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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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Mephisto returns to Queensland



RSL Qld Photo

First World War tank, *Mephisto*, housed safely inside a carcoon while it undergoes further conservation work.

One of Australia's most significant war relics *Mephisto* has returned to Queensland after it was temporarily loaned to the Australian War Memorial by Queensland Museum from June 2015 to May 2017. *Mephisto* is the only surviving German A7V *Sturmpanzerwagen* tank in the world, after being captured during World War I near the French town of Villers-Bretonneux in July 1918. The tank was salvaged by two tanks from the Gun Carrier Company supported by a party (a sergeant and 12 men) from the 26th Battalion, comprised mainly of Queenslanders (see more information about the Battalion on page 5). The recovery was carried out at considerable risk under the cover of darkness and the abandoned tank was towed behind allied lines. It was then sent to Australia as a war artifact, arriving in Brisbane in June 1919 where it was towed by two Brisbane City Council steamrollers to the old Queensland Museum (see December 2015 *Bulletin* No 803 for more photos and information).

Weighing 34 tonnes, *Mephisto* has undergone specialist conservation at the Australian War Memorial, such as installing replica guns, replacing oils and fluids within the engine and corrosion treatments on the body of the tank. *Mephisto* will continue to undergo further remedial conservation works by Queensland Museum curatorial staff while housed in a 'carcoon' (a de-humidified balloon-like cover) at The Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich ahead of its display in a new permanent gallery, scheduled to open in late 2018 at Queensland Museum Southbank.

President's Report

Dear Members,

Moving into the second half of the year we have a number of functions coming up which we hope you will be able to attend with friends and family. One big problem we have is small numbers of volunteers to help set up and pull down chairs and trestles, crockery, glassware and all the other items that go with putting on a successful function at the store. We need help from you to make things easier to continue with our programme of events as most of us are not getting any younger and tasks such as erecting, placing and re stacking over 100 chairs and 12 trestle tables are rather wearing. So if you can come a bit early and stay after to help it would be much appreciated. Remember the saying: 'Many hands make light work!'

Some events coming include:

On Saturday 2 September we have a seminar on 'Building Brisbane', which will discuss the building of the city over the last 182 years. The Architects, Contractors, Town planners and their triumphs, follies and failures, which make up the wonderful mix of structures in our city. We will have a catered lunch and drinks available. Contact the office 3221 4198 to book.

Riverfire was extremely popular last year so please book early and bring your family and friends. Our location is one of the best spots to view the fireworks. We will be supplying wood fired pizzas and red wine to keep you warm. We have a maximum allowance of 100 people for all of our events so book for Saturday 30 September now!

Our end of year drinks and nibbles is on Separation day 10 December, which is a Sunday. Being summer we will start early around 4.30 pm and the dress is smart casual. Once again we need to know numbers attending this function so we can accurately assess the requirements for catering.

We are proceeding with the interpretive centre pavilion and informative signage at the 'Dig Tree' after receiving two grants from the Commonwealth Government. Designs are being prepared and quotations sought to erect the structure no later than June 2018.

You may remember the trauma relating to the relocation of our museum storage earlier this year when the developers of the Casino needed the space we occupied cleared so restoration of the old Immigration Centre next door in William Street could proceed. A space was provided in the old Go Print building in Woolloongabba at no cost to us and the entire collection of artefacts, artwork, books, maps and other ephemera was moved very carefully and placed in shelving provided by the developer. Now due to funds becoming available for the Cross River Rail project our Go Print building is to be demolished starting in September, which will mean we have to relocate again to other premises. Thanks to our landlord, Destination Brisbane Consortium, all this is being done at no cost to your Society.

Thank you for your continued support!

Dean Prangley
President

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)

Cunningham, near Warwick – The local branch of the QCWA has been re-formed and will take over running of the community hall. The hall was built in the 1950s using funds raised by the QCWA and Cunningham Rangers riding group. Maintenance work needs to be done on the hall. (*Warwick Daily News* 20 June 2017 *Bush Telegraph* p. 7 including photograph.)

Croydon – The Gulflander Golden Sunset Tours will be running every Wednesday Evening from Croydon Railway Station at 5.00 pm until the end of August. (Officer-in-Charge, Normanton - Croydon Railway, QR)



Qld Rail photo

The Gulflander Railmotor

Mackay – Restoration of the old Commonwealth Bank building in Victoria Street has been at a standstill for three years. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has issued a ‘Show Cause Notice’ to the owner, Imnau Holdings, about the standard and progress of the restoration. (*Mackay Mercury* 3 June 2017 pp. 1 and 10 including two photographs)



State Library Qld photo

The Building c1882

The building was constructed in 1880 for the Australian Joint Stock Bank. It was designed by architect F D G Stanley and is the oldest commercial building in Mackay. Brisbane builders Southall and Tracey were employed to construct the building commencing in January 1880 and was completed and opened in February 1881. The Australian Joint Stock Bank was established when gold was discovered in southern states in 1852. Branches were opened in Queensland gold fields as they were discovered. It opened a branch on the Broughton gold field on 23 April 1872 and then established branches in other centres. The Mackay branch was opened in this building in 1881.



Old Heritage Photo

The Building in 2009

Quinkan Country, central Cape York – The Australian Heritage Council is assessing Quinkan Country for potential inclusion in the National Heritage List (ID 106262). It is a distinctively rock art region located on sandstone and contains shelters and overhangs which provide surfaces for painting. The Laura township area is excluded from the proposed listing area. (*Cape York News* 26 April 2017 p. 6 including map). The Quinkan & Regional Cultural Centre (QRCC) contains a World Class Interpretive Display. QRCC is owned and operated by the local town and region. It was established with support of the Queensland Heritage Trails Network and many North Queensland organisations, businesses and individuals.

Tewantin – John's Landing Camping Area is to close. It is situated on the Noosa River between Lake Cooroibah and Lake Cootharaba. The 49 ha camping area currently owned by Ben Johns provides cheap accommodation for low income earners. The Noosa Shire Council, Centrelink, Department of Housing, Salvation Army and United Synergies are working to identify new accommodation for these people. The Noosa Shire Council is purchasing the land to protect it from development. It is a historic site having once been a large and productive orchard. Remains of the orchard are clearly visible on site. (*Noosa News* 30 May 2017 p.3 including photograph)

Tolga – Tableland Regional Council has agreed to amend its User Agreement with the Tolga Historical Society to allow a change in the shape of the museum's land to allow for the erection of a new shed. The shed will house museum artifacts. (*Tablelander* 30 May 2017 p. 2)

Heritage:

Cooroy's heritage listed Lower Mill site is having restoration work done. The project focuses on the boiler and kiln. The chimney will be remediated and the roof and walls will be reinforced. The kiln was built in 1956. The Noosa Shire Council owns the site and funded it from the heritage levy. Todd Engineering and Marbelle Pty Ltd (Cooran) are the contractors. (*Cooroy Rag* 15 February 2017 p. 2 including photograph)

On 22 June 2017 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter the **Coorparoo State School, Coorparoo and Bundaberg State High School, Bundaberg South** in the Queensland Heritage Register as State Heritage Places and not to enter *Mundumburrah House, Clayfield*.

The 2017 Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Research Report

Quite often, members of the public phone The RHSQ with a casual enquiry about some aspect of Queensland history. These range from confirming a date, such as for an event or the construction of a house or a building, to family history, particularly about historic land selections and arrivals in Brisbane. Where possible, we answer the queries immediately. Otherwise, we might invite the callers to visit the Library and research our resources, or we direct them to the most appropriate Library or public archives resources.

Our research volunteers continue their involvement with the Destination Brisbane Consortium, providing a series of historical stories on aspects of the development precinct. We have also been retained to verify the text of, and provide appropriate photographs for, the Lend-Lease Kingsford Smith Drive Upgrade interpretative signage project. The Queensland Parliamentary Library has asked for our assistance in filling in the gaps in their photographic record of Members of Queensland Parliament, especially prior to 1940.

The Library has now taken delivery of a new laptop computer. This will increase our research capacity and expand archival storage space as we gradually move, where possible, to digital records.

We thank the donors of numerous books, documents and photographs received recently. These will be acknowledged separately in next month's *Bulletin*.

Kay Cohen

Your Speaker for August

Topic - Queensland Deposit Bank and suburban subdivision

Speaker - Jon Stanford

The talk focuses on the activity of the Queensland Deposit Bank (QDB) as a sub-divider of suburban allotments. Between 1886 to 1891, the single largest land developer in Queensland, it subdivided at least 21 estates into over 5,000 suburban building allotments in the newly expanding Brisbane, most, but not all, of 16 perches (404.7 square meters), the minimum size allotment allowed after 1885. In 1889 the Bank advertised that it held Mansion, Villa, and Cottage Sites from 20 Acres to 16 Perches for sale in a number of suburbs with Norman Park being the 'model suburb.' Being involved in the housing boom, the QDB developed land along the new public transport routes, railway and tramways, mainly within a six mile radius of the GPO, and shaped the suburbs not only during the boom, which ended in grief in 1891, but for two or three decades after. At the time of its demise in 1931 the QDB still owned land in Norman Park that it had developed in 1887.

Biography

Dr Jon Stanford, a Councillor of the Society, is interested in financial crises and financial history. He has given papers at the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand's Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conferences and a paper in 2012 entitled 'Australian banks response to international re-rating and domestic financial stringency in the 1890s global financial crisis' at the Workshop on Financial Crises, Centre for Economic History, Australian National University. He has published three papers on financial history in Queensland in the *Queensland History Journal*.

More Information on the 26th Battalion 1 AIF

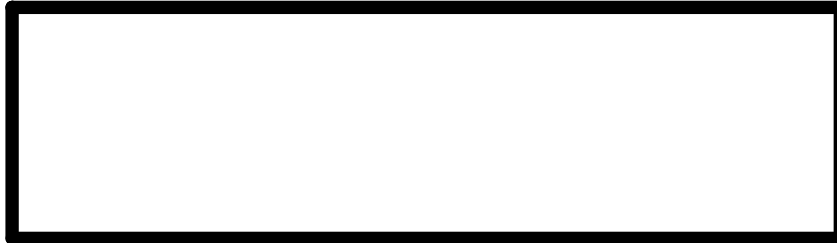
The 26th Battalion was raised in April 1915 for service in World War I as part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). It was assigned to the 7th Brigade and consisted of personnel recruited from the states of Queensland and Tasmania. The battalion fought at Gallipoli in the latter stages of that campaign before being withdrawn to Egypt in late 1915. In mid-1916, it was sent to Europe where it served on the Western Front in France and Belgium for the rest of the war, fighting in most of the battles that the Australians took part in between 1916 and 1918. In May 1919 it was disbanded as part of the demobilisation of the AIF.

During the inter-war years, the 26th Battalion was formed as a unit of the Citizens' Forces, known as the 26th Battalion (Logan and Albert Regiment). It was again reformed as the new 26th Australian Infantry Battalion as Australia mobilised for World War II.

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<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>AUGUST 2017</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Wednesday 9 August - 12.30 pm Talk <i>'Queensland Deposit Bank and suburban subdivision'</i> Jon Stanford</p> <p>Thursday 10 August - Council Meeting Tuesday 15 August - <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</p>	<p>Leigh T I Penman Fairfield Mary and Michael O'Shea St Lucia</p>

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