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Governor of Queensland

President: Dean Prangley

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US Army Signal Corps photograph via Ovid Di Fiore

Newstead House during WWII

'Newstead, named after Newstead abbey in Nottinghamshire was built in 1846 for Patrick Leslie of Darling Downs, on a knoll overlooking the junction of [the] Brisbane River and Breakfast Creek. It originally stood in 17 acres of land which was bought for £37.10.0. Between 1847 and 1859 it was the residence of Leslie's brother-in-law Captain John Clements Wickham, who, as government Resident of New South Wales, was charged with the general interest of government within Moreton Bay...'

The above is an excerpt from a talk given at Newstead House on 24 October 1974 by Society member G G Luttrell

President's Report

Dear Members,

Thank you to all those members who came to the Founders Day celebrations on Wednesday 13 May. We had over fifty people attend to hear Kay Cohen talk on the preparation and collation of photos and written descriptions of the 'Lost Brisbane' book which has been such a success. The reprint of the book has now been delivered to our office and is available for sale.

Following Kay's talk, John Pearn discussed the history of the landing by Captain Henry Miller on the North bank of the Brisbane river in May 1825. The Society had a good response from the media with the ABC, 4BC and QUT radio reporting the event.

The Dig Tree trip in June is now fully booked with 18 members ready to follow in the footsteps of Burke and Wills. I will report on the trip in due course.

The call for new members has resulted in several application forms being sent out. Thank you all for your support. Please keep them coming; we need the strength of our members to continue our work.

We have an important event on the Saturday 6 June; our Queensland Day dinner and the presentation of the John Kerr Medal to an outstanding historian. This will be held in the evening at the Commissariat Store. Please advise the office of your attendance.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Society.

Dean Prangley
President

Queensland News for May

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

Annan River Bridge south of Cooktown - The bridge which is under the control of Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads was constructed from 1886 to 1889 using a design by John Henry Daniels, Engineer for Bridges. It is a plate girder and screw pile bridge. GH Royce and Co, Sydney and London, were the contractors. W Robertson's Victoria Foundry in Mackay prefabricated the ironwork along with a London foundry and this was landed in Cooktown on 29 July 1886. (Series of letters to editor in *Cooktown Local News* 28 August 2014 and 11 September 2014 p.2)

Atherton - On 4 May 2015 the Queensland Heritage Council received a nomination for heritage listing of the Atherton Performing Arts Centre (a World War II Igloo) at 6 Silo Street, Atherton. There

has been extensive and energetic debate in northern newspapers and within the Tablelands Regional Council about the use and possible relocation of the igloo so that the shopping centre car park may be extended. The Performing Arts Association has sought a new lease from the Department of Natural Resources under the *Land Act 1994* and the Tablelands Regional Council has supported that (on the casting vote of the Mayor). The igloo, which has a steel frame, was utilised at Tolga during the war and then moved in to Atherton for use with the peanut silos (since demolished and the area used for a car park). Society members and others may make a submission to the Queensland Heritage Council at Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or by email to: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au

A copy of the application can be viewed on the Queensland Government website at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/

Under the Act, there is scope to extend the time to make a submission. If you require such an extension, please contact Sean O'Keeffe, A/Principal Heritage Officer on telephone 07 3330 5837 before **17 June 2015**. (*Tablelander* 31 March 2015 p.8, 7 April 2015 pp.5,10; *Mareeba Express* 1 April 2015 p.4)

Brisbane Central Railway Station - Interesting insights into Brisbane Central Station's past have been uncovered as part of works to upgrade the station's underground subway. Masonry, believed to be from an original entrance way, an early station sign and wall linings, colour schemes and tiles believed to date back to 1901 have been located by the project team as they removed the 1980s subway lining. Queensland Rail Senior Manager Heritage and Society member, Greg Hallam said the subway was the oldest part of Central station and the historic items were an extraordinary discovery. The first Central station opened on 18 August 1889 and was originally a simple timber and galvanised iron building with just two passenger platforms. 'Tenders to build the current Central Station were called in 1899 for just £42,163 and after many changes the station we know today was officially opened almost a century later in 1984.' 'In 1930 the station subway, now used by thousands of customers daily, was extended under Ann Street to Anzac Square.' The historic findings at Central Station will be preserved in glass cabinets to later become part of the new and improved station subway. (*Railway Digest National* April 2015 p.18)

Buderim - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the

Queensland Heritage Council resolved not to enter the Telco Road Stump (extension to Palmwoods to Buderim Tramway Track foundation and formwork remains on the Queensland Heritage Register. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Bundaberg - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter the Bundaberg Central State School, 13 Crofton Street, Bundaberg on the Queensland Heritage Register as it satisfies criteria a,d,e and g as specified in section 35(1) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Charters Towers - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter Charters Towers Central State School, 39-47 High Street, Charters Towers on the Queensland Heritage Register as it satisfied criteria a,d,f and g of section 35(1) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Cloncurry - John Flynn Place, Cloncurry, a museum commemorating the beginnings of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, and including interactive exhibits was officially opened by the Honourable Tim Fischer, AC a former chair of Frontier Services Board, on 15 April. The first exhibit 'Honouring Outback Heroes', was sponsored by the Anzac Centenary Queensland grants program. It focuses on four remarkable Australians who served in the First World War and contributed to improving the quality of life in the Outback, through either the Australian Inland Mission or its medical offshoot, the Flying Doctor Service. In November 1917 Clifford Peel, a young medical student then serving in the Australian Flying Corps, wrote to John Flynn, the Mission's founder, proposing that aviation be used to bring medical help to the Inland. Enthused by the letter, Flynn published it a year later in the Mission's magazine *The Inlander*. Sadly, Peel had been shot down over France while on a reconnaissance mission and was never to know that his visionary scheme would become a blueprint for the Flying Doctor Service.

The other heroes honoured in the exhibit served in both distant battlefields and the Outback. Padre Jim Stevens of the Mission's Pilbara Patrol (Western Australia), a veteran of the Boer War, enlisted again in the First World War as an army chaplain. After

serving at Gallipoli, Reverend Stevens was attached to the Australian Infantry Brigade in France. In February 1917 he was hit by a shell at Bapaume, resulting in serious injuries. Though invalided to England, he was unable to recover from his wounds and died several months later.

Grace Francis, who also served in France, managed to survive the war to become one of the Australian Inland Mission's best known nursing sisters. A staff nurse of the Australian Army Nursing Service, she served in British and Australian military hospitals treating battlefield casualties, experience that would equip her well for outback work. From 1923 to 25 Sister Francis was a foundation sister of the Mission's Birdsville Hospital (Queensland) and from 1932 to 33 served at its Victoria River Downs Hospital (Northern Territory).

Eric Donaldson, a pioneer pilot of the Flying Doctor Service, learnt his flying skills as a member of the Royal Flying Corps. Though a Queenslander, he travelled to England in 1915 to enlist there. Donaldson became one of the RFC's most reliable Bristol Fighter pilots. Wounded twice in air battles, he was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross. Later as a Flying Doctor pilot, he served in western Queensland from 1931 to 1937, based at Cloncurry.

Besides the Anzac Centenary exhibit, John Flynn Place will be launching other exhibits in April. 'John Flynn's Magic Lantern Slide show' will bring to life Flynn's old projector with a slide show featuring his own photographs. 'Remembering Birdsville's Sister Gilbert' will recall a tragic episode in the early days of the Birdsville Hospital. 'Wings over the Inland' will record the various types of aircraft used by the Flying Doctor Service in Queensland over many decades. Later this year the last of the interactive exhibits will open, creating an Outback Theatre in the museum's basement.

All these exhibits have been organised by the Friends of John Flynn Place through the untiring efforts of its Honorary Secretary, Mrs Christine McDonald, OAM of *Devoncourt* Station, Cloncurry, and have been made possible by generous sponsorship. Other sponsors besides the Anzac Centenary program include Glencore, BHP Billiton, the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, and the Everalld Compton Charitable Trust. The exhibition curator is Dr Judith McKay, the daughter of a former outback padre. Production has been undertaken by the Brisbane graphics firm ToadShow Pty Ltd.

The press release on this event is at: <http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2015/04/15/4216737.htm>; <http://www.northqueenslandregister.com.au/n>

[ews/agriculture/rural-lifestyle/](http://www.northweststar.com.au/story/ews/agriculture/rural-lifestyle/)
<http://www.northweststar.com.au/story/>

Dalby – On 8 December 2014 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society that an application was made to remove Dalby Town Council Chambers and former Offices from the Queensland Heritage Register on 26 November 2014. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Gympie - The Valley Rattler Volunteer Association was formalised on 29 April following its first official meeting. Immediate aims are to reopen the workshops in Gympie, commencement of fund raising activity to raise funds for boiler repairs on locomotive #967 and starting the clearance of vegetation on the track corridors with the help of the Mary Valley communities. Meanwhile, the former Newman government's pledge of \$2 million for track repairs and an additional \$600,000 for rolling stock remains in doubt with the new Labor government yet to commit to the payment.

