



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*73 years of continuous publication*

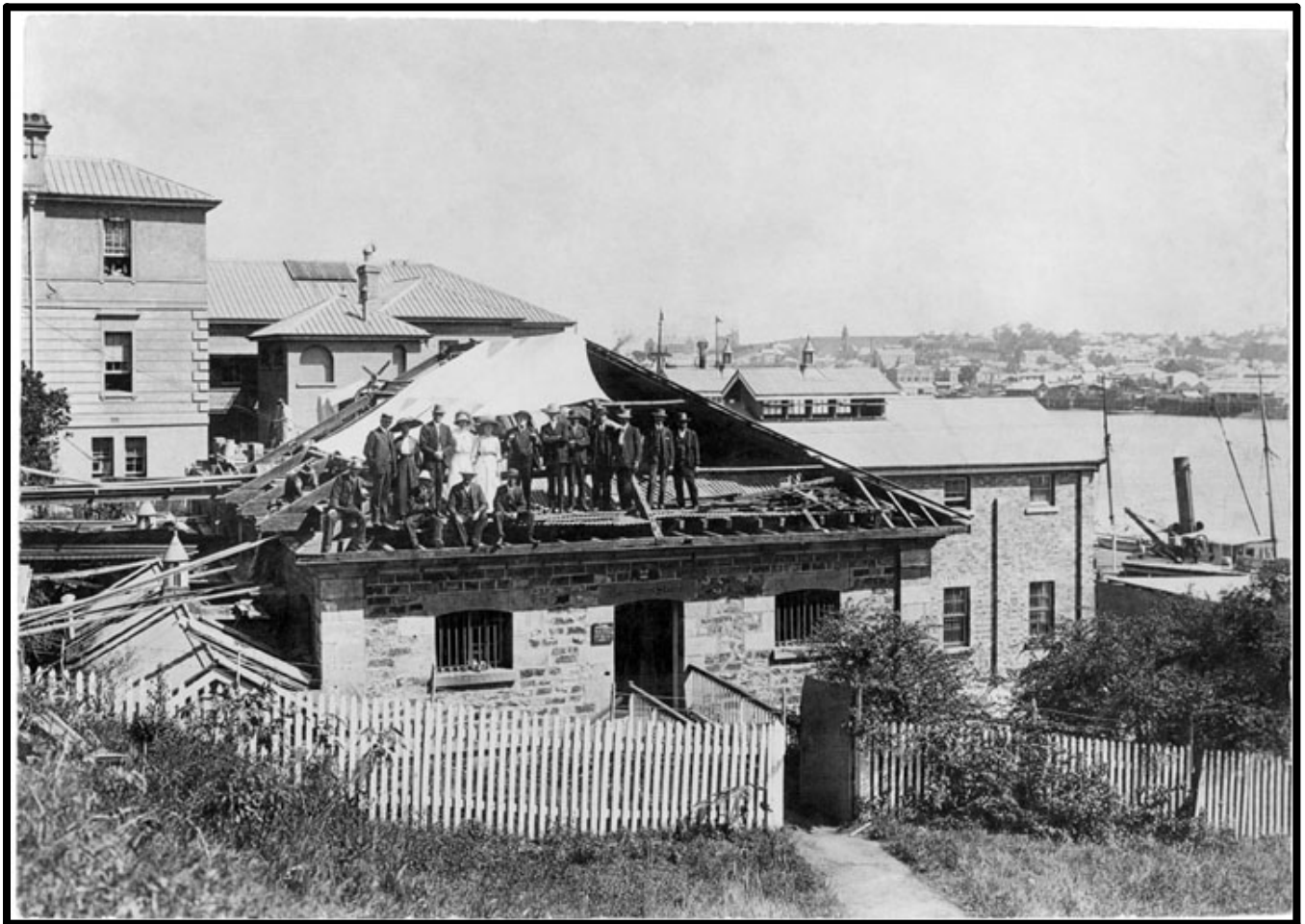
AUGUST 2015 No. 799

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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au)



Oxley Library Photograph

## THE COMMISSARIAT STORE 1913

The top floor of the Commissariat Stores was in the process of being built in the year that the Historical Society of Queensland was formed. The Brisbane Courier of Friday 22 August 1913, page 4, reports that: 'An inaugural public meeting was held last evening at the Albert Hall, at which the recent movement for the formation of the Historical Society of Queensland took concrete form, officers were elected and a constitution duly adopted. His Excellency Sir William Macgregor, the first patron of the society, occupied the chair.'

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report

Dear members,

Since the last *Bulletin* members and Councillors travelled to Innamincka to view the famous camp 65 of the Burke and Wills expedition and particularly the “DIG” tree where supplies were left for Burke and Wills buried in a camel trunk. We found the tree in excellent health and the overall reserve well cared for by the management and staff of Nappa Merrie Station. We presented a plaque to the Manager, Peter ‘Whip’ Degoumois for erection at the reserve. This plaque mysteriously appeared on a table in the Commissariat two months ago and had previously been erected at the reserve. I hope it will stay there a bit longer this time.

The Tradecoast Central Heritage Park was officially opened on Friday 17 July by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove. Congratulations to our member Bob Tucker, the Managing Director, for his foresight and energy in creating this historic precinct, which includes the site of the convict female factory, hangar 7 and the original Allison engine testing stands from WWII. I commend this facility to all members to visit. The address is 87 Schneider Road, Eagle Farm. I hope to have a special day there later this year when all members will be invited, but you are welcome there any time during the week. Bob has a well preserved V12 Allison engine on a stand at the entrance without a propeller. If anyone has such a propeller under the house please advise me! Thanks 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 is invited to contact Denver Beanland telephone 0488 026 271 or email: [denverbeanland@hotmail.com](mailto: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. Constitutional Amendments
8. Any other business.

**The Clem Lack Oration will be delivered by Michael Strong after the AGM.**

## Obituary

**JEAN HARSLETT, STANTHORPE**

**6 September 1925 – 22 May 2015**

Morwenna Jean Harslett was a revered scholar, advocate of community history, farmer and community builder with a keen entomological scientific interest. Jean grew up on an orchard at Glen Aplin, married Bob Harslett in 1951 and moved to an orchard at Amiens. They were both very involved in developing local agriculture. In 1972 Jean and Mervyn Royle wrote *They Came to a Plateau: the Stanthorpe Saga*. The fourth edition was published in 2006 and is a highly respected history of the Stanthorpe region. Jean researched and wrote six booklets on local history. Following the centenary of Stanthorpe in 1972 Jean was at the forefront of the establishment of a museum at Stanthorpe. It grew into a very significant Granite Belt tourist attraction together with the Jean Harslett Research Centre. Jean was awarded a Fellowship of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland in 1994. It was presented at a dinner at Killarney at the Society's regional conference that year. Other awards which Jean received were honorary membership of the Queensland Entomological Society 2002; inclusion in Dr Judith McKay's *Brilliant Careers of Queensland: Women Collectors and Illustrators in Queensland* published by Queensland Museum in 1997; Queensland Naturalist Award 1995; Lions Community Service Award 1989; British Empire Medal 1985; Rotary Paul Harris Fellow 1985; Rural Youth Silver Plough Award 1979 and Australia Day Award 1984. Jean's attributes included her caring, interested and genuine spirit, and her humility. A Memorial Service was held at Jean's Garden, 74 Harslett Road, Amiens on 5 June 2015. (*Border Post* 26 May 2015 and 28 May 2015 pp.18-19 including five photographs; *Courier-Mail* 23 June 2015)

## Your Wednesday Speaker for 9 September at 12.30

**Tom Freeman**

Tom Freeman, a Vietnam veteran and chemical engineer is the author of *Gold Expedition to Stannary Hills: the epic journey of Christina and Joseph Wilesmith*. Tom follows the journey of the Wilesmiths from the British Isles to Brisbane aboard the *Flying Cloud* in 1863 and onwards, overland, to the Goldfields of North Queensland. Joseph (1842-88) and Christina (1842-1909) found themselves at Gilberton on the Gilbert River Goldfield in 1869, and here in 1871, Wilesmith, a sawyer, built a new residence for Gold Commissioner George E Dalrymple. The Wilesmiths became great friends of Dalrymple before moving on to the Etheridge Goldfield (1873), Hodgkinson Goldfield (1876) and finally the Tinfields west of Herberton (1882). Seven children were born before they reached the Tinfields and Freeman not only claims the Wilesmiths as among Australia's greatest pioneers, but unreservedly places Christina alongside Dalrymple, claiming her to be worthy of the title *The Mother of North Queensland*. The Foreword to Tom's book was written by Ted Egan, so you can expect at the lunchtime meeting what Ted found: a "rattling" good yarn and precise history.

## Queensland News

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

**Augathella** – A 'living museum' is to be established in a private house in Augathella to honour the late Bill Cox, a local artist. Retired Professor Rick Atwell is undertaking the project in a house he has purchased. The museum will include century old rural artefacts. (*Western Times* 2 July 2015 p.3)

**Cooktown's heritage listed Old Shire Hall in Helen Street** – The Cooktown Shire Council has declared that the building is 'currently unsafe for occupation'. Council will decide its future. The original building was built in 1890 but was destroyed in the 1907 cyclone. It was rebuilt along the lines of the old building. It was originally built by the Presbyterian Church in 1890 for use as a church. It had latticed walls for the climate.

They ceased using it in 1892 as the population declined. The Salvation Army used the building periodically for meetings as did choir groups. In June 1906 the Trustees of the Loyal Captain Cook Lodge of the North Queensland Branch of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society bought the building. They rebuilt it after the cyclone and used it until 1936. It was then sold to Charles Victor Standen, a lodge man who had a hardware store. He transformed the building and showed films. Cook Shire Council acquired the building in 1951 and used it for shire council meetings. It was used for social activities for decades and is presently used by a gymnastics group. (*Cooktown Local News* 7 May 2015 p.8 including two photographs)

**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 Chillagoe displayed his 1900s hot air engine. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 29 May 2015 pp.1 and 14 including photographs)

**Maryborough** – An application has been made for additional land to be added to the heritage listing of the Original Maryborough Town Site, George Street, Maryborough [602393]. The application was received on 22 June 2015 in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Members may make a submission to the Chief Executive of EHP before the close of business on 7 August 2015, and should be forwarded by mail to Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001 or by email to - [heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au) An extension of time may be obtained by contacting the department.

**Millmerran** – The historic railway station is to be transformed into a Visitor Information Centre as part of the heritage museum after the station and cream shed are donated to the Toowoomba Regional Council by Queensland Rail. At the height of its use between 1940 and 1990 there was a grain silo, wheat shed, crew quarters and station master's house. In 2003 the council had given the buildings to the Millmerran & District Historical Society to be used at its discretion. The historical society desired that the buildings remain in place until after the celebration of 100 years of rail line to Millmerran in November 2011. Mr Grant Uebergang wrote the book, *From Beauaraba to Back Creek 1911–2011*. The historical society, on behalf of the Millmerran community, raised the necessary funds for the relocation of the buildings to the Millmerran Museum. The financial and in-kind support given to the society for the project by the following was received gratefully: Millmerran Power Community Benefits Fund, Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Doug Hall Enterprises, Leigh Munster, Phil Bland, Lachie McKinlay and Millmerran Commerce. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 22 May 2015 page 17 and Letter to Editor from President, Millmerran & District Historical Society, *Toowoomba Chronicle* 1 June 2015 p.13)

**Pialba** - The future of the railway station and Memorial Hall heritage buildings is in doubt following The Fraser Coast Council's decision including them in the Urban Renewal Master Plan. A vote to protect the buildings was lost 5-6. (*Hervey Bay City Independent* 25 June 2015 p.10 including photograph)

**Ravenshoe** – Fund raising is under way to repair the club car carriage vandalised in April. The glass damage is estimated to cost more than \$10,000 to repair. The Ravenshoe Steam Railway is fully volunteer operated. Ravenshoe Millstream Country Club ([loismerv@westnet.com.au](mailto:loismerv@westnet.com.au)) is undertaking the fundraising. The Queensland government is providing \$10,000 to assist. (*Tablelander* 26 May 2015 p.5 and 23 June 2015 p.1)

## Research Report

Thank you to the research volunteers for holding the fort while I was on leave. Research queries handled have been on: Stephens Shire Annerley, convict pioneers; Moreton Bay Penal Settlement; Esk Shire; Strong family, Stephens Shire Council and Sandgate Council; Health legislation 1880-1920; MV *Mirimar*; painting of St Helena Island, Queensland by C Winn 1878, held by RHSQ; photographs of Beatrice Terrace between Nudgee Road and Racecourse Road, Hamilton; photographs of houses on Lytton Road in 1950s; photographs of Stradbroke Island; Story Bridge photographs; Chief Telegraph Office photographs; Blackman Journals and information on Blackman's Gap; sawmilling interests of Michael Simpson in Benarkin and Blackbutt areas; Lieutenant the Honourable Leopold Scarlett's stay in Queensland as Aide-de-Camp to the Governor in 1912; career of Colin Clark in Queensland Public Service 1938-1952 and Sketch of Cleveland c1878.

Two descendants of Nora Nathan, one from Western Australia, visited the library to view the sculptures of Nora Nathan.

Val Donovan  
Honorary Research Officer

## Some photographs from the New Members Night

Here are some photographs by Lee Freeman from the New Members Night on Thursday 21 May.



Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
 PO Box 12057 Brisbane, George Street  
 QLD 4003  
 RHSQ Bulletin: PP100004098  
 RHSQ Journal: PP100004097

**PRINT  
 POST**

**POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 AUSTRALIA**



<p><b>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</b>  <u><b>AUGUST 2015</b></u></p> <p><b>Wednesday 12 August</b> - There is no talk because of the Show holiday  <b>Thursday 13 August</b> - Council Meeting  <b>Saturday 15 August</b> - <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</p>	<p><b>New Members</b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Joy Markwell</td> <td>Taringa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glenda Strachan</td> <td>Sunnybank</td> </tr> </table>	Joy Markwell	Taringa	Glenda Strachan	Sunnybank
Joy Markwell	Taringa				
Glenda Strachan	Sunnybank				

**Contact details:**

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
<b>Manager:</b>	Helen Brakin
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au">www.queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>ABN:</b>	34 217 251 028
<b>Postal:</b>	The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003
<b>Open:</b>	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:**

<b>Editor A/editor</b>	Dr Graeme Nicholson Marjorie Shackleton
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>
<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198
<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698.
<b>Postal:</b>	RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003

**Subscriptions:**

<b>Ordinary Member</b>	\$66.00
<b>Partner of Member</b>	\$22.00
<b>Junior Member (U18)</b>	\$11.00
<b>Full-time Student (U25)</b>	\$33.00
<b>Affiliated Society</b>	\$55.00
<b>Subscription fee for libraries</b>	\$66.00
<b>Corporate/Institutions</b>	\$275.00
<b>Life membership – purchased after 10 years</b>	\$5,500.00

**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.**