



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*74 years of continuous publication*

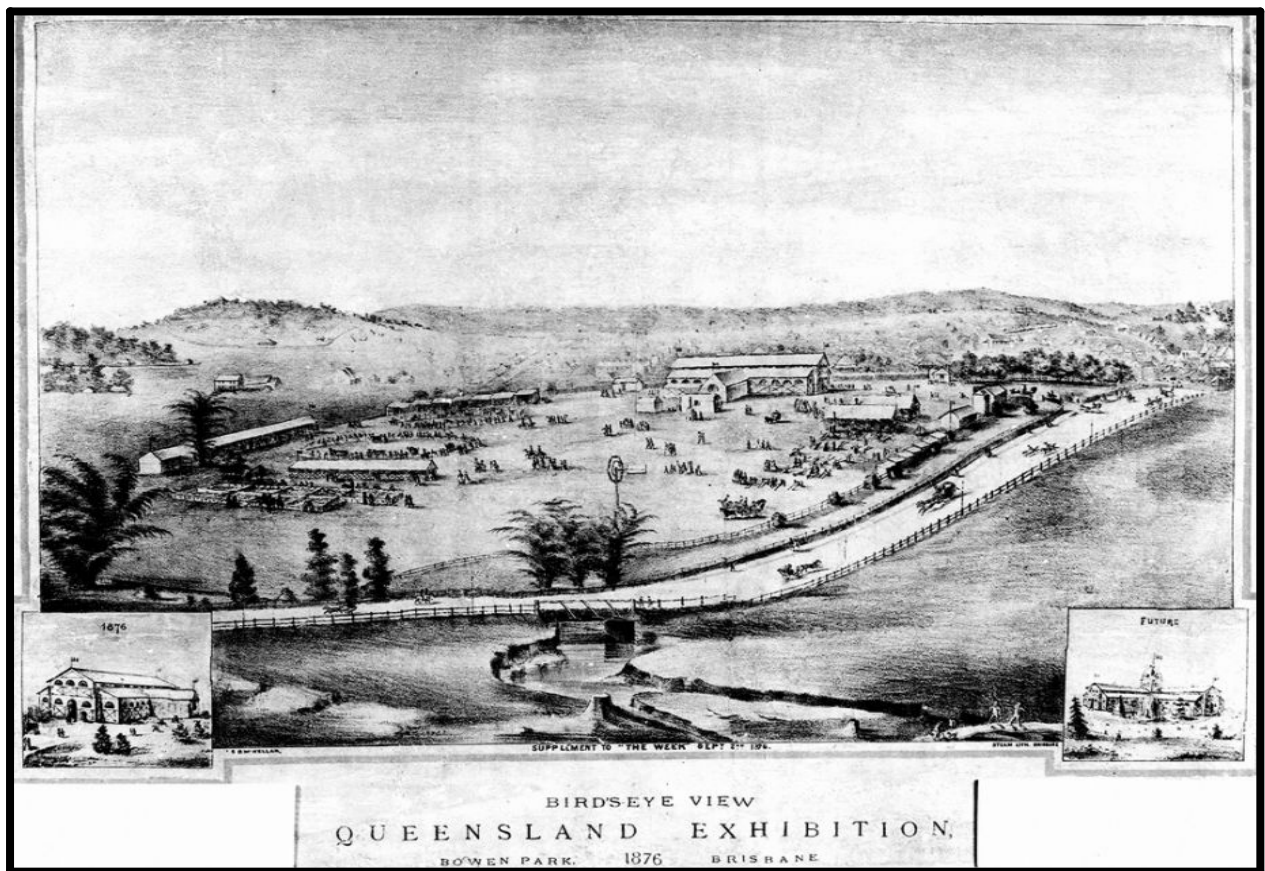
SEPTEMBER 2016 No. 811

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)



John Oxley Library Sketch 42351

## 140 YEARS OF THE QUEENSLAND EXHIBITION

The 'Ekka' is the annual show of Brisbane. Its formal title is the Royal Queensland Show and it is held at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground. It was originally called the Queensland or Brisbane Exhibition, however it is commonly called the 'Ekka', which is a shortening of the word 'exhibition'. It is run by The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. The Ekka is Queensland's largest annual event. It aims to showcase Queensland culture, produce, resources and initiatives. This is done through a range of competitions, award ceremonies, exhibits, educational displays and animal judging. There is also a large sideshow area.

