

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

# THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DECIMAL CURRENCY 14 FEBRUARY 2016





**Photos: Graeme Nicholson** 



PICTURED ARE THE ONE AND TWO DOLLAR NOTES AND THE ONE AND TWO CENT COINS THAT WERE AMONGST THE DECIMAL CURRENCY NOTES AND COINS ISSUED ON 14 FEBRUARY 1966. THESE NOTES AND COINS ARE NO LONGER IN CIRCULATION.

The fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of decimal currency in Australia falls on 14 February 2016. The above photographs of notes and coins from the collection of Graeme Nicholson show some of the original notes and coins from 1966. Before the name 'Dollar' was chosen other names were considered, including: Royal, Emu, Digger, Oz, Kanga and Kwid.

Graeme Nicholson

# **President's Report**

Dear members,

Another new year and many interesting and exciting things to see and do. Your Council is finalising the conservation management plan for the Dig Tree reserve or camp 65 of the Burke and Wills expedition near Innamincka. The RHSQ has been trustee of this site since 1964. Once approved we will be proceeding with physical improvements to the reserve, which will provide much needed preservation of the marked trees and enhance the historical importance of the site.

This year will see the launching of the next *Lost Brisbane* book prepared by our research team, which deals with the years 1940 to 1990. Much work has unearthed fascinating photographs from that era and I am sure it will be as successful as the first publication which has sold over 20,000 copies.

Towards the end of 2015 we were approached by the SBS who wanted permission to film a production of 'Who do you think you are' in the Commissariat. The work was completed just before the Christmas break and involve some hours of setup and filming. We do not know who the celebrity was or the connection with convict Brisbane, but will receive a link from the SBS and timely warning when it is to be shown so I will keep you informed.

The Queen's Wharf Project is proceeding and we have been providing the Star heritage team with interesting historical information relating to the precinct. They want to have a regular media release each month of stories and facts about the early history of the area and its importance in the development of Brisbane. The RHSQ will be acknowledged in the article.

In December we said farewell to Malcolm Thomas who has served as a volunteer guide for the Society for 13 years (photograph on page 4). Malcolm had a copy of a convict uniform made complete with a shaggy ginger wig. He used to wear this outfit for special occasions and looking glum and haggard was a hit with everyone, particularly children. We wish Malcolm all the best in his future endeavours.

I thank you all for your interest in the Society and look forward to your participation in our events this year.

Dean Prangley President

# **Special Notice**

#### THE JOHN DOUGLAS KERR MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

Nominations for the prestigious John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for research and writing Queensland or Australian history have opened. The award is made jointly by The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland). Nominations close on 31 March 2016. Nomination forms can be downloaded from: <a href="www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr\_Nom.pdf">www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr\_Nom.pdf</a>
Further information about the award can be found at: <a href="www.queenslandhistory.org.au/JohnDKerr.html">www.queenslandhistory.org.au/JohnDKerr.html</a>

# **Queensland News**

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

**Charleville** – The *Western Times* of 7 January 2016 contained a photograph of the Royal Dutch Airlines PH AJU 44 DC2 aeroplane at the Charleville airport a few years ago.

**Eromanga** – Following the declaration of Quilpie shire as drought stricken the Eromanga Natural History Museum has become eligible for funding under the federal government's Drought Communities Program. Quilpie Shire was not recognised by the federal government as drought stricken although 13 shires surrounding it were. This is said to have been because the Quilpie weather station had been closed and the government did not have up-to-date weather information. (*Western Times* 7 January 2016 p.8)

**Forsayth** – Cobbold Gorge Tours run by Simon and Gaye Terry of *Robin Hood* station won a silver award in the 2015 Queensland Tourism Awards. It is a spring fed gorge hidden within sandstone formations. The entrance is a historic site as the road from Georgetown back to Townsville established in 1868-9 passes the entrance. The road was used by the mail contractor as well as gold miners. (*Tablelander 24* November 2015 p.9 and *Tablelands Advertiser* 6 November 2015 p.16 including photograph)

**Gympie** –The Rattler Railway Company has advised the Mary Valley Rattler volunteers that they are being welcomed back to the old Gympie railway station yards to work on timber renovation, painting and general maintenance work. This follows the optimism from the recent meetings of the Rattler Railway Company with Queensland government officers, tourism organisations, the Regional Council and the state member for Gympie, Tony Perrett MP. (*Gympie Times* 9 January 2016 pp.1,3 including photographs).

