



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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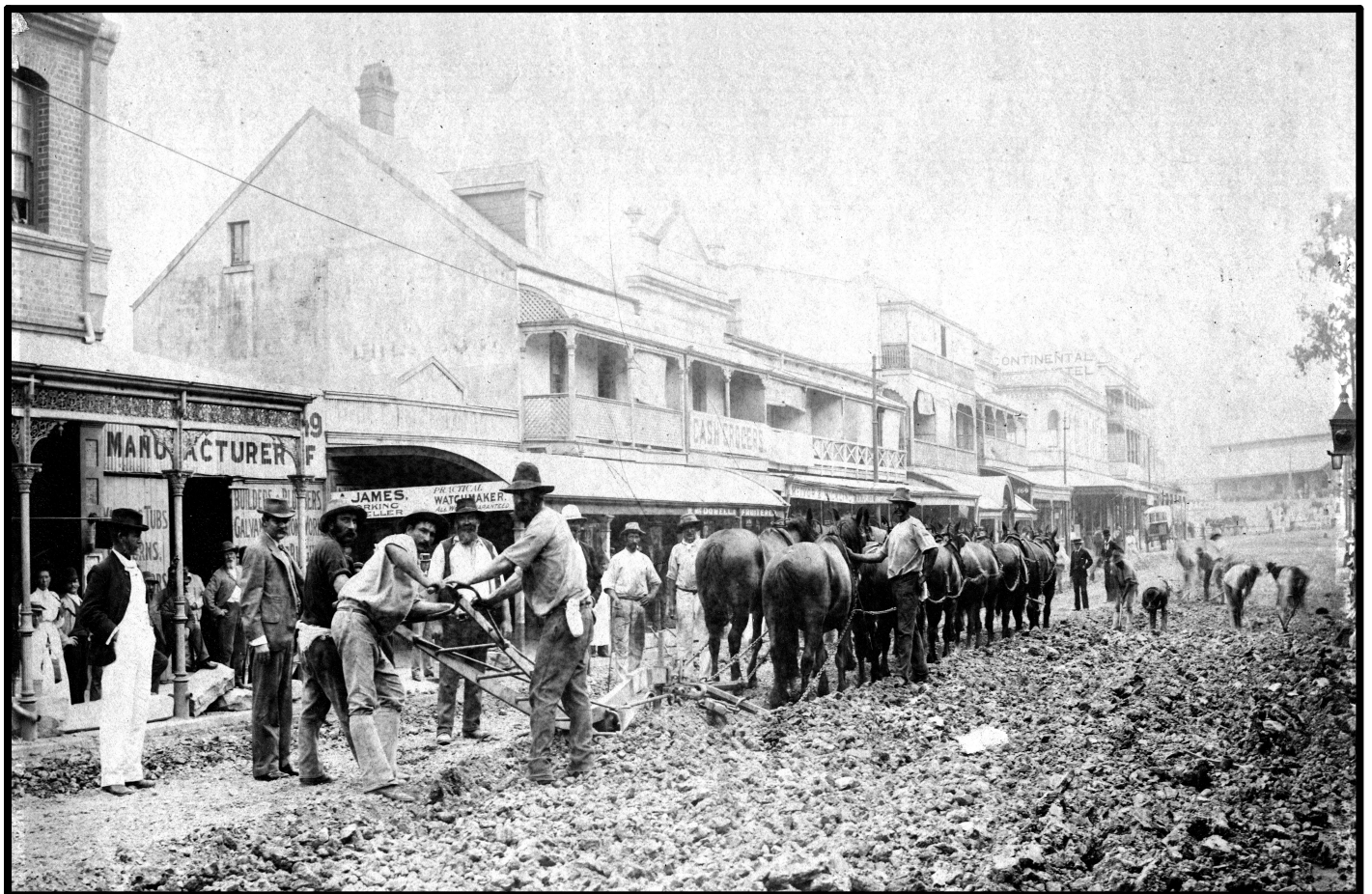
The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,
Governor of Queensland

President: Dean Prangley

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

A GLIMPSE OF BRISBANE FROM THE RHSQ'S *LOST BRISBANE PUBLICATION*



Ploughing George Street towards Roma Street, 1890s:

‘Chamberlain and Wyllie tendered to put down wooden blocking for the length of Queen Street and George Street from Queen to Roma Streets. The contract was too big for them and George Charles Willcocks took over. Two plough teams were used each operating 12 powerful horses. Four drivers were required and three men to hold and guide the plough. The work was the precursor to the construction of tram lines from the late 1890s.’ (*Lost Brisbane*, 2014, p 71, Image No P50361)

President's Report

Dear Members,

A busy start to the year with hundreds of school children booked to come and learn about our convict history. February is almost fully booked and March is filling up rapidly. This bears testimony to the excellent work our volunteers are doing in educating our young people in the early history of Brisbane. We recently had 141 children from Year 5 and had to split them up into three groups so our volunteers could manage them. This leads me to request of you that if you do have a spare day or morning during the week can you come and help us? Helen Brackin our Manager can advise you where and when we need assistance so please ring her on 3221 4198.

Recently I was able to view a remarkable piece of history from our library. It is the original log from the Brig *Amity*, which brought the first free settlers to Brisbane following the convict era. In remarkably good condition, it is one of the many treasures to be found in our collection.

Test drilling for geo-technical sub surface mapping is now being carried out by the developers in readiness for the construction of the new Star casino complex. One of these drillings took place in Miller Park adjoining the Commissariat and permission was required to lift the drilling machine into the park from our rear yard. This is one of many dozens of test drillings to take place so the strata can be understood for foundation and excavation purposes. Your Council is keeping a close eye on all these activities and we are having regular meetings with representatives of Star Entertainment and the Department of State Development.

We will be refreshing our WW1 cabinet in the near future with interesting items from our collection as well as displaying artwork. Also we have a number of Wednesday talks coming up of considerable interest so please come in and have a look and listen.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Society.

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: www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr_Nom.pdf
Further information about the award can be found at: www.queenslandhistory.org.au/JohnDKerr.html

Queensland News

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

Gayndah - The Gayndah Heritage Railway Rail Trail Association has been given three M Class series carriage from the Sunlander as part of the 150 years birthday celebrations. The Mount Lawless bridge was destroyed in the 2011 floods so there is no rail connection to Gayndah; the association is seeking new ways to transport the carriages. They will be utilised as a tourist attraction in Gayndah. The association needs to raise \$7000 to hire a crane to lift the carriages over the Mount Lawless bridge. (*Fraser Coast Chronicle* 29 January 2016 p.7 and 5 February 2016 p.5)

Gympie – Department of State Development had advised the Gympie Regional Council and the Rattler Railway Company that a 'robust business plan' is necessary for addressing in the business plan the major track bed upgrade and maintenance of the historic railway to Imbil. The state government funding will not be released until the Departments of Transport and State Development are satisfied with the business plan. (*Gympie Times* 16 January 2016 pp.1 & 3)

Gympie Regional Libraries preparation for 150 years celebration - Gympie Regional libraries secured a grant in 2015 which has assisted with the purchase of a large scale scanner to allow the region's Local History collection of documents, registers and photographs to be scanned and added to the Library's history pin collection. Gympie celebrates its sesquicentenary in 2017 and the Mary Street History pin project

will be a main feature and contribution by the library. Volunteers and researchers are assisting Local Studies Officer, Beth Wilson to identify suitable content for the project. The library is also running outreach programs with the local community to stimulate wider participation. The collections and documents will provide an extensive online record of Gympie and its 150 year history. (*Lisa Ryan, Gympie Regional Libraries – Queensland Memory* January 2016 – State Library of Queensland)

Killarney Heritage Centre has located a 50 HP diesel rail motor (RM 30) which used to run on the line from Killarney to Warwick. The rail motor was being stored in a shed on the Sunshine Coast. (*Warwick Daily News* 20 January 2016 p.2)

Mareeba – The Mareeba Leagues Club has donated \$4000 towards restoration of Jamieson House at the Mareeba Heritage Centre. The donation is part of the Leagues Club’s community support program. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 15 January 2016 p.5)

Mount Mulligan – A new fence has been erected around the Mount Mulligan cemetery by the Standen Rural Fencing company, funded by government. One of the workers, Marty Drier from Kairi, has ancestors, John D Drier and John W Drier, buried in the cemetery as a result of the mine accident. Mount Mulligan is the site of the worst mining disaster in Queensland – 75 men dying in an explosion on 19 September 1921. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 22 January 2016 p.6 including photograph)

North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum - Stradbroke 100: Remembering North Stradbroke Islanders overseas and at home commenced as a research project to learn more about the names listed on the Dunwich Hall World War One Honour Board which was donated to the community in 1917 by [Thomas Welsby](#), a founder of the RHSQ and avid collector of Australiana. There were 13 names listed but the community was aware that not everyone’s name was included. Through engagement with the Island’s families, the sharing of oral stories, and broader research, it has been revealed that at least 22 men with a connection to Stradbroke Island enlisted during World War I, 14 of them Aboriginal. The project was recognised for its outstanding community engagement at the recent Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards. The information and sources are on the Museum’s website. (Lisa Jackson, North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum - *Queensland Memory* January 2016 – State Library of Queensland)

Palmer Goldfield – A huge mural depicting the history of the Palmer Goldfield has been completed in the Cooktown RSL Club. A retired prospector and artist, Trevor Maudsley has done the work with an assistant, Annette Bristow-Stagg, in 21 days. The top left of the painting shows Hells Gates in 1874, the top right the Strauss Family being warned by a teamster not to continue on the track for fear of attack. The lower sections show gold prospecting underway. (*Cooktown Local News* 21 January 2016 pp.1,6 including two photographs)

Warwick

The Warwick and District Historical Society in conjunction with the Southern Downs Regional Council combined on the 100th anniversary to re-enact the night before the Dungarees departed Warwick on their snowball recruitment march. It was reported in detail in the *Warwick Argus* on 16 November 1915. On 11 December 2015, 100 years later the Warwick community remembered the Dungarees and their families of the men who enlisted. Assembled in front of the Town Hall the story unfolded to give a glimpse of the events of November 1915 including a parade featuring members of the community in period costume, a public oath of allegiance, patriotic speeches by visiting officials, songs and good wishes from the community. The 139th division of cadets re-enacting the march were given a send-off with the same spirit experienced by the original Dungarees 100 years earlier. The Warwick and District Historical Society manages a family history research centre and museum complex in Dragon Street, Warwick (Janice Flood, Warwick and District Historical Society - *Queensland Memory* January 2016 - State Library of Queensland)

Suburban Heritage

Highgate Hill – 18, 20 and 26 Jones Street - On 11 February 2016 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the Department) made an application proposing entry of the Highgate Hill Houses in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

Society members may make a submission on this by 14 March 2016 to email: heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au or by post to Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, GPO Box 2454 Brisbane 4001.

Media Release

The Listing of the Dig Tree and other Burke and Wills Sites on the National Heritage Register under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Royal Historical Society of Queensland
Tuesday 2 February 2016

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland welcomes the Dig Tree's National Heritage listing

The President of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ), Dean Prangley, has welcomed the Federal Government's listing of the Burke and Wills 1860-1861 expedition sites onto the National Heritage Register.

The National Heritage listing comprises five important sites along the banks of the Cooper Creek, near Innamincka, that represent key locations for the ill-fated expedition into inland Australia.

One of these sites, known as the Dig Tree at Cooper Creek, is where expedition members established a base camp, buried supplies and left markings and messages for each other.

Mr Prangley said the Dig Tree had long been considered a national treasure. 'The listing of the Dig Tree on the National Heritage Register further highlights the importance of the site as part of Australia's cultural heritage,' he said. 'It has long served as a memorial for the camp site and is an enduring reminder of our pioneering spirit.'

The Dig Tree reserve had previously been known as Depot Camp 65 for the 1860-61 Burke and Wills expedition from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria, with the expedition contributing to the opening up of the Australian inland to pastoralism. Explorers Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills completed the first north-south crossing of the Australian continent, but died during their return journey.

Situated on the southern bank of the Boolloo Boolloo waterhole at Cooper Creek via Thargomindah, the Dig Tree is a mature Coolabah believed to be 200 to 250 years old. A reserve was created in 1964 as a means of protecting the Dig Tree and the RHSQ was appointed Trustee of the site. The Dig Tree reserve was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register in February 2003.

Mr Prangley said this month the RHSQ would review an updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared for the site, which was made possible with a grant from the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

'The CMP will allow us to examine a number of important issues aimed at working closely with the Bullo Shire Council, the Burke & Wills Historical Society, Santos Limited and other key stakeholders to improve the management, interpretation and protection of the site to accommodate the growing number of tourists,' he said. 'I travelled to the Dig Tree reserve late last year to see first-hand how a range of additional measures could promote and protect the site for future generations.'

Media Contact: Ms Helen Brackin, Manager, RHSQ – Telephone 07 3221 4198.

Obituary

The Reverend Canon Dr John Gladstone Steele 1935-2016

The Reverend Canon Dr John Steele, joint winner of the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction in 2009 with Dr Jennifer Harrison, died on 19 January 2016. He was a physicist, author of much Queensland history and an Anglican priest. He was a mentor to many young people at University and in the church. A detailed obituary will appear in the *Queensland History Journal* in May 2016.