This year it is 140 years since the first Queensland Exhibition in 1876. However, there have not been 140 exhibitions; the 1919 show was cancelled because of the Spanish Flu epidemic and the 1942 show because of the dangers associated with World War II. (More on page 5)

## President's Report

Dear Members,

The Destination Brisbane Consortium is preparing to demolish those non heritage buildings in the Queens Wharf Precinct and we were invited to a closing ceremony at the Neville Bonner building. A large number of State Politicians attended and witnessed a ceremony by indigenous performers as a fitting tribute to the memory of our first Aboriginal State Politician.

The RHSQ wishes to congratulate and honour the achievements of our member and John Douglas Kerr Medal winner Lorna McDonald who turned 100 on 10 August 2016. Lorna moved to Rockhampton with her family in the 1960s and has continued to live there to the present day. Studying externally, Lorna completed degrees at The University of Queensland. In 1975, she was awarded her Masters degree on land settlement in the northern districts of Port Curtis and Leichhardt. In 1985, she gained a PhD for her thesis on the history of the cattle industry in Central Queensland. Having written numerous histories of the Central Queensland region, Lorna was appointed Rockhampton Historian from 1976 to 1980 and Gladstone Historian from 1984 to 1987. She was awarded the OAM in 1995. In 2007 she was awarded the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction. Lorna has contributed significantly to the Society's *Journal* and to our conferences. She continues to work as a professional historian.

Our museum curator Tim Roberts has identified two items the RHSQ should purchase to add to our collection of historic documents. The first is a World War I printed recruiting poster in an American Oak frame depicting a recruiting scene of a defiant woman and two dead infants. The original work was made by J S Watkins (1886-1942) and distributed by the Queensland Recruiting Committee. The second is a flight cover complete with stamps sent by the aviatrix Lores Bonney to her father in England in 1937. Prices are \$395 for the poster and \$225 for the flight cover. Should you be interested in donating one of these to the Society please telephone Helen at the office on 3221 4198.

Those interested in old cars may wish to come to the Commissariat on Wednesday 19 October. The Vintage Car Club of Queensland will be bringing some of their treasures for a visit and will display them in the yard facing Queens Wharf Road.

See you at Riverfire.

Dean Prangley  
President.

### THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

#### Proposed Amendment to Constitution for Annual General Meeting on 29 September 2016

The Society's Council proposes the following amendment to the constitution of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland at the Annual General Meeting, on Thursday 29 September 2016:

Clause 15 (a) second line amend 'three months' to read 'five months'

**Reason:** This will allow the Annual General Meeting to be held within five months of the end of the financial year, which will be by the end of November rather than the end of September. The extension is required to allow our auditors extra time to audit the financial accounts each year, which they do at no cost, as the short time period is proving difficult for the auditors to meet.

Any member who has concerns or issues they wish to discuss concerning the above amendment are invited to contact Denver Beanland telephone 3217 7229 or email: [denverbeanland@hotmail.com](mailto:denverbeanland@hotmail.com)

### THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 6.00 pm AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE

##### AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2015 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. Consideration of recommendation by the Society’s Council of an Amendment to the Society’s Constitution.  
 Clause 15 (a) second line amend ‘three months’ to ‘five months’
8. Consideration of the recommendation by the Society’s Council that Dr Margaret Kowald be elected as a Fellow of the Society and that Mrs Beth Johnson be awarded a MacGregor Medal.
9. Any other business.

Ruth S Kerr  
 Hon Secretary

**Fellowship**

The Society’s Council recommends that Dr Margaret Kowald be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 of the Constitution, for her research, writing, editorship of Queensland History Journal, publications including her role in two Lost Brisbane books.

**Explanatory Note:**

**Dr Margaret Kowald**

- member of The RHSQ since July 1992;
- an editor of The RHSQ *Journal* since February 2008 (subsequently renamed *Queensland History Journal*);
- member of Publications Committee and has done detailed negotiations with Printer re price and size including introduction of colour photographs and maps into the *Queensland History Journal*;
- member of the founding committee for the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for Research and Writing Queensland and Australian History;
- an author of *Lost Brisbane and surrounding areas 1860-1960* and *Lost Brisbane 2 and surrounding areas: the later years*;
- professional historian and author of several books:

**MacGregor Medal:**

The Society’s Council recommends that Mrs Beth Johnson be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 of the Constitution, for her role in the Research and Library Team over ten years.

**Explanatory Note:**

**Mrs Beth Johnson**

- joined the Society in May 2003;
- commenced as an Hon Research Officer in 2005 after she had finished her history book on Robert Cribb;
- has prepared at least three Book Auction Catalogues for the Society;
- extended the index to the Society’s *Journal*, managed the rearrangement of the several thousand vertical files (subject, district and families) in the Society’s Library, rationalized the Society’s serial collection, and catalogued photographs; and
- published a paper on Fanny Trundle in February 2011 issue of *Queensland History Journal*.

**THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND  
 NOMINATION FORM**

For the election of the President, Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, 10 Councillors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 29 September 2016 at 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before 15 September 2016.

Nominations must be signed by 2 (two) financial members of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member.

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 We nominate .....  
 for the office of .....

Signed .....

Signed .....

If elected I agree to act in the position of

.....

Signature .....

## Queensland News

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

**Beaudesert** – Mr Mark McCabe gave a speech recently to around 30 of the Beaudesert Chamber of Commerce detailing Beaudesert's history from settlement in 1847. He outlined the roles of the railways, the infamous fire and the churches. He has established the Beaudesert history matters facebook page which now has 1000 members. (*Beaudesert Times* 27 July 2016 p. 10)

**Herberton** – Tablelands Regional Council is providing a grant of \$4200 to the Atherton – Herberton Historic Railway. The grant is for the transportation of a railway carriage from Portsmith, Cairns to Herberton. The group has up to 30 volunteers working at Herberton railway yards on Tuesdays. (*Tablelander* 28 June 2016 p. 4)

**Pearamon** – Butcher's Creek State School celebrated the centenary of the birth of Alexander Michael Prokhorov, the first Queensland born Nobel prize winner. He was born on 11 July 1916 and attended Butchers Creek State School in 1922 and 1923. His parents returned to Russia taking the family of Alexander, Valentina and Eugenia. Alexander Prokhorov became a physicist. He won the Nobel Prize in 1964 for his work on lasers. (*Tablelander* 19 July 2016 pp. 1 and 7 including photograph)

**Rockhampton** – ABC radio commenced broadcasting in Rockhampton from the Post office building in July 1931. There was also a commercial station 4RO operating at the corner of East and William Streets. Transmission was from towers at Gracemere and Pink Lily. Rockhampton and District Historical Society Inc celebrated Queensland Day with North Rockhampton Rotary Club with a lunch at *Glenmore* on 5 June. (Rockhampton and District Historical Society Inc *Newsletter* July 2016)

**Scenic Rim Scenic Walking Trail** - Conditional approval has been given by the State Government to Spicers Hotel Group for a 50 km scenic walking trail and eco lodge project in Main Range National Park. The 50 km walk will take six days to complete with stays in purpose built luxury eco lodges along the way. Eighteen kilometres of walking trails between Mt Mistake and Spicers Peak Nature reserve will be added to the existing 32 km. The Shire Council still has to approve the project. (*Beaudesert Times* 27 July 2016 p. 1)

**Stanthorpe** – A photograph of the office of the New Banca Tin Mining Company appeared in the *Stanthorpe Border Post* of 14 July 2016 on page 2. The office comprised two slab and iron buildings with pitched roof. Three people are pictures, one a woman seated. There is also a large wood pile. New Banca Tin Mining Company was formed in May 1872 by Cornelius McGlew and Eisenstaedter with a capital of £60,000. Their block (16) of 360 acres was managed by a Mr Beattie. It was situated near where the Stanthorpe State High School is situated. (*Tenterfield Star* 14 February 1872; *Queenslander* 4 May 1872 p. 10 c. 2; Jean Harslett and Mervyn Royle, *They Came to a Plateau: the Stanthorpe Saga*, Stanthorpe, 1973 p. 34)

**Winton** – The Winton Shire Council has applied for \$8 million from the National Stronger Regions federal grant program to assist in building a new Waltzing Matilda Centre to replace the one burnt down in June 2015. Cox Rayner architects have produced a \$20 million plan for the project. \$12 million is expected from an insurance payout and \$1.5 million from the Queensland government for the project. (*North Queensland Register* 21 July 2016 p. 12 including photograph)

## Obituary

### LESLEY MERLE WILLIAMS (1932-2016)

Lesley Williams joined the Society on 24 July 1992 and served on the Society's Council during the 1990s. Lesley was educated in Queensland having attended Newmarket State School and the Central Practising School. She became school captain at Brisbane State High. At The University of Queensland she obtained a First Class BSc Honours Degree in 1956, an MSc in 1959, a PhD in 1974 and a BA in 1978. In 1964 she obtained a ThA from the Australian College of Theology. After graduation she worked in the Department of Bacteriology and in 1963 she was appointed to the position of Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy which she held until retirement.

