



THE RHSQ

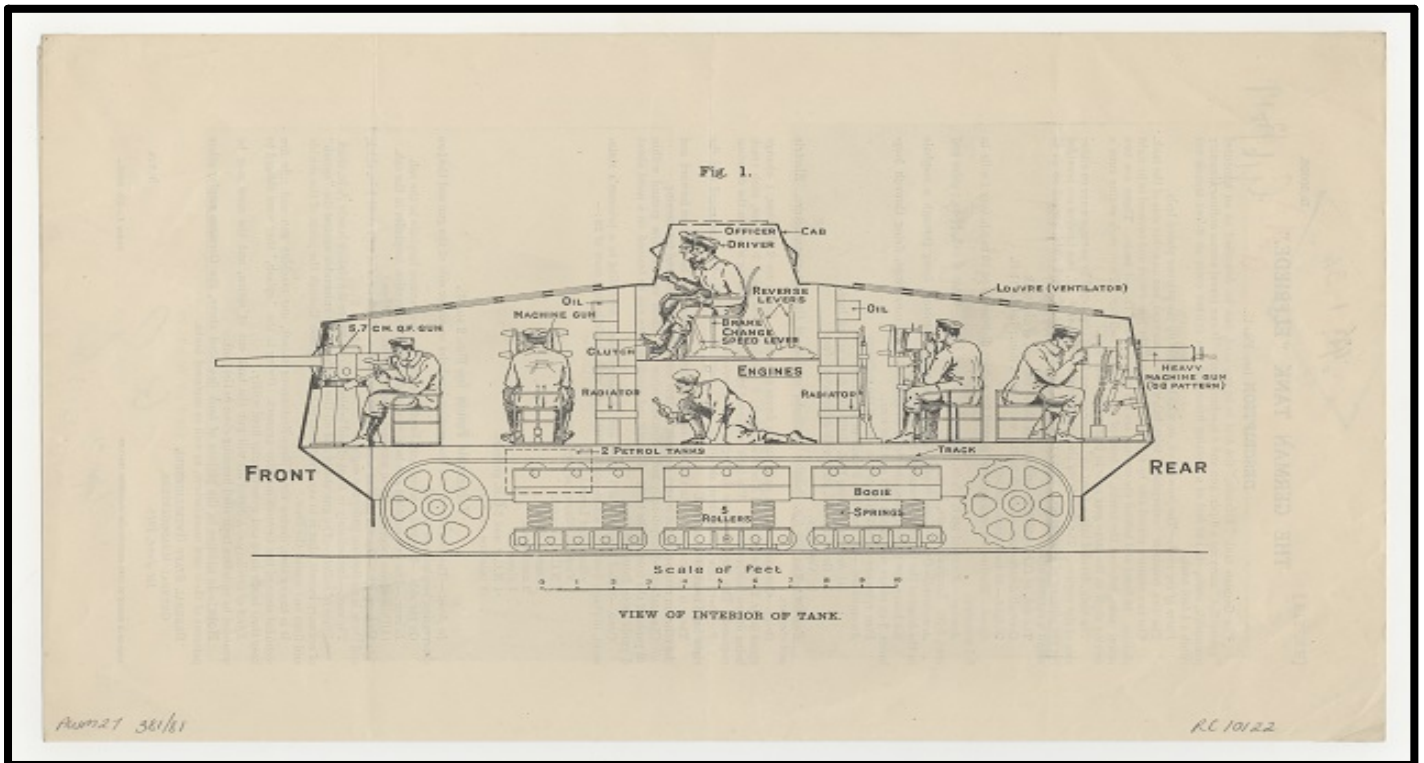
Bulletin

75 years of continuous publication

APRIL 2017 No. 817

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

OUR WEDNESDAY TALK IN APRIL FEATURES *MEPHISTO*



Australian War Memorial Pamphlet

A SCHEMATIC DRAWING OF *MEPHISTO*

The December 2015 *Bulletin* featured an article on *Mephisto* the well know German tank captured during WW I and brought to Brisbane in 1919. It is currently in the war memorial in Canberra, but we are getting it back.

The Wednesday talk scheduled for 12 April will be about this famous event. The talk will be given by Mark Whitmore a former Director of Collections and Research, Imperial War Museums and the author of: *Mephisto: A7V Sturmpanzerwagon 506*. There is more information on page 5.

President's Report

Dear Members,

A busy year ahead with two Saturday seminars planned and a full program of Wednesday talks plus the annual Queensland day dinner on Tuesday 6 June at The Brisbane Club.

We had another good turnout of members to hear Anastasia Dukova talk about the Queensland Irish and Fenian rising on Wednesday 6 March. The next talk on Wednesday 12 April is by Mark Whitmore on the remarkable history of *Mephisto*, the only German tank from WW1 in existence and a Queensland resident since 1919. This will be held on the ground floor as part of the talk is to stand 20+ volunteers in a footprint of the tank to show how claustrophobic it was inside and in 60 C degree heat.

On Saturday 22 April we will hold a special seminar called *Ties That Bind* which celebrates the Lebanese migrants and their contribution to Queensland since the 19th century. It will be launched by Senator Claire Moore and features many interesting speakers including Stefan Ackerie.

The RHSQ publication *Lost Brisbane 2* has been submitted for the National Trust Heritage Awards. The first *Lost Brisbane* won an award for historical excellence in 2015 and we hope to repeat that success. The book is selling well and both will be reprinted this year.

The Destination Brisbane Consortium (DBC) has appointed the research team of the RHSQ to prepare and submit interesting historical stories relating to the Queens Wharf Precinct. These stories will be loaded on to the DBC and Star Entertainment websites and also submitted to the media. If you have a good story on the history of the North Bank please let us know.

DBC is also keeping us informed of any interesting artefacts found by their archaeologists during excavations. Currently they are looking for the original cabling which connected the steam driven generator at the Old Printing Works in William Street with Parliament house in the 1880s.

Some feedback that we have received indicates that people think we are closed due to the Casino construction. Please tell your friends and family that this is not the case and we are open for business as usual. Your membership and visitors through the door are vital to the continuing work of the Society. Thank you 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)

Cape York – A movie about Toots Holzheimer, legendary truck driver in Cape York in the 1960s is being considered. A script has been written by her daughter, Donna Vaudrey of Atherton. Donna wrote and self published a book, *Toots – Woman in a Man's World* in 2011. It has sold almost 10,000 copies. Toots died in an accident on Evans Landing at Weipa in 1992. (*Cape York News* 22-28 February 2017 p. 13 including five photographs)

Gympie The Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, Jackie Trad MP, announced on 21 February 2017 that the Queensland State Government has approved a grant of \$4.7 million to restore the track and structures of the Mary Valley Rattler. Significant community support is required to achieve the goal of having the Mary Valley Rattler running by December 2017. Former General Manager of the railway, Ted Mitchell, has advocated that the project will only be sustainable economically if the railway goes to Imbil. (Press Release by Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, 21 February 2017; *Gympie Times* 1 March 2017 p. 4)

Oakey - Cr Ramia of the Toowoomba Regional Council visited the Oakey Railway Station in mid January to discuss with Oakey Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Tracy Tierney, the progress of creating a local tourism centre in the building. He also visited the Oakey Historical Museum and met with the president of the museum committee as well as the president of Oakey TOMnet, Ron Scheuerle. As part of the visit, Cr Ramia also spoke to members of the Jondaryan and Bowenville communities. (*Oakey Champion* 25 January 2017 p.11 including two photographs)

Ravenshoe - \$3.5 to \$4 million is required to restore the Ravenshoe to Tumoulin Railway to working order. Ravenshoe Chamber of Commerce is seeking financial assistance from the Tablelands regional Council for the purpose. The Queensland Rail Regulator ordered the closure of the railway operation two years ago. When operating, the train carried 120 passengers per week and the Chamber of Commerce stated that the

operation brought \$20,000 into the town's economy from this. The local railway association (Ravrail) owns a D17 steam locomotive known as *Capella*. It was built at Ipswich Railway Workshops in 1925. (*Tablelander* 14 February 2017 p. 4 including photograph)

Rocky Creek near Tolga – Nine National Servicemen have been recognized in a dedication service at the Nasho Shelter at the Rocky Creek Memorial Park on 12 February 2017 – Ted and Rod Dayes, Des Byrnes, Stan Keal, John Mammino, Joe Wood, Jim Liston RFD ED, Norm Russell and Ross Rodgers. Branch Chaplain, Mick Grant of Mareeba, conducted the service. Ray Byrnes spoke of his service in 1955 at Wacol, along with Dale McCarthy of Atherton who served with the 1st Australian Field Hospital in Vietnam. The national servicemen in attendance spoke of their experiences. Recently honoured John Hardy OAM, the branch president, organized the function. He also had the inspiration to construct the Avenue of Honour to pay respect to all who served Australia in the Armed Forces. (*Tablelander* 7 February 2017 p. 10; 14 February 2017 p. 13 including photograph; and 14 February 2017 p. 8 including five photographs)

Roma - The Belgian embassy selected Roma as one of the 12 towns in Australia to display a special exhibition, 'The Great War in Broad Outlines', honouring those who fought on the Western Front. Retired Member for Maranoa and former Minister for Veterans Affairs, Bruce Scott, promoted Roma as a site for the exhibition as 30 men from Roma lost their lives and because Roma had recognized its military in Heroes Avenue in the town. (*The Western Star* 13 January 2017 pp. 1, 3 including two photographs)



Welcome to Our New Manager

We would like to welcome our new manager, Sanna Nalder. Sanna (MA - cultural anthropology, philosophy) has a strong background in anthropological and historical research, with specific focus on the exploration and pastoral history as well as on the cultural heritage, indigenous cultures and native title in Western Australia. She has previously worked in research and curatorial assistant roles in Queensland Museum, South Australian Museum and Melbourne Museum. She has also held positions of a heritage services librarian and research archivist before relocating to Queensland in 2016.

Sanna is currently commencing research into the temporal and regional changes in the Finnish sauna etiquette and tradition, which will hopefully one day turn into a PhD.

Details of the Talk for 12 April

Topic - Mephisto: the unique First World War German tank.

The talk will be given by Mark Whitmore who is the former Director of Collections and Research, Imperial War Museums. Mark started his museum career at the Queensland Museum in 1986 and, as Senior Curator of History and Technology, wrote a book on the Museum's unique First World War tank, Mephisto. He subsequently joined the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where he headed the Collections Branch, moved to the UK in 2003 as Director of Collections and retired in April 2015. Mark is currently assisting staff of the Queensland Museum who are producing a major new book on Mephisto.

One of the most significant technological developments of the First World War was the invention of the tank. The first appearance of British tanks, in September 1916, led the Germans to develop a similar vehicle that combined an ability to cross rough terrain with armoured protection for its crew and that was equipped with substantial firepower. Known as the A7V, just 20 of these tanks were produced by the Germans. Only one example survives – *Mephisto*. Captured at Villers Bretonneux in 1918, it was brought to Brisbane after the war and displayed at The Queensland Museum. In recent years the tank has undergone substantial conservation

work and is currently displayed in Canberra but is due to return again to Queensland for display. This presentation tells the story of Mephisto, including its development, operational history (as part of the first German tank unit which launched the first German tank operation), capture and post-war history in Australia.



***Mephisto* shortly after its capture at Villers-Bretonneux in April 1918**



Moving Mephisto from the docks to the museum

Another Milestone for *The RHSQ Bulletin*

The *Bulletin* has now been published continuously for 75 years. The first was published in April 1942. A copy of this was shown on the front page of the 800th edition.

A Call for Papers

The 15th Biennial Australian Labour History Conference Brisbane, September 2017

Workers of the world

The 15th biennial labour history conference invites papers that address the rich histories of Australian workers, including the histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and immigrant workers from various eras. Additionally, it being the centenary of the Russian Revolution, papers that reflect on the massive impact that it had on both the Australian labour movement and labour movements around the world are welcomed. We would also like to invite papers that address the massive challenges globalization is posing for the labour movement. How can our unions and political organisations deal with this challenge? What can we learn from the history of earlier periods, such as the first wave of globalisation in the decades before the First World War? Papers that examine other aspects of labour history from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives (sociology, geography, political-economy, politics) are also welcomed.

How to submit your proposal for peer-review and possible publication

Presenters wishing to have their paper double-blind peer-reviewed must submit their paper and an abstract by Monday 1 May 2017. This can be done at www.labourhistory.org.au Papers must be no more than 7000 words. At the time of submission authors can indicate whether or not they would like to have their paper considered for special editions of *Economic and Labour Relations Review* or *Labour History*. This will not guarantee publication, but it will ensure that submissions are reviewed for possible inclusion in these special conference issues of the journals. Early submission of papers for refereeing is strongly recommended and authors will be notified of decisions in early July.

How to submit your proposal for an oral presentation, or a non-refereed paper

Proposals must be submitted by Monday 17 July 2017 via www.labourhistory.org.au They should include a brief abstract (200 words maximum), and information about the presenter. We will advise presenters on whether or not their proposal has been accepted by Monday 7 August 2017.

Research Report

During the past month, the research team has dealt with the following queries: information on the wife of AA Morrison, a noted historian, particularly of Queensland and Labour history, Morrison was also well-known as Secretary of the RHSQ for many years; history of Old Pullenvale Post Office; Rosa Addison and the Butler family of Kilcoy Station; provenance of a photo of an Aboriginal group at Kilcoy Station; information on Peter Fleming and family, Albert St plumber in the 1870s; background to excavation of a dead cat and a convict shoe at the Commissariat Store, and information on ‘witches traps’; history of property in Davidson Tce Teneriffe; details of life in colonial Brisbane; Captain McAusland and Somerset Cemetery; artist and writer, Keith Douglas; colonial cottage, later Herschel St maternal and child welfare clinic. The following photos were requested: the Pink Poodle Bar, Surfers Paradise; photos of The Spit, Gold Coast.

Following our assistance with researching the history of the sites, Rod Morrison has advised that the Lot containing the Jardine Vidgen cemetery, other graves and memorial has been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register.

Donations: Belated thanks to RHSQ member Doug Lochheed for his donation of *The Annual Review of Queensland 1902*. As the inaugural publication of the *Review*, it is an important addition to the RHSQ Library. To David Moore for a copy of his book *The Curse of Mungana* which was launched recently at the Commissariat Store. Denise Lewis for assorted items of historical interest; Ruth Kerr for Tom Boland’s biography *James Duhig*.

Kay Cohen

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 PO Box 12057 Brisbane George Street QLD
 4003
 RHSQ Bulletin: PP 100004098
 RHSQ Journal: PP 100004097

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
 APRIL 2017**

**Wednesday 12 April - 12.30 Talk
 Mephisto: the unique First World War
 tank.**

Mark Whitmore

Thursday 13 April - Council Meeting

Saturday 15 April - *Bulletin* deadline

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

New Members – April 2017

Greg Sherwood	Mt Gravatt
Amy Poole	Mitchelton
James and Liz Gordon	South Brisbane

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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

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

**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;
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