



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

72 years of continuous publication

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

President: Helen McMonagle

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au



Speakers at the Morning Session

From left: Stephen Sheaffe, Helen McMonagle, Matt Tesch, Dean Prangley, Liz Yunchen, Ian Hadwen

Photo: Carolyn Nolan

Thom Blake preparing the archaeological dig at the Women's Prison, Eagle Farm for the Afternoon Session

Photo: Carolyn Nolan



**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ANNUAL SEMINAR
THIS YEAR'S TITLE 'LEICHHARDT IN THE 21st CENTURY'**

President's Report

With winter's chill descending on us this month, it has allowed us to attend some wonderful historically-themed events and escape the cold.

The interactive displays on the ground floor have been completed and were officially opened by Honourable Teresa Gambaro MP, Federal Member for Brisbane. Over 40 people attended the launch, which was followed by the Wednesday lunch-time speaker Pamela Rushby on her book *The Ratcatcher's Daughter* and a light lunch. Thank you to ToadShow and the group of RHSQ volunteers who worked so hard on this project.

This year, the Australasian Mining History Association (AMHA) held a joint conference with the International Mining History Congress at Charters Towers, from 6 to 11 July 2014. This conference was attended by a number of RHSQ members including Ruth Kerr and me, and was a very fun and informative week. The organising committee did a wonderful job planning the conference and organised tours of Ravenswood, the Venus Battery in Charters Towers, and heritage walks of the Charters Towers township; I would highly recommend a visit to Charters Towers for anyone interested in history or heritage.



Photo: Xaolu Wu

Ruth Kerr and Helen McMonagle at the Carpentaria Gold Nolan's Treatment Plant at Ravenswood during the AMHA conference

At our Centenary Dinner last year, the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland, announced that a grant would be allocated to the RHSQ to help digitise our collections. Thanks to the work and assistance undertaken by the Office of the Premier, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Library Committee, the first boxes have started to be digitised by David Bloom of Spectrum Colour. We are very excited by the prospects that this project affords.

On 16 July 2014, a tribute to Matthew Flinders was unveiled at the Glasshouse Mountains by Cr Rick Baberowski. Kay Cohen, who had assisted on this project, and I attended this event which has held at the Glasshouse Mountains Visitor Information and Interpretive Centre. This tribute will be open to the public from 19 July 2014.

As most of you will know, 2014 marks the 150th birthday of the Queensland Police Service. This anniversary has been marked by a number of events throughout the year, and on 22-23 August 2014 the QP150 Police Expo will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The RHSQ will be mounting a stall, along with a number of other very interesting displays including the mounted police, dog squad and a fake crime scene. I encourage members to attend this event: further information can be found at <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/aboutUs/facilities/museum/celebrate/events/>.

Finally, August 1914 events carry a sombre tone with the First World War, which was officially declared on 28 July 1914. Pugh's Almanac and other contemporary sources provide an insight into how Queensland reacted to this monumental event: 3rd – In consequence of declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany, naval reserve and riflemen are called out, and special precautions are taken for the protection of Thursday Island and other strategic positions; 4th – Great patriotic demonstration was held in Albert Square with speeches by Mayor Jenkinson and others; 7th – The tug *Coringa* with the disabled steamer *Cairnhill* in tow, arrives in Moreton Bay. The *Cairnhill* was detained by Customs authorities to ascertain whether her cargo (phosphates) was contraband of war; 13th – Messrs Ramsay Bros. of Harrow forwarded a cheque for £2500 to the *Courier* towards a shipment of foodstuffs to the 'Old Country'; 16th – Lieutenant Colonel W W Lee, commanding the 4th Infantry at Maryborough was appointed to the command of the infantry battalion from Queensland with the First Expeditionary Force; 19th – Lieutenant Colonel R M Stodart was appointed to the command of the Light Horse Regiment from Queensland in the First Expeditionary Force.

Helen McMonagle
President

Queensland News for June News From Around the State

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

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail - The Queensland Government has allocated \$3.5 million in grant funding specifically for Rail Trails in the 2014 Budget. The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is incomplete with two critical sections unfinished, from Wulkuraka to Wanora and from Toogoolawah to Moore. The Somerset Regional Council will now be able to apply for funding for completion of these sections. The rail trail is likely to be a tourist attraction for the shire. (*Queensland Times* 24 June 2014 p.13)

Charters Towers – The Australasian Mining History Association (AMHA) and the International Mining History Congress held their 20th and 10th Conferences at the World Theatre in Charters Towers from 6 to 11 July. There were around 100 in total attending the historical papers and the field trip to Ravenswood. The President of the RHSQ, Helen McMonagle, presented a paper on Sir Bruce Watson of Mount Isa Mines Pty Ltd. The President of the AMHA, Ruth Kerr, opened the conference and spoke at the Reception hosted by the Charters Towers Regional Council and undertook media interviews with the *Northern Miner* and the North Queensland TV promoting the study of mining history and the value of mining heritage in illustrating our cultural heritage. (*Northern Miner* 8 July 2014 p.2 and 11 July 2014 p.6 including photographs)

Society member, Peter Bell, who led the Ravenswood tour on 7 July, gave a keynote address on North Australian mining and an overview of Ravenswood mining history.

Emu Park - The old railway station at Emu Park was destroyed on 12 June 2014. Emu Park police stated that they believed it was a case of arson. The empty building was located on a private property on Emu Park Road. (*Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* 13-6-14 p.11)

Gin Gin – The last station master of the Gin Gin railway station, Mr Mike Derry, has compiled a history of the service in the region. A historian of the area, Alan Cheshire, stated that 25 years after settlement began in the Bundaberg region in the 1850s the pastoral and mining industries petitioned the government of the day for a better means of transporting their produce to the Port of Bundaberg. In 1878 approval was given for the construction of a railway that was to be known as the Bundaberg Branch Railway. In 1879 the contract for the first section of 44 miles 36 chains was let to Messrs J and A Overend and company.

By the end of 1880 more than 350 men were employed in building the railway. Mr Cheshire said the only construction difficulty was the sinking of the pylons for the bridge cross Splitters Creek, near North

Bundaberg. Volcanic boulders held up the construction of the bridge. It was the largest construction of the first section of the line. The timber trestle section was built as three bridges, one on top of the other. Mr Cheshire stated that other sections of the track were built through the more mountainous country to Mt Perry. The Boolboonda tunnel was dug through the range. No support was used as it went through very hard rock. These sections were completed by 1884 and the branch line was complete but too late for the mining industry at Mt Perry which had flourished in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Refreshment rooms were later provided in part of the railway station at Gin Gin. The Gibson and Howes sugar mill at Bingera had a branch line built to connect with the Bundaberg railway at Watawa, just west of Gin Gin. The Burnett Valley Railway League advocated the construction of a branch line from Goondoon to the pine forest at Goodnight Scrub. It was approved in 1914 and opened to Wallaville and the Gin Gin Sugar Mill on 9 August 1920; it was extended to Morganville by 3 October 1931 and was closed on 30 October 1960. The line was used by the Bingera mill to extend their tramway system.

The line from Tirroan to Mount Perry was also closed on 30 October 1960. The Gin Gin line served the settlers and communities by carrying the goods and produce. It became the lifeline of the communities before the advent of better roads and motor cars. In later years train loads of pine logs and sleepers were hauled from the Goodnight Scrub and sleepers for railways to the central Queensland mines. Cement was hauled to Gin Gin to build the Monduran Dam on the Kolan River. The railway services to Gin Gin and the surrounding area ceased on January 17, 1992. The railway station and its environs were handed over to the Kolan Shire Council and the Gin Gin Historical Society to be a tourist attraction for the area. (*News Mail*, Bundaberg, May 2014)

Toowoomba Maltings, 11 Mort Street, Toowoomba - On 11 June 2014 the owner of the Toowoomba Maltings applied to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for removal of part of the place from the Queensland Heritage Register. The application relates to: Lot 2 on Plan RP210825. Under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* any person or entity may make an application to have part of a place considered for removal from the Queensland Heritage Register, whether or not the owner has been consulted. It is now the responsibility of the Department to assess the application in relation to the cultural heritage criteria contained in s.35 of the Act and make a recommendation to the Queensland Heritage Council about whether that part

of the place is no longer of state-level cultural heritage significance and therefore suitable for removal from the Heritage Register. The Heritage Council then decides whether that part of the place should be removed. People are invited to make a written submission to the Department advising of your response to the application. This response must address whether the place does or does not satisfy the criteria specified in the Act (s.35). It is also important that the Department is made aware as early as practicable of any additional information that may assist with the assessment of the place's heritage values. Submissions must be received by the Chief Executive of the Department before the close of business on 25 July 2014, and should be forwarded: By mail to Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001 or by email: heritage.registrar@ehp.qld.gov.au Under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, there is scope to extend the time to make a submission so you should contact Sean O'Keeffe, A/Principal Heritage Officer on telephone 07 3330 5837 before 25 July 2014. (Source: Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Email – 17 June 2014)

From the Federation

The Australian Heritage Strategy draft published

A very pleasing development has been the publication of the draft Australian Heritage Strategy by the Department of Environment. The Federation has been advocating for such a strategy for many years. The previous government made a start but did not finalise it. You are urged to have a look at the document since there are commitments in it which relate to community groups, including historical societies. The Federation has made a submission and eventually this will be published on our website at <http://www.history.org.au>.

The Heritage Strategy document can be read at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/australian-heritage-strategy/getting-involved>. The programs below are two of the commitments in the Strategy in which historical societies might wish to become involved.

Community and Heritage Icons Program

The Community Heritage and Icons Program will provide \$1.4 million over three years to protect Australia's National Historic Sites and provide funding to support local historical or heritage groups for conservation, development and exhibition of local

cultural heritage. Part of this funding will be used to assist the work of our Federation. It is to be regretted, however, that the previous Your Community Heritage Program and the Grants for Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations are now defunct.

Cultural heritage protection and conservation guidelines

The formation of a Green Army is promoted as a hands-on, practical, grassroots environmental action program that supports local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia. The program provides opportunities for young Australians aged 17-24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields and explore careers in conservation management, while participating in projects that generate real benefits for the environment. It is envisaged that community groups (sponsors) will make applications for local projects and play an important role in monitoring project progress. For more information Google 'Green Army'. If you are thinking of making an application the Federation's *Cultural Landscapes Training Manual: a Guide for Historical Societies* which was developed by Robyn Ballinger in 2012 could well be of assistance. It can be accessed at <http://www.history.org.au>.

Helen Henderson

HMAS BRISBANE (third in the series)

Below is a photograph of the Royal Australian Navy Depot HMAS Moreton. During the period 1940-1942 it was HMAS Brisbane.

This AWM photo was taken in the 1950s with



the depot virtually unchanged from its 1940 appearance. Alongside is HMAS Yarra.

Following the AGM will be:

The Clem Lack Oration for 2014

AN INJURED SOUL – FLINDERS: THE ANTIPODES AND BEYOND

To be presented by David A Gibson OAM who writes: *In the 200th year since the publication of Matthew Flinders' A Voyage to Terra Australis, and his death just one day after its publication; historian and broadcaster David Gibson thanks the Royal Historical Society of Queensland for the opportunity to speak on this auspicious occasion.*

In 1951, the infant David Gibson moved with his Family to the pilot station at Sea Hill on Curtis Island in Central Queensland, thus beginning a fascination over 63+ years with all things pertaining to Matthew Flinders – the place SEA HILL, a headland first given its European name by Flinders' party aboard HMS Investigator.

After time spent at the Queensland State Archives and historic Newstead House, David remains committed to a number of projects of historic import...acting as a docent for groups visiting the Racing Precinct at both Eagle Farm and Doomben Racecourses, working with the Mowbraytown Heritage Team and the Canon David Garland Memorial Society, writing for the History Queensland magazine and appearing as a regular on 4MBS 103.7 Classic FM as a segment presenter on the popular S E Queensland Heritage Diary.

This paper is dedicated to Rockhampton-born, and All Hallows-educated, Ernestine Hill (1899-1972) and will be accompanied by a powerpoint presentation.

