



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

72 years of continuous publication

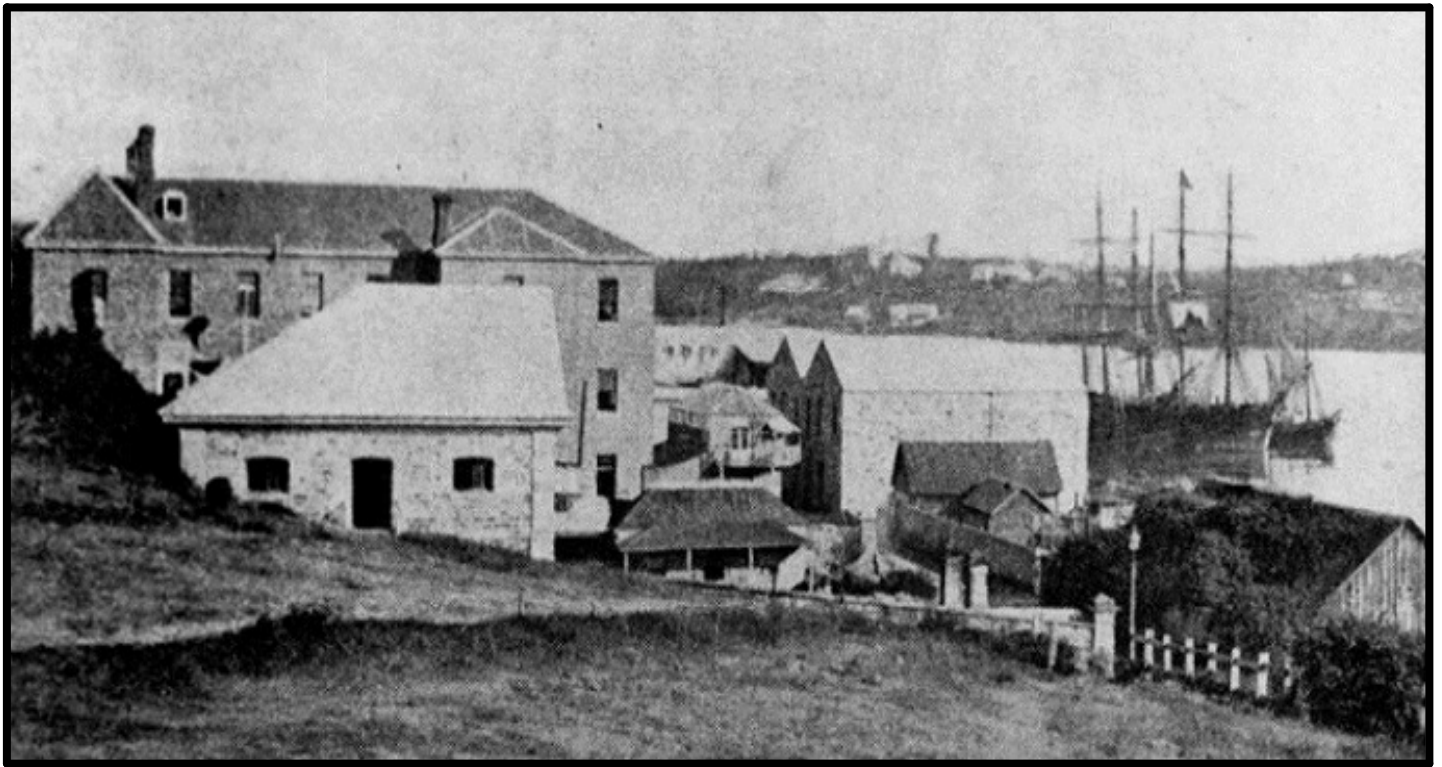
NOVEMBER 2014 No. 791

The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,
Governor of Queensland

President: Dean Prangley

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State Library of Queensland, John Oxley Library photo

The Brisbane Commissariat c 1870

This is a view of the north-western side of the Brisbane Commissariat taken around 1870 from the vacant block next door (now Miller Park). Miller Park was named in memory of Captain Henry Miller (1785 - 1866), first Commandant of Moreton Bay, who arrived at Redcliffe on 14 September 1824, 190 years ago. Note the door giving access to the upper floor, which was part of the original plan. Behind the Commissariat is the present National Trust House that was built in 1865 as an Immigration Depot. Both buildings fronted Queen's Wharf Road, which allowed easy access to the wharves on the river. There are three other Commissariats in Australia, two are featured on Page 4.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

With celebrations for the Brisbane Festival and G20 keeping everyone on their toes, it has been a busy month for the Society.

Our inaugural Riverfire cocktail event was a great success, with 60 people enjoying dinner and drinks in the Commissariat Store courtyard on Saturday 27 September 2014. This event was sponsored by King and Company solicitors and catered by Cuisine on Cue, who also catered our Queensland Day Dinner this year. Artist Bill Gannon put together a display of his artwork inside the building, inspired by his journey in the footsteps of Ludwig Leichhardt's famous 1844 expedition to Port Essington in the Northern Territory; he provided a very interesting commentary on his journey. Guests were thrilled to find that the path of the Super Hornets went straight overhead; the Black Hawk helicopter manoeuvres provided thrilling entertainment over the river on either side of the Commissariat Store. The pièce de résistance for the evening, however, was the fireworks: one of the fireworks barges was positioned directly in front of our main gates, providing a magnificent view of the half-hour fireworks display.

The annual Brisbane Open House took place on Saturday 11 October and Sunday 12 October from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. This event is always a great success with almost 1000 people walking through the Commissariat Store again this year. The event is a wonderful showcase of Brisbane's architectural and heritage buildings, and has been warmly embraced by the public.

We were fortunate to receive a visit from Ludwig Leichhardt, the great - great -great nephew of his famous namesake, on Wednesday 15 October. Ludwig was in Australia to attend the naming ceremony of a new QANTAS aircraft – named *Ludwig Leichhardt* in recognition of the 170th anniversary of Leichhardt's Port Essington expedition – and included visits to a variety of historical venues in his itinerary. He was particularly taken with the notion that Leichhardt would have visited the Commissariat Store in his journeys to Moreton Bay in the 1840s: a tangible link to the past!

During the time of the G20 celebrations the Commissariat Store, along with Miller Park, Neville Bonner Building, and other key buildings along North Quay will be the focus of an artistic lighting display, put together by a team within the Premier's Department. Try to make the trip to view these wonderful displays: dates and further information are available on the G20 website, <http://g20cultural.initiatives.qld.gov.au>

Our final event for this year will be the Separation Day Cocktails on Wednesday 10 December. A flyer for this is enclosed with this month's *Bulletin*. Our special guest this year is the Honourable Ian Walker MP, Minister for Science, IT, Innovation and the Arts, who will launch the spectacular new publication *Lost Brisbane*. This book is the result of months of hard work undertaken by a team of RHSQ researchers – Margaret Kowald, Val Donovan, Jean Stewart, Kay Cohen, Ruth Kerr and Lyndsay Smith – in partnership with QBD Books.

Helen McMonagle
Immediate Past-President
For the President, Dean Prangley

Queensland News for October

News from around the State(Collected by Ruth Kerr from personal Queensland contacts, Affiliated Societies and Newspapers)

Chillagoe – The Queensland State Government has spent \$230,000 on a visitor facility at Chillagoe smelters. This includes a new car park, interpretative shelters, educational signage and two short walking tracks. The tracks provide a good view of the three chimneys, smelters and surrounding landscape. No work has been done on the three chimneys since the Keating government's restoration of one under the 'One Nation' program in 1994. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 3 October 2014 p.3)

Gympie – Mary Valley Rattler volunteers Ken Whimpey, Keith Gadiske, Ted Neilsen, Arthur Ayrton and Dean King, are keen to work the line again and expressed their great enthusiasm in the workshop, following the Deputy Premier, The Honourable Jeff Seeney's decision to provide \$600,000 for rolling stock repairs and \$2 million for track repairs. The Labor Shadow State Development Minister, Tim Mulherin MP, spoke in parliament against the grant from Royalties for the Regions Program. (*Cooloola Advertiser* 2 September 2014 p.2 and *Gympie Times* 30 August 2014 p.3)

Hervey Bay – Urangan's railway pier was saved from demolition in 1985 and has been restored. The Save the Pier Committee held a festival on the last weekend of September focusing on the pier. The Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum is involved. (*Fraser Coast Chronicle* 26 September 2014 p.32 including photograph)

Normanby Station – Endeavour River – The *Cooktown Local News* recently featured a photograph of the Normanby railway station on the Cooktown to Laura railway. It was a galvanised iron building with hipped roof. Life on nearby Normanby pastoral

station was also recorded by Norman Palmer – harsh and challenging – with dingoes being a problem. There were three Endeavour River schools with a travelling teacher who taught students in their homesteads. (*Cooktown Local News* 24 July 2014 p.9 including photograph)

Ravenshoe – The Transport Regulator in Queensland Transport and Main Roads has issued an order for the close down of the D17 Capella steam locomotive and its passenger carriages which currently operate a tourist trip from Ravenshoe to Tomoulin and back. The train has been operating for 26 years except for a period for locomotive repairs and track repairs. The Transport Regulator has advised that maintenance of the infrastructure and rollingstock and governance and safety are the reasons for the close down. The train has carried an average of 6500 passengers per year in recent years. (*Atherton Tablelander* 9 September 2014 p.1)

Traveston Crossing – Mary Valley District – Two bridges on the Mary Valley Link Road were named by Member for Gympie, David Gibson MP, after the Bason and Groves families. Jack and Elizabeth Bason arrived in 1874 from England and selected land at Tiaro and then Coles Creek area. William Groves owned a property called Rock Farm on Traveston Crossing Road. The families intermarried. The Mary River bridge on Mary Valley Link Road is adjacent to the old Groves farm. (*Gympie Times* 13 September 2014 p. 8 including photograph)

Brisbane Suburban History

Toowong – *Middenbury* House, part of the former ABC studios site on Coronation Drive has been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. The house was built in the 1860s. On 2 November 1959 it hosted 300 guests to mark the ABC's first Queensland TV Broadcast. Sunland Group now owns the property. (*Westside News* 20 August 2014 p.15 including photograph)

New Members

Amanda Rasmussen	Narangba
Ian and Margaret Harding	Redcliffe
Anne McCosker Buckley	Dorset UK

Research Report

In presenting my last report before I leave Brisbane I wish to place on record my thanks to all those who have helped me with the RHSQ Library and Research Department since I began providing this

service in 1995. In those days the Commissariat Store was open for very limited hours and we worked on Wednesdays from 11.00 am until 2.00 pm. Later the hours changed from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm on Thursdays and this has been maintained ever since including the three years in National Trust House (then Federation House) when the Store was being refurbished from 1999-2001 and again in 2011 when the flood interrupted the use of the Store.

It has been a rewarding and stimulating time to help the thousands of people who have sought our assistance with their research and it has been rewarding to have so many acknowledge our help with gratitude. The installation of computers and the establishment of the InMagic Catalogue system for the Library have been a great boon. The Library catalogue has been streamlined and the collection has been made more accessible. There have been many dedicated and knowledgeable people working in this area of the Society's business over the years and I thank them all particularly the long serving current group most of whom have worked with me for at least ten years and I have been grateful for their support, skills and knowledge - Val Donovan, Kay Cohen, Ruth Kerr, Beth Johnson, Lyndsay Smith, and Claire Stewart.

Queries in the last two months have included the following: St Luke's Church, now the Pancake Parlour; *Eskgrove House* of Archibald Hepburn Hutchison in built 1852/3; naming of Ruth St, Highgate Hill; nurses in the US Army 105th General Hospital in Australia 1942-1944; *Woolcock House*, Waterworks Road; Thelma Huddy who drowned in the Pine River in 1944; Chinese residents in Freestone; Prospector/explorer Phil Saunders in Arnhem Land; James Lord and Ada Rosamond Pearce, immigrants in 1874; midwife records for Roma Hospital; General MacArthur and possible use of the Dental Hospital; Scarborough Non Official Post Office; names on a WWI Honour Board; Savings Bank building on corner of George and Elizabeth Streets; photos of Avro plane and visit of Prince of Wales; origin of name of Mount Hallen near Esk; Sir Edmund Lockyer for 190th anniversary in September 2015; bravery medal for Muara Lifu, Torres Strait; Martin Wilson building, 200 Mary Street; German musicians in Queensland; Moreton bay Convict era information; Newstead House; Patrick Kenniff; and 1864 fires in Brisbane.

Jean Stewart
Signing off as Honorary Research Officer



Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Photo

The Hobart Commissariat

The Hobart Commissariat Store was built between 1808 and 1810 so is 19 years older than the Brisbane Commissariat. Like the Brisbane store it was built to house important foodstuff and vital military supplies and was positioned close to the waterfront to allow easy access to the ships bringing in supplies.

In 1811 the position of this store was used by James Meehan to make a town plan for Hobart. It was used to define the alignment of Macquarie Street, which served as a baseline for street planning in the town.

This building is now part of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery complex that is situated at the corner of Macquarie and Argyle Streets, Hobart. Other Commissariat Stores are on Norfolk Island, built 1835 and Launceston, built 1828. Sydney had two Commissariat Stores, but both have been demolished leaving only the foundation stone of the second.

