



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

75 years of continuous publication

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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

INTERNATIONAL TOASTMASTERS AWARD FOR COLIN MCFARLANE



Photo: Anne Harding

The Society's Education Officer, Colin McFarlane, has recently returned from the Toastmasters Annual International Convention in Vancouver where he was presented with the Presidential Citation for outstanding continuous contributions to the Toastmasters program of organisational growth and excellence. Colin has been a member of Toastmasters for 44 years, during which time he has served as an officer at many levels, including a term as District Governor of a district which included Queensland, Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea and northern New South Wales. As well as administration Colin has accomplished much as a public speaker, being the first non-American to speak in the Toastmasters World Championships of Public Speaking.

President's Report

Dear Members,

Riverfire went off with a bang! Literally. We had a full complement of members, guests and children in the yard of the Commissariat to witness the wonderful spectacle of aerobatics and fireworks. We have the best place to view the action and I urge you to come next year and book early.

We have now moved all of our stored art works, library and artefacts from the Goprint building in Woolloongabba to our new storage facility at 80 Webster Road Stafford. This is a bigger facility and has very good ventilation to keep our material dry and hopefully avoid any mould appearing during the humid months. We are hoping to have workshops there soon to help conserve some of the artefacts such as wood and leather items some of which are in need of preserving oils and other treatment. If you would like to help please let Ilona know on 3221 4198.

Our lunchtime speaker for Wednesday 11 October is Bill Kitson who will present a talk on the history of the mapping of the Queensland Coast. Bill is a retired surveyor with great knowledge of Queensland surveying history. On Wednesday 8 November Phil Castle will talk about the battles on the Western Front during WW1.

More discoveries of interest have been found as excavations continue on the new Casino development. Recent digging in William Street to lay new power cables has revealed the original Edison tubes which carried the first electricity from the old printing works to Parliament house in 1886. These are particularly rare and museums interstate and overseas have expressed interest in obtaining a sample. We hope that the RHSQ will be given a section to display in a special cabinet featuring artefacts discovered during the six year construction. A horse shoe was discovered behind the old immigration centre next to the Commissariat and may have come from the original stables there.

Prime Minister Billy Hughes received an egg in the eye at Warwick Station in 1917 whilst campaigning for conscription. To his fury no one owned up and consequently the Commonwealth Police Force was created. To commemorate this event The Southern Downs Steam Rail is holding a special day at the Goods Shed, Warwick Railway Station in Lyons Street on Saturday 18 November. There will be many interesting speakers and a choir to provide entertainment. Telephone Julie on 0418 989 590 if you want to attend (See the advertisement below). If you are unable to attend then come to the Commissariat on 13 December and listen to a talk on the events that took place by Greg Hallam.

Thank you all for your support of the Society

Dean Prangley
President

Dissent! Treason! Flying Eggs!

An Invitation - a public history event:

Making sense of the Warwick Egg Incident (WEGGI) 100 years on

Saturday 18 November 2017

10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Goods Shed, Railway Station, Lyons St, Warwick

As a taster, the story goes:

On 29 November 1917, whilst campaigning for conscription, Prime Minister Billy Hughes was egged at Warwick railway station by an Irish-Australian, Bart Brosnan - or was it his brother Pat?

Hughes then threw himself into the melee and ordered Senior Sergeant Henry Kenny of the Queensland police force, another Irish-Australian, to arrest the culprit. After Kenny refused and Queensland Premier T J Ryan declined to discipline the policeman, Hughes established a Commonwealth Police Force. In a telegram to the Governor-General, Hughes explained: 'This will apply to Queensland where present position is one of latent rebellion. Police is honeycombed with Sinn Feiners and I W W ...[T]here are towns in North Queensland where the Law ...is openly ignored and I W W and Sinn Féin run the show.' (I W W is Industrial Workers of the World founded 1905. Ed)

On the day....

Enjoy two special presentations which help explain:

What led up to the WEGGI from the perspective of Irish Australians in Warwick, and

How the WEGGI fits into the broader story of conscription and Irish Australia.

Be entertained by the Combined Unions Choir in recognition of the labour movement's leadership in the anti-conscription campaigns in 1916 and 1917.

\$15 general admission, \$6 unwaged with a '1917' style morning tea included. RSVP by 11/11/17 but to secure your seat book early on <https://www.trybooking.com/RKHS>.

For more information or queries ring Julie Conway 0418 989 590

Queensland News

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

Kilburnie Homestead, 17kms north of Biloela now operates as a historical tourism venture and cattle station. The homestead was built by the Campbell family in 1884 and is now on the Queensland Heritage Register. Fiona and Allan Hayward and son Jonathan operate the property and have featured historic relics and a blacksmith's shop for tourists. (*Rural Weekly* 11 August 2017 p. 24-25 including eight photographs)

Mundubbera – A railway goods wagon has been brought back to the Mundubbera railway precinct. Mr Bruce Sersier, President of the Mundubbera Heritage Railway Precinct, stated that they had brought the wagon from an agency in the Lockyer Valley. The wagon is to be restored. A group of 20 members of the Mundubbera Heritage Railway have been restoring the Mundubbera railway station. The Mayor of the North Burnett Regional Council, Faye Whelan, stated that she expected the wagon to be a tourist attraction. (*Central & North Burnett Times* 3 August 2017 p. 8 including photograph)



Photo: David Phillips

Mundubbera Railway Station in 1990

New Mapoon, Cape York – A breast plate which was mounted on the wall of the New Mapoon Church is no longer there. Bo's' Mongarquine and another man saved survivors from the *Kanahooka* which sank offshore in 1894. The two men were presented with breast plates by the National Shipwreck Relief Society of New South Wales in honour of their rescue work. The family has stated that they would like the breast plate back for the family. (*Cape York News* 30 August 2017 p. 10 including photograph)

Sandgate Museum, 150 Rainbow Street, Sandgate – Young carpenters and cabinet makers working on the Museum building as part of the state government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program are studying a collection of old tools on display to identify them. They are part of a recent donation to the museum and are of the pre-electric era including a spoke plane for carts. The young men are placing perspex in the display cases for better viewing of the objects. Ms Pam Verney, President of the Sandgate Museum and Historical Society and a RHSQ member, is publicising the collection and its display to attract visitors who may know the uses of the tools. (*Bayside Star News* 16 August 2017 p. 2 including three photographs)

**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.

 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.....

The Wednesday talk for October

Topic- Historical Mapping of the Queensland Coast

Bill Kitson has just written a book (not yet published) on the Admiralty Surveyors who charted the Queensland coastline between 1860 and 1914. While early navigators like Cook, Flinders, King and Blackwood carried out surveys along a particular route, it was these later surveyors who charted our coastlines in great detail thus ensuring safe passage for all those who sailed the waters. The only recognition these young men received was to have their names attached to the reefs, rocks and islands along the coast. Bill has made contact with the relatives of these Captains, Commanders, Lieutenants and others who carried out the work, receiving from them, letters, photographs and art works. His book tells their stories. The presentation on the day uses all of the above material to tell their stories of how they mapped the Queensland coastline.

Bill Kitson is one of Queensland's best-known surveyors and also a museum curator and historian. He joined the Public Lands Survey Office in 1969 and worked on the geodetic survey of Queensland and on investigating the state borders, which were initially surveyed more than a century earlier. After giving up field surveying some 40 years ago, he assembled a valuable collection of documentary and pictorial material, as well as artefacts, to create the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying, Brisbane. He retired in 2007 as the museum's curator, but continues to research surveying history. With Judith McKay, Bill is co-author of the book *Surveying Queensland 1839–1945: A Pictorial History*, published by the Department of Natural Resources and Water and the Queensland Museum in 2006.

Research Report

It's been another busy month. There have been repeat visits from researchers following up on promising material discovered in the RHSQ archives. Several visiting researchers have become RHSQ members.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Ilona, RHSQ office manager, our computer network is now operating efficiently. The proposed purchase of another computer will help reduce the waiting time for access to a computer on Thursdays.

In addition to work on ongoing research projects, the team has responded to the following enquiries: an article on the early floods of the Brisbane-Bremer River system; Benjamin Backhouse and *Leura* and *Lurline* pastoral stations; historical information on Temple Street, Coorparoo and Camp Hill; Hamilton Retaining Walls; Queensland Trustees Ltd. and William Page Gray; John Ewan Davidson and the Queensland sugar industry in the 1880s; climate-relevant urban planning in Brisbane; Stephens Shire Council 1886-1925 and the Thomas Blackett Stephens family; background material for a historical novel set in early Brisbane; the adoption of narrow-gauge railway in Queensland; history of the Mackey family; freemasonry in Brisbane; visit to Brisbane of HMAS *Sydney* and HMAS *Platypus*; Eric Sandberg in Queensland; history of Athol Place, Wickham Terrace. Also, descendants of John Phillips requested a copy of the photo of the Phillips' Kangaroo Point home, reproduced in *Lost Brisbane 1860-1960*.

Kay Cohen

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.qld.gov.au/museum)

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<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>OCTOBER 2017</u>	Arthur Frame	Ipswich
Wednesday 11 October - 12.30 pm Talk	Julie Hornibrook	Woolongbar
‘Historical Mapping of the Queensland coast.’	Alexa Keast	Brisbane City
Bill Kitson	Renuka Bhoge	Eight Mile Plains
Thursday 12 October - Council Meeting	Stephen Crossley	The Gap
Sunday 15 October - <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline	Liam Mole	Cannonvale
<u>NOVEMBER 2017</u>	Susan Prior	Chelmer
Tuesday 14 November - 6.00 pm AGM	Lesley Learmont	Tingoora
<u>DECEMBER 2017</u>	Dylan Kerr	Fairfield Gardens
Sunday 10 December - Separation Day	Richard Hunt	Inala
	Anthony Allan Ogden	Paddington
	Katharine Wiltshire	Annerley

Contact Details:	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only:	Subscriptions:
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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