



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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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

COOROY MEMORIAL HALL TO BE REFURBISHED

(story page 3)



This is a sawn timber building with a galvanised iron roof. It is a substantial building with an entry, a stage, and a supper room. The Noosa Shire Council approved the building plans on 20 November 1925, and the dedication service for its completion was conducted by Reverend R St George on Sunday, 15 August 1926.

The hall was completed at a cost of two thousand pounds. Mr W D Fenwick generously did the architectural work without charge and the contractor, local sawmiller, Mr F Fenwick, ensured that only the very best locally sawn timber was used. It was almost free of debt on opening.

Major Edward Costello, MLA (Country Party Member for Carnarvon) officially opened the building on Friday, 20 August 1926. A war veteran, the Major had served with the 11th Light Horse Regiment. Also present were H F Walker MLA and Noosa Shire Chairman Mr W I Ferguson. Mr. W R Archdall, President of the Hall Committee introduced Major Costello. The major referred to the patriotism shown by the district during the war and in erecting such a beautiful building in memory of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

President's Report

Dear members

It is good to see the increased participation of members and invited guests to our events. In particular the Wednesday lunchtime talks have been well supported this year. The recent presentation by Mark Whitmore on the history of the German WW1 Tank *MEPHISTO* attracted over 90 interested spectators who enjoyed an excellent talk supported by period photographs of the tank and its crew. An interesting addition was the placing of over 20 volunteers into a footprint of the tank to show how little room there was to move and hang on. Our next talk on Wednesday 10 May is by Ian Skennerton on the black powder guns used by our colonial settlers. The Society will provide some of its collection for viewing. Please let Sanna know if you are coming so we can cater properly.

The Queensland Day dinner is being held at The Brisbane Club on Tuesday 6 June. This is our most important function of the year when the recipient of the John Kerr Medal of Distinction is announced and the presentation is made by the Governor. Please contact Sanna to reserve your place.

A gift of a framed World War 1 poster displaying Battalion colours, photos and details of their commanders, and a row of miniature medals all in perfect condition has been gratefully accepted by the Society. We thank Jim and Liz Gordon who have recently joined the Society for their generous and historically significant gift.

We were contacted by Star entertainment to appear on Channel 7 in a report on the conservation work being done on the heritage buildings in the Queens Wharf precinct. This gave us an opportunity to announce to the viewers that the RHSQ is open for business and is also supporting the developers in their careful handling of the project.

The year 2020 celebrates 250 years since the East coast of Australia was traversed by Captain James Cook and his crew in the *Endeavour*. We were contacted by representatives of the organising committee from the Town of 1770 which was the first landfall made by Cook in what eventually became Queensland. They are seeking assistance from the RHSQ to celebrate the event which they plan to hold over 20 days. Cooktown is also planning a major event from the date of the *Endeavour's* careening in 1770.



Cairn in the Town of 1770 commemorating Captain Cook's landing in 1770

Another interesting approach has been made by a consortium planning to make George Street in Brisbane one of the World's Great Street Precincts. Given the amount of recent and future construction planned for George Street as well as the large number of heritage structures remaining, the Consortium believes it has a good chance. The RHSQ will provide assistance as required.

Thanks for your continued support.

Regards,

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)

Cooroy – The newly incorporated Cooroy Memorial Hall Association (CMHA) is working in partnership with Noosa Shire Council to refurbish and reopen the Cooroy Memorial Hall. CMHA is drafting a proposal including a business plan for Council. The plan will outline the necessary steps of structural repairs, upgrade of kitchen and toilets. The business plan will outline the ongoing uses and viability of the hall in its current location in the centre of the town. (*Cooroy Rag* 1 March 2017 p. 3)

Horn Island, Torres Strait – 14 March 2017 was the 75th anniversary of the first bombing of Horn Island Airstrip by the Japanese. It was said to be the second most attacked place in Australia after Darwin. The base provided a vital link for allied aircraft flying to New Guinea. At the end of 1942 there were 5000 troops stationed on the island. 870 Torres Strait Islanders (one-fifth of the Torres Strait population) also served in the area. There are two surviving members – Mr Mebai Warusam of Saibai Island and Mr Awatie Mau on Bamaga. Mr Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt, spoke in the Commonwealth Parliament about the Horn Island bombing on the 75th anniversary.

Miva – The Dickabram Bridge is to be closed for major maintenance and rehabilitation work over a period of four years. Works involve removing decking and girders, and structural repairs underneath the bridge. The rail line was closed in 2009. A side track was not considered because of environmental issues. The Dickabram bridge was designed in 1883 by Chief Engineer for Railways, Henry Charles Stanley. It is the oldest combined road and rail crossing and oldest surviving complete steel truss bridge in Queensland. The bridge has 16 spans, is 207 metres long, and has combined hogback and lattice steel trusses with timber pier approaches. It has an annual average daily traffic volume of 87 vehicles. (*Fraser Coast Chronicle* 16 March 2017 p. 11 including photograph)



Qld Government Photo

The Dickabram Bridge over The Mary River

Cooroy Lower Mill Site - Noosa Shire Council is undertaking repairs of the old boiler house and kiln at the Lower Mill Site in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection as the site was listed in 2008 under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. The Noosa Shire Council took over ownership of the Lower Mill Site in 2002 from the Queensland Government. The kiln was built in 1956 and was the first drying kiln built in the region. Cooran based Marbelle Pty Ltd is the primary contractor for the work which will take three months. (*Noosa Today* 9 February 2017 p. 5 including photograph)



Old Heritage photo

Cooroy Lower Mill Site Kiln 2009

Murray Island Group in Torres Strait – The Australian Heritage Council is assessing the Murray Island Group for possible inclusion in the National Heritage List recognises places of outstanding heritage value to the nation for their natural, Indigenous and/or historic heritage values. The list is established under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Meriam Islander Community Meetings are being held on Mer Island, and in Townsville, Cairns and Mackay. Information on the proposed listing is available at www.environment.gov.au/heritage (*Torres News* 13-19 March 2017 p. 16)

Peregian Beach - 41 Pelican Street, Peregian was the second house to be built at Peregian, in 1959. It was a low set besser block house. Its original owner was a Romanian couple. At the time there were kangaroos and foxes in the streets and emus on the beach. The house has been extensively renovated. (*Noosa Today* 5 January 2017 pp. 27-28 including three photographs)

Thargomindah - The Bulloo Shire Council is relocating the old kitchen and prisoners' cells from *Kulki* station to Thargomindah. They were once part of the Thargomindah Police Station complex. The cost of the removal will be \$35,900. A Council will replace the buildings at *Kulki* with an 8 X 4 m shed at a cost of \$15,000. (*Bulloo Buzz* 3 March 2017 p. [4])

The Talk for May

Topic: Queensland Colonial Era Firearms

Firearms specialist, Ian Skennerton, will discuss the guns used by our early settlers, most of which were war surplus muskets and pistols from various wars in Europe and England.

Ian is an author, military historian, documentary film maker and valuer. He has written over 100 reference books on military firearms, edged weapons etc.

Ian was a National Serviceman in the Australian Army in 1969, serving in Vietnam in 1970. After discharge from the armed forces, Ian studied service arms in England during 1980-81, and catalogued arms and filed records at HM Tower of London and Royal Small Arms Factory Pattern Room, Enfield. He was awarded research grants by the Australian War Memorial in 1975 & 1987-89 and has authored and published about 100 titles on British and Empire arms and edged weapons since 1976. Ian was awarded the annual medal by the

British Arms and Armour Society in 1995, and was nominated a Fellow of the Australian Institute for History and the Arts in 2008. He presently lives on the Gold Coast in Australia.

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

Research queries this past month have covered a range of interesting topics. Emails account for the majority of them, with only a few visiting researchers. Our volunteers researched material on: the egg-throwing incident at Warwick Railway Station 1917; Ashgrove Private Hospital; dating an old family photo; history of old Kangaroo Point house and land; 1872 exhibition of the more than 5000 oz gold 'Big Cake' at Brisbane School of Arts; documents re Queensland Governor Sir Matthew Nathan donated by his family; history of former grazing property 'De Moleyns', Mackay; books written by the Rt Hon Hume Black; Governor-General Lord Casey's visits to Newstead House, 1965 and 1969; plans of Queensland workers' dwellings. Photo and information re the 'Crystal Highway' in the 1960s.

Thanks to Dawn Lightfoot and her family for donation of: colour photographs of Wivenhoe Dam taken during the construction phase by her father, James Colin Beaumont, Esk Shire Councillor and Brisbane and Area Water Board member; souvenir booklet of Dam's Official Opening October 1985; and original copies of the Water Board's Annual Reports 1980-84.

Other than research, work we do on Thursdays includes: Christine Cormack researching and writing stories of the history and heritage of the area being developed in the Queens Wharf Project, for future publicity initiatives; Beth Johnson and Sarah Bartels, assisted by Dorothy Carroll, continuing to review the contents of files and Archive Boxes as we move slowly from paper to digital records; Elizabeth Nunn progressing through updating and verifying catalogue entries; Lyndsay Smith photographing and digitising photographs for the RHSQ collection; Maryanne Pender maintaining the gift register, transcribing original documents and liaising with other RHSQ entities. In addition, we process, catalogue and archive donations of historically important material.

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland
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 4003
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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
 MAY 2017**

Wednesday 10 May - 12.30 Talk

Queensland Colonial Era Firearms

Ian Skennerton

Thursday 11 May - Council Meeting

Monday 15 May - *Bulletin* deadline

**Note: Queensland Day dinner on Tuesday
 6 June at The Brisbane Club.**

New Members – May 2017

Colin Armitage

The Caboolture Historical Society Inc

Mark Thomson

Morayfield

Caboolture

Indooroopilly

Contact details:

***Bulletin* articles only:**

Manager Sanna Nalder	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane	Editor A/Editor Dr Graeme Nicholson Marjorie Shackleton
		E-mail: info@queenslandhistory.org.au
Phone: 07 3221 4198		Phone: 07 3221 4198
Fax: 07 3221 4698		Fax: 07 3221 4698.
E-mail: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Postal: RHSQ, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003	
Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au		
ABN: 34 217 251 028		
Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane George Street, 4003		

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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; Our Honorary Auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd.