



THE RHSQ

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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



SCENES FROM THE RHSQ APRIL 2014 'AT HOME' EXHIBITION ENTITLED: 'Rumours: Stories from the Great War'

In the photo above are from left:
Tim Roberts, Guest Exhibition Curator,
Jane Prentice MP who launched our exhibition and
Helen McMonagle, our President

photos: Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

Half of the year gone already! Many of the early months of 2014 have been spent preparing for the rest of the year, and Saturday 26 April saw the culmination of one project – the launch of our Call to Duty: Stories from the Great War exhibition, put together by Guest Exhibitions Curator Timothy Roberts and a team of volunteers including Graeme Nicholson, Christina Michie, Di Clancy, Jean Stewart, Michael Ward, Noel Fawkes and Jessica Carey. I would like to thank Ms Jane Prentice MP, Federal Member for Ryan for opening the exhibition, and to Councillor Vicki Howard, Member for Central Ward for her support of the project and presence on the opening day. Speakers presented a range of different topics centred on the First World War: Stephen Sheaffe - Percy Whittall, who was killed at Quinn's Post; Timothy Roberts - details of the exhibition and patriotic events held in Queensland during the war; Graeme Nicholson - Private Finch, whose replica medals and story are part of this year's exhibition; Carolyn Nolan - A Female Contribution to the War Effort (the Sock Fund); and Simon Farley, Curator of War Collections, State Library of Queensland gave an address that detailed the rich collections of war-related material in the State Library. The *Call to Duty* exhibition profiles life during the war years on the war and home fronts, using objects and images from our collection. It will be on display until March next year, when a new theme of the war will be explored, so I encourage you all to visit the Commissariat Store over the coming months.

June is traditionally an exciting month and this year is no exception. On Friday 6 June the Queensland Day Dinner will be held at the Commissariat Store, with the Society welcoming the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, as our guest. Speculation is building as to who will be awarded the prestigious John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for 2014, and fingers are crossed that it is a fine evening so we can enjoy welcome drinks in the Commissariat Store Courtyard. I look forward to catching up with many of you there.

To further celebrate Queensland Day our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland and Mr Stuart McCosker, will be hosting an Open Day at Government House on Sunday 8 June 2014 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. The RHSQ has been generously granted room to mount a display in the Investiture Room, so please come and say hello.

Our Annual Seminar will be held on Saturday 21 June. The morning session will be held at the Commissariat Store, and this year's theme is *Leichhardt in the 21st Century*. Topics that will be covered include recent studies into Leichhardt's final resting place, 'Leichhardt Pilgrimages' as a case study of historical tourism, and the background story of the recent translation of Leichhardt's diaries. 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. We understand that it will be difficult for some members to travel from the Commissariat Store to Eagle Farm - please let the office know if you need transport to the afternoon session and we will have this arranged.

The installation by Toadshow Pty Ltd of our new interactive exhibits is almost complete – Tom Petrie comes to life in a Q&A-style display, and an artist's view of Brisbane in 1835 provides interesting history for many of the buildings that made up the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement that are long gone. Not only are the exhibits fun to play with, but they provide an educational experience for our many museum visitors and complement the models that are already on the Ground Floor. Well done to the team responsible for bringing this about – Marilyn England, Che Aberdeen, Dr Denver Beanland, Dr Rebecca Ling, Dr Ruth Kerr, Jean Stewart and many others.

Pugh's Almanac's account of events in Queensland in June 1914 has been overshadowed by the significant international events of that month: 2nd – Glenn Curtiss made a few short flights in his Langley Aerodrome in America, sparking a feud between the Smithsonian and Orville Wright as to who piloted the first manned flight in history. The Smithsonian later retracted its claim in favour of Curtiss in 1942; 6th – the first air flight out of sight (Scotland to Norway) was performed; 28th – Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and his wife Sophie were assassinated in Sarajevo by young Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip at 10.45 am, setting off the first chain of events which saw the outbreak of the First World War; 29th - Jina Guseva attempted to assassinate Grigori Rasputin at his home in Siberia; 30th – Mahatma Gandhi was arrested for the first time after campaigning for Indian rights in South Africa.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for May

