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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

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

Smokey the War Dog (Photos and text by Nigel Allsopp)



A statue of a general on horseback rears up in just about every major city in the world, but when it comes to other acknowledgements for animals that contributed to our war efforts, dogs always seem to be forgotten. A small 4 lb Yorkshire Terrier, no bigger than an army helmet, but with the heart of a lion has not only been forgotten for her exploits during WWII, but was not even acknowledge in the first place. Her name is Smokey.

Smokey has several books published and memorials dedicated in her adopted home in the United States where her partner and best friend William Wynne, or 'Bill' as he likes to be called, lives. Smokey, popularised in Wynne's book *Yorkie Doodle Dandy*, went home with Wynne after the WWII and died in 1957 at age 14.

Smokey was born and sold within 200 metres of General MacArthur's Headquarters, at a Brisbane veterinary clinic in 1943 and her path would cross with him on many occasions. She was purchased for £2 (at the time about US \$6.44) as a Christmas present by an Artillery Officer for his fiancée a United States Army nurse, Lt Grace Guderian. The couple were heading out on missions in New Guinea that same week.

Alas, like so many war time romances went, this one did not turn out and for an assortment of reasons Smokey was found cold and wet in a foxhole in the jungles of New Guinea. She was adopted by Bill who was on the crew of the 26th Reconnaissance Team, 5th Army Air Force whose planes shadowed General MacArthur around the Pacific. With little else to do in his spare time in the jungle, Bill proceeded to train Smokey in obedience and tricks and she soon appeared in the YANK Magazine as Champion Mascot of the South West Pacific Area. She went through the war surviving on terrible food not fit for dog or man, tropical heat, air raids, kamikaze attacks at sea, flying combat missions and island hopping until the war's end.

Bill returned to Australia as part of these missions on regular occasions. He was always worried about bringing Smokey into Australia not knowing what the quarantine rules might be so he hid her in his knapsack along the way. On one of his many back and forth trips from Brisbane to New Guinea, Bill came down with Dengue Fever and whilst in the hospital at Nadzab two Army nurses saw Smokey and asked if they got permission from the Commanding Officer would Bill mind if Smokey went around the wards to cheer servicemen up. The Commanding Officer said it would be fine and Smokey slept on Bill's bed at night while each morning she went off on her rounds until she was brought back at night; this went on for a week until Bill was released to return to his Squadron. It was here that Smokey became the first therapy dog on record (Animal Planet research).

The 233rd Station Hospital in Nadzab, New Guinea in 1944 was commanded by Major Dr Charles W Mayo of the world famous Mayo Clinic of Rochester, Minnesota. The Mayo Clinic is so advanced in medical science that it is no wonder Dr Mayo could see the value of Smokey making rounds with him.

When Bill received a 15 day convalescent furlough to Coolangatta, Queensland, he took Smokey as he just didn't trust leaving the little dog with anyone else for such a long time. Stopping at the American Red Cross in Brisbane Bill decided to stay there for his leave after they asked him to take Smokey to the US 109th Fleet Hospital and the 42nd General Hospital. The Australian Army Surgical Unit was part of these establishments and both these hospitals contained Australian and American troops. They were on the site of what is today the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Bill and Smokey travelled up and down many wards at each hospital and performed Smokey's tricks to the wounded. The men followed them around to other wards and many wanted to carry her on their wheel chairs. Not readily identified at the time Smokey was in fact pioneering the work of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) dogs.

Smokey is often seen in photos wearing a blanket. This blanket was fashioned into a wrap around coat for the dog and is yet another Australian connection as the blanket was made in Townsville in 1944 by volunteer Australian Red Cross workers from a piece of wool felt card table cover. Bill and Smokey had come from New Guinea and even in tropical Queensland they were cold due to their time in the jungle. Bill said to me the US Army issued them six woollen blankets to keep warm, but Smokey was still shivering. Later, due to the cold this time caused by altitude Smokey wore this same designer blanket on combat missions whilst flying in Catalinas on Air Sea Rescue missions and again during bombing strikes on Borneo Oil Fields, against industrial plants in the lower Philippines from September to December 1944.



Smokey in uniform



Bill and Smokey

Apart from this achievement Smokey was a real life hero. When back in the Pacific theatre during the Luzon Campaign Smokey was called for a task which would make her a war dog. Bill's unit and its sister Photo Squadrons, the 25th Photo Reconnaissance, the 20th Combat Mapping Squadron and the 3rd Emergency Rescue Squadron (with whom Smokey had flown 12 combat missions) were stationed on the island as part of a force to retake the US airfield. A Japanese task force had invaded the island again and US Infantry and Combat Engineers had to retake Japanese strongholds to drive the Japanese from the island. If this was to be done

aircraft specialists would be needed to bolster the area and good communications were vital. It was therefore critical that connecting phone lines be laid under the island's taxi way.

Communications Sergeant Bob Gapp appeared at Bill's tent studying Smokey seriously. He then asked Bill if he thought Smokey could pull a string through a culvert 70 feet long and 8 inches in diameter. He explained that using Smokey would save at least three days' work for a detail of men to dig up the only taxi way leading to the protected area where P-38 Lightnings, P-51 Mustang fighters and P-61 Black Widow Night Fighters were parked. If the wire laying was done by hand via digging, it was estimated to take at least three days, men would be exposed to enemy fire and all planes would have to be moved to another airfield to keep them operational, again putting both men and planes at high risk. The solution was to use Smokey to crawl under the airfields steel matting.

The steel matted taxi way crossed over a culvert which allowed drainage to pass along a creek bed. Looking by flashlight Bill could see 4 inch high piles of sifted sand every 4 feet at overlapping corrugated steel sections. Just enough room for Smokey to get under. So an agreement was reached with Gapp who promised a crew would quickly dig Smokey out if somehow she become wedged in the culvert. Bill set Smokey at the far side of the pipe ordering her to 'sit and stay'. Gapp would feed the communication wire at the opening," checking its progress. At the far end, peering through, Bill ordered Smokey to 'come', repeating every few seconds, to Bill it seemingly took forever, Bill yelled to Gapp 'Is she still coming?' -'Yeh! I'm still feeding line!' he replied. Bill urged his little pal wherever she was. Suddenly about 10 feet away from Bill's face those amber eyes glowed through the rising dust filling the pipe behind her and her fur filling the pipe like a show dog. Finally, she burst into Bill's arms.

Smokey had come through in about two minutes. This task would have kept 40 aircraft and the 250 ground crew who worked on them exposed to daily bombing for the three days estimated for the trench for the wires to be hand dug.

Again, it's with some irony, that Smokey an Aussie, serving with American forces received a posthumous hero's award for this work in the Pacific by the British. War veteran Bill Wynne, travelled to England to accept an award from the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, a leading veterinary charity in the United Kingdom. Sadly, when a submission was placed for Smokey to be recognized for what she had done for Australian Servicemen via a Purple Cross nomination, the RSPCA of Australia rejected this nomination. These stories alone would make any dog exceptional but Smokey would go on to do so much more and help so many people during her life.

After reading another of my books *Australian War Dogs*, New Holland Publications, Bill immediately contacted me as he had been trying to get Smokey recognised in Australia for the best part of two decades, 'after all Smokey was a native born Queenslander and no one knows who she is and what she has done there', he said.

In Australia there is no official medal awarded to war animals, however the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dog Association, to which I am historian, produces two medals. The first type of medal is the service medal, awarded to dogs that have completed a minimum of five years' service in the Australian Defence Forces or other Services such as Police dogs. Due to a dog's year being roughly equivalent to seven human years this in effect is a long service and good conduct medal like a human would get to recognise 15 years of government service. The second type of medal is an operational medal, this is for Australian war dogs that have been in an operational tour of duty, such as Australian tracker dogs that served in Vietnam, Explosive detection dogs that have served in Somalia, the Solomon Islands, East Timor and current operations in Afghanistan.

So after some initial setbacks I managed to get approval to issue Smokey with her operational service medal which the US Consulate General flew up from Sydney to receive on Bill's behalf. I then needed funds for the construction of a memorial. The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation can be thanked for this monument, raising awareness and funds for the project.

So in 2012, Smokey was honoured by the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital on the original site where she medically served some 70 years before. The monument was unveiled by Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland. Another VIP who attended was a representative from the General MacArthur's Museum in Brisbane. Smokey received her place in Australian War Dog history as not only one of our first canine diggers, but as one of the first therapy dogs in the world that enhanced the lives of thousands of wounded soldiers both Australian and American.

Those who stand up for our nation in time of war, putting themselves in harm's way, are heroes. We honour the men and women of the Military each ANZAC Day, but there's one more group that deserves recognition: the animals that serve in war. Smokey was one of those heroes. She probably, like all animals, did not understand she was serving the colours. Just being beside her best mate Bill was what she lived for. Smokey brought a smile each day, not only to Bill's face, but to everyone she was in contact with. Bill relayed one last story to me that, having been in combat myself, I can understand. After a particularly hard and fierce battle one day on one of the many islands they were stationed, Bill lay exhausted under cover trying to get some much needed sleep. He awoke to hear laughter: Bill was surrounded by units of the US Marine Corps, all hardened veterans of the war. Bill looked up and saw Smokey jumping up in the air trying to catch butterflies. In the depths of war and all its gruesome sights, the joy Smokey gave to those marines, some joy for just a few minutes that stayed in his and their minds forever. Smokey had done her magic again.

Presidents Report

Dear members,

Your Society is maintaining a very busy schedule with a large number of activities this month. We had a very good response from members for the Queensland Day dinner held on 6 June at the Commissariat Store and attended by our patron Governor Paul De Jersey and his wife. Seventy-eight members and guests attended despite it being a long weekend.

Our next event is the World War One seminar to be held at the Store on Saturday 20 June. This promises to be a most interesting day with a good selection of speakers and displays. Following this we will be travelling to Innamincka in South Australia to see the famous 'Dig Tree' of Burke and Wills including Burke's grave and other historical features in the area.

Our research team is very busy gathering photographs and writing captions for our new *Lost Brisbane* Part 2 publication concentrating on the years from 1940 to 1988. Over 500 photographs have been selected from various providers. We may need more specific ones so I will list them in a later *Bulletin* to see if you can help.

We received a visit from the President of the Australian Historical Societies Inc., Associate Professor Don Garden, who toured the Commissariat museum to see the latest additions and displays. He told us that his organisation represents over 2000 societies and approximately 100,000 volunteers throughout Australia. I recently travelled the Kimberleys and saw the efforts of the societies in Broome, Wyndham, Kununurra and Darwin. One remarkable achievement by the Kununurra Historical Society was the complete removal and re-erection of the Durack stone homestead at Lake Argyle. This was achieved just in time before the lake flooded. The original location is now under six metres of water.

We also had time to view the architectural presentation of the Echo entertainment proposal for the new casino site at the Queens Wharf Precinct. It is an incredible design allowing for the preservation of all of the heritage buildings linked to several high rise structures by open concourse and large public areas. This will totally change the north bank when completed. At this time no decision has been made by the State Government as to the successful tenderer.

Thank you all for your continuing support of your Society.

Dean Prangley
President.

Constitutional Amendments Proposed by the Council

Recommended amendments to the Society's Constitution submitted by Council for Annual General Meeting, 10 September 2015

1. New sub-clause 19 (c) Council

The Honorary Secretary must be an individual residing in Queensland, or in another State but not more than 65 kilometres from the Queensland border.

2. New sub-clause Clause 21 (j) Council meeting

If there is no quorum within thirty minutes after the time fixed for a Council meeting, the meeting is to be adjourned for a time, date and place to be fixed by the President, giving at least 7 days' notice. However, the President may decide that the next Council meeting should be the scheduled Council meeting, if one has been set. This clause does not affect clause 21(b), the calling of a special meeting for a specific purpose.

3. Amendment to clause 21 (b)

In the first line insert after Council ‘for a specific purpose’

4. Amendment to clause 30(c) Funds and Accounts

After cheque delete semi-colon and insert after cheque ‘, or electronic fund transfers as authorised by Council’. Clause 30(f) end of second sentence, third line delete full stop and insert ‘, or approve electronic fund transfers as authorised by Council.’ Fourth line after cheque insert ‘, or approve electronic fund transfers as authorised by Council.’

Notes about the amendments:

1. This clause is included in the State Government’s model constitutional rules.
2. This clause is taken from the Annual General Meeting provisions clause 15(f). Currently the Constitution is silent on this matter as far as the Council is concerned.
3. It amends the provision for a special meeting for specific purpose in line with amendment 2.
4. This amendment is required because the Society’s bank now requires certain transactions to be in electronic form. All other provisions of this clause concerning financial transactions remain.

Any member who has concerns or issues they wish to discuss concerning the above amendments are invited to contact Denver Beanland telephone 0488 026 271 or email: denverbeanland@hotmail.com

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

to be held on THURSDAY, 10 September 2015 at 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2014 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, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, ten Councillors
5. Appointment of Patron of the Society
6. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
7. Any other business.

Queensland News

(Collected by Ruth Kerr from personal contacts, affiliated societies and newspapers)

Atherton - Performing Arts Theatre (WW II igloo), 6 Silo Street, Atherton. An application was made on 4 May to enter the theatre on the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. Comments may be made on the proposed entry by 10 July to the Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Heritage, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or email: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au An extension may be obtained by telephoning Sean O’Keefe on 07 3300 5837.

Branyan Road State School, Branyan Drive, Bunderburg; **Forest Hill State School**, 15 Church Street, Forest Hill; **Irvinebank State School**, High Street, Irvinebank; **Mount Tarampa State School**, 9 Profkes Road, Mount Tarampa and **Tarampa State School**, Manthey Road, Tarampa were entered on the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* on 1 May. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 15 May 2015).

Dalby - Part of the former Town Council Chambers and Offices, 133 C Cunningham Street, Dalby were removed from the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* on 1 May. (*Queensland Government Gazette* 15 May 2015).

Marburg State School, Louisa Street, Marburg; **Maroon State School**, 2772 Boonah Rathdowney Road, Maroon; **Murgon State School**, 91 Gore Street, Murgon and **Mount Morgan State School** have been proposed by the Department of Education and Training for entry on the Queensland Heritage Register. Comments may be made on the proposed entry by 10 July to the Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Heritage, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or email: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au An extension may be obtained by telephoning Sean O’Keefe on 07 3300 5837.

Mareeba - Vintage engines were displayed at the Rotary FNQ Field Day in the last week of May. One was a 1912 Ruston Hornsby type 1912 stationary engine, displayed by Ray Blain. Tony Little of Chilligoe displayed his 1900s hot air engine. (*Tablelands Advertise* 29 May pp. 1 and 14 including photographs).

Royal Historical Society of Queensland
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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
JULY 2015**

Wednesday 8 July - Talk
Thursday 9 July - Council Meeting
Wednesday 15 July - *Bulletin* deadline

New Members

Peter Bell	Carbrook
Ian Bates	Pomona
Peter Livingstone	Paddington
Jack Newman	Ascot
John Siemon	Kenmore

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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Fax:	07 3221 4698
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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.