The Rattler company is also planning a museum at the Imbil railway station as a viable destination for visitors and residents. The plan also involves a lower cost upgrading of the track, to the stage where it could carry the company's 'Silver Bullet' rail motor, if not the much heavier steam locomotive. The steam train may go as far as Amamoor with the rail motor going the remainder of the way. An unauthorized golf course close to the Imbil railway station is to be closed. (*Gympie Times* 29 April 2015 p.3 and 1 May 2015 p.5)

Hervey Bay - A Letter to the Editor in the *Hervey Bay Independent* of 23 April 2015 (page 30) refers to the proposed draft amendment allowing the removal of the Pialba Railway Station and Memorial Hall and Cenotaph in order to allow for privately-owned high-rise apartments on what is currently publicly-accessible land. This area has been known locally as the 'Gateway to The Bay'. A protest meeting was held and a petition commenced. (*Hervey Bay Independent* of 23 April 2015 pp. 30,38)

Longreach - Qantas Founders Museum has obtained another aeroplane for the museum, a Super Constellation N427K. It has been purchased at auction and comes from the Philippines where it was grounded for 25 years. Its career was with the United States Air Force and later transported cargo for World Fish and Agriculture Inc. The Constellations were used by Qantas on the 'Kangaroo Route' to London from 1947 and flew the first Qantas trans-Pacific air service in 1954 and the first regular round the world air service in 1958. The museum is arranging corporate support for the project of bringing the plane

to Longreach. The museum hopes to complete the project by the end of 2015. (*Longreach Leader* 10 April 2015 p.5 including photograph)

Maryborough - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter the Albert State School, 210-220 Albert Street, Maryborough in the Queensland Heritage Register as it satisfies criteria a,d,e and g of section 35(1) in the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Millmerran - Work on the relocation of the railway station and cream shed to the Millmerran Museum began on April 20. The historical society and Toowoomba Regional Council are working jointly on the project towards the establishment of a tourist information centre in the historic railway station building at the museum complex. The Millmerran Museum is located at 24 Charlotte Street. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 24 April 2015 p.16)

Mount Tamborine - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved not to enter Knoll Road and Old Knoll Road, North Tamborine, Mount Tamborine in the Queensland Heritage Register. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Redbank - The Redbank Mile Post located on the Brisbane to Ipswich Road outside the Redbank Railway Station has been replaced by a replica as part of Ipswich City Council's Historical Marker project. Councillor Paul Tully has promoted the project in recognizing local heritage. The mile post was one of two remaining mile posts in Ipswich. From the marker it was seven and a half miles to Ipswich and 17 miles to Brisbane. A new plaque had also been installed next to the mile post with details of its historical significance. The first main road from Brisbane to Ipswich followed the alignment of Brisbane Terrace through Goodna, over the railway bridge and along Brisbane Road through Redbank. (*Queensland Times* 18 April 2015 p.8)

Toowong - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter Toowong State School, 50 Quinn Street, Toowong in the Queensland Heritage Register as it satisfies criteria a,d and g as specified in section 35(1) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Toowoomba - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection advised the Society on 5 December 2014 that on 28 November 2014 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to remove part of Toowoomba Maltings complex at 11 Mort Street Newtown from the Queensland Heritage Register because that part no longer satisfies criteria a,b,d,e,f and h of s.35(1) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 12 December 2014)

Woodford - Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society (ANGRMS) has been successful in obtaining a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant for just under the maximum available of \$35,000 towards purchase and delivery of a 20 m x 12 m locomotive shed. It will have three tracks and be able to hold the majority of ANGRMS's locomotive fleet. The grant will cover half the cost of the basic shed to lock up stage. Concrete floors, electricity etc can be added later. The ANGRMS's Board considers this shed a high priority. All the rolling stock presently located at the site has to be relocated, and the tracks removed and stored for return later. (*Durundur Railway Bulletin* {ANGRMS} May/June 2015 p.3)

New Members

John Huth	Wilston
Roger Beams	Carina Heights
Shauna Hicks	Bribie Island
Lorene Wong	Stanthorpe
Roshan de Silva-Wijeyeratne	Teneriffe