Ruth Kerr

A Talk by Duncan Richardson

'Beyond Distinguished Gentlemen'

A free talk on Brisbane's forgotten voices by local author Duncan Richardson, moves behind the façade of the posed photos and official biographies to the experiences of people outside the circles of wealth

and property. The presentation looks at Brisbane in the 1860s-70s and the struggle against disasters of various kinds in a town that had outstretched its resources and was overcrowded, prone to infectious disease and intensely flammable.

The talk will take place at the following venues:

Thursday 25 February 6 – 7 pm Wynnum Library

Sunday 6 March 11.30 – 12.30 pm Brisbane Square Library

Wednesday 16 March 5.30 – 6.30 pm Coopers Plains Library

Saturday 19 March 10.30 – 11.30 am Holland Park Library

Tuesday 22 March 10.30 – 11.30 am Corinda Library

Research Report

The year has begun with the usual interesting requests for information and images. One request was from a PhD student from Heidelberg, Germany for information on the policy of those in command of the first settlement in Moreton Bay with regard to reformation of convicts. The Society has had the offer from the UK of copies of letters of an early settler on the Darling Downs c1869. Also, this donor requested further information on maps and places. Narcisse Pelletier has been in the news again, with the National Library of Australia requesting a copy of a photograph of him for a forthcoming publication. A copy of Pelletier from the RHSQ collection appeared on the cover of a novel published in France in 2015. Information was requested on Blair House and the Munro family and on Babs McGregor in association with *Bellevue* homestead. A request was received to identify the location of a photograph which was, with a team effort, successfully undertaken. Also, a request has been received relating to heritage information on the site of the Royal National Association. Some information was sought on the grave of Ellen Wickham.

Visitors to the library have been researching post offices in the Rosewood area; a convict, Joseph Budge, here between 1825 to 1829; nautical tables used by an officer on the brig, *Amity* 1828; and pre-federation Queensland Military Volunteer Force.

Val Donovan
Honorary Research Officer

Your Speakers for March

Rodney and Robin Sullivan will speak about:

‘From Robert Atkin to Ned Hanlon: Memorialising Irish Australians in Brisbane, 1872-1955’

This presentation explores the Irish-Australian imprint on Brisbane’s cultural landscape. It ranges from the Corinthian column erected over the Sandgate grave of Robert Atkin in 1872 to the public statues commemorating three Queensland premiers of Irish descent: T J Byrnes (1902), T J Ryan (1925) and Edward Hanlon (1955). The four monuments, and their life-histories, reveal much about the Irish contribution to the evolution of Queensland society.

Notice from the Queensland Women’s Historical Association

Saturday 12 March - 8:00 am until 5:00 pm

Miegunyah is closed to the public

Please note that Miegunyah will be closed on Saturday 12 March for a private function.

National Archives Event Information

20 March 2016 2:00pm

Toowong Library Meeting Room, 9 Sherwood Rd

Judy Ransley will talk about ‘The Walloon Protestants’.

Cost: Gold coin donation. For bookings contact Judy Ransley, email judy@ransley.co_or or telephone 07 3162 8251

Royal Historical Society of
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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
MARCH 2016

Wednesday 9 March - Talk 12.30 pm
'From Robert Atkin to Ned Hanlon:
Memorialising Irish Australians in Brisbane,
1872-1955'

Rodney and Robin Sullivan

Thursday 10 March - Council Meeting

Tuesday 15 March - Bulletin deadline

Thursday 31 March - Nominations close for the
John Kerr medal

New Members

Peter Roennfeldt
University of Queensland Library
Clarissa Carden
David Whybird
Victor Suchocki
Ian Halford
Anne Jones
Margaret Deacon
Burke and Wills Hist. Soc. Inc.
David Dart

RED HILL
ST LUCIA
CHURCHILL
CHAPEL HILL
ROBERTSON
HIGHGATE HILL
THE GAP
PARADISE POINT
GATTON
VARSITY LAKES

Contact details:

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|------------------|--|
| Location: | Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane |
| Manager: | Helen Brackin |
| Phone: | 07 3221 4198 |
| Fax: | 07 3221 4698 |
| E-mail: | info@queenslandhistory.org.au |
| Website: | www.queenslandhistory.org.au |
| ABN: | 34 217 251 028 |
| Postal: | The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003 |

Bulletin articles only:

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Subscriptions:

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| 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 |

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.

Open: Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm,
Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday as well
as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter