



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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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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Main photo: Trevor Bunning 2011
Insert: Howard Baker c1990

The Oldest Church Building in Queensland in Continuous Use

The first service of worship in Ipswich (then known as 'Limestone') was held on 28 January 1848. A congregation was established on 30 April of that year, and a simple timber chapel was opened on 30 July 1849. The present building, known originally as 'The Wesley Chapel, Ipswich' was opened in 1858, making it the oldest building in Queensland in continuous use as a church.

Geoffrey Cox

President's Report

A happy new year to all. Following the launch of 'Lost Brisbane' on Separation Day the demand from the public has been remarkable with the result that most of the stock has been sold; a reprint has been ordered, so I hope that you will be able to secure one. Reviews from the media have been very complimentary and reflect great credit on our editors for the enormous amount of effort they put in. This success has lifted the profile of our Society to new heights and has resulted in approaches for additional research work, which will be of significant benefit to the Society.

As Trustees for the Burke and Wills 'Dig Tree' we have been fortunate in securing a grant of \$20,000, which will ensure the continuing maintenance and general upkeep of this historical site. It is planned that members of the Society will travel to the site later this year to meet with representatives of the Bulloo Shire Council, Santos, Burke and Wills Society and the lessee of 'Nappa Merrie' Station who help maintain the site.

As a volunteer Society we very much depend on the income derived from our membership base to make ends meet. This year I would ask that you assist by bringing new members into the Society. If you know someone who would enjoy getting involved in our activities as a volunteer or just receiving our regular *Bulletin* and *Journal* please let Christina know at the office on 3221 4198 and she will post a membership form to you. There are a number of interesting activities and talks planned for this year which will interest you and we will keep you informed.

Thank you for your continued interest in your Society.

Regards,

Dean Prangley
President

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2015

JOHN DOUGLAS KERR MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

Nominations for the prestigious John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for research and writing Queensland or Australian history have opened. The award is made jointly by The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland). Nominations close on 31 March 2015. Nomination forms can be downloaded from:

www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr_Nom.pdf

Further information about the award can be found at:

www.queenslandhistory.org.au/JohnDKerr.html

Queensland News for December

News from around the state

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

Cecil Plains – The Cecil Plains History Group held the opening of the Railway Carriage at the Railway Station on 8 November 2014. It was opened by Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council, Paul Antonio. The railway was opened to Cecil Plains on 28 April 1919 and closed on 31 December 1993. The carriage MAS1473 was built in the early 1950s and operated on air conditioned passenger trains. The carriage was granted to the History Group in 2011 and it was transported to Cecil Plains using a grant from the Department of Environment. Kitty and Trevor Knowland were heavily involved in bringing the project to fruition. (*The Cecil Plains Crier* November 2014 p.1 including six photographs)

Gayndah Heritage Railway Trail plans to take over unused railway assets in the area. The group submitted proposals to Queensland Rail and was invited by Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney MP to develop its proposal to run a 16 km tourist railway between Reid's Creek and Mount Lawless. A business plan and sustainable financial plan are being developed. Insurance is included. (*Central & North Burnett Times* 8 January 2015 p.6 including photograph)

Herberton – The Herberton Historic Village has been recognised as the best heritage and cultural experience in Tropical North Queensland. In 2015 they intend to open *Elderslie* House to the public. (*Tablelander* 2 December 2014 p.5 including photograph)

Herberton – The Mining Museum situated on part of the Great Northern mine and battery site was started as a result of the enthusiasm of Harry Skennar (then owner of the Herberton Historic Village) and Jim Robinson (then Chairman of Herberton Shire Council). The site had been placed on the National Trust Heritage List in 1978 (recommended by then Councillor Janet Crump). The owner of the Great Northern land had died in 1992 and the descendants hoped to sell the land. When the tourism attractions in the Herberton area (Kalunga vineyards and the Historic Village had closed and RAILCO was having difficulties) Councillor Blue Stewart opened an information centre with a mining display in Grace Street. The Council purchased the Great Northern

land at a reasonable price and applied for grant funding for a tourism information building without success. Councillor Ivan Searston provided enormous support and energy for the project, including preparing grant applications. Grants were obtained to establish walking trails on the Great Northern land and they were opened by the Minister for The Arts and Sport in February 2003. Four thousand people, including locals, used them each year. The Council obtained Commonwealth government funding for a tourism centre and museum building, which was opened on 21 May 2005. Cyclone *Larry* destroyed the historic structures on the Great Northern site but Commonwealth government funding was obtained to restore them according to heritage principles. They were restored to a stronger structural standard than they were before. The mining museum also has archival records storage. The museum is owned by the Tablelands Regional Council and the records are made available for research. (North Queensland Miner's [sic] Association Inc *Miner's Right* September 2014 p.6)

