



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*75 years of continuous publication*

SEPTEMBER 2017 No. 822

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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au)

## QUEENSLAND RAIL 152 YEARS OLD



John Oxley Library SLQ NEG 150529

### **The official opening of the first section of the Ipswich to Grandchester railway, Ipswich 1865.**

Queensland's railway construction commenced in 1864, with the turning of the first sod of the Main Line by Lady Diamantina Bowen, the wife of Queensland's first governor Sir George Bowen at Ipswich. A narrow gauge of 3 ft 6 in (1,067 mm) was selected due to cost savings. Despite being built with bridges wide enough for standard gauge, and the fact that most other lines did not require heavy earthworks, the gauge remained the Queensland system norm. The 31 km section from Ipswich to Grandchester (originally Bigge's Camp) was the first section of railway line opened by the Governor on 31 July 1865. Queensland Railways (QR) was the first operator in the world to adopt narrow gauge for a main line railway system (See a photo of the first locomotive type on page 5).

## President's Report

Dear Members,

As you know we have a number of events coming up at the Commissariat Store such as Riverfire, Open House and our end of year drinks and nibbles to celebrate Separation Day.

I wish to appeal to you to help your society, not only by attending these functions, but also by assisting with the set up and running of the events. We are very short of volunteers and need help in several areas such as placing and erecting chairs and tables, crockery, foodstuffs and drinks. For instance Riverfire requires 100 chairs and at least 12 tables to be moved onto the site, erected and put back after the event. We also need two people on each floor of the Commissariat during Open House to answer questions and assist. On Separation Day we need waiters to hand out food and drinks as well as erecting some tables and seating. Can you please assist by telephoning Ilona now on 3221 4198 and volunteer your help on one or more of these occasions. She will advise you what help we need and the times.

Dates are: RIVERFIRE Saturday 30 September. OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER and SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER . SEPARATION DAY SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER from 4.00 pm.

Also, we need Special Project Officers to take on regular tasks at the Commissariat. If you can spare some time during the week from Tuesday to Friday please let Ilona know so she can tell you what is required.

Thanks for your continued support of your Society.

Regards

Dean Prangley  
President

## Obituary

### Marjorie Mary Shackleton

Regrettably, I have to inform members that my very dear friend and colleague, Marjorie Shackleton, Assistant Editor of this publication, died suddenly on 25 July. Marjorie was a long time member of the Society and was Assistant Editor for 105 issues or almost 10 years.

Marjorie was educated at Somerville House and The University of Queensland and was well known in the Society and other history focused organisations as an expert on the history of Brisbane's people and places. When we compiled the *Bulletin*, I greatly appreciated that she gave her opinions in an original and erudite style. She was an expert in spoken and written English grammar.

I am sure we all express our condolences to her husband Jeffrey, daughter Rosalind and the extended family. We will miss her!

Graeme

## Queensland News

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

**Gympie – Imbil** - The Gympie Regional Council has accepted a tender for \$9.067 million by CR Rail and Aurizon for the restoration of the Mary Valley historic railway line and structures. The total cost of the Rattler revitalisation is now budgeted at just under \$12.5 million. The State Government is contributing \$7 million. (*Gympie Times* 29 July 2017 pp. 1 and 3 including two photographs)

**Maryborough** – Walkers Limited has been entered in the State Library of Queensland's Business Hall of Fame. The company was involved in construction of sugar mills, mining machinery, ships and railway rollingstock. The company chose Maryborough when it established itself in Queensland in 1867 as it was close to the Gympie gold field. The company had previously had its headquarters at Ballarat in Victoria. (*Gympie Times* 22 July 2017 p. 50 including six photographs)

**Ravenshoe** – The Ravenshoe Railway Company Pty Ltd will apply for accreditation and upgrades to tracks between Ravenshoe and Tumoulin. The total cost will be approximately \$3.4 million. An updated safety management system and new business plan are necessary. The locomotive *Capella* is in operating condition. (*Tablelander* 23 May 2017 p. 10)



Ravenshoe Railway Photo

### 1925 Built D17 Class locomotive ‘Capella’

**Somerset** - On 21 July 2017 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection received a new application from a member of the community proposing the entry of the Somerset Jardine Cemetery in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

**Stanthorpe** – The Historical Society is in the planning stages of building a large memorial to the soldier settlers of the area to be opened on 11 November 2019, which is the centenary of the arrival of the men and their wives. This will be sited at Cottonvale, near the highway to show people where to turn off to travel the route of the branch line to Amiens. At Amiens the Amiens History Association is creating an interpretive centre complete with an old railway carriage, which will be sited on the terminus land, and will be opened on 20 July 2020; the centenary of the opening of the line by the Prince of Wales. The carriage will have a replica of the Prince waving from the end of the carriage. (Stanthorpe Historical Society – email 28 July 2017)

**Woodford and Durundur** - For almost 20 years, Woodford Historical Society has hosted significant events that have promoted the history of Durundur and Woodford. The unveiling of the [Ludwig Leichhardt](#) monument in 2013, the construction of Binambi Place and the opening of the Museum in 2009 are a few of the society’s major accomplishments. *Durundur* Station was established in 1841 by David, Thomas and John Archer. Explorer Ludwig Leichhardt gained valuable experience while visiting Durundur from 1843–1844. Ongoing challenges include continued promotion of the area’s history, attracting new visitors to the museum and increasing support for events. The society works closely with different community groups in Woodford, which boosts volunteer numbers and ensures the society’s projects are successful. The society now uses [Facebook](#) to post events and activities online. (*Donna Grigor, Woodford Historical Society, State Library of Queensland, Queensland Memory, July 2017*)

**THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 14 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6.00 PM  
AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE**

#### AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
2. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President
3. Consideration of Audited Annual Financial Statement
4. Election of the President, one Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, ten Councillors
5. Appointment of a Patron of the Society
6. Appointment of a Honorary Auditor
7. Consideration of the recommendation by the Society’s Council that Ms Val Donovan be elected as a Fellow of the Society, Ms Dianne Byrne be elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society, that Mr Jeff O’Mara be awarded a MacGregor Medal and that Mr Colin MacFarlane be awarded an Honorary MacGregor Medal.

**Fellowship:**

The Society’s Council recommends that Ms Val Donovan be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 (d) of the Constitution, for her research, writing, editorship of the *Queensland History Journal*, and historical publications including her role in two *Lost Brisbane* books.

**Honorary Fellowship:**

The Society’s Council recommends that Ms Dianne Byrne be awarded an Honorary Fellowship under Rule 35 (e) of the Constitution, for her research, writing, and leadership and preservation of Queensland history and heritage through her role at John Oxley Library in the State Library of Queensland and in participation in The Royal Historical Society of Queensland’s activities.

**MacGregor Medal:**

The Society’s Council recommends that Mr Jeff O’Mara be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (f) of the Constitution, for his leadership and management role in the Society’s Museum.

**Honorary MacGregor Medal:**

The Society’s Council recommends that Mr Colin MacFarlane be awarded an Honorary MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (g) of the Constitution, for his role as a Royal Historical Society of Queensland Volunteer and Guide at the Commissariat Store for over 10 years.

Ruth S Kerr  
Honorary Secretary

**NOMINATION FORM**

For the election of the President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and 10 Councillors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 14 November 2017 at 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary on or before close of business on 31 October 2017.

Nominations must be signed by 2 (two) financial members of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member.

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We nominate .....

for the office of .....

Signed .....

Signed .....

If elected I agree to act in the position of  
.....

Signature .....

-----  
Received by Honorary Secretary

Signed: .....

Date:.....

## Research Report

This month's research enquiries include: 1930s dance studios and dance halls in Brisbane; diaries of John Ewen Davidson; early Queensland sugar planters; Brisbane Grammar School History; Lt Col Kenneth McLennan; interiors of Newstead House; May Davidson; 'Jenny Lind' shipwreck; Queensland Trustees Ltd; Bribie Island marine survey; Brisbane planning Code.

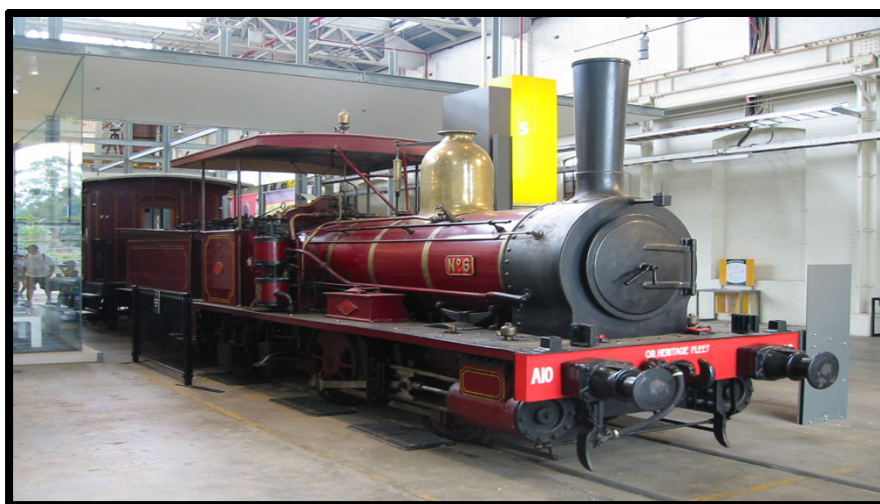
A writer from the Netherlands researching an article on the crew of a bomber shot down over his village during World War II, with no survivors, sought information on a crew member who had been apprenticed to Jackson & O'Sullivan Printers before signing up. The writer will send us a copy of his completed article and we may then learn more about another Brisbane casualty of the war.

Work continues on providing stories of historic interest for the Destinations Brisbane Consortium, as well as the updating the Library catalogue and correcting errors in existing entries. Plans are progressing to convert archival material currently stored on CDs to a digital format.

A new project is to research photos, stories and memorabilia of Cribb Island for a proposed race day at Doomben Racecourse, which will feature a race commemorating the life of the island before it disappeared under the Brisbane Airport runways.

Kay Cohen

## Continued from page 1



Ipswich Railway Museum photo

### No 6, A10 Steam Locomotive built in 1865

The Queensland Railways A10 Neilson class locomotive was a class of 0-4-2 steam locomotives. The A10 Neilson class comprised 13 locomotives. Eight were built in 1865 and 1866 by Neilson and Company, Glasgow for the Southern and Western Railway operating out of Ipswich. No 6, pictured above, has been restored and is on show at the Ipswich Railway Museum.

## Your Monthly Talk

**There is no talk for September. Talks will resume in October. See the next *Bulletin* for details.**

## Queensland Police Museum

The Queensland Police Museum, situated on the ground floor of Queensland Police Headquarters, 200 Roma Street, is open to the public Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm and the last Sunday of the months February to November from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Entry is free.

General Enquiries – 07 3364 6432 or 07 3364 4013; Education and Group Bookings – 07 3364 4652

Follow us on Twitter - @QPSMuseum

[Sign up for our Blog – myPolice Museum. at mypolice.qld.gov.au/museum](http://myPolice Museum. at mypolice.qld.gov.au/museum)

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| <b><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u></b><br><b><u>SEPTEMBER 2017</u></b> | <b><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></b> |                |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Saturday 2 September - Seminar 'Building Brisbane'</b>                    | Duncan Gardiner           | Petrie Terrace |
| <b>Thursday 14 September - Council Meeting</b>                               | John Cronin               | Indooroopilly  |
| <b>Friday 15 September - <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</b>                        | Ross Gardner              | Sherwood       |
| <b>Saturday 30 September - 'Riverfire'</b>                                   | Carole Byron              | Benowa         |
|  | Emma Cristopher           | Rozelle        |
|  | Ian Francis               | Nundah         |

| <b>Contact Details:</b>  | <b><i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only:</b>  | <b>Subscriptions:</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| Manager: Ilona Fekete  | Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson  | Ordinary Member: \$ 66.00  |
| ABN: 34 217 251 028  | A/Editor: Gloria Nicholson   | 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<br>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 |