To the right is a Norfolk Museum Photograph of the Norfolk Island Commissariat Store, which took only six months to build in 1835. The results of the haste in building can be seen when viewing one of the facades where a window sill is noticeably out of alignment.

In 1874 the main and lower floor ceilings were removed so that double storey space could be created for All Saints Church to be consecrated. The basement was opened as a museum in the 1990s.

Graeme Nicholson



An Appreciation

Dear Members

I would like to add to Helen McMonagle's comments [October *Bulletin*] in expressing our appreciation of Jean Stewart's dedication to the Society since she joined 25 years ago. The Thursday Research Team, all of whom have volunteered in the Welsby Library with Jean for more than a decade, are very aware of the amount of work that Jean has accomplished over the years for the Society.

Widely respected as a family and local historian, she has given countless talks at RHSQ meetings and to history and community groups. She has been a most effective manager of the Library. Among other things, she initiated a complete overhaul of the Library's holdings, making possible an upgrade of the catalogue prior to its eventual transfer online and the start of digitising original documents in the collections. We have long appreciated her 'hands on', selfless approach to organising multiple events and the generous donation of her time, as well as many items, from bottles of wine to books for various RHSQ functions. We extend our gratitude to Jean and wish her many blessings for the future.

Val Donovan on behalf of
Kay Cohen, Beth Johnson and Lyndsay Smith.

An Invitation

You are invited to attend the launch of
REDLAND VOICES

an oral history project from the Redlands Local
History and Heritage Library

Redland Voices is part of an oral history digitisation
project called **Playback**, sponsored by the State
Library of Queensland

On Thursday 30 October **Redland Voices** will be
launched at a special morning tea where this digitised
material will be showcased

Please note that **bookings are essential** for catering
purposes and can be made by phoning **3829 8770**.

We look forward to meeting you on the 30th to
celebrate and share our community stories!

Leonie Taylor
Local History and Heritage Librarian
Redland Libraries

Events at the Queensland Women's Historical Association

Thursday 6 November - 10:30 am

Morning Tea and Talk

Come and learn more about 'The Perry Family of Brisbane, Their Homes and Business'

Acquaint yourself with the history of members of the Perry family who arrived in Brisbane in 1860 and soon afterwards opened their business, Messrs Perry Brothers, Ironmongers and Iron Merchants, in Queen Street Brisbane.

This talk will touch on two Perry homes owned by the family at Bowen Hills. The first, *Folkestone*, was the residence of William Perry and his wife Annie. The second, *Miegunyah*, built in 1886, became the home of their eldest son, Herbert Perry and his wife, Leila, after their marriage in 1886, and is now the headquarters of The Queensland Women's Historical Association. Last year saw the centenary of Perry House at the corner of Albert and Elizabeth Streets in the city.

Guest speaker: Janet Edwards, member of the QWHA.
QWHA Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15 (includes morning tea).

A History Seminar Sponsored by the Queensland State Archives

'Records of Trades and Professions: Your Ancestors' Life on the Job

Date: 6 November 2014

Location: Redland City Council Library, Capalaba

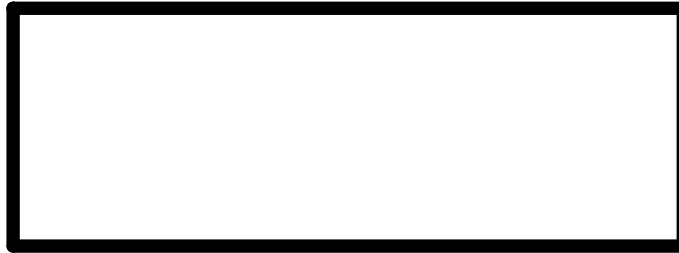
Booking: To book, please call the Redland City
Council Library, Capalaba on 07 3843 8010.

Details: This seminar explores the many types of employment records in the Queensland State Archives' collection including photographs, exams papers, trade certificates and barristers' rolls. This is an image-rich seminar presented by an experienced archivist who will provide research tips and tricks to locate those records 'on the job'.
For more information, and to book, please contact the Redland City Council Library, Capalaba.

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS NOVEMBER 2014

Wednesday 12 November - Talk 12.30 pm
History of the Tristram Cordial Factory
 Dean Prangley
Thursday 13 November - Council Meeting
Saturday 15 October - *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR WEDNESDAY SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER

Our speaker on Wednesday 12 November will be Dean Prangley, President of the Society, who will speak on the history of Tristram's Cordial Factory in West End.

Contact details:

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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