



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*74 years of continuous publication*

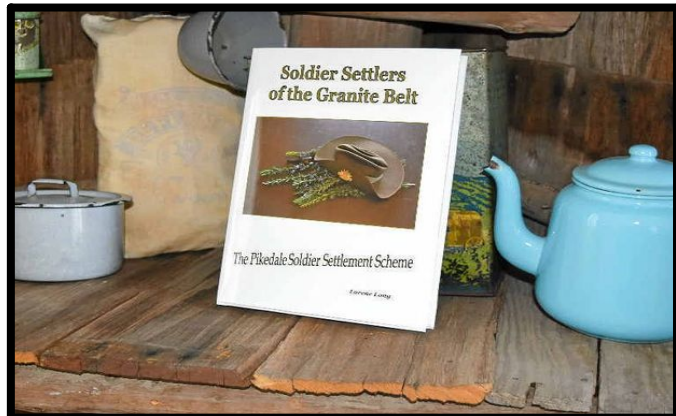
MAY 2016 No. 807

The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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Governor of Queensland

President: Dean Prangley

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STANTHORPE HERITAGE MUSEUM PHOTOS

## STANTHORPE HERITAGE MUSEUM

The unusual sign on the left above is situated outside the Stanthorpe Heritage Museum in High Street, Stanthorpe. The sign is made up of the railway station name boards from the Pikedale railway line, which were donated to the museum when the line was closed on 28 February 1974. The names on the signs are the names of French towns and cities where Australian soldiers of the First Australian Imperial Force fought.

The need for a railway to service the soldier settlements is detailed in a new history book by Lorene Long. This book (pictured) is entitled 'Soldiers Settlers of the Granite Belt: The Pikedale Soldier Settlement Scheme' and is available for \$50 plus \$15 postage from the Stanthorpe Museum. For more information telephone (07) 4681 1711 or email [stanthorpemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:stanthorpemuseum@gmail.com).

An excerpt from Lorene Long's book is featured on pages 4 and 5.

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report

This month, the RHSQ Council has been busy reviewing the proposed final draft conservation management plan for the historic Dig Tree, located at Cooper Creek, near Innamincka. The recent national listing of the Dig Tree site, as part of the Burke and Wills Expedition 1860-61, has been met with enthusiasm by the RHSQ, the Bulloo Shire Council, and other interested organisations. The conservation management plan will help us to make sound decisions about how to best continue to conserve and manage the Dig Tree heritage area for the future, by identifying its cultural heritage significance, and providing strategies for putting conservation policies into place.

As trustee of the Dig Tree, the RHSQ recognises that caring for such an isolated and delicate piece of history is challenging and we look forward to continuing to work with and support those people who take care of this area on a day to day basis.

Following a successful visit to the Dig Tree last year, we hoped that some members of the Council can undertake a further visit in the near future to discuss the Dig Tree's future with our colleagues located on site. The November lunch time talk will focus on the Dig Tree and hopefully provide some further details about the RHSQ's important role as trustee, as well as our goals for the ongoing conservation of this wonderful and irreplaceable piece of Queensland history.

Ché Aberdeen  
Acting President

## Your Speaker for May

Judith McKay will speak on 'Rediscovering the artist Godfrey Rivers and his legacy to Queensland'



Photo: Judith McKay

### Godfrey River's music-making angels in St Mary's Church, Kangaroo Point

Richard Godfrey Rivers (1858–1925) is best known for his painting *Under the jacaranda*, which is one of the Queensland Art Gallery's best loved works. Not only an artist, Rivers was also the Gallery's founder, pioneer curator and benefactor; as well as Brisbane's leading art teacher and advocate of his day.

Judith McKay, a museum curator and historian, is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and in 2008 was awarded the Society's John Douglas Kerr Medal. Judith has a particular interest in early Queensland art. She first became interested in Godfrey Rivers a few years back while undertaking a significance assessment of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane Archives and realised the extent of his contribution to Brisbane.

## Obituary

It is with regret that we inform our members that Mrs Velyian Todd, nee MacDonald, passed away on 10 January 2016. She was 88. She was married to Dr Ronald Todd for 62 years until his passing in 2011. They had a family of three children and four grandchildren. She joined the RHSQ with Ron in 2006 and was a member until her death.

