



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

72 years of continuous publication

DECEMBER 2014 No. 792

The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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

President: Dean Prangley

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au



Photo: Helen McMonagle
Inserts: Wikipedia

A RECORD OF A GREAT JOURNEY

The photograph above shows Ludwig Leichhardt, great - great - great nephew of the famous explorer of the same name autographing a map during a recent visit to the Commissariat store. This map shows the journey his forebear took from the Darling Downs to Port Essington. The expedition left Jimbour on 1 October 1844 and reached Port Essington on 17 December 1845 after a 4800 km journey. The map will be framed and displayed at the Commissariat. The inserts show the explorer and his journey.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

Dear members,

I would like to thank our Past President Helen McMonagle for standing in for me and writing my report for the October *Bulletin*, because I was overseas.

I spent time in the United States and London and was reminded of the intense interest of both countries in preserving their history. The number of national historic monuments in the USA is huge and wide ranging even to the preservation of relatively recent industrial items such as the two enormous blast furnaces in Pittsburgh which closed production in the 1980s and were saved from the scrap heap by a determined local group of historians. Art Deco structures in Chicago and New York are revered and carefully maintained and the conversion of an old elevated freight rail line in New York to a heritage walking track through the old meat packing district has to be experienced.

Boston is full of history and, being the cradle of the USA, many old structures are preserved and in most cases open to the public. Paul Revere's house dates from 1670 and forms part of the freedom walk which winds its way through Boston's streets. This consists of a double line of bricks which guides tourists past most of the important historical structures and ends at Bunker Hill where the first major battle of the war of independence was fought between the British Regulars and the rebels in 1775. History markers and plaques were everywhere set in the footpath and on every building making the tour very interesting even without a guidebook. I would love to see this in Brisbane some day.

Next month, on 10 December, we will be celebrating Separation Day and the launching of our wonderful 'Lost Brisbane' book, which every member should own. Please come if you can and bring a potential new member. Reserve your place with our manager, Christina on 3221 4198. I look forward to meeting with many of you then and in the New Year.

Regards,
Dean Prangley
President

Queensland News for November

News from around the State

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

Allora – The Allora and District Historical Society has been granted \$5128 from the Queensland

Anzac Centenary Community Grants program to publish a book about the lives of 50 men who died in World War I. Mr Colin Newport is a co-ordinator of the project and is seeking information (phone: 07 4696 4139). Five hundred copies of the book will be produced. (*Warwick Daily News* 11 November 2014 p.3)

Cooktown – Cooktown's first hospital was on allotment 6 of section 8, Parish of Cook, County of Banks – 125 Hope Street. It was established in March 1874. The building (26 x 20 feet) was of iron coated with a refrigerating agent. The walls were 14 feet high with a door at each end and there were four windows on each side. They were calico and opened on a pivot in the centre of the sill, top and bottom. It contained 12 stretchers. A Government Medical Officer was appointed. In 1878 the colonial government allocated £2000 for a permanent hospital. It was located further along Hope Street and was completed in 1879. Colonial architect, FDG Stanley, prepared the plans. The old building was extended and used as an Immigration Depot.

The Immigration Depot had closed by 1912 and the building was owned by Cooktown merchant, Alexander Clunn. The Clunn family arrived in Cooktown in 1878 and were general merchants, shopkeepers and hoteliers. They had business in New Guinea as general importers and ironmongers. The house was sold in 1924 to Cooktown's first female medical officer, Dr Laura Weir. She dealt with the scarlet fever outbreak at St Mary's Convent School in 1925. She was dismissed soon after following a dispute with the Hospital Board. She continued to own the building and let it out to other doctors including Dr Elliott, and the local butcher, Charles Summerfield in 1929. His sister, Kate Wilson and family also lived there. The Redmonds rented it later and ran *Hillcrest* Guesthouse over the street and Ma's Cafe during World War II. The house was demolished after the 1949 cyclone unroofed it. Jim and Olive Wilson have since bought the block and constructed a modern house. In 1989 they discovered a small brick furnace (buried) with assaying crucibles. (*Cooktown Local News* 18 September 2014 p.9 and 25 September 2014 p.9 including photographs; *Cooktown Courier* 18 April 1874)

