



THE 800th EDITION OF  
THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

73 years of continuous publication

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

The first edition of *The RHSQ Bulletin* was published in April 1942. The *Bulletin* has been published continuously since then with this edition being the 800th.

News Bulletin No. 1.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND**

Address: Box 1811W,  
C.F.O.,  
Brisbane.

Office: 24 Wharf St.,  
BRISBANE.  
April.  
1942

MEETINGS - LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 8 P.M.

The question of the desirability of keeping the members of the Society better informed as to its activities and progress was raised by the President (Mr. Geoffrey Ward) at a recent meeting of the Council. It was agreed that by way of an experiment, a summary of current items of interest should be prepared and sent to the members, together with the notices for the next succeeding monthly meeting. It was considered that this would be appreciated particularly by members living at a distance from Brisbane, or unable from other causes to attend the meetings of the Society. By this means it is hoped to stimulate a livelier interest in the work of the Society, and create a desire to achieve in a fuller degree the cultural objects for which the Society was formed.

It was agreed that, if practicable, a brief summary of the paper read at the previous monthly meeting should be included in each of these news bulletins.

WAR TIME CHANGES:

Owing to the exigencies of the war the Society is to be deprived "for the duration" of the use of its historic home - Newstead House. The Society, however, has decided to continue its activities with headquarters in the City. An office has been secured in the Builders Exchange building at 24 Wharf Street; and the monthly meetings of members will be held in the large lecture room in the same block of offices.

Among the most outstanding of the objects for which the Society was established (as set out in its Constitution) is the study of "the history of Queensland and its dependencies, the territory of Papua, and the territory of New Guinea, and of the adjacent Pacific Islands". The Society, through its Council, and its officers, is anxious to encourage and assist all desirous of extending their knowledge of history, especially that of their own State. The Secretary frequently has enquiries for information regarding the recorded journeyings of the explorers by land and sea, and other phases of pioneering achievement, and will be only too happy at all times to assist those with inquiring minds on such subjects.



2.

LEICHHARDT'S STRANGE STORY:

Whether viewed from a severely critical or a would-be charitable point of view, the achievements of Ludwig Leichhardt as an explorer unquestionably make an intensely interesting story. While some have condemned him as a selfish, ignoble character, others have sought to endow him with qualities of courage, resolution and leadership. The discovery in England of the diary of John Gilbert, the botanist who accompanied Leichhardt on his expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essenden in 1844-5, has thrown a new light on the subject and strongly tends to support the most severe of the criticisms passed upon the Prussian adventurer. The Secretary of the Historical Society (Mr. Davies) has had numerous inquiries from time to time concerning marked trees in various parts of Queensland, and another letter recently came to hand from Mr. John Hughes, of Annandale, near Sydney. In this letter, reference is made to a tree in the vicinity of the Comet and Mckenzie rivers on which was a blaze with the letters D.I.G. This marking had been seen by Mr. Hughes 57 years ago, but since then it had been partially overgrown with bark. He suggests that the present owners of the land on which the tree stands might be persuaded to strip off the bark in order to ascertain if any date had been marked on it. Mr. Hughes expresses the belief that this tree was blazed by Leichhardt on his third overland journey, and that the party were killed by the blacks shortly afterwards - after they had crossed the Robinson River. This theory, however, must be rejected inasmuch as John Gilbert in his diary relates how on the 1844-45 expedition a hole was dug and some papers buried, the letters DIG being marked on the tree; but that, when the party returned southward three months later the papers were recovered from the hole in which they had been buried.

"A CENTURY OF SHIPS"

At the monthly meeting of the Historical Society on March 31st a paper entitled "A Century of Ships" was read by Mr. A.G. Davies who explained that it was just 100 years since the regular service by steamships between Sydney and Moreton Bay was inaugurated by the S.S. Shamrock, which belonged to what was known as the Hunter River Steam Navigation Coy. That was the year (1842) in which Brisbane was declared a free settlement, and the first sale of Crown lands was held. Viewed in romantic retrospect the student of history today may look back with keen interest on the primitive conditions under which Brisbane's Shipping trade was inaugurated - how the first Sydney bound steamers were tied up to a huge tree trunk on the South Brisbane side of the river, for lack of a wharf, and how the first vessel to load wool for London was a brig of 300 tons - the Eliza Kincaid which loaded at the mouth of the Brisbane River in 1845. The formation of the A.S.N. Coy., which in later years developed into the A.U.S.N. Coy., was dealt with, and also the fascinating story of the immigrant ships from the time of Dr. Lang's ships, and the Black Ball liners to that of the iron clippers of the 80's and the British India steamers via Torres Straits later still.

On the motion of Mr. W.A. Douglas, seconded by Mr. A. Laurie, a vote of thanks to the lecturer was carried.

ALFRED G. DAVIES, Hon. Secretary.

**On this page and the previous page are copies of the first edition of *The RHSQ Bulletin***



## Prominent People in 1942



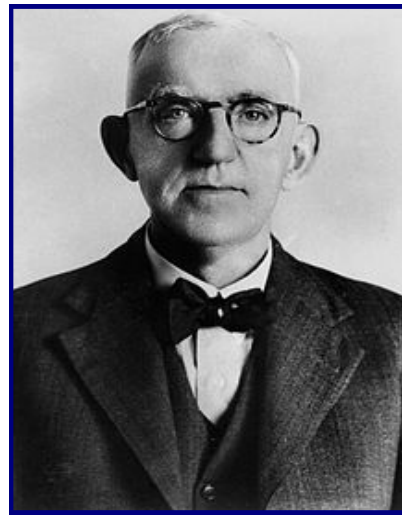
**The Governor General, Lord Gowrie**



**Captain Vivien Bullwinkel  
sole survivor of the Banka Island  
massacre**



**The Prime Minister,  
John Curtin**



**The Premier of Queensland,  
William Forgan Smith**

### President's Report

Dear Members,

Your Society has been posting a regular *Bulletin* to its members for 73 years and this one is the 800<sup>th</sup> edition. When you consider the amount of historical information dispensed in these publications over that time and the efforts of editors and contributors alike it is a remarkable and valuable contribution to the history of Queensland. In future most *Bulletins* will be read on a tablet or Iphone, but the quality of content will remain the same. Congratulations to all editors past and present.

One of our most important activities is hosting Year 5 school children on a tour of the Commissariat Store as part of the new curriculum requiring an understanding of our convict heritage. We have large groups of kids attending the store most weeks and rely very much on our excellent guides to give them the knowledge they require. This knowledge is obviously appreciated by their teachers and visiting parents alike who also learn many facts they would never have known without the visit. I recently took a wide eyed group of Year 5s on a tour and was impressed by the questions asked and interest shown in the displays (The convict fingers won

hands down!). That day we had over 80 children plus minders turn up from as far away as the North Coast so we were stretched to the limit for guides.

If any of you have a spare day during the week and would like to become a guide please let Helen know at the office. With the amount of effort we are putting into our marketing there will be more tourists and locals coming in as well as more school kids. Being a guide is most rewarding and you meet people from all over the world. We can easily teach you the information you require and have lots of reading matter to increase your knowledge.

Please consider becoming a guide and telephone Helen on 07 3221 4198.

Thank you for your continued support of our Society.

Dean Prangley  
President

## Research Report

It has been another busy month at the Library on Thursdays. Queries included the following: a request for an image of Leotina Cooper; information on Michael Joseph Colclough; information about Daniel Hurkett, a boy who died near Arrabury Station in 1910; on Constance Clyde McAdam; on Mary and John McMullen who emigrated to Queensland c1900; on Old North Road; Cribb Island; Eagle Terrace duplex at Sandgate; Anzac Cottages built after WWI near Skew Street or on the Tainton family; information on where ships landed passengers in the 1870s; photographs of Kirra; and of West End; and one of the first tennis courts as it appeared in *The Sunday Mail*; Patrick Leslie's addresses and a speech given by Mervyn Royal; information on the Harris family, photo of CW Chambers, architect and of Anthony Herbert, early assistant commissioner of railways.

Visitors have also kept us busy with locating background information for a publication on early Fortitude Valley; follow up on the Old North Road query; photographs of Kenmore and western suburbs area; and photographs of West End.

Val Donovan  
Honorary Research Officer

## The Tradecoast Central Heritage Park

The Tradecoast Central Heritage Park and Interpretive Centre is now open to the general public at 87 Schneider Road, Eagle Farm. Opened on 17 July 2015 by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, the centre brings to life not only part of our convict past but also significant aspects of World War Two. The park includes three nationally-listed heritage sites which are: the Eagle Farm Women's Prison and Factory where women convicts were imprisoned and worked in the 1830s; the Allison Engine Testing Stands where locally refurbished aircraft engines were tested during World War II; and Hangar No 7 where the Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit rebuilt and flew Japanese warplanes to discover their secrets.

## Constitutional Amendments Proposed by the Council

### Recommended amendments to the Society's Constitution submitted by the Council for the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> line delete full stop and insert ' , or approve electronic fund transfers as authorised by Council.'

4<sup>th</sup> line after cheque insert ' , or approve electronic fund transfers as authorised by Council,'

#### Notes re 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 32177229 or email: [denverbeanland@hotmail.com](mailto:denverbeanland@hotmail.com)

**NOTICE OF 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 for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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.

## Queensland News

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

**Bollier near Gympie** - The area is to be utilised for quarterhorse racing. It was previously known as Tuncal Flats and then Bandicoot Flats as Tuncal was a local Aboriginal word for bandicoot. Local historians stated that bunya nut festivals were held in the area. (*Gympie Times* 1 August 2015 p.9)

**Gympie** – The local state member, Mr Tony Perrett MP, has asked Queensland Rail to assist with restoring the line for the Mary Valley Rattler. The new state government is reviewing the Newman government's decision to provide \$2.6 million for restoration of the line. The Mary Valley Heritage Railway Company has been asked by the state government to re-submit the business plan with updated figures. They are still planning to go Amamoor first and then Imbil later. (*Gympie Times* 15, 16 and 17 July 2015)

**Winton** – A substantial part of the Waltzing Matilda Centre burnt down in the early hours of the morning of 18 June. The fire started in an inaccessible part of the roof and burned through the Banjo Patterson room, billabong area, Qantilda Museum with artefacts on loan from the Historical Society. A significant component of the library was saved. Much material in cabinets in the World War I display were saved. Paintings in the Regional Art Gallery were destroyed. The fibreglass copy of the Daphne Mayo sculpture of the swagman was destroyed. The Winton Shire Council met and decided to rebuild the Centre. It is expected to cost between \$8 million and \$12 million, much of which will be covered by insurance. Negotiations are underway between the Council and the copyright holder of Waltzing Matilda material regarding its sale. (*Longreach Leader* 26 June 2015 pp 1 and 6; *Courier-Mail* 8 August 2015 pp 1,9.)

## Brisbane Heritage

**Brisbane** - The restoration of the Roma Street railway station building has received the Don Roderick Award for Heritage work at the Queensland State Architecture Awards.

Conservation work was carried out on the 140 year old Roma Street railway station on platform three. Brick specialists repaired the damaged brickwork in the building, and imported replacement bricks from the United Kingdom were made specially to match. A specialist heritage plasterer and stonemason worked on the building. The stone was sourced from the original quarry so as to match the retained stonework in the building. A major part of the project was the roof stabilisation and the reinstating of Welsh slate tiles to provide protection for the building and match the original appearance. (Queensland Rail *Weekly Notice* edition 28, 20 July 2015)

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**Important Events and Functions**

**Wednesday 9 September - 12.30 pm Talk**  
*The Epic Journey of the Wilesmiths*  
 Tom Freeman  
**Thursday 10 September - AGM**  
**Tuesday 15 September - Bulletin deadline**

**New Members**

Laurie Ehrenberg	New Farm
Kelyn Flynn	Algerter
Stewart McLeod	Indooroopilly
Christina Michie	Wellington Point
Chris Robertson	Cashmere
Kevin Sommerfeld	Yandina
Richard Sayers (Jnr Member)	Kallangur
Ian Tristram	Mermaid Beach

**Contact details:**

<b>Location:</b>	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
<b>Manager:</b>	Helen Brackin
<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>
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**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

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