



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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Governor of Queensland

President: Dean Prangley

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Photo: Graeme Nicholson

GLENGALLAN HOMESTEAD AT WARWICK VISITED DURING THE RECENT TOUR BY RHSQ MEMBERS

On our recent bus tour 43 RHSQ members visited the Glengallan Homestead and Heritage Centre where we had a Devonshire tea followed by a tour of the heritage listed homestead. The Centre is located at 18515 New England Highway, Warwick-Allora, approximately 13 km north of Warwick and around two hour's drive from Brisbane. It is open to visitors 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Wednesday to Sunday, except Good Friday and Christmas Day. The onsite cafe, Eliza's at Glengallan, offers tea and coffee, a selection of snacks and on weekends also offers lunch. Souvenirs are sold onsite. There is free parking and public toilets within the grounds.

More about our tour and more photographs on pages 4 and 5.

President's Report

Dear Members,

A good start to the year with a very large turnout of members and guests to our first Wednesday lecture which featured Dr Jack Ford presenting the story of the American Civil War veterans who came to Australia after 1865 and settled here. Twenty-six men from both sides are buried in Queensland.

Our next talk is by Anastasia Dukova on the Queensland Irish and Fenian Rising to be held on Wednesday 8 March. In April the talk is by Mark Whitmore on *Mephisto* the famous German tank from WW1, which has been in Brisbane since 1919. (Currently, it is at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, but we are getting it back after the WWI commemoration ends at the end of 2018).

The Warwick historical tour was well supported by members; we hope to plan more of these in the future. We have a full program of Wednesday talks for this year with interesting speakers so watch the *Bulletin* for details.

Sanna Nalder has settled well into the role of Manager and is available during opening hours for bookings and any queries. Telephone her on 3221 4198. Helen Brackin has now resumed her position as Immediate Past President on the Council.

For those who need to come by car for our talks and other events please let the office know so we can get you through the security gate on Queens Wharf road. This will be staffed for the entire construction period, but will be no trouble if they know you are attending our event.

Best regards and thanks for your continued support.

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)

Asmus on Cooktown – Laura Railway and Mount Amos and Collingwood south of Cooktown – Harry Asmus had a farm, *Valhalla*, on the Endeavour River. In 1888 he described himself as a hotel keeper at Mount Amos and held three mining leases there. He went to the Celebes (now Sulawesi) in 1899 to work on a major concession. It was unsuccessful and he returned quickly, buying the *Sovereign* hotel and later the *Great Northern* hotel (1907). He went back to mining at Nolan's Creek and took a contract with his sons on a tunnel through the hill at Bald Pocket for the Collingwood water race. After a dabble in wolfram mining the Asmus family left for Inkerman and went cane farming. Beyond their mining work their legacy in the Endeavour River area is the Asmus railway station on the Cooktown – Laura railway. It was opened in 1887 at 4 miles 21 chains (7 km) west of Cooktown. A station building was erected in 1888 and was destroyed in a storm in 1929. Outwards traffic was always small. The station was closed in 1950. There is a row of coconut trees there. A small tributary of Slatey Creek which runs into the Home Rule Falls is named Asmus Creek. (*Cooktown Local News* 9 June 2016 p. 10 including two photographs; *North Queensland Register* 17 April 1899; John Knowles, *The Cooktown Railway*, Brisbane, Australian Railway Historical Society (Qld Div), 1966, p. 61)

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail – Somerset Shire Council are continuing to seek another million dollars from the Queensland and Commonwealth governments to complete the Toogoolawah to Moore section of the rail trail. The Shire Council will take over management of the rail train under a lease arrangement after the Toogoolawah to Moore section is upgraded. (*Queensland Times* 7 January 2017 p. 10)

Cooktown – The Cooktown Gallop Botanical Gardens and Recreation Reserve of 154 acres south-east of Cooktown between the town and Finch Bay was declared in 1878. The Cooktown Municipal Council established a formal botanical garden but the bulk of the reserve remained undeveloped. Funding for the gardens diminished as the economy of Cooktown declined. The gardens were re-established in the late 20th century. In 1984 Commonwealth Employment Funding assisted with reconstruction of the formal gardens. On 19 December 1984 the whole of the reserve was officially re-opened as the Gallop Botanic Reserve commemorating the work in Cook Shire of Rollo Darcy Gallop and Graham Darcy Gallop, administrators of the shire from 1961. (*Cooktown Local News* 3 November 2016 p. 10 including photograph)