She made significant contributions to the scientific literature with her publications on genetics, histochemistry and embryology; but her great interest and love was in education and medical history. In 2007 she published *No Better Profession* medical women in Queensland 1891 to 1999. Lesley's quality of her teaching was recognized in many ways within the university world, including The University of Queensland Excellence in Teaching Award in 1989, the Vice-Chancellor's Prize in 1992.

In her private life Lesley had many interests: Lesley was a practising Anglican, serving as a Girls Friendly Society leader and Sunday School Teacher. She was a guide at Brisbane's St John's Cathedral, and a financial supporter of the St John's Restoration Project and played an active role at St Georges' Anglican Church at Tamborine Mountain.

She played hockey at University. She was a collector of books, orchids, African violets and Antiques. Lesley retired to Tamborine where she had a beautiful garden.

Ruth S Kerr

## Research Report

The research team has had a busy month with inquiries regarding Cloncurry, the origins of a poem entitled 'Manatwongu Bay' relating to a convict deported to Australia, and for information on an image found to be, after much research, of the Indooroopilly War Memorial. The latter took about two hours research to find a copy of the image which the inquirer thought had been digitised by the RHSQ. A copy of the image, differently named, was eventually found in one of the folders, but gives an insight to readers of the extensive research that is sometimes required to answer the questions posed in the emails which we receive each week.

Information has been requested on Henry William Mobsby, and on an Ashgrove home once known as *Kerry Cottage*. Requests have been received for digital copies of the ship SS *Kyarra*, and for another image to replace one provided recently for a couple of the Indooroopilly area. We have also had a further request to provided dates, if possible, for images supplied of the Enoggera and Lake Manchester dams. The researchers have also been requested to do a time line of the Executive Building which will be demolished in the future redevelopment of the Queens Wharf Precinct.

We are grateful of some maps and plans supplied of the Bundaberg area and for the offer of copies of convict James Winstanley's Ticket of Leave and Certificate of Freedom and a photograph of the convict.

Val Donovan

Honorary Research Officer

## Your Speaker for September

The topic is for our September talk is, 'The ANZAC Nurses and their heroic role during the Gallipoli campaign'. The speaker will be Philip Castle.

Philip Castle, 69, is a retired journalist and amateur historian. He has researched and written many articles on Australia's military history. He began a detailed study of the ANZAC nurses for the period from April to December 1915 to acknowledge their role 100 years onwards. He had previously visited Gallipoli twice. He has presented his findings on the nurses at numerous public forums. He recently returned from a two month visit to Europe including a 10-day tour of the western front. He was a print journalist, head of the Australian Federal Police's public affairs and until his retirement three years ago, a journalism lecturer at QUT and Griffith Universities. He holds bachelors degrees in History/Political Science (ANU), Journalism and Professional Writing (Canberra University) and a Research Masters examining Journalists and PTSD (QUT). He also served as a junior diplomat in the Australian Embassy, Vietnam, from 1969 to 1971 during the war years.

## More on the Queensland Ekka

The first show attracted about 17,000 visitors. The main building was the timber exhibition building which housed 1700. One popular attraction was a timber bridge built by saw-miller William Pettigrew. The show was a copy of the famous International Exhibitions being held in Britain and worldwide dating from the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851.

A new grandstand designed by Claude William Chambers was open for the 1906 show. It was later named the John Macdonald Stand in recognition of a long-serving member of the Royal National Association.

In 1920, the show was visited by the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII) who was asked and gave permission for the name of the association to change to the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. Cattle and other animals were also exhibited during the show, a practice that remains to this day, the animal nursery is still a place for children and adults alike to go and witness all the baby animals.

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
 PO Box 12057 Brisbane George Street QLD 4003  
 RHSQ Bulletin: PP 1000040978  
 RHSQ Journal: PP 100004097

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Wednesday 14 September - Talk 12.30 pm**  
**‘The ANZAC Nurses and their heroic role**  
**during the Gallipoli campaign’.**  
 Philip Castle.

**Thursday 15 September - Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 15 September - *Bulletin* Deadline**  
**Saturday 24 September - ‘Riverfire’ event**  
**Thursday 29 September - AGM**

**New Member**

Michael Evans

Brisbane City

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**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

**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