



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

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

WHERE IS *MEPHISTO*?



Mephisto shortly after its capture

Mephisto, the WWI German *Sturmpanzerwagen* tank, was captured by AIF and British soldiers at Villers-Bretonneux on 24 April 1918. It was brought to Australia in 1919 and placed in the Queensland Museum where it was on display for more than 70 years. To commemorate the WWI centenary the Queensland Museum has allowed this tank to be displayed outside Queensland for the first time. Twenty of these tanks were built and 18 survived WWI, but *Mephisto* is the only one still in existence. It is now on display in ANZAC Hall of the Australian War Memorial.

More information about this historic tank can be found at the Queensland Museum website: <http://www.qm.qld.gov.au> and the Australian War Memorial website: <https://www.awm.gov.au>
More photos on page 6.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

Dear Members,

Recently, I was fortunate to be invited to the launching of the 'photos in the attic' project hosted by the Intercultural Consulting Group at Rydges on Southbank. The 'Lost Diggers of Vignacourt' is a collection of over 800 glass negative plates discovered in a French barn in 1992 by French historian Lauren Mirouze.

The executive producers, Michael and Donna Fletcher, presented a most interesting display of photographs of Australian soldiers showing our men in relaxed poses in front of the camera operated by French couple Antoinette and Louis Thuillier. Vignacourt was very close to the front line and many allied troops took the opportunity to have their photographs taken including British, French, Moroccan, Nepalese and American soldiers. Apparently the 4000 negatives found represented only 10 percent of the total taken by the Thuilliers.

Of the 800 Australians over 300 have been identified so far. Many did not return. I hope to be able to invite the Fletchers to give a special presentation at the Commissariat next year.

Another busy and exciting year is ahead in 2016 with the launching of 'Lost Brisbane 2', on which our research members have worked tirelessly for the last year. They have gathered wonderful photographs of Brisbane and district from 1940 to 1990. We will also be finalising the new interpretive centre at Camp 65 of Burke and Wills near Innamincka and hope to have that completed by the end of 2016.

As this year comes to a close, on behalf of the Council of the RHSQ I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dean Prangley
President

Queensland News

(Collected by Ruth Kerr from personal Queensland contacts, Affiliated Societies, Newspapers and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection official notifications)

Atherton – On 9 October 2015 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter the World War II igloo structure used as the Atherton Performing Arts Centre (14 A31949) on the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place as it satisfies criteria a and d as specified in s.35(1) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. The 1943 building was used by 13th Advanced Ordnance Depot at Tolga. It was relocated to the Atherton Maize Marketing Board's Workshops in 1947. It is one of only two known examples of an igloo style American Rolling Mill Company hut (30.5 m x 12.2 m) erected and used during World War II. The building was used as an Atherton Shire Council storage building from 1958 to 1979 and was refurbished as a theatre in 1982. The Heritage Council noted that the State Heritage significance of the building is not determined by its current location at 6 Silo Road, Atherton as it was relocated there after World War II. The Council noted that entry of the Atherton Performing Arts Centre building on the State Heritage Register does not prevent its further relocation if its cultural heritage values are conserved. Society members may make submissions to the Department of Environment and Heritage on the decision. It should be forwarded by mail to: Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or by email to: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au

Brisbane River Valley – A bullock bobtail was located in the 1970s in a compartment being cleared for a hoop pine plantation. The axle is branded 'made expressly for B Singer and Co W Gilpin 1912'. It is thought that the bobtail was abandoned in the late 1920s. Bobtails supported the front of the log being snigged. [The *Collins English Dictionary* defines *Snig* as: '(forestry) Austral and NZ to drag (a log) along the ground by a chain fastened to one end. ed]. The bobtail is now located at Gympie Woodworks Museum. (*Gympie Times* 12 September 2015 p.14 including photograph)

Chillagoe – The Mareeba Shire Council is not in favour of the proposed listing of the Chillagoe Karst Region on the National Heritage Register under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This is because they considered that it would impact on development of the region and other values of the area. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 16 October 2015 p.3)

Fort Lytton - Hollywood superstar Angelina Jolie has worked with the state government in promoting Fort Lytton. The Oscar-winning actress and film-maker helped ensure much-needed money was donated to the Fort Lytton Historical Association (FLHA), which also utilised Queensland Government funding to restore part of the historic national park at the mouth of the Brisbane River. The Fort Lytton Historical Society funded the conservation project with a Queensland government grant of \$33,900 and another

\$25,000 from the association's own funds. Another \$25,000 was donated by the producers of Angelina Jolie's film, *Unbroken*. A major part of the film was shot at the fort.

Fort Lytton National Park is 15 km from central Brisbane at Lytton on the southern bank of the Brisbane River. The park incorporates both the remains of the historic fort and the Lytton Quarantine Station. The pentagonal earthwork fortification, built in 1880-82, contributed to the coastal defence of Queensland until the end of World War II. The site was declared a national park for its cultural and historical values in 1989.

The work at Fort Lytton's Magazine No. 10 and the Black Powder Rooms was officially opened on 16 October by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Dr Steven Miles. Queensland Defence Force protected the Brisbane River in the late nineteenth century from Fort Lytton and troops mustered for the Boer War and both World Wars. It was also the site of an important quarantine station.

The Heritage Parks Unit of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) helped manage the project, and rangers undertook many of the actual conservation tasks. Specialist Queensland heritage masonry contractors Maurice and Alek Potzaba were engaged to undertake the works. The Queensland Colonial Defence Forces Study Group, provided invaluable research support. Magazine No.10 had been closed off for over 20 years due to a protruding block high in its arch. There was also a major crack from floor to ceiling threatening its structural integrity. The project stabilised both sites. In the powder room, the teams fixed timberwork suffering from dry rot, removed an accumulation of salts from brickwork, repointed the masonry and replaced vents, lantern recesses, door frames and windows, fixed plumbing and replaced guttering, down pipes and other missing components to enable better weatherproofing and interpretation of the site. QPWS won a gold award at the National Trust Heritage Awards for the work.

Free tours are run on Sundays, and for a small fee on weekdays. Educational programs are conducted for students with the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre. The Theatre in Education programs are linked to the national curriculum.

(Press Release - Dr Steven Miles, Minister for Environment & Heritage Protection – 16 October 2015; <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/fort-lytton/index.html>)

Ipswich North State School, 9 Fitzgibbon Street, North Ipswich - On 30 October 2015 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection received an application from a member of the community proposing entry of the Ipswich North State School in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place. Society members may make a submission. It must be received by the Department before the close of business on 11 December 2015, and should be forwarded by mail to: Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or by email to: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au

Millmerran – The old railway station relocated to the Historical Society Museum has been opened as a Tourist Centre. St Mark's Church from Kooroongarra has also been realigned. A total of \$252,000 was spent by the Council (\$130,000), the Queensland government (\$92,000) and \$30,000 from a Community Benefit Fund grant. (*Pittsworth Sentinel* 7 October 2015 p.1)

Pialba Memorial Hall and Cenotaph, 3-5 & 9-25 Main Street, Pialba [650026]- On 28 October 2015 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection received an application from a member of the community proposing entry of the Pialba Memorial Hall and Cenotaph in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place. Society members may make a submission. It must be received by the Department before the close of business on 4 December 2015, and should be forwarded by mail to: Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or by email to: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au

Warra – The railway subway that had been closed for a year is to be repaired by Queensland Rail following the advocacy of the Warra Progress and Heritage Society President, Patricia Henderson, and the Member for Warrego, Ann Leahy MP. The subway connecting the railway station to Best Street is more than 100 years old and comprises stone abutments. (*Chinchilla News and Murilla Advertiser* 1 October 2015 p.7 including photograph)

Watsonville – A chapel built in 1885 in Watsonville was moved to Tolga in 1921 where the Atherton Roman Catholic Parish occupied it for almost a century. It was then moved in to Mareeba and located at the St Stephen's Catholic College. It was blessed and officially opened by Bishop Foley on 18 September 2015. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 25 September 2015 p.2)

BRISBANE SUBURBS

On 30 October 2015 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection received an application from a member of the community proposing the entry of the following schools in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place:

Ithaca Creek State School, 49 Lugg Street, Bardon
 Newmarket State School, 320 Enoggera Road, Newmarket
 Yeronga State School and Infants School, 150 Park Road, Yeronga

Members may make a submission regarding this application that must be received by the Department before the close of business on 11 December 2015, and should be forwarded by mail to: Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001 or by email to: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au

Cremorne, 34 Mullens Street, Hamilton – On 9 October 2015 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to remove *Cremorne* from the Queensland Heritage Register as it does not comply with criteria a, d, e and h of section 35(1) of the Act. This was published in the *Queensland Government Gazette* of 23 October 2015.

Research Report

The research team has had many and varied queries during each month and continues to be busy as the year comes to a close, indicating that the service is worthwhile and filling a need in the area of Queensland history. The queries have included: requests for images of Brisbane's earliest Christmas decorations; photographs, drawings or paintings of Newstead House; the history of Corinda; retro style photographs of Tweed Heads and Coolangatta; information on the traditional owners of the site of the present Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital; information on the Halwyn Centre; information on the first headmistress of Brisbane Girls Grammar School; photographs of the corner of Edward and Queen Streets in relation to Joseph Burley; and a call for copies of the *Clifton Despatch* Newspaper for the TV program 'Who do you think you are?'

Visitors doing research have requested: the history of the Robbins Family, herbalists 1907-1913; a search of Pugh's Almanacs; the writings of Dr Ron Wood; Bulimba Memorial Park and the School of Arts; and the teacher pack on Convict Brisbane.

The Society was presented with an important book for Queensland historical research by the Luttrell's titled *1882-2007 Master Builders Queensland: 125th Anniversary*, Bookmen Publisher's History and Heritage Collection.

Val Donovan
 Honorary Research Officer

At The Queensland State Archives

Behind-the-scenes tours

Every month Queensland State Archives holds behind-the-scenes tours. On these free one-hour guided tours you:

- learn about the leading role of Queensland State Archives in managing and preserving the largest and most significant documentary heritage collection in Queensland
- visit our repositories to see how over 50 kilometres of Queensland Government records are housed
- visit the Public Search Room where researchers identify and use historical documents
- learn about the history of the organisation, the collection and the building.

Last tour date for 2015

Tours will be held from 11 am to 12 noon on the following dates:

- Thursday 10 December

[Tours are free. To book, please call 07 3131 7777 or email \[info@archives.qld.gov.au\]\(mailto:info@archives.qld.gov.au\)](#)

How to find us

[Queensland State Archives is located at 435 Compton Road, Runcorn, Queensland 4113](#)

Events at the Queensland Women’s Historical Association

Thursday 3 December 10.00 am

QWHA Annual General Meeting

To be held at Miegunyah, 35 Jordan Terrance, Bowen Hills

10.00 for a 10.30 start

Please contact Miegunyah for more information

Sunday 6 December 4.00 pm

Miegunyah closes to the public for 2015

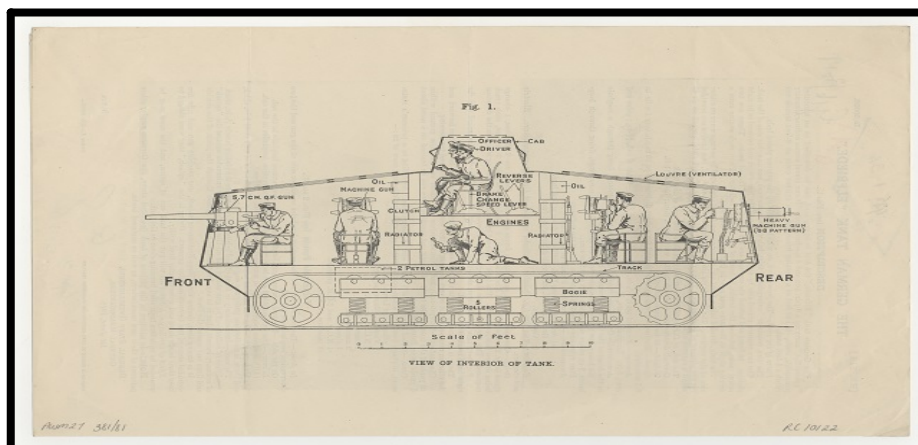
The RHSQ Speaker for December

Ms Grace Grace MP, Member for Brisbane Central and Deputy Speaker, will be the guest speaker in December. Her talk commemorates the 100-year anniversary of women receiving the right to stand for the Queensland Parliament in 1915.

More Photographs of *Mephisto*



Mephisto and the two Council steam tractors moving from the docks to the museum
(State Library of Queensland John Oxley Library photo)



Mephisto Schematic drawing
(Australian War Memorial pamphlet)

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
DECEMBER 2015

Tuesday 8 December - Council Meeting
Wednesday 9 December Talk 12.30 pm
‘The 100-year anniversary of women receiving
the right to stand for the Queensland
Parliament in 1915’
Ms Grace Grace MP

**Thursday 10 December - Separation Day cocktail
party- telephone 07 3221 4198 for details**
**Note next *Bulletin* Deadline - Friday 15
January 2016**

New Members

Jeffery and Robyn Smith	Rangeville
Len Smith	Jindalee
Malcolm Frost	Kenmore
Susan Davies	Clayfield
Peter Stanley	Brookside
Queensland Rugby League History Committee	Paddington
Harold Peacock	Pullenvale
Sofia Peacock	Main Beach

Contact details:		Bulletin articles only:		Subscriptions:	
Location: Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane	Editor A/editor Dr Graeme Nicholson Marjorie Shackleton	E-mail: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Ordinary Member	\$66.00
Manager: Helen Brackin	Postal: RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Partner of Member	\$22.00
Phone: 07 3221 4198	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.	Fax: 07 3221 4698		Junior Member (U18)	\$11.00
Fax: 07 3221 4698				Full-time Student (U25)	\$33.00
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Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003				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					