



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*74 years of continuous publication*

NOVEMBER 2016 No. 813

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)



Australian War Memorial Photo

## The Western Front in 1916

In November 1916 the soldiers fighting on the Western Front were unaware that they were only at the halfway point in four years of slaughter. For Britain and the Commonwealth forces, together with the French, the period is remembered for the series of battles known as the First Battle of the Somme. The British and Commonwealth casualties from this fighting totalled 420,000, and the French lost 204,000. Combined with the German losses, there were more than a million battle casualties on the Somme.

For Australia, there had been few bright spots in a year that seemed to begin quite well. But once our troops became committed to the Western Front battles from July, there were heavy losses and suffering at the front and widespread mourning at home. In the attack at Fromelles the cost in lives had been the highest in any 24-hour period of the war, while the casualty rate in the six weeks at Pozières was the worst ever experienced. Also, back home, there was the conscription referendum which caused widespread and long-lasting divisions in the population.

Australians played a full part in 1916. The Somme offensive did not achieve its goals, but it was one of a series of hammer blows that eventually weakened the German army. In this war of attrition, the allies suffered similarly, but had the advantage that their burden could be shared between the French, the British and Empire troops.

**LEST WE FORGET**

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report

Dear Members,

This month we should see the completion of the move of our Museum storage from the basement of the adjoining building which we share with the National Trust to new storage premises in the State Government owned 'GoPrint' building in Vulture Street, Woolloongabba. This move was essential to allow for the renovation of the building in William Street which was originally the immigration centre built in 1862. The developers of the new Casino, Destination Brisbane Consortium will refurbish the building into restaurants, coffee outlets and other uses aimed at the increasing number of tourists in the area. As I have said before our Commissariat convict building will not be affected and it will be business as usual for the RHSQ.

The AGM went well but our member attendance was down despite the promise of an excellent speaker for the Clem Lack oration. We would love to have more of you at these important events so please endeavour to diarise and attend if you can. We have had good attendances at our lunchtime talks so it would appear that many members would prefer not to come out at night. To this end we have cancelled the *Photos in the Attic* presentation on Friday 18 November and have arranged for it to be presented on Wednesday 16 November at 12.30 pm at the Commissariat. This is in place of our usual Wednesday talk and will take one hour with lunch served afterwards. This is a most interesting presentation on the finding, in the 1990s, of thousands of glass negatives from World War 1 in the attic of a French village house. These were photos of Aussie soldiers before they went into battle taken by a French couple. The presentation is fully supported by video and still illustrations. Please come if you can and let the office know on 3221 4198 for catering.

*Lost Brisbane2* comes out in November for Christmas sales. We have seen a pre-sale copy and it is as good as we expected it would be with excellent reproduction of the 450 unique photographs of Brisbane and surrounds dealing with the later years from World War II. If you intend to buy one or more for Christmas presents please come to the Commissariat as we will have stocks to sell.

Finally, we are having Christmas drinks and nibbles at the Commissariat on Separation Day, Saturday 10 December. Our Patron His Excellency the Honourable Paul De Jersey AC will launch *Lost Brisbane2*. Time will be 6.00 pm until 8.00 pm. Again please let the office know if you are coming for catering purposes. Cost will be \$45 for members and \$50 for guests.

Thanks for your continuing support of our Society.

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** - Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway Inc received \$6209 for its 'Preserving the past for the future' project. The long-term aim is to complete the railway line between Herberton and Atherton for the popular tourist train. The grant was obtained through the Federal Government's Stronger Communities program. The long-term aim is to repair the railway line between Herberton and Atherton for a tourist train. (*Tablelander* 20 September 2016 p.5)

**Atherton** - Atherton Performing Arts obtained \$5000 for the lighting and sound upgrade for the Silo Road Theatre. The theatre is a former World War II igloo building, which was heritage-listed in 2015. Another igloo project at Rocky Creek was acknowledged with a \$20,000 grant to the Rotary Club of Atherton Inc. Formerly the entertainment igloo at the World War II hospital, the building is undergoing a major restoration. The grant was obtained through the Federal Government's Stronger Communities program. (*Tablelander* 20 September 2016 p.5)

**Blackbutt** - The Nukku State School now the Roy Emerson Museum was re-located to Blackbutt in 2011 (a photo of the school is at page 5). The building now contains historical photos, videos and stories featuring tennis great Roy Stanley Emerson, a past Nukku school pupil. The Blackbutt and District Tourism Heritage Association desired to recognise Emerson for his exceptional tennis career. After months of fund raising, the group commissioned a life size bronze statue of him for unveiling on 3 November 2016, Roy Emerson's 80th birthday. This work has renewed interest in tennis within the district and the 1930s tennis courts have been refurbished. (State Library of Queensland, *Queensland Memory* September 2016)

**Cape York** – An article on the 1947 Census appeared in the *Cooktown Local News* in September. John Gatty was the census collector for Cape York in August 1947. He travelled over 700 miles of Cape York collecting 200 returns. He left Coen on 8 July with a saddle horse, two pack horses with food and camp equipment and two spare horses. He travelled via Rokeby station to Aurukun Mission over a track that had not been used for 12 months. From Weipa he went by lugger to Mapoon Mission. The Aboriginal tracker and horses went overland. The return trip to Coen was slower because the horses were exhausted. Gatty collected approximately 200 census returns. (*Cooktown Local News* 1 September 2016 p. 7)

**China Camp near Cooktown** – The early history of the Lode Hill tin deposit was described in the *Cooktown Local News* recently. John Skirving from Longford, Tasmania formed a partnership with JT Elliott to mine a tin deposit near Roaring Meg Falls and China Camp on the Bloomfield River in 1908. The deposit had been discovered by Elliott. He and Skirving brought water to the deposit by timber and iron water race, to enable sluicing. The iron came from Melbourne, formed into pipes in Cooktown and shipped to Bloomfield and then conveyed by pack horse to the site. By 1911 Charles Francis was managing the mine. It was reported in the *Cairns Post* on 19 May 1911 that it was to be ‘one of the richest alluvial tin properties in the Commonwealth’. The mine was sold to the Annan River Tin Mines Company for £16,000. Skirving invested in seven blocks of land in Jones Street, Auchenflower in Brisbane and built houses on them. One was *Clovelly House*. Skirving and his wife, Dora Lewis, had previously lived in Adelaide Street, Cooktown. Dora Lewis Skirving died in 1940. (*Cairns Post* 19 May and 29 July 1911; *Townsville Daily Bulletin* 4 January 1940; *Cooktown Local News* 1 September 2016 p. 8 including photograph; *Geology and Mineral Resources of the Cooktown District Tinfields* by Cecil Saint Smith, Assistant Government Geologist, 1914)

**Oakey** – Closed railway lines are not often re-opened. The works to re-open a section of the Cecil Plains branch rail line, which has been out of service for over a decade, will soon be completed and open for service. Upgrading the infrastructure will allow livestock services to operate from western Queensland through to Oakey, which is critical to allow Oakey Beef Exports to undertake an expansion, double its output and increase employment in the region. (*Queensland Rail Weekly Notice* Edition 37, 19 September 2016)

**Walkamin** – Upgrade of an old railway bridge south of Walkamin, over the SunWater channel, will be undertaken this financial year to advance the Atherton to Walkamin Rail Trail. The Queensland Government will provide \$20,000 funding, half the total cost. A 10-metre long, three-metre wide concrete deck with safety handrails and appropriate signage will be upgraded. Improved drainage and stabilisation works will also be done. (*North Queensland Register* 15 September 2016 p. 8)

**Yeppoon** – The old railway station is to be refurbished and become part of the town square. The 2.83 ha site in Normanby Street has been transferred from private ownership to Queensland Rail again. It is planned that the Livingstone Shire Council, Economic Development Queensland (state government) and the community will combine in planning to produce a mixed use complex with commercial and residential features. The railway station is to be refurbished and a new town square created surrounding the railway station. It is planned to be a self-funding project. The land is said to be valued at approximately \$5 million. (*Capricorn Coast Mirror* 5 October 2016 p.5)



Queensland Government Photos

## Two Views of Yeppoon Railway Station c2011

## Our New Committee

Following is a list of the Committee members elected at the AGM:

President – Dean Prangley

Secretary – Ruth Kerr

Treasurer – Barrie Rollason

Councillors – Denver Beanland,

Rebecca Ling,

Jeff O'Mara,

Maryanne Pender,

John Pearn,

Janet Prows,

Tim Roberts,

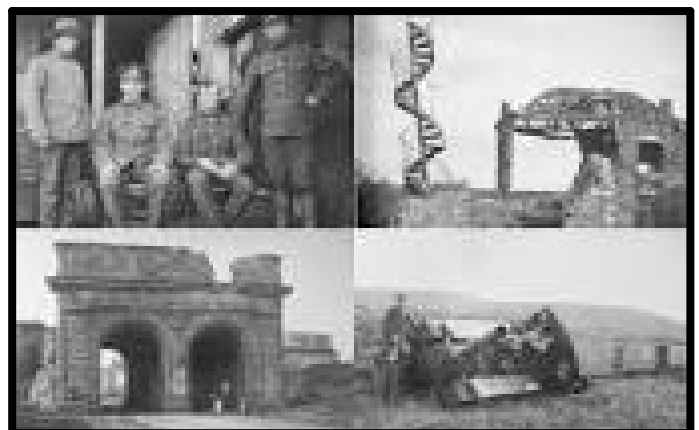
Stephen Sheaffe,

Nick Wall

## Change of Program

Please note that there are two changes to the events program, these are:

- The *Photos in the Attic* presentation will be occurring on Wednesday 16 November 2016 from 12.30 to 1.30 pm, with a light lunch following. Please join the RHSQ for a remarkable presentation by Michael Fiechtner of the amazing recent discovery of thousands of photographs of WW1 diggers. These were found in the attic of an old home in a French village and are the work of a French couple who took them in relaxed poses despite the rumble of warfare in the background. Some examples can be seen below.



- **There will be no talk in November.**

## Research Report

Research requests: history of a New Farm commercial building; information on the firm of Heathwood and Moggill; George Phillips; deciphering handwriting on an old document; Journal article on Canon Morris; the true colours of the Supreme Court building; a photograph of the 1889 Triumphal Arch in Brisbane; photos and information re Cloudland; photos of the Commissariat Store for Channel 7; HMAS *Australia* photo and plaque; photo of painting in RHSQ collection *Early Morning Brisbane River 1906* by Harry Wilkinson; finding article ‘The Great Seal Case’ by Charles Currey; further information on Peggy Stewart; photos of the old Regatta Hotel and of the Breakfast Creek Hotel; and a photo of the 1868 *Perseverance* (Curtis) Gold Nugget.

The French documentary film team visited the Commissariat Store, filmed the Store, the documents and photos in the RHSQ Collection relating to Narcisse Pelletier, and also an interview with Val Donovan, our expert on Pelletier.

Donations: Papers from the collection of education historian, the late Dr Geoffrey Swan OAM; the Wood family photographic slides of 1960s Queensland; Wickham Terrace sketch and historical material from the family of Roslyn Regnant.

This month we say ‘farewell’ and ‘thank you’ to two of our Library volunteers, Claire Stewart and Vanah Montgomery, who are leaving for permanent positions elsewhere. Special thanks to Claire, a volunteer since 2011, later Thursday Information Manager who, among other things, has been preparing the RHSQ catalogue for online publication while supervising the rationalisation of Library materials held in B2 prior to moving to the GoPrint storage. She has also been our reference for online data resources and computer issues. During Vanah’s 18 months with us, she proved to be an excellent researcher and computer whiz, as well as persevering without complaint at all the routine jobs associated with Library maintenance.

Kay Cohen  
Honorary Research Officer

## What’s On at The Queensland Women’s Historical Association Inc.

Address: 35 Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills QLD 4006

Phone: (07) 3252 2979

**Wednesday 2 November, Saturday 5 November and Wednesday 9 November - 10:30 am until 3:00 pm**

### ‘Recipe books, Afternoon Tea and Tea Gowns’

An exhibition from the QWHA collection.

Display is open during normal opening hours from early October through to December, 2016.

House entry fee of \$8.00 applicable for Non-members.

## NUKKU STATE SCHOOL

1928 - 1967



Queensland Government Photo

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
 PO Box 12057 Brisbane George Street QLD  
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<b><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u></b> <b><u>NOVEMBER 2016</u></b>	<b><u>New Members</u></b>
<b>Thursday 10 November - Council Meeting</b> <b>Tuesday 15 November- <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</b> <b>Wednesday 16 November - Presentation</b> <b>'Photos in the Attic'</b> <b>Michael Fiechtner</b>	There are no new members this month

<b>Contact details:</b> Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane <b>Manager:</b> Helen Brackin <b>Phone:</b> 07 3221 4198 <b>Fax:</b> 07 3221 4698 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au">www.queenslandhistory.org.au</a> <b>ABN:</b> 34 217 251 028 <b>Postal:</b> The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003	<b>Bulletin articles only:</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Editor A/Editor</b></td> <td>Dr Graeme Nicholson ★ 98 Marjorie Shackleton ★</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>E-mail:</b></td> <td><a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Phone:</b></td> <td>07 3221 4198</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Fax:</b></td> <td>07 3221 4698.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Postal:</b></td> <td>RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Editor A/Editor</b>	Dr Graeme Nicholson ★ 98 Marjorie Shackleton ★	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	07 3221 4198	<b>Fax:</b>	07 3221 4698.	<b>Postal:</b>	RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003	<b>Subscriptions:</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Ordinary Member</b></td> <td>\$66.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Partner of Member</b></td> <td>\$22.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Junior Member (U18)</b></td> <td>\$11.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Full-time Student (U25)</b></td> <td>\$33.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Affiliated Society</b></td> <td>\$55.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Subscription fee for libraries</b></td> <td>\$66.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Corporate/Institutions</b></td> <td>\$275.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Life membership – purchased after 10 years</b></td> <td>\$5,500.00</td> </tr> </table>	<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
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<b>Open:</b> Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday as well as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter	<b>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.</b>																											