## Queensland News

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

**Cape York** – Darcy Gallop and Des Savage and others of the Cooktown community are proposing a special memorial bronze plaque featuring a bulldozer be affixed to the slab at the base of Albin (Abby) Seagren's grave in Cooktown Cemetery. Seagren's family has erected a polished black granite head stone

with gilt inscription over his grave. His contribution to north Queensland was in building roads in Cape York. He operated his TD24 bulldozer on the first clearing north of Mount Carbine on the Mulligan Highway in 1949. He did the clearing and earthworks on the Battle Camp Road and converted the ‘melon hole’ section of the Peninsula Development Road over what was called the Piccaninny Plains to a highway by deep ripping the ironstone gravels. He did extensive clearing on the Bloomfield Road. He was a contractor for Comalco at Weipa and on the Heathlands. (*Cooktown Local News* 23 March 2016 p. 2 including portrait photograph)

**Dalby** – Ray Humphrys wrote a short article in the *Dalby Herald* of 22 March 2016 at page 8 featuring Dalby area’s dairy production. James Clarke built the first butter factory in 1906. He sold it to Holdensen and Nielsen of Victoria a year later. Oakey Butter Factory took over in 1910. In 1913 the factory burnt down. The Downs Co-operative Dairy Association took over and built a new factory immediately afterwards on the western side of the town for £30,000. It was a highly successful operation for decades. (*Dalby Herald* 22 March 2016 p. 8)

**Herberton** – Tablelands Regional Council has had a difficult and acrimonious time during the recent term. Herberton Shire Hall is the focus of criticism as a fire hazard and the state of the Herberton Shire’s records in the hall. A letter from Brad Rolph to the editor of the *Tablelander* on 15 March 2016 (page 17) describes the condition of the records. Herberton was the first town on the Tableland, established in 1880 as the centre of the tin mining and was the centre of the first local authority on the Tableland.

**Maclagan, 80 km north west of Toowoomba** – The Maclagan Museum was opened on Saturday, 28 February 1998. The *Dalby Herald* of 22 March 2016 featured on page 6 a colour photograph of the opening with Les Weedon shown speaking. The photograph was contributed by Mr Ray Humphrys. Queensland Rail Historical Collection.

**Maryborough** - Steam locomotive No. 299 has featured in the Kylie Minogue film, *The Delinquents*, haul coal and cattle and transport passengers. Now Maryborough Model Engineers and Live Steamers Association (MELSA) are raising more than \$1 million dollars for its restoration. Maryborough’s first locomotive made for Queensland Rail was built by Walkers Maryborough in 1897 and spent its working life throughout Queensland. The 299 was the first local construction of a series of 30 engines that had started construction in England in 1895 with a batch of 10 engines having been earlier sourced from the Yorkshire Engine Co in England. 299 was then one of a group of eventually 40 locomotives referred to as B15 Class. The steam engine remained in service on a variety of freight and passenger duties across Queensland until finally retired in 1965. MELSA members have spent many hours on the restoration since having 299 handed into their care in 1985. Copies of the Book, about 299, are available from MELSA. The association would appreciate donations. (Photograph: History in the Making: (left to right) MELSA acting secretary Owen Hill, Stephan Mohr MELSA acting treasurer (background), vice president of Project 299 Brian Humphries and MELSA president Reville Mohr with the original locomotive stored in a safe place in Maryborough. Photos: Robyne Cuerel) (*Maryborough Herald* 7 April 2016 p. 7)

**Millaa Millaa** – The Eacham Historical Society celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 17 April 2016 at Millaa Millaa. There was a celebration cake and a heritage walk around Millaa Millaa was held. (*Tablelander* 12 April 2016 p.2)

**Oakey** - Valerie Weise-Young sent in this photo of the Oakey Railway Station and Butter Factory (circa 1904) shows the relative position of each.

Around daylight on the 19 September 1912, the Butter Factory was destroyed by fire and due to a gusty westerly wind, the station buildings were also in danger but were saved by the efforts of Mr Morrison, the Station Master, and the crew of the early train from Toowoomba, with water from the engine. After the fire, the bulk of the cream was taken to the Dalby Factory which was also managed by the Oakey company. A temporary factory was built on the old site and was operating again by the end of the year. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 13 April 2016 p. 12 including photograph)

**Shorncliffe** – Queensland Rail (QR) has undertaken early works into the restoration of the Shorncliffe Railway Station. A QR spokesman said the plan was to return the station to its original 1897 appearance. Initial works included the removal of the camphor laurel tree and asbestos sheeting in the lamp room. (*Northside Chronicle* 6 April 2016 p.7)

**Warra** – The Warra Memorial Hall was opened by Jack Duggan, the Deputy Premier and Member for Toowoomba, in 1956. More than 500 people attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006 of the opening. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Warra Memorial Hall was celebrated with a ball on 30 April. The current president of the

Hall committee, Jeff Taylor, has been in the position for 30 years. (*Chinchilla News* 17 March 2016 p. 22 including two photographs)

**Winton** – Qantilda Museum opened on 21 March 2016 in time for Easter visitors. The Winton Historical Society and Museum Inc operates the museum which opens daily from 9am to 4pm. Internal displays suffered damage in the fire. Thousands of objects are now back on display. The museum holds the 1879 Corinthian Cup of the Never Never Jockey Club. There is also a railway carriage at the relocated Chorregong railway siding. (*Longreach Leader* 18 March 2016 p. 5 including photograph of the steam locomotive and memorabilia)

## **A statement on the National Library's TROVE service May 2016**

The Royal Historical Society (RHSQ) is concerned about the proposed change to the operating model for the National Library of Australia's (NLA) popular TROVE service. Since it was introduced in 2009, TROVE has been embraced by collecting institutions and content partners throughout Australia for providing an innovative online platform which enables researchers to easily search, discover and access material held in dispersed collections.

TROVE is particularly valued by Australians living in remote and regional communities, with tens of thousands of people accessing this service each day. However, the NLA has advised that the impact of the Federal Government's efficiency dividend is likely to result in changes to the TROVE service.

Of particular concern is that TROVE may cease aggregating content from museums and universities unless it is fully funded to do so. The cessation of aggregated content from universities and museums, if adopted, may limit the future effectiveness of this important service. The RHSQ considers it vitally important for TROVE to maintain its place as an invaluable component of Australia's research infrastructure.

### **Research Report**

The research team has been busy with requests and visitors to the library. The requests have included research on William Henry Geary, the aviatrix Lores Bonney, on Woodford Sawmills, the Camberwell Estate map, Black & White cabs and on Peter Glynn who died in 1857, and his counterparts, Hulland and Peattie and Peter Grant. Requests have been made for photographs from *Lost Brisbane* of the Sandgate Baptist Church and the rock Wall c.1892.

Visitors to the library have been researching St John's Church Hendra, involving a search of the Post Office Directories, and a group from Black & White Cabs, Brisbane to procure images to be displayed on their cabs in the future.

Val Donovan  
Honorary Research Officer

### **Stanthorpe Heritage Museum** (continued from page 1):

The excerpt is an article that appeared in *The Brisbane Courier*, Tuesday 17 July 1920, page 5. This excerpt has been featured, not only for its significance to the railway, but also to highlight the 1920s language.

#### ***SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT VISITED [by The Prince of Wales]***

The wattles bloomed bravely, and cold clear streams ran through the hills. The mountain air was deliciously cool and invigorating. Every now and then a small clearing was revealed where stood some modest wayside house, or little group of houses, from which the settlers fluttered their little beflagged welcomes. It spoke volumes. It seemed so cordial and friendly. The Prince's charming nature was revealed, in his acknowledgment of every little tribute of greeting that went out to him from an affectionate people. Nothing escaped his attention as he stood at the rear of his observation car.

There was one charming little picture in a lonely rocky cutting. Far away from any habitation stood a group of five pretty Queensland bush girls of varying ages. They had only gum leaves to offer, and they scanned the long length of the train anxiously as carriage after carriage went by. Ultimately they were rewarded, for there stood their Prince on the very last car, and as they flung their fragrant gum leaves after him "Prince Charming" bowed and smiled his pleasure at acknowledging the tribute. So the train ran on towards Amiens, which is an interesting soldiers' settlement 12 miles from Cotton Vale, on the main line.

There is a large army of 400 of Queensland's returned men at the settlement, and it is said that they are making "a good fist" of tilling the land, and are growing fruit where unproductive bush formerly existed. A rousing cheer for the King's son came from a railway crossing just outside Stanthorpe.

The greeting came from five grey clad war nurses, standing up in a motor car, smiling and hooraying, and waving to the Prince for dear life. Posted on boulders above the town was a picturesque feminine cluster, waving scented wattle, and all about the station interested groups of children and bigger folk cheered their Prince. So the train sped on through the sunlit country, above which shone a perfectly clear sky. The famous orchards of the Stanthorpe district were all under "bare poles." At 193 miles the train pulled up for water. As a fact it was at Glen Niven, of apple fame, and the people must have "known something," for, with all the little school children in the foreground they were drawn up just where the Prince's carriage stood and he cordially shook hands with some of the leaders perhaps the village schoolmaster and some hard-working orchardists.

There were other and smaller impromptu groups to welcome the Prince and at Cotton Vale, where trains were changed, there was a big heartening greeting for the Prince. The run on the light line to Amiens was through typical, light sandy fruit country.

Trees stood uprooted and upturned in clearings, as though there had been an upheaval of nature. It is a way men have of knocking Nature about in order to get on to the soil. Stalwart men were engaged in log felling, and here and there was a brown bark humpy to catch the curious eye of an Englishman. Most of the men on the clearings are tent dwellers, while some have their land cleared and rabbit netted already. A collection of very new buildings clustered together announced Amiens itself, Pozieres having already been passed.

At the soldier settlement a splendid and stirring note of patriotism was struck by these sturdy dinkum "diggers," and by their women folk and children. Two hundred brown and bronzed men stood upright and in perfect alignment, and the Prince has never had a more splendid escort. Ringing cheers echoed through the bush as he emerged from the train. The president of the Stanthorpe Shire Council (Councillor Johnston Smyth) who was accompanied by his grey-haired and comely wife, and also by Mr. D. Gunn, M.L.A., addressed the Royal visitor from over the seas in a speech that was genuinely eloquent, though brief.

On behalf of the returned Soldiers settlers of the district he extended a hearty and cordial welcome at this spot in sunny Queensland, and assured his Royal Highness of their loyalty to King and Empire, trusting that when the Prince returned home he would tell his Majesty of the devotion of the people of Australia to the Throne. He desired to say that his Royal Highness had been made President of the Pikedale Memorial Hospital to be erected by the soldier settlers in honour of their fallen comrades.

The Prince, who had genuinely won the hearts of the people by his bright blue eyes, filled with the soft sunshine of sympathy and by his kindly face, chatted with Mrs. Smyth, and then shook hands with every soldier. He said a few words to each decorated or injured man in turn. The children were also noticed as the Prince moved among this honest, splendid hearted people, who had embowered the place in wattle as golden as their hearts.

The officers in charge of the soldiers included Lieut. Whittaker, M.C., Major Elwell, Pilot Robinson, R.A.F., and Lieuts. Single, Richardson, and Dougherty. It must not be forgotten that a group of war nurses also were present, and were spoken to by the Prince, who was rather hoarse with a cold, and did not attempt to make any speech, though he expressed his thanks. When Pikedale was reached again, it was found that a more imposing demonstration had been arranged, and this at 24 hours' notice.

A small company of returned soldiers, and a few sailors, were drawn up, and the school children stood with flags in their hands in token of greeting. Following his usual custom, the Prince shook hands with each returned man, and conversed with those who were wounded and injured, asking them where they had fought, and how they were faring. The Prince had a message conveyed to the children that his throat would not permit him to speak to them, but he asked that they might be granted a holiday. Lieuts. Fearnside and Newland, and Chief Petty Officer W. J. Farmer, formerly of Parliament House, were in charge of the proceedings. Ringing cheers followed the train as it moved off for Warwick.

**Lorene Long's Note:** In 2010 a visitor to the Stanthorpe Museum advised that a family member had been 'serving the Prince' at the time of his Australian visit, and the Prince's personal diary referred to his as 'one of the worst days of my life, visiting a pathetic rural settlement in the bush'.

**Gloria and I visited the Museum recently and found it to be a marvellous experience. The Museum is meticulously presented and every item is clearly labelled and in wonderful condition. Also, the volunteers are very friendly and well informed. Well worth a visit! (Ed.)**

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS**  
**MAY 2016**

**Wednesday 11 May - Talk 12.30 pm**  
**‘Rediscovering the artist Godfrey Rivers and his  
legacy to Queensland’**

Judith McKay

**Thursday 12 May - Council Meeting**

**Sunday 15 May - Bulletin deadline**

**JUNE 2016**

**Monday 6 June - Qld Day dinner**

**Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June - History Alive  
Festival**

**Saturday 18 June - RHSQ annual seminar**

**New Member**

Pamela Verney

Boondall

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