Mareeba – The Historical Society has received a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant for preservation of glass plate negatives featuring World War I including Gallipoli. The glass plates were donated in 1995. The glass plate negatives have been cleaned and stored. The Society will have an exhibition from April 2015. The Society received assistance from the conservator of the Museum of Tropic Queensland. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 5 December 2014 p.2 including photograph)

Maryvale, just west of Cunningham's Gap, has a church, hotel and school and a small number of houses. The original pastoral station was taken up by John Cameron in October 1843. It was transferred to James Hay and then Arnold Weinholt in August 1848. St Alban's Anglican Church was opened in April 1913. A school was held in the building from 21 April 1913 until 7 June 1913. The first Maryvale Hotel was licensed from 1862 and a town reserve was established in 1863. Maryvale station was purchased by the Queensland government and opened to land selection. The railway opened to Maryvale on 30 September 1911 and closed on 31 October 1960. The Queensland Women's Historical Association placed a plaque at St Alban's Church on 13 April 1963. (Personal visit on 11 November 2014)

Rocky Creek near Tolga – The Rocky Creek igloo restoration is being funded by the Rotary Club of Atherton. It is expected to take two years and it will be used as a World War II museum. The igloo was once the social hall for the nearby hospital. Frank Frazer and his wife, Ellen, and children Bill, Sue,

Colin and John lived there after the war. Frank wove cane chairs for Ansett Airlines and the RSL. (*Tablelander* 2 December 2014 p.2 including photograph)

Rosedale -The railway was opened to Rosedale from North Bundaberg on 1 July 1892 as part of the railway to Gladstone. For many years the station and platform were the loading point of heavy material such as timber. The station had a Railway Refreshment Room. Rosedale woman Fiona McLean bought the former station master's house and spent 18 months renovating it. She has been running the Tiny Tea House there as a cafe for three years. The cafe pays tribute to railway history through more than just its building, which is more than 100 years old. Its owner has decorated it with railway memorabilia such as an old train guard's uniform from about the 1920s, railway relics, old photographs and articles and photos of the tilt train crash in November, 2004, which came as a huge shock to the town. The Tiny Tea House remains a gathering point for conversation about Rosedale's industrial and railway past. (*News Mail*, Bundaberg 15 Nov 2014 p.44)

Toowoomba – Russell and Sons Machinery Agents featured in *Rural Weekly* on 14 November 2014. The three generations have been William John Russell, Doug Russell and John Russell. When the firm began in 1934 at the corner of Russell and Railways Streets it was known as Alfa Laval Separator Company and focussed on the dairy industry. Doug Russell changed the name to Russell & Sons. Today the business operates through the third generation – John, Graham, Malcolm and Barry. The company has adapted according to changes in the dairy industry and also sells pumping equipment. The firm celebrated its 80th anniversary with a party on 15 November. (Toowoomba *Chronicle* 14 November 2014 *Rural Weekly* p.35 including four photographs)

Winton, which contributed one of Australia's highest per capita World War I enlistments, will host a special delegation in 2015 from namesake Winton, New Zealand, honouring the trans-Tasman Anzac link. The story of a young farm hand from Winton's *Bladensburg* Station, who signed up at 18 and joined the first convoy to the Great War will be a feature. Private Colin Morgan-Reade of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment arrived under fire at Anzac Cove on 12 May 1915 – the youngest in his troop. On May 30, Colin was killed-in-action. In conjunction with the 2015 Angel Flight Outback Trailblazer charity tour, Winton's centenary salute will begin on Anzac eve with a campfire dinner hosted by the Kernaghans on the site where Colin Morgan-Reade lived and worked before enlisting. The large-scale outback Anzac

centenary celebration is being mounted through collaboration by Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) working with Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, the Winton community and Mates4Mates, the charity initiated by RSL Queensland.

Winton, which now has a population of only about 900, was able to send 570 young men to the Great War because the area had a large rural labour force. One hundred and one of them – including Private Colin Morgan-Reade did not return. Colin will be represented at the centenary events by his great grand niece, Jenny Milson of Longreach. Her grandfather Colin Milson, named after his Anzac digger uncle, went on to be a Wing Commander and a decorated RAAF airman in World War II.