**Mareeba** – Mareeba Heritage Centre received a grant of \$5480 through the National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants Program to help fund assessments of the collection. The Centre currently has 4927 artefacts including a significant tobacco industry historical collection. It is already assessed as nationally significant. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 13 November 2015 p.14)

**Maytown** – Alfred Starcke's survey peg dated 15 October 1882 at the junction of High and Leslie Streets is visible. Many of the items in the small museum in the replica miner's hut were removed in 2015. A visitors' book was also removed. (*Cooktown Local News* 26 November 2015)

# The University of Queensland Announcement

The title of Emeritus Professor has been conferred on both Clive Moore and Peter Spearritt in the School of History and Philosophical Inquiry at The University of Queensland. This is a welcome acknowledgement of their long and valued contributions to the University. Both are members of our Society.

# **Research Report**

We wish everyone a Happy New Year and trust the research team has another fulfilling year attending to requests in 2016. The last received for 2015 was on 23 December relating to the concert pianist Paderewski. More information was requested on Newstead House; information on Anzac Trees in Brisbane was sought, as well as information held on Janet O'Connor and the Duporth school, which included some items relating to Dame Nellie Melba. Information on Rosewood and the Lockyer Valley was also requested. Images from our photograph collection have been sought during the last few months, some requests as a result of the *Lost Brisbane* publication. There have been requests for a photograph of a family home, *Helvetia*, in Winfred Street, Clayfield; of *Moorlands*, and an early photograph of George Street, Brisbane as in *Lost Brisbane*.

Visitors to the library requested photographs of twentieth century weddings and research of the *Beau Desert* Homestead.

Val Donovan Honorary Research Officer

# **Obituary**

Professor Teresa Rita O'Rourke Cramond nee Brophy 'Tess'

1926 - 2015

Tess Brophy joined our Society on 8 November 1978. She participated in many conferences and supported the Society. 'Tess', as she always introduced herself, was an exceptional doctor and an exceptional Australian. She had a fine sense of history and heritage, and was a long-serving member of RHSQ. She excelled in several important fields including clinical medical care, the promotion of best practice in all aspects of pre-hospital care including rescue on land and sea, bystander resuscitation, emergency medicine and health care administration.

Her national and international contributions as an anaesthetist, educator, senior university academic, innovator and soldier were influential – ultimately for the benefit of the many thousands of patients who were privileged to receive her care. To so many, as a friend and confidante, she offered warmth and loyalty. Tess was noted for her support of all junior staff, both clinical and administrative; and many recall her generous help and mentoring throughout their careers.

Her stellar professional career included: the first woman President of the AMA (Qld) (1982); Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (1972-74), of which body she was also the first woman Councillor; the first Queenslander to be enrolled on the Court of Honour of the RACS; the first woman to be appointed (1978) to the rank of colonel in the Defence Health Service, in which role she served as the national consultant military anaesthetist from 1978 to 1986. In 1978, she was

appointed as the foundation Professor of Anaesthetics at The University of Queensland. In her senior years Professor Cramond specialised in pain control and palliative medicine, and her persona, well suited to this role, brought comfort and confidence to many.

Honours were showered upon her, including: Order of the British Empire (1977); Dame of Magistral Grace in the Sovereign Military Order of St John (1979); Red Cross Award for Community Service (1978); Fellow of the Australian Medical Association (1982); Officer of the Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem (1982); Gold Medal of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons UK (1983); Officer of the Order of Australia (1991); and the Women in Medicine Award (1999).

Tess and I were both pupils (14 years apart) of the Auchenflower Infants' School, served as colonels together for more than a decade in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, and served together as professors for more than two decades in the Faculty of Medicine at The University of Queensland. I mourn her passing and recall with affection and esteem her consummate clinical skills and collegiate support in many domains.

