGH41)
A HOBART CLASS AIR WARFARE
DESTROYER PREDICTED TO ENTER
SERVICE IN 2017 (concept photo)**



The fourth HMAS Brisbane was a Naval Base operating in Brisbane between 1940 and 1942. The RHSQ has a ship's bell engraved '*HMAS Brisbane*'.

President's Report

I begin my report by thanking our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland for inviting the RHSQ to take part in the open day at Government House on Australia Day. It was a pleasant, relaxed day with around 2000 people enjoying tours of *Fernberg* and interacting with the different displays on offer. Thank you to the five volunteers who staffed our stall during the day. The Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony at Southbank was also well-attended, with many thought-provoking speeches and the traditional 21 gun salute and RAAF flypast.

This year marks several important milestones, not only with the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and the Queensland Police Services' 150th birthday, but it is also 170 years since Ludwig Leichhardt's expedition to Port Essington. This milestone will be marked by a number of commemorative events organised by the Leichhardt Roundtable group, which has formed to raise awareness of Leichhardt's travels and contributions to Australian and Queensland history. If you would like to know more, visit www.leichhardtland.net.au.

March and April 2014 will see the RHSQ involved in a number of exciting events including: a Panorama Workshop on 4 March 2014 at the Commissariat Store, where members will work with Andrew Darbyshire to identify and comment on different panoramas in our collection. Registrations are required for this event, so please contact the office if you would like to take part. On the weekend of 28-30 March the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Festival will take place in Queen's Wharf Road, with a number of different attractions being hosted in the courtyard of the Commissariat Store. I encourage members to come and check out the festival - details will be available on our website closer to the event. A special lecture by Dr John Moses on *Canon David Garland: From Cloth to Khaki and Back* will be held at the Commissariat Store on Wednesday 23 April from 5.00 to 6.30 pm. Bookings can be made through Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre by either calling 07 3391 4433 or emailing admin@bemac.org.au.

On Saturday 26 April, the RHSQ will host our first 'At Home' for 2014 titled *Rumours: Stories from the Great War*. The day will feature historic talks and the launch of our new World War I exhibition, *Call to Duty*, curated by Timothy Roberts in the morning. The afternoon session is intended to be a 'Show and Tell' session, with participants showcasing treasured artefacts from the First World War in an *Antiques Roadshow*-style set-up. Display space is limited, so please contact the office if you wish to take part.

Finally, I wish to thank the Mount Isa Family and Historical Society, in particular Desley, Kath, Ailsa and Bob, for their generous hospitality and research assistance during my visit on 18 February. RHSQ Councillor Che Aberdeen and I will be travelling to Rockhampton on the weekend of 28 February to 3 March, and we look forward to seeing the excellent work being undertaken by a number of regional historical societies in the North and South Burnett, Fraser Coast and Capricorn districts.

Three key events occurred in March 1914 (taken from Pugh's Almanac 1915): 8th – The foundation stone of the new Roman Catholic Church at Helidon was laid by Coadjutor Archbishop Duhig; 20th – Chillago smelters closed down and all hands paid off; 26th – French steamer *Saint Paul*, loaded with chrome ore, struck Smith's Rocks off Cape Moreton and sank in four minutes with 18 persons drowned.

Helen McMonagle
President

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

**Nominations for the
JOHN DOUGLAS KERR
Medal of Distinction for Research
and Writing Australian History
are open and will close on
31 March 2014**

**Nominations are to be sent to the
President of The Royal Historical
Society of Queensland at email:
info@queenslandhistory.org.au
(marked confidential)**

Queensland News for February News From Around the State

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

Cambooya – Darling Downs – Queensland Rail featured in its January 2014 *Weekly Notice* a brief history of the event on the afternoon of 25 January 1875 when a train was blown off the Toowoomba to Warwick railway line near Cambooya. The train was enveloped in a thunderstorm with severe wind, rain and hail. The train, consisting of a saloon car, two composite carriages, a brake van, two horse boxes, two sheep vans, and an open wagon, was struck by a blast of hurricane force as it was travelling. The storm uprooted trees in its path, and on striking the train it lifted the carriages off the line. There were about thirty passengers on board and in the overturning of the carriages a few of them were only slightly injured. A porter travelling on the train had a sprained ankle and most of the other passengers suffered bruising. One of the passengers was Sir Redmond Barry, a Supreme Court Judge of Victoria and who was later the judge for the trial of Ned Kelly in 1881. Carriages were damaged and the locomotive was derailed. The steam was cut off and the fires raked. The passengers retreated to Cambooya station which was also damaged with the roof partially blown off and the two semaphore signals were blown away in the gale force wind. The line was repaired quickly. The guard on the train was Charles Evans who rose in the railway service to become Commissioner for Railways from 1911 to 1918. Society member, Greg Hallam has written extensively on Charles Evans including a Masters Thesis in History at The University of Queensland.

Gindie in the Central Highlands – The Gindi CWA Hall has been offered for sale to the Central Highlands Shire Council by the CWA as the branch has disbanded. It was once the Comet Court House. It is believed to be the oldest building in the shire. The Council has paid \$15,458 for maintenance of the Gindi CWA Hall in the past three years. The Emerald Historical Society has expressed an interest in obtaining the hall but not in removing it. The Council also owns the historic bake house in Capella. (*Central Queensland News* 15 January 2014 p.5 including historic photograph)

Normanby 60 km south east of Cooktown – The Cooktown Historical Society has researched the story of the ‘Normanby Woman’ using TROVE. Because the Aboriginal woman was white in skin colour she was considered a curiosity by local white society. A Police Inspector Murray investigated the woman’s history and it was published in the *Warwick Examiner and Times* on 8 October 1887. He reported that her name was Walberman. Her mother was of the Gangoora or Daintree tribe and her father of the Dora

or Normanby tribe. She has a sister and two brothers. The *Queenslander* of 3 September 1887 reported on her capture on 29 August 1887 at the Normanby. It was carried out by Constable Cowan, storekeeper Joddrell, and local person named Williams. Constables Cowan and Connelly took her on horseback to Cooktown. Thirteen kilometres from Normanby a group of Aborigines barred the path of the horses. The police fired two shots at which the horses and woman became scared. The woman fell off the horse hitting her head and injuring herself. Two Chinamen were hired to take the woman to Cooktown hospital where she died. Dr Korteum estimated her age as between 50 and 60. The Cooktown Historical Society is now considering having the plaque on her grave replaced with one reflecting the woman’s story and including her name. A Mr Johane (Hans) Looser known locally as ‘Mr Cooktown’ placed the information on the plaque in the cemetery. Mr Jim McJannett, a local historian who has done very extensive research on the ‘Normanby woman’ story, had a discussion on it with Hans Looser before Hans died and Jim states that they both agreed to publicise the knowledge of the woman’s Aboriginality. (*Cooktown Local News* 9 January 2014 p.6 including photograph of the current plaque on her grave; and 16 January 2014 p.2 – letter to editor by Jim McJannett who has written a 12,000 historical document on Walberman {‘Normanby Woman’})

Normanton - The Gulflander, regarded as Normanton’s main tourist attraction, received top honours in the Carpentaria Shire’s Australia Day Awards receiving the Carpentaria Shire Community Event of the Year Award. On 5th January a special night time event was held onboard the Gulflander to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first sleeper being laid on the Normanton-Croydon line. In 1890s style, the passengers were transported to a local ‘watering hole’ where they enjoyed a five star dining experience under a hundred thousand million stars. Normanton caterers and musicians delighted the locals and tourists who filled the 110 seats on the Gulflander. The event was organised by dedicated staff based in Normanton and with the Australia Day award a testimony to their hard work. They hope to hold the event again. (*Queensland Rail Weekly Notice* No 5, 10 February 2014 p.5)

Toogoolawah – Train enthusiasts and Toogoolawah and District History Group gathered at Toogoolawah on Saturday 8th February to celebrate 110 years since the railway station was opened there. They promoted their recently opened museum at the old station building and they launched monthly

markets. Regular trains ran on the Brisbane Valley Rail Line from June 1884, when the first section from Wulkuraka to Lowood was opened, until December 1988. The line at Toogoolawah was designed for the Cressbrook condensed milk factory to transport its products to market. The station was initially called Cressbrook but confusion with the nearby *Cressbrook* Station homestead necessitated the change to Toogoolawah. The railway is part of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. (*Queensland Times* 10 February 2014, p.1)

Toowoomba – Mr Greg Hallam of Queensland Rail advised on 17 January 2014 that the lease of the Toowoomba Refreshment Rooms (Platform 9 Restaurant) ceased on 18 December 2013. The Refreshment Rooms are owned by Queensland Rail and new lessees are being sought. All the heritage photographs are to remain when the Refreshment Rooms are leased again. The Honour Board precinct is to be accessible. (*Queensland Rail Weekly Notice* 13 January 2014)

World War II Diary Left on a Caboolture Train

A manuscript left behind on a CityTrain on the Caboolture line has revealed the war history of one of the Rats of Tobruk. Queensland Rail historian and RHSQ member worked tenaciously to locate the manuscript's owner and the two have now been reunited.

The diary belonged to Private Les Perkins who was born in Toowoomba in 1905, and was 35 when he enlisted in Kyogle in northern New South Wales in 1940. He became a stretcher-bearer with the 2/13 battalion, known as 'The Devil's Own' – the only Australian unit to see out the entire 241-day siege of Tobruk in 1941. Greg Hallam said that 'There are sad accounts of fellas getting wounded or killed, but also... enjoying oneself on Christmas Day, getting 'full', playing two-up ...' Private Perkins also wrote about the build-up to the battle of El-Alamein, one of the crucial turning points of the Second World War.

The diary ends as the battle begins, but Mr Hallam said whoever transcribed the document was careful to note that Private Perkins received a military medal for his heroic actions in the opening stages. He rescued a wounded German soldier from a burning Panzer tank, was wounded and returned to Australia, and received his military medal in July of 1945. Mr Hallam said their research had found Private Perkins married a year later, and died in Kyogle in 1991. His wife died in 2002. The diary was claimed by Mr Bill Perkins, son of the diary author. His father had left it

on the train on the way to work. (<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/transcript-left-on-train-reveals-astonishing-ww2-history-20131107-2x4hl.html#ixzz2k95wt7Xa> – 8 November 2013; *Sunshine Coast Sunday* 10 November 2103 p.13)

New Members

LION	Sydney
XL Industries	Wacol
Neil and Jenny Summerson	Fairfield
Pamela Chetwyn	Buderim
John and June Wirth	Archerfield
Rod Julian	Glenbrook
German Australian Community Centre (QACCG) Inc	Springwood

Museum Report for February

Queensland students returned to school in late January, and it won't be long before the Commissariat Store Museum welcomes young scholars and history buffs. The Museum's displays on life in early Brisbane are perennial favourites, but our focus exhibits on the Italian presence, aviation, and post office in Queensland are certain to engage and educate our younger visitors. The RHSQ has been delighted to loan several collections items to the exhibition *The Many Lives of Moreton Bay*, showing at the Museum of Brisbane throughout 2014.

