



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

75 years of continuous publication

JULY 2017 No. 820

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



Queensland Rail photo

THE SAVANNAHLANDER RAILCAR

Dimbulah is one of the stations used by The Savannahlander Railcar. The town was established in 1876 to service the Tyrconnell Gold Mine, one of the richest mines on the Hodgkinson Gold Fields. The name ‘Dimbulah’ is thought to have come from the local Indigenous Australian word for ‘long waterhole’, referring to the Walsh River that runs close by the town. Dimboola Post Office opened by 1900 and was renamed Dimbulah in 1904.

The area around Dimbulah was originally home to the Djankun and Kuku Djungan tribe. During the 1920s the Queensland government forcibly removed most of their children, forcing the tribe to scatter.

In the early 1900s the area received an influx of Italian migrants and in 1928 tobacco was introduced, becoming the area's major industry soon after. At its peak, there were 800 growers in the area, producing over 8,000 tonnes (60% of national yield) of tobacco a year (See paragraph on page 3).

President's Report

It is with great pleasure to write this short report from Denmark as Vice President, as our president Dean Prangley is also overseas. Members can be assured that the Society is functioning very well with significant contributions by all members of the Council and the many committees. The Program Committee is receiving ideas for lunch time lectures next year, and we all look forward to Greg Hallam's lecture on the Prime Minister's visit to Warwick in 1917 that was the subject of an egg throwing incident. The Membership Committee and the Website Manager have been updating the Society's website regarding membership and awards and now one button on the front page of the website can be used by people if they wish to join the Society. It is now very easy and convenient.

I can report that the Society has been successful in its grant application for the improvements of the signage and facilities at the Dig Tree Reserve. Over the next few months this issue will move forward as the final plans will be completed and the work carried out. I should also thank Ruth Kerr, Denver Beanland and John Pearn for the written and telephone communications with the Lessees of the land surrounding the Dig Tree to resolve all issues that have arisen and may arise in the future between them and the Society.

At the last Council meeting the Awards Committee presented a list of names of people who the Annual General Meeting are to consider for the receipt of an award. At our annual dinner on the 6 June 2017 the John Kerr Medal of Distinction was awarded to Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC: he is a national treasure, and to me the most significant historian in the country. The full citation of the award can be found at The Professional Historians Association (Queensland) website.

The Queensland Day Dinner held at the Brisbane Club on 6 June 2017 was a great success. In the presence of his Excellency the Governor and Mrs de Jersey, the Hon. Ian Callinan AC gave an informative lecture on States Rights and Federalism. Again thank you to all those who worked to plan and to make sure the event was well organized. It was!

The Society is delighted to accept a bequest of \$1,000 from the estate of the late Senator Russell Trood.

Finally, all the excellent work in removing all our artifacts to Go Print may come to naught if the Government's plan to demolish the facility is to proceed. This issue will continue into the future: as if the plan is implemented alternative facilities must be found.

I extend congratulations to Ann McGrath for the award granted to her and announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Thank you all, I look forward to seeing you when I return.

Stephen Sheaffe

Queen's Birthday Honours - Professor Ann McGrath

The 2016 recipient of the John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction, Professor Ann McGrath, was named in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Professor McGrath has been appointed a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the social sciences as an academic and researcher in the field of indigenous history, and to tertiary education.

Professor McGrath was previously awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honours for service to education, particularly in the field of Indigenous history, as a teacher, researcher and author, and through leadership roles with a range of history-related organisations.

Queensland News

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

Atherton Tableland – Friends of the Atherton Tableland Rail Trail, Atherton-Herberton Historical Railway Group, historical groups, and the Tablelands Outdoor Recreation Association have formed a partnership to encourage the development of the shared use of the Atherton Tableland Rail Trail between Platypus Park, Atherton and Herberton. It will provide a link to other off road trails. Also, Mareeba Shire Council has given in-principle support for the extension of the Rail Train from Walkamin to Mareeba. (*Tablelander* 18 April 2017 p. 7 and 9 May 2017 p. 9 including photographs)

Charleville - The *Western Times* of 18 May 2017 featured a photograph of Jack Maoudis at work in his shoe repair shop at 64 Alfred Street in the old *Dalton* hotel building in the 1930s. Of Greek heritage Jack

Maoudis was always interested in community affairs and built a skating rink at the rear of the Comino's building on the corner of Wills and Edward Streets. He was also involved in the building of the squash courts. (*Western Times* 18 May 2017 p. 2 including photograph)

Dimbulah – The Dimbulah District and Museum Association has received a grant of \$2100 for the purposes of restoring the museum at the railway station and safety vests for volunteers. Prospective volunteers may contact the Secretary on Ph (07) 4093 5444. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 26 May 2017 p. 5)

Kairi – The heritage listed maize silos and loading station have been restored and an architecturally designed two bedroom house have been remodelled to reflect the 1920s when built. Much of the machinery is still in place. The property is now for sale by tender. (*Tablelander* 9 May 2017 p. 26 including photograph). (Kairi is on the Atherton Tableland in Far North Queensland. It is close to Lake Tinaroo and the closest more populous place is Tinaroo, which is 4 kilometres north of Kairi. It is 1,698 kilometres NNW from Brisbane and is 719 m above sea level).



Queensland Heritage Photo

KAIRI MAIZE SILOS (2007)

Tewantin – The *Royal Mail* Hotel, owned by Spirit Hotels, a Wesfarmers Company, is heritage listed, and is to be enhanced. Spirit Hotels have stated that they will finalise their plans in the next financial year and then apply for Development Approval. The original hotel was built in 1882 by Ned Murdoch, a former coach driver (see photo below). It was enlarged (see photo below), but burnt down in 1939. It was replaced by the current building in 1941. (*Noosa News* 12 May 2017 p. 10 including photograph)



Royal Mail Hotel photo

A COBB & Co COACH OUTSIDE THE ROYAL MAIL HOTEL - 1894



Royal Mail Hotel photo

THE ROYAL MAIL HOTEL c1925; IT BURNT DOWN IN 1939.

Tolga - A silo has been restored at Tolga by Anna Gardiner and Terry Stratton to make a comfortable home. The building is heritage listed. (*Tablelander* 18 April 2017 pp. 1,4 including photographs)

Warwick – Southern Regional Council Councillors at the March meeting agreed to write to Queensland Rail asking for maintenance to be carried out at the Warwick Railway Station precinct ahead of commemorations in November 2017 marking the 100th anniversary of the famous ‘egg-throwing incident’ when an egg was thrown at the Prime Minister Billy Hughes when he gave a pro-conscription speech . The incident later led to the founding of the Australian Federal Police. (*Southern Free Times*, Warwick, 6 April 2017 p. 5)

Research Report

We are delighted that the team’s research into relations between members of the Burke and Wills Expedition and Aboriginals of the area contributed to the successful Dig Tree grant. We have now been asked to research and prepare interpretative signage for the Dig Tree site.

Sincere thanks to Ian Simmons, long-time voluntary conservator of RHSQ Library books, who has retired. Without his consistent work, many of them would have remained neglected and unusable.

Research enquiries included: family heraldry codes, old Brisbane burial grounds, gargoyles in George Street and information about other CBD and Kangaroo Point buildings, assistance with producing a journal, information on Ezra and Eliza Firth first European settlers at Mount Surprise, Queenslanders involved with Red Cross about World War I ‘Wattle Day’, Kingsford Smith Drive history. Photos were requested of Narcisse Pelleter, Kingsford Smith Drive, and J F G Foxtan and *The Priory*, Indooroopilly.

Kay Cohen

Your Speaker for July

Stephen Sheaffe will talk about **The Right Honourable Sir Alfred Stephens**. He will give an outline of the Judge’s background and how he came to be appointed to the court. He will examine some of the trials held during these two-week sittings. A close examination of these cases, set in their colonial setting will show that justice was determined according to law and based on evidence. The sentences imposed, the facts of each case, the relevant charges make interesting reading. The facts are exclusive to colonial life, especially calabashes (‘calabashes’ was a word to describe money orders used when notes and coins were in short supply) that were in use before the first bank was opened. Significantly, his honour presided over the first civil trial ever held by a Supreme Court in Brisbane.

After his death, he was described as ‘practically the first Chief Justice of this Colony’, though not a strictly accurate statement, he was the third chief justice of NSW and the first chief justice to ever preside over a trial in Moreton Bay. He was a member of a long legal dynasty and was appointed Chief Justice of NSW in 1845. He presided over the second circuit court sittings in Brisbane that commenced on 16 November 1850, the first by Justice Therry. These sittings were held nine years before Queensland became a separate colony.

Biography

Stephen Sheaffe is a barrister, a current member of the RHSQ Council, a former president of the RHSQ and the National Trust of Australia Queensland Division. He has delivered many lectures on various aspects of Queensland’s history.

Our New Manager

Ilona Fekete



Ilona Fekete took the position of manager at the Commissariat Store at the end of May 2017. Before this Ilona was a volunteer at the Commissariat Store for nearly two years. Besides guiding visitors, she completed the translation of information brochures into French and German. Along with Jeff O’Mara, she co-curated the 2017 exhibition *Ties that bind – Lebanese Immigrants in Queensland*.

Ilona has an interest in heritage and museums. Before arriving in Australia, she worked at the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary, where she was involved in the preparation of major international exhibitions of the works of Vincent van Gogh and Ferdinand Hodler, and conducted extensive research of the modern art collections of the institution. She has authored several articles on the history of art and of science as well as co-authoring an art history textbook for Hungarian high school students.

Since arriving in Brisbane four years ago, Ilona has been involved in the community by volunteering at 4EB Multicultural Radio, and she now produces radio shows in Hungarian and English for 4EB.

The Royal Historical Society of Qld
 PO Box 12057 Brisbane George St.
 QLD 4003
 RHSQ *Bulletin*: PP 100004098
 RHSQ *Journal*: PP 100004097

**PRINT
 POST**

**POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA**



IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
JULY 2017

Wednesday 12 July - 12.30 pm Talk
‘The Right Honourable Sir Alfred Stephens’
Stephen Sheaffe
Thursday 13 July - Council Meeting
Saturday 15 July - *Bulletin* Deadline

NEW MEMBERS

Donald MacKenzie Coorparoo
 Frank Moloney The Gap

Contact Details:	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only:	Subscriptions:
Manager: Ilona Kekete	Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson	Ordinary Member: \$ 66.00
ABN: 34 217 251 028	A/Editor: Marjorie Shackleton	Partner of Member: \$ 22.00
Phone: 07 3221 4198	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Junior Member (U18): \$ 11.00
Fax: 07 3221 4698	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Full-time Student (U25): \$ 33.00
email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au	The Society acknowledges financial assistance from: The Department of Multicultural Affairs; The National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant; Qld Government Gambling Community benefit Fund; Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, The Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund; Brisbane City Council; Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund; Qld State Archives; Blocksidge and Ferguson Real Estate; Our Honorary Auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd.	Libraries: \$ 66.00
Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane, George Street, 4003		Corporate/Institutions: \$ 275.00
		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00