News From Around the State

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

Atherton Library had a local history event on 3 May featuring speakers – Gwen Price on Tablelands War Memorials, Bob Taylor on writing autobiography, and Nick Watling on family heirlooms and their history. The library also hosted the State Library of Queensland Norman Tindale exhibition on north Queensland Aboriginal communities including genealogy until 12th May. (*Tablelander* 22 April 2014 p.17)

Cooktown – The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has decided to name two gullies in the Cook Shire Forsberg Gully and Slaughterhouse Gully. Queensland Place Names Plan QPN 1069 shows the location of the places. (*Cooktown Local News* 16 April 2014 p.15)

Gympie – Railway Holding Company and Rattler Railway Company were formed at the beginning of April 2014. The directors are: Paul Barnaby, chartered accountant; Spencer Slatter, President, Gympie Turf Club; Gaylene Smith, Mary Valley business consultant; Ian McNicol, Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd; Gary Davison, Gympie Chamber of Commerce; Adrian Hurley, Aurizon management and member of MVHRR; and Tony Hallam, President MVHR. A Gympie Regional Councillor will also be appointed. Recommencement of the MVHR is not yet 100% certain as ongoing financial sustainability is an issue. (*Gympie Times* 3 April 2014)

Rosewood – The Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division) (also a member of RHSQ) relaunched its Rosewood railway from 26 April 2014 trips after a landslide closed the line after floods in 2013. The repaired route goes from Cabanda to Kunkala and travels over a spur of the Little Liverpool Range with 180 degree views. The Society kept operating short rail trips between at the Cabanda – Kunkala end. Heavy expenditure was necessary to repair the line. Rosewood councillor, David Pahlke, spoke very supportively at the relaunch. (*Queensland Times* 1 April 2014 p.4 and 28 April 2014 pp.7-8 including photograph)

Toowoomba - The British actor, comedian and television presenter, Sir Tony Robinson (of ‘Time Team’) was filming at Toowoomba railway station on 8 May for his new History Channel series Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty. The film crew was focusing on the station's intact air raid shelter, as well as an honour roll erected in the First World War. Sir Tony

stated that Toowoomba was brimming with history with good war stories but was less well known. He said that ‘One of the most resonant things about being at a railway station is the memory that so many young boys got on the train here fit and healthy and came back some time later on the hospital train, or else never came back at all... The [air raid] shelter reminds us that way through the Second World War, people really did think that the Japanese were about to invade... And even somewhere as far inland as Toowoomba was desperate to protect itself from Japanese attack.’ (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 9 May 2014 <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/toowoomba-isnt-necessarily-a-place-front-of-mind-f/2252706/>)

Townsville – Trains no longer stop at the platform of the Townsville railway station. The state government may consider selling it. The Townsville City Council Mayor, Jenny Hill, has expressed an interest in the Council taking over the building. The building was built between 1910 and 1913. (*Townsville Bulletin* 15 April 2014 p.14)

OBITUARIES

ERNEST (HUMPHRY) CRAMOND MBE OAM

Humphry Cramond died on 15 March 2014. He was born in north Queensland on 6 April 1924 and attended St Joseph's Nudgee College. In 1947 he graduated in Medicine from The University of Queensland. Humphry served at Brisbane Hospital and became senior resident at Bundaberg Hospital in 1949. He married Margaret Shalcross in 1949 and they had four children two of whom died very young. Margaret died unexpectedly in 1981. They relocated to Dalby in 1951 where he was superintendent of the hospital and later was in private practice. There he was an alderman on the Town Council for 21 years and deputy mayor for 15 years. Throughout his career Humphry Cramond was a strong supporter of his profession through the British Medical Association (later Australian) at local, state and federal level. He was President in 1984-85. In the course of that work he met Professor Tess Brophy and they married in 1985. Humphry moved to Brisbane recognising the significant work of Tess Brophy in anaesthetics and pain medicine. He took up private practice at Zillmere as a GP and retired at Christmas 2013. Charitable works were a particular focus for Humphry Cramond – Order of Malta for health and education in Timor-Leste, Callan Services and the Mount Sion eye project in Papua New Guinea. Humphry is survived by his wife, Tess, two children and three grandchildren. He had been a member of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland since 9 November 1978. Vale Humphry Cramond.