Croydon - The Croydon Railway Station held a celebration on Saturday 8 November. A special Gulflander was timetabled to leave Normanton at midday that day for Croydon and return from Croydon the next day, departing at 10 am. There is also 'Croydon Lives' playback oral history is project 1. The 2001 Croydon Lives oral histories are one of 10 collections that will go live in November in the

One Search (State Library catalogue) for everyone in the world to hear - Croydon, these are your stories: Bert Hughes, The Hughes Family, Herbert 'Skeeter' Alexander, Jack Douglas, Nora Clarke, Margie Hughes, Margie Houston and Bert Hughes, The Miles Family, Valma Alexander, and Never Was a Ghost Town. (*North West Star*, Mount Isa, 29 Oct 2014 p.7)

Glen Aplin – The Glen Aplin Memorial Hall and Sports Club have been awarded \$1817 from the Queensland Anzac Centenary Community Grants Program. The grant will be utilised to create a World War I honour board and to purchase and erect a flag pole. (*Warwick Daily News* 11 November 2014 p.3)

Gympie – The first Salvation Army hall is to be auctioned. It was built in 1939. In 2003 it became a retail outlet – 'Daze Gone By' collection of antiques. (*Gympie Times* 6 September 2014 p.14 including photograph)

Palmer River Roadhouse, Palmer River, Cape York – Situated on the eastern edge of the Palmer Goldfield, it is owned and run by Andrew and Karen Stewart. They came from the *Latara* Resort in Georgetown and have been in the mining industry. The roadhouse has cabins but no mains electricity or mobile phone coverage. It has an extensive museum of artefacts of the Cape area which have been collected since the bridge opened over the Palmer River in the early 1970s. It has free entry. Donations of items to the museum are not encouraged as the Stewarts would like to see the items remain in situ. Visitors travel to Maytown from the roadhouse in 1½ hours. The Roadhouse also sells books including John Hay's new book on the history of the Coen Goldfield – for \$30. (*Cooktown Local News* 25 September 2014 p.5 including photograph)

Stanthorpe – New book: *Soldier Settlers of the Granite Belt: the Pikedale Soldier Settlement Scheme* by Lorene Long (published by Stanthorpe Historical Society) (256 pages, five appendices, illustrated, references in text, Price: \$50 at Stanthorpe Historical Society, or online at stanthorpemuseum@gmail.com for \$65 including postage). *Soldier Settlers of the Granite Belt: the Pikedale Soldier Settlement Scheme* by Lorene Long was launched at the Stanthorpe Museum on 11 November 2014 as part of the town's Remembrance Day commemoration. Around 60 people including descendants of original settlers attended in the late afternoon during welcome rain. The Shire Mayor and a former Deputy Mayor spoke of the local history stories and extensive primary research which Lorene had done over many years for the book. Lorene is President of the Stanthorpe Historical Society and is a museum curator. She said she found the history of the

settlement and the hardships endured confronting, noting that the settlement around Amiens outside Stanthorpe was well intentioned but ill-conceived and poorly administered. The settlement began in 1919 but by 1937 there were only 25 of the original 1000 settlers left because of failed crops, high interest payments, over capitalisation. The Queensland government through the Queensland Anzac Grants Centenary Program provided funding to print 1000 books. All proceeds of sales go to the Stanthorpe Historical Society. Two Royal Historical Society of Queensland Councillors, Lee Freeman and Ruth Kerr, attended the book launch. Jean Harslett a former Stanthorpe Historical Society President, a co-author of *They Came to a Plateau: the Stanthorpe Saga* and a Fellow of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland also attended. (*Southern Free Times* 6 November 2014 p.10, *Bush Telegraph* November 2014 p.14 enclosed with *Border Post*)

Research Report

We have had a very busy time in the research department, possibly feeling the effects of being one person down with the departure of Jean from our midst this month. Queries for the month have included the following: Joseph King of Spring Creek Station and Myall Creek Station; the Bourne family and WW1 service; John Palmer Wilson; Coorparoo Historical Society; St James' Primary School, Coorparoo; the Masonic Lodge; Archerfield Aerodrome for Brisbane art-deco buildings' project; Harris Catalogue in relation to Newstead House; the Pettigrew Diaries for a family history; material for an exhibition by the Brisbane Airport Corporation; family graves on a private property at Clifton; Qantas ticket No 1; redwood timber imports from USA; aeronautical display by Trade Coast Central; early railway administration with access to John Kerr's data base; Robert Edward Dix in relation to hotel licences; general Queensland history; Clifton Hill and the Moorooka area; successful identification of a misnamed Post Card of Teddington Weir, Maryborough; request for information on parents of Sana Solia, Samoan wife of Frank Jardine; indentured labour in Queensland; Moreton Bay penal colony and images of the *Kyarra* hospital ship and of a handkerchief from the Museum, a WWI artefact.

On Thursday 6 November Elizabeth Crawford, the Trusts and Foundations Officer from the Imperial War Museum, London, visited the Commissariat Store Museum to view the exhibition 'Call to Duty: Stories from the Great War' and to speak to the Research Officers in relation to the RHSQ collection of WW1 material and artefacts.

I would like to thank Judi Oliver for her valuable donation to our library of the references and notes on her research accumulated in relation to *The Experiment*, a paddle steamer built in Sydney in 1832, brought to Brisbane in 1846 to ply between Brisbane and Limestone (Ipswich), but which sank in the Brisbane River during a storm in 1848. A file has been created for access to this fascinating story.

Val Donovan
Honorary Research Officer

Book Review

Ellen Thomson: Beyond a reasonable doubt? by Vashti Farrer (Halstead Press, Australian Capital Territory, 136 pages)

While this book is worthy in that it records the historical fact of the execution of Ellen Thomson in 1887, the only woman to be hanged in Queensland, it lies more in the genre of historical fiction than history.

The author states that she has done extensive research into the life of Thomson, but admits that she found it difficult to ‘track down’ information and therefore relies heavily on assumptions. There are few references other than those embedded in the text such as for the *Brisbane Courier*, but facts such as the distribution of blankets to Aboriginals are readily available in official government documents. This detracts from the merit of the book, but this omission can possibly be overlooked as Farrer has gone to considerable length to place the sad story of Thomson’s life in the context of colonial history in northern Queensland in the late 1880s and the inadequacies of the Court system, which leave the reader with a doubt that justice was done in this case.

Val Donovan

When the Queen Came to Town, Follow up Message

When the Queen Came to Town, director Maurice Murphy’s anticipated feature documentary narrated by Bert Newton, Lorraine Bayly and the voices of everyday Australians, is opening in cinemas nationally from 27 November. Drawing on the 35 mm Technicolor cinema scope film footage and home movies shot by those who witnessed the pageantry and ceremony, we will recreate that time and reflect on how it touched the lives and fabric of Australian society.

The Queen’s maiden visit to Australia in 1954

marked the end of one era and the dawn of another. It was post-depression, post WWII, and pre TV, and Australians came in their millions to bask in the presence of a monarch. These memories and the footage captured are still vivid to this day.

For a glimpse of what is to come, follow this link to the documentary’s trailer: <http://www.umbrellaent.com.au/movie/when-the-queen-came-to-town/>

For more information contact Georgia White
Ph:+61 (0) 2 8333 9067; Fax: + 61 (0) 2 9212 4111

The Jo-Anne Duggan Prize 2015 Guidelines for entries

With the generous support of Kevin Bayley, The Colour Factory and the editorial committee of *Portal: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*, the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies (ACIS) invites submissions for the newly-established biennial Jo-Anne Duggan Essay Prize to be awarded for the first time in 2015.

Entries

Early career researchers, higher degree students and undergraduate students from Australasian institutions (see below on eligibility) are invited to submit either an essay of c 4,000 words **or** a creative work with exegesis of c 2,000 words on a topic relating to Italian culture, history or visual communication, based on one or a series of Jo-Anne Duggan’s photographic images from her exhibitions:

- ‘Wondrous Possessions’
- ‘Impossible Gaze’
- ‘Sites of Convergence’
- ‘Before the Museum’
- ‘Other Spaces’

Essay submissions should address works, themes or issues which inspired Jo-Anne Duggan or which she herself inspired.

The details of her exhibitions, exhibition catalogues, academic publications and curriculum vitae can be found on the website of **The Colour Factory** under ‘CF Gallery Artists in our stockroom’

Deadline for submission of entries is **1 March 2015**.
Eligibility

This competition is open to anyone who has been awarded a higher degree (PhD, MA or equivalent) from a university in Australia or New Zealand **since 1 January 2010** or is a **current** postgraduate or undergraduate student at an Australian or a New Zealand university.

Proof of previous or present attachment to an

Australasian university (copy of higher degree certificate for early career researcher or current enrolment for students) must be submitted with the entry.

The panel expects to announce its decision by

30 April 2015.

Further information

Queries and requests for further information should be addressed to:

Dr Malcolm Angelucci

University of Technology, Sydney

malcolm.angelucci@uts.edu.au or

Dr Catherine Dewhirst

University of Southern Queensland

catherine.dewhirst@usq.edu.au

New Members

Tania Burgess

Manly West

Oral History Queensland

Birkdale

Judith Stoddart

Carindale

Josef Hextall

Birtinya

Marita Bodman

Enoggera

Museum Report

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the nomination of Chair of the Museum Committee at the October Council meeting. The committee also consists of Michael Ward, Noel Fawkes, Graeme Nicholson and Jeff O'Mara.

One of my first jobs, in conjunction with my role on the Leichhardt Roundtable board, was to provide a guided tour on Wednesday 15 October 2014 to the great - great - great nephew of German explorer Ludwig Leichhardt, who is named after his famous uncle. Thank you to the Library and Museum teams for uncovering some very interesting items for Mr Leichhardt to look at relating to his ancestor, and to our Manager Christina Michie for all of her assistance both on the 15th and in the follow up visit and conversations. Mr Leichhardt was thrilled to be able to stand in a building that his ancestor would have also visited over 170 years ago – his visit provided a tangible link to the past. As a token of his thanks, Mr Leichhardt donated a signed map of his forebear's expeditions to the library.

Helen McMonagle
Museum Committee Chair

Members of RHSQ Committees

Awards Committee: Ruth Kerr, John Pearn, Stephen Sheaffe, Ian Hadwen

Boggo Road Gaol Advisory Committee Representative: Stephen Sheaffe

'Dig Tree' Advisory Committee: Carolyn Nolan (Chr), John Pearn, Ruth Kerr, Helen McMonagle

Exhibition Curator: *Vacant*

Grants Co-ordinator: Rebecca Ling, Che Aberdeen (Administration)

Hon. Editor of *Queensland History Journal* and Hon. Assistant Editors: Margaret Kowald (Hon. Ed.) and Val Donovan and Ruth Kerr (Hon. Asst. Eds)

Hon. Editor of *The RHSQ Bulletin*: Graeme Nicholson (Hon. Ed.), Marjorie Shackleton (Hon. Asst. Ed.)

John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction Committee: Dean Prangley (Chr), John Pearn, Carolyn Nolan

Library Manager: Ruth Kerr

Marketing and Communications: Dean Prangley (Chr), Jeff O'Mara, Nick Wall, Carolyn Nolan, Lee Freeman.

Membership Committee: Denver Beanland (Chr), Di Clancy, Ruth Kerr, Christina Michie, Dean Prangley

Museum Committee: Helen McMonagle, Graeme Nicholson, Mike Ward, Jeff O'Mara, Noel Fawkes

National Archives of Australian Brisbane Consultative Forum Representatives: Ruth Kerr, Carolyn Nolan

Special Events Committee - Che Aberdeen (Chr), Denver Beanland, Rebecca Ling, Maryanne Pender

The Northbank Heritage Precinct Representatives Committee was renamed the Queen's Wharf Road Precinct (Brisbane) Committee

Queen's Wharf Road Precinct (Brisbane) Committee: Carolyn Nolan, Denver Beanland, Dean Prangley, Che Aberdeen.

Program Committee: Carolyn Nolan (Chr), Maryanne Pender, Che Aberdeen, Judith Nissen, Ruth Kerr.

Publications Committee: Ruth Kerr (Chr), Margaret Kowald, Val Donovan, Carolyn Nolan, Graeme Nicholson

Website Manager: Nick Wall, Che Aberdeen (Executive Assistant).

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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
DECEMBER 2014

Wednesday 10 December - Separation Day Book
 Launch
Thursday 11 December - Council Meeting

JANUARY 2015

Thursday 8 January - Council Meeting
Thursday 15 January - *Bulletin* Deadline

YOUR WEDNESDAY SPEAKER FOR
DECEMBER

There will be no talk in December

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.