



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

72 years of continuous publication

MAY 2014 No. 785

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

News Bulletin No. 1.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Address: Box 1811W,
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Brisbane.

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BRISBANE.

APRIL
1942

MEETINGS - LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 8 P.M.

The question of the desirability of keeping the members of the Society better informed as to its activities and progress was raised by the President (Mr. Geoffrey Ward) at a recent meeting of the Council. It was agreed that by way of an experiment, a summary of current items of interest should be prepared and sent to the members, together with the notices for the next succeeding monthly meeting. It was considered that this would be appreciated particularly by members living at a distance from Brisbane, or unable from other causes to attend the meetings of the Society. By this means it is hoped to stimulate a livelier interest in the work of the Society, and create a desire to achieve in a fuller degree the cultural objects for which the Society was formed.

It was agreed that, if practicable, a brief summary of the paper read at the previous monthly meeting should be included in each of these news bulletins.

WAR TIME CHANGES:

Owing to the exigencies of the war the Society is to be deprived "for the duration" of the use of its historic home - Newstead House. The Society, however, has decided to continue its activities with headquarters in the City. An office has been secured in the Builders Exchange building at 24 Wharf Street; and the monthly meetings of members will be held in the large lecture room in the same block of offices.

Among the most outstanding of the objects for which the Society was established (as set out in its Constitution) is the study of "the history of Queensland and its dependencies, the territory of Papua, and the territory of New Guinea, and of the adjacent Pacific Islands". The Society, through its Council, and its officers, is anxious to encourage and assist all desirous of extending their knowledge of history, especially that of their own State. The Secretary frequently has enquiries for information regarding the recorded journeyings of the explorers by land and sea, and other phases of pioneering achievement, and will be only too happy at all times to assist those with inquiring minds on such subjects.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RHSQ BULLETIN!
TO CELEBRATE 72 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION
HERE IS THE FRONT PAGE OF THE FIRST BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN
APRIL 1942

President's Report

I would like to start my report by passing on the best wishes of the RHSQ Council and members to those affected by Cyclone Ita this month – our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

The highlight for April was the visit to Brisbane by Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The RHSQ was honoured with an invitation from our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland and our member of parliament, the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland, for our President to attend the State Reception at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre on Saturday 19 April 2014. It was a wonderful day with 200 people invited from a variety of community, sporting and business groups for a light luncheon before the arrival of their Royal Highnesses for the formal part of the event.

As mentioned last month, plans are well underway for our annual Queensland Day Dinner which will be held at the Commissariat Store on Friday 6 June 2014, and professionally catered by Cuisine on Cue. Our guest speaker this year is the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. We again thank the Queensland State Archives for their continued support of this event. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

Our Annual Seminar will also be held in the morning at the Commissariat Store on Saturday 21 June 2014; this year's theme is *Leichhardt in the 21st Century*. In the afternoon, we will move to the site of the former Women's Prison at Eagle Farm, for an afternoon of archaeology and historical talks. Please find a flyer for this special day enclosed with the *Bulletin*.

Apart from a number of interesting sporting moments, the most significant event that occurred in May 1914 was on the 30th, when the first Brigade Championship under universal training regulations was won by Charters Towers.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for April News From Around the State

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

Bunya Mountains – The five Murri Rangers are preserving the rare species of Bunya blue grass and seeking to stop the spread of the forest. Their aim

in this work on behalf of the Gubbi Gubbi and the Wakka Wakka is to preserve the history of the environment and also the history of their culture. They maintain the grasslands with fire. Bunya Murri Ranger, Maurice Mickelo, stated that the Bunya Mountains is the only place that Bunya blue grass can be found. (*South Burnett Times* 1 April 2014 p.9 including photograph)

Charters Towers – Zara Clark Museum is located at 36-42 Mosman Street, Charters Towers. The building was constructed in 1883 as a store for Wright and Heaton, general merchants. The building was acquired in 1975 by the National Trust from Bartlams. The museum contains exhibitions of The Charles Wallis Military Collection, The Breddan project (Charters Towers involvement in World War II, local heroes, women's crafts, sporting memorabilia, mining equipment, Charters Towers Hospital, Flying Doctor, children's corner, Towers Brewery, farming machinery and transport. It is open daily 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Kris Patterson of the Zara Clark Museum provided the following information for the March 2014 Queensland Memory at the State Library of Queensland: Zara, christened Sarah, was born to Irish immigrants who settled north of Charters Towers. Zara, who never married, was a member of the Charters Towers Historical Society and gave freely of her time and money to the establishment of a small collection of local memorabilia once exhibited in Lyall's Jewellery store in Mosman Street. The Historical Society became the Charters Towers branch of the National Trust. Zara bequeathed a considerable sum to the Trust to continue her work in local history after her death. Part of the bequest purchased 32-38 Mosman Street which, in June 1979, was renamed the Zara Clark Museum in her honour. Collecting for the museum continues today by a group of dedicated volunteers. (Zara Clark Museum Promotional Leaflet; State Library of Queensland, Queensland Memory March 2014)

Cooktown – The fate of Captain Cook's tree on the Cooktown foreshore was featured in a recent *Cooktown Local News*. Cooktown Historical Society has located a report from the Town Clerk, Charles Patching, to the Cooktown Municipal Council on 26 September 1917, as follows: 'I have the honour to report for your information that one Joseph Lowcock, a ganger in the employ of the Railway Department at Cooktown, reported to me on the 19th instant, that the tree commonly said to be Captain Cook's Tree had burned down. He said that he and his fellow employee, Roseler, the afternoon before, had burnt the grass and undergrowth in the immediate locality, but had taken every care to prevent the spreading of

any fire. He also reported that in his opinion, as the brass name plate on the tree was missing and one screw having been found, that the tree may have been maliciously burnt down and the plaque stolen. I recommend that he should report the matter to his superior officer, and about the alleged stealing of the plate [sic], that he should see the Officer-in-Charge of Police concerning the same. He subsequently advised me that the Officer-in-Charge of Police informed him that he was at loggerheads with Mr Patching and that he could do nothing in the matter, as it was the Council which should act. Subsequently, I ascertained that Mr H A C Evanson (a local ship owner) has possession of the brass plate and is ready and willing to hand same over to the owner thereof. Alderman Gould also reported that there is a portion of the tree left unconsumed.' The plaque had been presented to the Mayor, P E Seagren in 1909 by Captain W C Thompson of the *A S Arawatta* and fixed to the tree (an old red gum) during a function of prominent citizens. The plaque is currently in the James Cook Museum. (*Cooktown Local News* 13 February 2014 p.9 including photograph of the tree and ketch *Pilot* before 1907 when the ketch was destroyed in the cyclone)

Grandchester – One hundred and fifty years ago when construction of the Southern and Western Railway from Ipswich to Grandchester began there a diverse workforce. Labour was recruited in Great Britain including Ireland. Agents of the Queensland Government sought railway employees from the 'Scandinavian countries' being Northern Germany, Denmark and other remote locations to entice people to come to Queensland to work. The Irish formed about one third of the work force. Many had large families with up to six children. Papers of the day spoke about the navvies (construction workers) flying green flags with harps on them, and the women who challenged reporters stepping uninvited on to 'their land', and about the large sporting and racing events turned on in honour of 'St Patrick's Day'. Claiming a place in history, the first locomotive in steam was called 'Faugh-a-Ballagh', which earned its magnificent name, from the traditional Gaelic Irish postal cry of 'clear the way'. On opening day on 31 July 1865, the inhabitants from the Emerald Isle again made sure that they could get in on the act. When guests arrived for the opening ceremony at Grandchester they were impressed by the brilliantly decorated marquee covered in laurels, flowers and flags in red, white and blue. According to the *Queensland Daily Guardian's* report, the marquee welcomed guests the old Irish way by displaying a large banner in Gaelic from the railways Irish

contingent greeting them, *Cead Maille Failthe* - A hundred thousand welcomes! Many of those first Irish who came to build a new life in the colony, later went on to become multi generational members of the railway family in Queensland. (*Weekly Notice* 17 March 2014 Edition 10)

Kuranda – A 3000 km mountain bike trail system is proposed for the Kuranda, Mareeba, Cairns, Port Douglas area. It is to be called the 'Sunny Savannah' route. It will follow some old roads. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 28 February 2014 p.5)

Mareeba – On 8 February 2014 the new sculpture of a miner on a bucking horse was unveiled by Mayor, Tom Gilmore at the Mareeba Heritage Centre. Sculptor, Vivien Plant created the real life sized piece. Bruce Rowe helped with the project. Ms Plant has created the horse at Malanda, the cow at Millaa Mill and the frog at Yungaburra. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 28 February 2014 p.4 including photograph)

Maryborough – The Mary Ann steam locomotive tourist attraction has been highlighted in the Fraser Coast newspapers. It operates through Queen's Park every Thursday and on the last Sunday of the month. This coincides with the nearby markets on Thursdays. (*Fraser Coast Chronicle* 19 March 2014 p.14 including photograph)

Miriam Vale – The Miriam Vale and District Heritage Group has been formed and occupies a shed at the Community Hub area. The aim of the group is to collect heritage items to illustrate the local culture and to form a permanent record of Miriam Vale and district. The intention is to establish a museum when a more permanent home is found. In recent months the following items have been donated: ice chest, meat safe, pre war typewriter, and mementos from a local lodge. The display is open on Monday mornings and during regular Lions Market days on the third Saturday of the month. Contact: Ken Whittaker Ph 07 4974 5414. (*Coastal Rag* Agnes Water 8 March 2014 p.10 including photograph)

Nambour – Sunshine Coast Council has unanimously agreed to reactivate the railway along Howard Street as a tourist attraction. The Council proposes to work with the Nambour Alliance and Nambour Heritage Tram Group to investigate the finance, delivery and operation of the Nambour Railway. (*Gympie Times* 1 March 2014 p.28)

Warwick – A Queensland Rail owned century old building at 19 Hamilton Street was sold on 15 March 2014 for \$145,000. It is believed to have been built for rail workers to stay in. It has eight rooms and a commercial kitchen at the back. (*Warwick Daily News* 17 March 2014 p.9)

Yarraman – Kerry Wyvill, a collector of ‘Australiana’ for 50 years sold part of his collection at auction on 22 March 2014. The collection was predominantly everyday household items – record players, soda bottles, telephones, forges, camp ovens, cream separators, butter churns, dingo traps and German wagon. A 1790s pitch saw was among the items sold to Peter John of Maryborough. (*South Burnett Times* 1 April 2014 p.8 including photograph; *Gympie Times* 22 March 2014 p.38)

The First in a Series of Articles on Military History to Commemorate 100 Years since the 1914-1918 Great War

The Mystery of the Bell



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

The HMAS *Brisbane* Bell

In the front page article about the ‘Four HMAS *Brisbanes*’ that was featured in the April *Bulletin*, I mentioned that the RHSQ had a bell from one of the HMAS *Brisbanes* in our collection. There were a number of requests for further information, so here is a short article about the bell. I will include articles on the four HMAS *Brisbanes* in future issues.

Our bell is engraved ‘HMAS 1916 BRISBANE’. It is a mystery where it came from because we have no provenance other than the donation of the bell is numbered 63. I have been in

contact with John Smith, Senior researcher with the Naval Historical Society and he has stated: ‘*All ships had two bells and quite often a third highly polished one for ceremonial purposes. The bell in your photograph certainly looks authentic and was probably presented to a Brisbane or Queensland authority when Brisbane was decommissioned. It may have been souvenired by one of the crew in England*’ (where it was scrapped in 1935).

A ship’s bell is used to indicate the time on board by sounding the bell in a sequence of chimes at regular intervals, each sequence indicating a specific time. Bells are usually made of brass or bronze and have the ship’s name either engraved or cast into them.

The first HMAS *Brisbane* will be featured in the next article.

Graeme Nicholson
Honorary Editor

New Members

Trade Coast Central Pty Ltd	Eagle Farm
Kenmore and District Historical Society	Kenmore
Ian Townsend	The Gap
Kerry Maynard-Lister	Ferny Hills
Susan Garland	Anstead
Sharon Sargent	Clayfield

Somewhere in France, Somewhere in Australia

Public event and conference

Queensland Museum, South Bank, Brisbane, 11 July 2014. A project to recognise and understand the enduring connections formed between France and Australia during the First World War.

Find out more about your objects from the First World War. Please email us at somewhereinfrance@qm.qld.gov.au with images, stories and descriptions of the souvenirs and mementoes from the First World War that you might have at home. We will respond to all enquiries, but please be aware that it may be up to two weeks before you hear from us.

The Future of Our Past

**Thursday 8 May 2014, 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm
Queensland Museum Theatre, Melbourne Street,
South Brisbane**

Brisbane’s Living Heritage Network’s annual seminar provides a behind-the-scenes insight into Brisbane’s museums and heritage places. Key

speakers and BLHN Member organisations will present on the finer issues and successes of managing, preserving and presenting heritage.

Held in partnership with the National Trust of Queensland.

\$15 Non-Members / \$10 BLHN & NTQ Members (Afternoon Tea included)

Informal post-seminar drinks @ The Fox, 4.45 pm (purchase own refreshments)

Brisbane's Living Heritage Network, 07 3223 6606 (Monday-Thursday) info@brisbanelivingheritage.org
RSVP by Thursday 24 April 2014

Research Report for April

A very busy month with quite a large number of enquiries: assistance with World War I exhibition; material on Thrushton Homestead, Upper Cornwall St, Coorparoo; Bundaberg area in the early 20th century for help with the design of a new logo for Bundaberg Rum; John Stockwell, convict in Brisbane 1836; Cresta family of Ingham; Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road, Mackenzie; traditional owners of streets in Upper Mt Gravatt, Chermside. Southport and Springfield Lakes; HMAS *Brisbane* bell; material on the underbelly of Brisbane's past; floating baths in Brisbane; Kalkadoon people – Leadership and Laws, Customs, Traditions and Rituals; Old Bishopbourne, Milton; history of a timber dwelling, 128 River Terrace corner, of Bell Street, Kangaroo Point; family history of George and Margaret Wilson; material on the history of the Riverside Expressway and CBD Transport for an Exhibition at the UQ; an article by Ken Hardy on Alex McGill; final resting place of Patrick Logan; names of suitable Annerley citizens for signage in two parks in Annerley; image of the cover of the 1947 *Your City* booklet; article in *Cairns Historical Society Journal* by Ruth Kerr on the public buildings on Thornborough.

Jean Stewart
 Honorary Research Officer



Request for Historical Items: A letter from Debbie Kruger

When the Queen Came to Town

I am writing to tell you about a feature-length documentary film that is being made about the first tour to Australia by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954, which covered a large number of cities and regional towns around the country over a two-month period.

We are approaching the Royal Historical Society of Queensland to help spread the word about this upcoming film, to help us find the people around the state who have the stories, the memorabilia, the unforgettable moments etched in their minds. What we are hoping you can do to help is post a notice in your e-newsletter or website news section, perhaps on your social media feeds, especially Facebook and Twitter, or if you have a print newsletter coming up soon, put out the call in there for your members/subscribers. Perhaps you know people who were there themselves, or you might have younger generations whose parents or grandparents were there and have kept mementos.

We know there are a lot of people with great stories and we are inviting them to get in touch with the film's producers. They can do so by writing in with their details to:

The Queen Project Wild Fury
 Level 2A, 737 New South Head Road
 Rose Bay NSW 2029

Or they can go to the website at www.queentour54.com where there is a special section to send through information about their memories and experiences of the Queen's visit to their town.

If your organisation does not use the internet in this way, perhaps you know of members who have these stories, and who you could put the film producers in touch with. In which case please just write back and let me know, and the production team will get back to you to find out more.

Alternatively members can call or SMS information and contact details to 0435 718 106

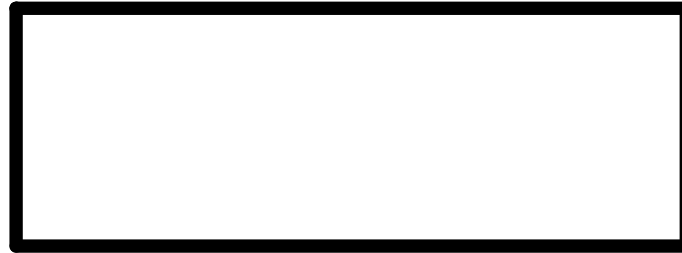
Please let me know how you think you can help with this very special outreach program. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you and best regards,
 Debbie Kruger

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 PO Box 12057 Brisbane, George
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 RHSQ Bulletin: PP100004098
 RHSQ Journal: PP100004097

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS MAY 2014

Thursday 8 May Council Meeting
Wednesday 14 May 12.30 - 1.20 Talk
 ‘Queensland Muslims also fought in World War II’
 Janeth Deen

JUNE

Friday 6 June Queensland Day Dinner at the
 Commissariat Store
Saturday 21 June Annual Seminar
 Theme: ‘Leichhardt in the 21st Century’

Your Wednesday Speaker for May

Janeth Deen is a member of the Society and a former history teacher. She is the President of the Queensland Muslim Historical Society; Secretary of the Queensland Multicultural Council; and President of the Queensland Muslim Welfare Association.

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

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

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.