Dirranbandi – A Beersheba memorial was unveiled in Dirranbandi on 9 December 2016 with over 100 people attending. It is entitled 'To Beersheba, Brigadier General William Grant and the men and horses who couldn't come home'. Dirranbandi was a large enlistment point for men and horses. It is located in Railway

Street near the Goods Shed. The memorial was funded through the Anzac Centenary Grants Scheme. (*Balonne Beacon* 15 December 2016 p. 6 including photograph)

Irvinebank – The telescope that Dr William McFarlane had in his house at Irvinebank since 1910 is now at St Ignatius College at Riverview in Sydney. Jesuit Astronomer, Edward Francis Pigot, established the Observatory in 1909. He obtained the telescope for the school in 1921 for £160. On 8 June 1918 McFarlane discovered the Vulcan star in the Aquila constellation. David Platz, head of Atherton State High School of Astronomy and Astrophysics; Chris Dilger, Atherton State High School Information Technology Consultant; and Graeme White, Wagga Wagga based astronomer, educator and mentor to the Atherton School of Astronomy, visited Irvinebank recently to study McFarlane's life and career. *Loudoun House* Museum volunteer, Peter Shimmin, explained the extensive McFarlane display at the Museum. McFarlane's house is still standing and is owned by Raymond and Lucille Beattie. It is in the grounds of the old Walsh District Hospital and in close proximity to the Vulcan mine, after which the star is named. McFarlane grew up in Scotland and graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1900. He practised in England and South Africa before coming to Irvinebank in 1907. H W Fitchett of Melbourne was the previous owner of the telescope McFarlane purchased in 1917. It has a 17.8 cm Cooke refractor made in England by Thomas Cooke and Sons and was sent to Australia in 1910. McFarlane built a 4.0 m diameter observatory next to the western wall of his house on the sloping hill of the hospital grounds. McFarlane died of the Spanish Flu on 17 August 1918. He is buried in the Irvinebank Cemetery. (*Tablelander* 15 November 2017 pp. 16-17 and 29 November 2016 p. 10 including 10 photographs; Wayne Orchiston, 'Life history of a telescope: the 17.8 cm refractor at the Riverview Observatory in Sydney', *Australian Journal of Astronomy* October 1985)

Longreach – Qantas Founder Museum was the successful bidder in September 2014 for the Super Constellation plane which had been grounded in Manila for 25 years. It was originally operated by the US Navy before being used by World Fish and Agriculture Inc. On 12 December 2016 it was transported to Manila International Container Port in preparation for shipping to Australia. Transport to Longreach will occur in mid 2017. The plane will then be restored. (*Longreach Leader* 16 December 2017 p. 7 including photograph)

Tinaroo Falls Dam – After recent heavy rain Tinaroo Dam is up to 39.8 percent capacity after being down to 31.5. It had been down to 23.5 percent capacity in 2004. The dam was constructed as part of the Tinaroo Dam and Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Scheme approved by the Queensland Parliament in 1952. It was constructed between 1953 and 1958 and is also known as Lake Tinaroo. The areas of Kulara and Danbulla were inundated and farmers and townspeople relocated away. With water levels so low there have been many visitors from Cairns, Townsville and coastal beaches to the exposed places. In 2004 a cricket match was held at the Kulara Cricket Ground. One was being planned for 2017 before the rain came. Old bridges have been exposed as well as the chimney at Fong On Bay. Wright's Bridge (known as the old Kulara Bridge), and bridges at School Point, and Stewart's Gully Road were exposed. Wright's Bridge was built in 1925 by Mr Kelly for £750. (*Tablelander* 10 January 2017 pp. 1,2,9 and 14, and 24 January 2017 p. 7 including photographs)

April Seminar

Please join us at 10.00 am on Saturday 22 April at the Commissariat Store for a special seminar hosted by the Australian Lebanese Historical Society (QLD) and the official launch of the *Ties that bind* exhibition. Several speakers will present an engaging program on the history of Queensland's Lebanese community, including presentations by Dr Anne Monsour and Yvonne Matta. Tickets are \$25 for RHSQ and ALHS members and \$30 for guests. Light refreshments will be provided.