Research Report

The library continues to buzz on Thursdays, keeping all hands on deck. We have had inquiries relating to: a Coolangatta image that appeared in *Lost Brisbane*, seeking permission to copy; a further request for the use of the Narcisse Pelletier images for a function to be held in his home town in France; assistance identifying the location of the City View Hotel in Spring Hill in the 1960-70s; information on the Green Corner Garden in Ashgrove; images of homes in Cooparoo; information on specific sites in Cooparoo; research for the Colmslie project; more information on Brisbane fires; history of Bebo; images for the Seniors' Newspaper; history of a house at 25 Mayhew Street, Sherwood; request for picture of Sarah (Boulton) Taylor, wife of James Taylor; further information on the Colmslie Project; map and planning history of 'golden beach estate', Noosa; and research and plans of Mt Crosby Weir, and information on Brisbane Grammar School. In the April report the research mentioned in relation to indentured labour was erroneously attributed to

Indian labour instead of Sri Lankan. My apologies for this error.

Visitors have included a student from the UK who is researching the horse racing industry in Queensland; a woman who now owns the home *Stromness* which appeared in *Lost Brisbane*, and which prompted her to visit the library to obtain a copy of the photograph showing details that the owners were not aware of; visitors from the Greek community regarding writing their history; researcher requesting a copy of the Cooparoo house, *Erica*, photographer taking a picture of a WWI panorama and research on the Welsby Diaries relating to information in *Lost Brisbane*.

Val Donovan
Honorary Research Officer

A New History Book

Tom Freeman's new book: *Gold Expedition to Stannary Hills: the epic journey of Christina and Joseph Wilesmith* (Published by Tom Freeman, Middle Park Queensland, March 2015) (200 pages, index, biblio., illus., glossary ISBN978 0 9942397 0 9) was launched on 18 April 2015 was launched at the Yeronga RSL Club by John Seary and Ruth Kerr. There was a large audience consisting of descendents and historians.

The book describes how Joseph and Christina Wilesmith travelled overland from Brisbane to Bowen in 1867 and were among the first at the Gilbert River Goldfield in 1869. They moved to the Etheridge Goldfield in 1873 and onto the Hodgkinson Goldfield in 1877. With the discovery of tin at Herberton and Western (Watsonville), Christina was soon at Watsonville with Joseph and her seven children. The Wilesmith's oldest child, George, was born in Brisbane in 1866, the other six were all born on the family's great trek to and through North Queensland.

For the past seven years Tom Freeman has undertaken a great deal of research following Christina from the time she arrived in Brisbane aboard the *Flying Cloud* until her final days at Watsonville in 1909.

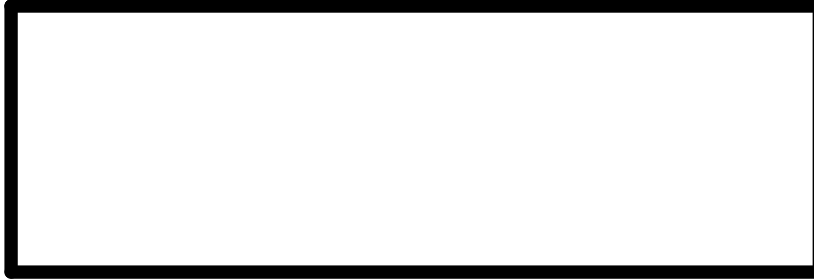
On sale for \$25 from Tom Freeman, RHSQ member.
Email: trfreeman58@gmail.com

Ruth Kerr

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
JUNE 2015

Saturday 6 June -Queensland Day dinner
Wednesday 10 June - Talk 12.30 pm
 ‘The History of Archibald Campbell Macmillan (1840 -
 1905)’
 Bill Kitson
Thursday 11 June - Council Meeting
Monday 15 June - *Bulletin* deadline

YOUR WEDNESDAY SPEAKER FOR
JUNE

Bill Kitson is the retired curator of the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying and co-author of *Surveying Queensland 1839-1945: A Pictorial History*. Bill traces the history of Archibald Campbell Macmillan (1840-1905), whose influence on the development of North Queensland is fundamental and diverse. Macmillan, Engineer of Roads for North Queensland, surveyed and located many of the early roads and bridges of the area, supervised the construction of the Cardwell to Normanton Telegraph line in 1869, found the track from Cooktown to the Palmer River Gold Fields in 1873, and much more.

Contact details:

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