Who was Clem Lack?

Clem Llewellyn Lack was born in Bundaberg on 19 December 1900. After completing high school he began work as a journalist in 1918.

In 1922 he transferred to Brisbane to work for the *Courier*, forerunner of the *Courier-Mail*, where he became a 'C' grade reporter. Later, as a political columnist, he wrote a daily commentary of parliamentary proceedings.

Clem married Ivy Latimer in Gympie in 1923 and began studying at The University of Queensland

where he obtained a Diploma of Journalism in 1928 and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1934.

Between 1940 and 1944 he worked at the Brisbane *Telegraph* newspaper followed by three years with the Melbourne *Age*. He returned to Brisbane in 1948 and joined the public relations bureau of the Chief Secretary's Department.

Clem joined the Historical Society of Queensland in 1949, became a Councillor in 1958, Chairman of the Editorial Committee and Editor of Publications in 1959, Fellow of the RHSQ in 1962 and Vice-President in 1968. He died in 1972.

The RHSQ inaugurated The Clem Lack Memorial Oration in 1973 to honour his memory. During the presentation of the second oration, his long time friend, Sir Raphael Cilento, described his friend as: '...a competent, romantic, indefatigable and lovable man who had treasured his Celtic inheritance and sympathised with downtrodden groups'.

Graeme Nicholson
Honorary Editor

Research Report

Having been away for most of the past month I thank sincerely the other members of the Research team who have valiantly coped with the following queries; Joseph Vos; House at Paddington owned by Burgess family; early sugar industry in Beenleigh area; Dr Beckler of Drayton and Warwick and Burke and Wills Expedition; Eungella district; Light Company of the 39th Regiment in the Penal Settlement; the Matthew Flinders plaque at Beerburrum; Tattersall's Club sesquicentenary; sources for a Great War centenary exhibition; and the Bible in State Schools Referendum Campaign.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

National Science Week Activities

18 - 25 August

"D'art'a"

Art Exhibition and Data Presentation

Opening with a presentation on Monday 18 August at 5.30 pm entitled 'Mangroves - Past and present'

At the Commissariat Store

Talk and walk with the 'watches'

Sunday 24 August Wellington Point Reserve - King Island

For further information and bookings for each of the above contact Debra Henry on 0439 914 631

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
AUGUST 2014

Thursday 14 August Council Meeting
Friday 15 August - *Bulletin* Deadline

Note. There is no Wednesday talk in August as there is a public holiday for the Exhibition

Reminder

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Commissariat Store on 11 September at 6.00 pm. For those wishing to nominate for a position on the Council at the Annual General meeting, please use the Nomination Form included in this issue of *The RHSQ Bulletin*.

The AGM is to be followed by the presentation of the Clem Lack Oration by David A Gibson OAM.

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

Bulletin articles only:

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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.

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

***BULLETIN* AUGUST 2014**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

to be held on THURSDAY, 11 September 2014 at 6.00 pm

at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane

AGENDA for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting
2. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President
3. Consideration of Audited Annual Financial Statement
4. Election of the President, one Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, ten Councillors
5. Appointment of Patron of the Society
6. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
7. Any other business.

MacGregor Medal:

The Society's Council recommends that Mrs Jan Hess be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 of the Constitution, for her role in curating exhibitions for the Society for over ten years.

Explanatory Note:

Mrs Jan Hess has curated exhibitions for the Society over more than ten years which have promoted Queensland history and the Society enormously. Jan has initiated exhibition ideas and undertaken this work in conjunction with the Museum Committee and the Honorary Research Team in the Library. The exhibitions have included both Society and Members' objects for display. The exhibitions have also coincided with particular historic commemorations and events and cultural themes.

Ruth S Kerr

Honorary Secretary

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

NOMINATION FORM

For the election of the President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, ten Councillors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 11 September 2014 at 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary on or before 28 August 2014.

Nominations must be signed by 2 (two) financial members of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member.

We nominate

for the office of

Signed

Signed

If elected I agree to act in the position of

.....

Signature

Date Received

Honorary Secretary