LYN LOVE

Lyn Alison Love, an Honorary Life Member of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, died on 13 April 2014. Lyn joined the Society on 4 March 1975. She was a librarian and worked in several Brisbane libraries including Grace College at the University of Queensland and The Royal Historical Society of Queensland for many years from the late 1970s until the late 1980s. Lyn's key role at our Society was an Honorary Research Officer from when the Society was at *Newstead House* and moved with the Society to do research at the Commissariat Store in the Society's Library for inquirers. She also packed the library books and manuscripts with me to move to the Commissariat Store. A major project of lasting value which Lyn did to compile the LYINDEX of all the Society's Journal articles from volume 1 to volume 14. It is one of the best tools in the Society's library and her greatest contribution to the Society.

One of her other Society activities was in piecing together a lace collection to return it to its original wholeness. There were many drawers full of beautiful examples. She worked away in a corner on the first floor and did not stop work when the temperature climbed to uncomfortable levels, especially there. She often brought in homemade biscuits and cakes for morning tea. She was a quiet, unassuming presence at the Society doing enormously good work for many years.

Lyn was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society in June 1992. Vale Lyn Love.

Ruth S Kerr

GRC (ROD) McLEOD AM

Rod McLeod was a major figure in The Royal Historical Society of Queensland since he joined on 23 August 1968. He was a general surgeon by profession, a veteran of the Vietnam War, a student of maritime history of Australia and a very committed member of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland Council. Rod was elected to the Society's Council at the Annual General Meeting on 23 September 1970. On 27 April 1972 he was elected as Junior Vice President following the death of Clem Lack. On 25 March 1976 he was appointed together with Commander Pixley to seek new premises for the Society to relocate to after leaving *Newstead House* and he helped with the removal of the Society's property from the house. The Society moved to the Commissariat Store in September 1981. Rod was elected President of the Society at the 1986 AGM and served until 28 September 1989. He then became Hon Treasurer until 1992. It was a pleasure to work with Rod on Council in the challenging period when the

Society was deciding to leave *Newstead House* and thereafter. His practical wisdom was of enormous value to the Society.

Rod published a number of papers in The Royal Historical Society of Queensland *Journal*:

- 'Two Brisbane Shipowners of the Last Century [William Pettigrew; McGhie, Luya and Company]' Volume IX No. 4, 1972-1973, pp. 27-43;
- 'History along the Waterways: The Abandoned Hulks of the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay', Volume IX No. 5, 1973-1974, pp.21-29;
- 'A Short History of the Dredging of the Brisbane River, 1860 to 1910', Volume X No. 4, 1978-1979, pp.137-148; and
- 'Comments on the presidential terms of Commander NS Pixley CMG and Lt Col Dr GC Clarke OBE', Volume 19 no.6, May 2006, pp. 874-877.

In more recent years Rod assisted in the Society's Library working each Thursday until 2012 identifying articles from newspapers on shipwrecks and construction of ships for the library. He was an authority of Queensland shipping. His professional networks enabled him to garner support and finances for the preservation of the *Diamantina* and the *Forceful* in Brisbane. Vale Rod McLeod.

Ruth S Kerr

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



AWM photo

The First HMAS Brisbane

HMAS *Brisbane* was a Town Class light cruiser launched on 30 September 1915 by Mrs Fisher, wife of the Prime Minister Andrew Fisher. She was commissioned in Sydney on 31 October 1916 under

the command of Captain C L Cumberlege Royal Navy.

In December 1916 she departed for war service in the Mediterranean, but upon arrival was redirected to the Indian Ocean to hunt the German raiders *Wolf* and *Seeadler*. Early in 1917 HMAS *Brisbane* became the first RAN ship to be involved with naval aviation when a Sopwith Baby seaplane was transferred aboard.

Brisbane served until October 1918 patrolling the western pacific and Australian waters. On 30 October 1918 she departed Fremantle for England and was at sea when the armistice of November 11 ended the war. After the war she completed a refit at Portsmouth and then returned to Australia serving mainly in Australian waters until she was paid off into reserve on 4 August 1922.

On 14 April 1923 she was recommissioned and served mainly in Australian waters until February 1925 when, in company with her sister ship HMAS *Sydney*, she visited Singapore. After this visit she was transferred for duty in the Far East Squadron of the Royal Navy where she served until August 1925 when she returned to Sydney to be refitted as a training ship.

She was again paid off in October 1926 to undergo another refit and was again recommissioned as a training ship on 28 June 1928, but was paid off into reserve again in January 1929. She was again recommissioned at Sydney on 2 April 1935 and on 2 May she sailed for England and was finally paid off on 24 September 1935 as she had been sold to Thomas Ward and Company of Sheffield for breaking up for £19,125.