The town will take on a wartime period atmosphere with former and serving ADF personnel and Light Horse Troop members in uniform, and Trailblazers and Troop Train guests in military-style costumes. Celebrations will culminate in an Anzac Day progressive dinner dance, starting at the Waltzing Matilda Centre, moving to the North Gregory Hotel for a re-enactment of the 1895 first performance of *Waltzing Matilda*, and winding up at Winton's Shire Hall Supper Room. A new exhibit 'More Than Just A Name' honouring the Anzac legend will open at the Waltzing Matilda Centre during the centenary week. The display mounted by the Winton community under the stewardship of former mayor Bruce Collins will remain open until the 100th anniversary of the November 11, 1918, World War I armistice.

The lead-up week will include:

Sunday, 19 April – More than 60 vehicles in the 2015 Angel Flight Outback Trailblazer depart Quilpie, bound for Winton, travelling via Birdsville, Barcoo and Diamantina.

Tuesday, 21 April – A Queensland Rail Travel 'Troop Train' departs Brisbane with dignitaries on board led by Air Vice-Marshal Bill Collins AO (retired), to be met by the town band at Longreach, where passengers will stay before transfer to Winton.

Wednesday, 22 April – A convoy of vintage military vehicles will form up in Toowoomba to be joined by others, including a motorcycle and sidecar, Blitz truck and Bren gun carrier, en route to Winton.

Thursday, 23 April – Civic leaders from Winton, NZ, including that district's Deputy Mayor Councillor Paul Duffy and area Councillor Lyall Bailey, will depart Christchurch for Winton via Brisbane.

Friday, 24 April – Representing all three ADF services, 10 serving personnel will fly out of

Brisbane under control of Wing Commander Bruce Graham from RAAF Base Amberley, to participate in Winton's Anzac weekend. (*Queensland Country Life*, 13 November 2014, page 45)

Research Report

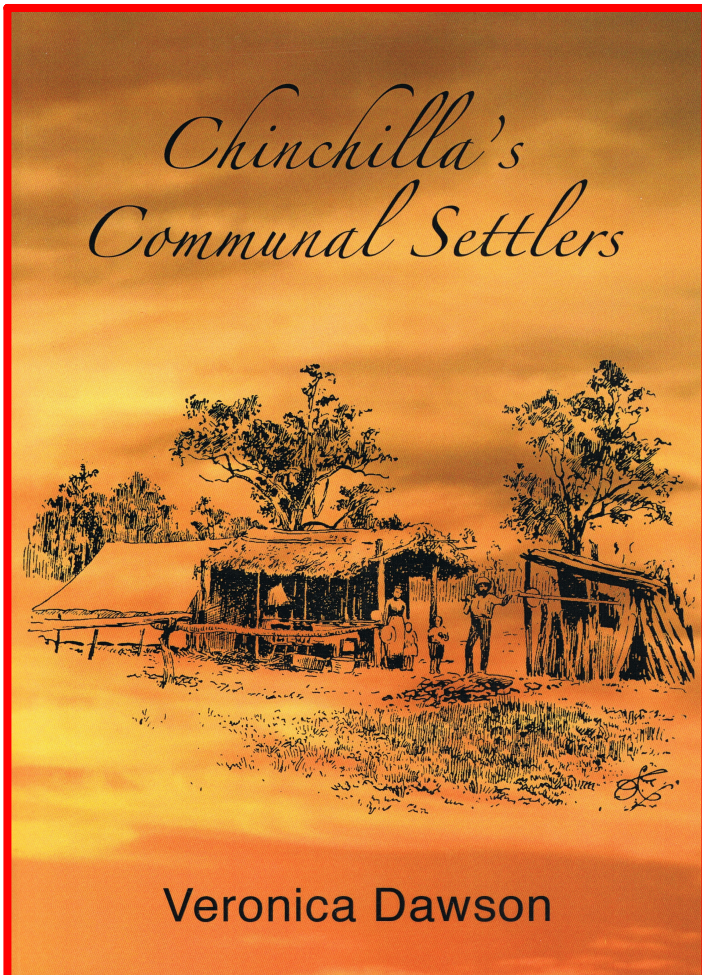
Last year was a busy one for the research team, with inquiries escalating as the year progressed. Queries were received, not only from within Queensland or even within Australia, but often from overseas destinations. These included information: on the Right Honourable Hume Black; the James Hardie factory at Meeandah, Qld; information and photos on Judge George Rogers Harding; a Scots family named Hunter who migrated to Nanango c1849; to establish the recipient of mail from Port Moresby to Brisbane, 1891; on history of a property at 40 Bellevue Parade, Paddington; on 1890s workers' cottages, East Brisbane; photographs for a project in the western suburbs of Darra, Oxley, Corinda and Sherwood relating to the Queensland Cement and Lime Powerhouse site; on a historic well at a property in Granville Street; and about Arthur TD Berrington, thought to be buried in the Toowong Cemetery. This was successfully referred to the Friends of the Toowong Cemetery. The queries included one from the Australian War Memorial for diaries and letters relating to Gallipoli during WW1; advice relating to the history and restoration of photographs dating from 1888 of the Booroodabin Bowls Club; identification of an image of two small bronze figures thought to be on the fountain in King George Square; request for assistance for a documentary being organised on the Commissariat Store; information on the history of a house in MacGregor Terrace, Bardon; on Private Phillip Stephenson/Stevenson and wife Ellen, of 57th Regiment of Foot in Moreton Bay 1828 to 1830; origin of the name for Beeston Street, Teneriffe; request to publish an image from RHSQ collection for a novel based on the story of Narcisse Pelletier; and information on Edward Barron Forrest in relation to the provenance of images; and request for photographs, if held, on Duncan Street, especially in relation to the shop of a tobacconist/hairdresser – three of the latter requests were received on 22, 24 and the 25 December – so the research team is kept on its toes! The New Year presented with a request for research on the effects of the 1974 floods on roads at Fernvale.

Personal research was conducted in the Library for a project by the Museum of Brisbane; on the Mayne Inheritance; on domestic servants in Qld; the history of Yeronga; and the School of Arts, Ann

Street, Brisbane. Happy New Year to all associated with the RHSQ.

Val Donovan
Honorary Research Officer

A New History Book



Following is the Foreword written by RHSQ member Bill Metcalf, which introduces a new history book by Veronica Dawson:

‘Queensland has a rich, complex and, in many ways, quirky history. One of those particularly quirky and little-known aspects of our history is that during the 1890s Queensland had well over 2000 people living in government-sponsored communes! Three of these communes were near Gayndah, three near Roma, two near Gympie, one near Springsure, another near Barcaldine – and three near Chinchilla.

Veronica Dawson has spent years researching those three near Chinchilla: *Mizpah*, *Industrial* and *Monmouth*. They were very different: Most *Mizpah* members were Salvation Army members from Brisbane; many *Monmouth* members were Roman

Catholics from Ipswich; while *Industrial* commune started off as a Union-sponsored project. But all members were the same in aspiring to live together in communal harmony, avoiding capitalist problems such as poverty and unemployment.

Veronica’s family were founding communards at *Mizpah* in 1893, and after the commune collapsed her family remained on the land, retaining the name *Mizpah* for their farm. Veronica grew up surrounded by tales from her grandparents and other elderly people who had been children on this would-be utopian commune.

Chinchilla’s Communal Settlers results from Veronica’s many years of painstaking research not only into the land-use, newspaper reports and government archival history of *Mizpah*, *Monmouth* and *Industrial*, but also into members’ family and oral histories. She has tracked down detailed information about almost all the communards, and has located many descendants and their photographic records. These human stories add colour and emotional depth to her excellent narrative.

I have known Veronica Dawson for twenty or more years as we both worked at Griffith University. Over that time she has developed and honed her historical research skills. We have co-operated on research into Queensland’s communal history; I have been at the sites of these communes and Veronica’s family’s old farm; I have seen the graves of the original communards; but when I read *Chinchilla’s Communal Settlers* I learned ever so much more.

Chinchilla’s Communal Settlers is well-written, carefully indexed, well-illustrated with photos, sketches and maps, and is a very accessible and readable account of one of the strangest episodes in Queensland history.

Veronica Dawson has made a valuable contribution to Queensland’s social history, particularly to the history of the Darling Downs, and to the history of utopian communal experiments. Her book can be read as a scholarly text, as local and/or family history – or just for the enjoyment of her excellent writing.

I highly recommend *Chinchilla’s Communal Settlers* to discerning readers.’

Bill Metcalf

This book is available for \$30 from the author by emailing: veronica.dawson@bigpond.com

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS FEBRUARY 2015

Wednesday 11 February - Talk 12.30 pm
 'From Caledonia to Capricorn: The Scots as
 Rockhampton Community Builders 1860 to 1902'
 Margaret Shield
Thursday 12 February - Council Meeting
Sunday 15 February - *Bulletin* deadline

YOUR WEDNESDAY SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY

Margaret Shield's forebears emigrated from Scotland to Rockhampton. She has taught Japanese in Brisbane schools for many years, holds a Doctor of Education degree and is undertaking further research into the role of not-for-profit community organisations in the development of central Queensland.

Contact details:

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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

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