The Commissariat Store Museum relies on a dedicated band of volunteers to ensure our activities run smoothly. On Tuesday 25 February at 10.00 am, the Museum presented a workshop on mounting display material for new volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for the museum, please contact the RHSQ office on (07) 3221 4198. Don't forget that the *RHSQ @ Home* open day is coming up on Saturday 26 April, and will be hosting a special "Show and Tell" session, where visitors are invited to share their treasured World War One memorabilia. Please register your interest as display spaces are limited. 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 February

Research queries have been attended to: 100 years of the navy in Queensland; a 'ballroom' in the Walter Taylor Bridge?; origin of the name for MacIntosh Island; Thomas Terlour, once a prisoner in Boggo Road Gaol; Arthur Wellesley Oakes and Yarwood *et al* solicitors; History of Holland Park; House at 454 Brunswick Street; Orphanages in Brisbane area in the 1920s; Mark Rafferty, a passenger on the *Amity*?; US Navy serviceman, Milton Weymouth who visited Brisbane and married Audrey Anderson; A series of suburban houses in Chermside, Beenleigh and Bohle; The Israelite house of David; Brisbane in 1864; Oxley Hotel and material for the World War I exhibition.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Queensland Women's Historical Association Events

Thursday the 13 March - 10:30 am

Morning Tea and Talk

'One Hundred Years of the Queensland Ambulance Service & its History up to today'

The service of an ambulance is something that you may have experienced and appreciated during your life. Guest Speaker: Mick Davis, Curator of the Ambulance Museum at Wynnum QWHA Members \$10 / Non-Members \$12 (includes morning tea).

Display: Wednesday 2 April to Sunday 1 June, 2014

'Journeys': highlighting the travels and achievements of some remarkable women

in Queensland's history

Part of the National Trust Heritage Festival held from 18 April - 18 May, 2014

Display is open during normal opening hours until Sunday 6 October, 2014

House entry fee of \$6 applicable for Non-members

Military Historical Society of Australia - Biennial Conference - Maryborough, Qld

Friday 18 - Monday 21 April 2014

Members and guests of the Military Historical Society of Australia (MHSA) are invited to attend the Society's Biennial Conference, hosted by MHSA QLD Branch.

Theme

The year 2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. This year's conference theme recognises the impact 1914 had on Australia.

Location

The conference will be held at one of Australia's finest private museums, the Maryborough Military & Colonial Museum, 106 Wharf Street, Maryborough Qld 4650

Cost

The cost for the two day conference is \$70 (or \$40 per day). The Conference Dinner is an additional \$40 per person. Registration includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Please advise us of special dietary requirements

[For information on the speakers, please visit the MHSA website www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au)

Dinner

The Conference dinner is on Saturday 19 April located upstairs at the RSL Club, 165-173 Lennox Street, Maryborough. Dinner is at 6.30 for a 7.00 pm start. Mr Keith Payne VC OAM, honorary member of MHSA QLD, will be the guest speaker for the evening.

Enquiries

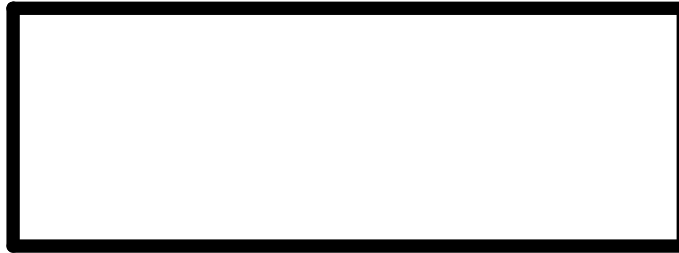
[For further information about the conference please contact John Meyers on 07 4123 5900, 0418 796 740 or email mbhmus@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mbhmus@bigpond.net.au)

(Source: Email from Military History Society of Australia, Queensland Branch – 1 February 2014)

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
MARCH 2014

Wednesday 12 March 12.30 - 1.30 pm Talk
 'Ludwig Leichardt: The Man and the Mystery'
 Helen McMonagle

Thursday 13 March Council Meeting

Your Wednesday Speaker for
March

The Society's President, Helen McMonagle will speak on *Ludwig Leichardt: The Man and the Mystery*. She will be talking about briefly about his early life, followed by his travels through the Ipswich area and legacy.

Contact details:

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

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; Our Honorary Auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd.

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