Graeme Nicholson
Honorary Editor

New Members

Elizabeth Ling Everton Park
John Besley Toorbul

Research Report for May

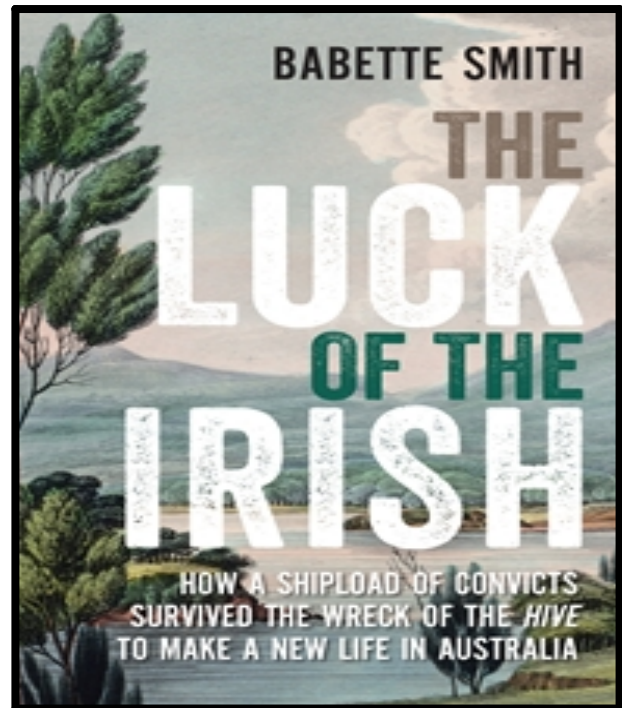
The highlight of this month's research activity was a visit to the Society of descendants of Nora Nathan, an Aboriginal artist, who created wonderful soapstone figurines. They were presented to the Library in 1935. The family was delighted to see them.

Other items were queries about the following: Old Queensland Library, *Mornington Guest House* in Gregory Terrace; Federal Hotel, Thursday Island, Register for 1901; a property at 830-834 Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road, Mackenzie; Mount Coot-tha history; Riverside Expressway; the bell of HMAS *Brisbane*;

Christian and Henriette Lehmann of the Logan area; photos of Eagle Farm; Brisbane School of Arts; Munnery and the convict Matthew Sellars; and Council Boundaries and the Native Police.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

A New History Book



'The Luck of the Irish'

How a shipload of convicts survived the wreck of the *Hive* to make a new life in Australia

Babette Smith Published: July 2014 RRP: \$32.99

The luck of the Irish was chronic bad luck, as their sad history attests. That's how it looked for 250 Irish convicts when their ship, the *Hive*, sank ignominiously off the NSW coast in 1835. Miraculously all survived, guided to safety by local Aboriginal people.

They landed at a time when the so-called slave colony was at its height, ruled by the lash and the chain gang. Yet as Babette Smith tracked the lives of the people aboard the *Hive*, she discovered a very different story. Most were assigned to work on farms or in businesses, building a better life than they possibly could have experienced in Ireland. Surprisingly, in the workforce they found power, which gave rise to the characteristic Australian culture later described by DH Lawrence: 'Nobody felt better than anybody else, or higher.'

Tiffany Rae
Professional & Reference Marketing Co-ordinator
Allen & Unwin

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS JUNE 2014

Friday 6 June Queensland Day Dinner at the
Commissariat Store
Wednesday 11 June 12.30 - 1.30 Talk and film show
about the book 'Against the Tide' and creative ways of
recording the history of fishers of Moreton Bay
John Parke
Thursday 12 June Council Meeting
Saturday 21 June Annual Seminar
Morning (at the Commissariat):
Theme: 'Leichhardt in the 21st Century'
Afternoon (at Eagle Farm):
Archaeological and historical talks at the former
Women's Prison site

Your Wednesday Speaker for June

The speaker for the June talk will be John Parke, a Manly based author and filmmaker who has been collecting and recording stories of the local fishermen since 2007.

Contact details:

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| E-mail: | info@queenslandhistory.org.au |
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Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday as well
as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter

Bulletin articles only:

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|----------------------------|--|
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Subscriptions:

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|---|------------|
| 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 |