Basic details of the event are as follows:

10.00 am - 1.00 pm Saturday 22 April (this may be extended slightly depending on speakers)

Ties that bind exhibition launch

Seminar accompanying the exhibition

Dr Anne Monsour: *Enduring bonds: Lebanese immigrants in Queensland*

Yvonne Matta: *A long and winding road*

Further speakers will be announced closer to the event

Research Report

The summer heat has not deterred researchers. Our team has been kept very busy since the Library re-opened in mid-January. All of the following requests involved extensive research: Somerset NQ, connections with the Jardine family, town graveyard; Surveyor George Phillips' Field book; Eton Vale & Pilton land selections; Capalaba industrial site; correspondence between Sir Henry Parkes and James Tyson; Douglas Jolly scrapbooks.

The following requests were received for photos from the RHSQ collection: Circular Quay Wharves, Brisbane; Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen; aerial views of the Gold Coast Spit area; Evelyn Harris, Mrs Clark & family, Queensland Women's Historical Society; Brisbane floods; Conrad Martens' sketch of South Brisbane.

A current research project involves documenting indigenous relations with the Burke & Wills expedition, with particular reference to the Dig Tree area.

Our thanks to Dennis Kennedy for his donation of an original account book from Childs' Vineyard, Nudgee.

Kay Cohen
Library Research Officer

Wednesday's Talk for 8 March

The topic of March's talk is: *When the small rise up and the big fall down: Queensland Irish and the Fenian Rising* by Dr Anastasia Dukova. The talk proposes to examine the local attitudes to the most prominent Irish nationalist rising of the nineteenth century and its aftermath.

Dr Dukova is a historian specialising in the history of municipal policing, with a primary focus on Ireland, colonial Australia and Canada. Her recent monograph, *A History of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and Its Colonial Legacy* (Palgrave) explores the origins of the institution and highlights the Dublin Metropolitan Police's profound influence on the colonial forces, as its legacy reached some of the furthest outposts of the British Empire. Anastasia is currently working on a project called Digital Colonial Brisbane which is funded by a Brisbane History Grant from the Brisbane City Council.

More about our bus tour to Warwick



Photo: Glengallan heritage Centre



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

Above are photographs of the Drawing Room at Glengallan and a notice acknowledging some furnishings on permanent loan from us. The notice reads: 'Period furnishing assisted by Royal Queensland Historical Society with the following items on permanent loan.

DRAWING ROOM

Settee - Grandfather chair - Grandmother chair - femister

DINING ROOM

Rosenstengel and Kleimeyer settee'



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

PRINGLE COTTAGE

Our bus tour also visited the Warwick and District Historical Society Inc Museum where one of the main features on display is Pringle Cottage. This cottage was built c1870 by Scottish stonemason John McCulloch. The first recorded use was as a school, Milton College, in 1871. The college was conducted by Mrs Pringle from 1898 to 1908 with a residence in Wood Street. The name 'Pringle Cottage' was designated by the Historical Society to recognise the era of Mrs Pringle and to identify the building.

To the right is a photograph of an almost completely restored 1923 Dodge that was been converted to a fire engine early in its life. This vehicle was presented to the Society in a very rundown and derelict condition and has been lovingly restored to almost original condition. The engine is in working condition and all of the parts work and with just a little more work will be in perfect restored condition.

Other items on display at the Museum are 'The Emporium' which was an early store in Warwick, the L B Eastwell Hall that was originally the Willowvale Presbyterian Church, A shepherd's hut which was originally from *Barwite*, a property near Karara. There are hundreds of interesting items on display. Well worth a visit.



Photo: Graeme Nicholson

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
 MARCH 2017**

Wednesday 8 March - 12.30 Talk
 When the small rise up and the big fall down:
 Queensland Irish and the Fenian Rising
 Anastasia Dukova.
Thursday 9 March - Council Meeting
Wednesday 15 March - Bulletin deadline

**Note: Queensland Day dinner on Tuesday
 June 6th at The Brisbane Club. Further
 details to follow.**

New Members – March 2017

Nic Bartlett	Grange
Peter Griggs	Moggill
Allan and Donna Krosch	Ascot
Richard McLean	Holland Park
David and Janice Flood	Warwick
Robin Francis	Fig Tree Pocket
Joan and Rodney Morrison	Brushgroves NSW

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Subscriptions:

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

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

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