Tess's personal life was one of great fulfilment. She married Dr Humphrey Cramond on 24 April 1985, with whom she shared the richest personal, professional and social life for the ensuing 20 years. Esteem to her memory!

John Pearn Councillor, RHSQ

# Recent RHSQ Events



Photo: Helen Brackin

#### **Malcolm's Farewell Lunch**

It was with great sadness that we farewelled volunteer museum guide Malcolm Thomas after 13 years of service. In attendance at the farewell party were [left to right]: Dean Prangley, Ruth Kerr, Cathy Tully, Estelle Schoch, Anne Harding, Graeme Nicholson, Christina Michie, Di Clancy, Michael Ward, Jeff O'Mara, Malcolm Thomas, Barrie Rollason.

# **Volunteers' Christmas Party (photo on page 5)**

The Volunteers' Christmas Party was held on Monday 7 December 2015, and consisted of a guided tour of Parliament House followed by lunch at *The Deck on George* café. In attendance were: [front row] Kateryna Bondarenko; [second row] Beth Johnson, Ilona Fekete, Di Clancy, Anne Harding, Jeff O'Mara; [third row] Cathy Tully, Helen Brackin, Barbara Harman, Val Donovan; [fourth row] Michael Ward, Lyndsay Smith, Noel Fawkes, Colin McFarlane, Malcolm Thomas, Estelle Schoch.



Photo: Parliament house Guide

# **Your Speaker For February**

Peter Roennfeldt will speak about his new book:

#### 'Madame Mallalieu: An Inspiring Musician and her Legacy for Queensland'

Henrietta née Percival (1842-1938), known in her adopted home of Brisbane firstly as Madame Mallalieu, and later as Mrs Willmore, was one of Queensland's greatest musicians. As a virtuoso pianist, she introduced to her audiences much of the standard repertoire, and was in demand as a chamber music partner with the Jefferies Quartet and others. 'Undeterred by popular prejudice', Henrietta, while still a self-supporting mother, also became the colony's leading female organist. Known for both her recitals and church music, she also helped save for Brisbane the Willis pipe organ, now the cultural showpiece of its City Hall. In recognition of her advocacy for women's political and social rights, the Willmore Discussion Club was formed in her honour, while her wartime charitable work was recognised by the King of Belgium. Henrietta's legacy lived on, notably through her family's bequest of their Toowong home as a female music students' hostel, known as QCWA's Mallalieu Home. This book celebrates Madame Mallalieu's family, career, home and legacy.

This book was published in Brisbane in 2015 by CopyRight Publishing – www.copyright.net.au ISBN 978-1921452253. It has 310 pages, 153 mm X 235 mm hard cover, more than 50 full gloss illustrations and is fully indexed. You can order online from the publisher for \$44 (inclusive of GST) plus \$5.50 handling and postage within Australia.

# Logan Village Museum Expansion

The Logan Village museum has recently announced that their display and storage area will be doubled with the laying of foundations for a new building.

The museum is situated in River Street, Logan Village and is part of the Logan Village Community Centre. Well worth a visit.

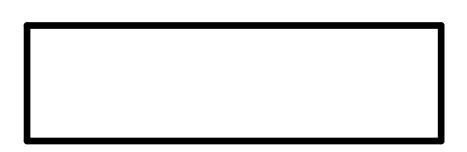


Logan Village Museum photo

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

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## **IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS FEBRUARY and MARCH 2016**

Wednesday 10 February - Talk 12.30 pm 'Madame Mallalieu INSPIRING MUSICIAN AND HER LEGACY FOR QUEENSLAND'

Peter Roennfeldt

Thursday 11 February - Council Meeting Monday 15 February - Bulletin deadline Wednesday 9 March - Talk 12.30 pm 'From Robert Atkin to Ned Hanlon: Memorialising Irish Australians in Brisbane, 1872-1955'

Rodney and Robin Sullivan

### **New Members**

M L Design Brisbane Phil and Carole Castle Chapel Hill Michael and Anne Halliday St Lucia Janet Reid Gaythorne Queensland Muslim Historical Society Inc Sunnybank Thomas Bradley Brisbane

Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm,

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter

Open:

Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday as well as

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