



RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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

## LOST BRISBANE

AND SURROUNDING AREAS

1860-1960

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND



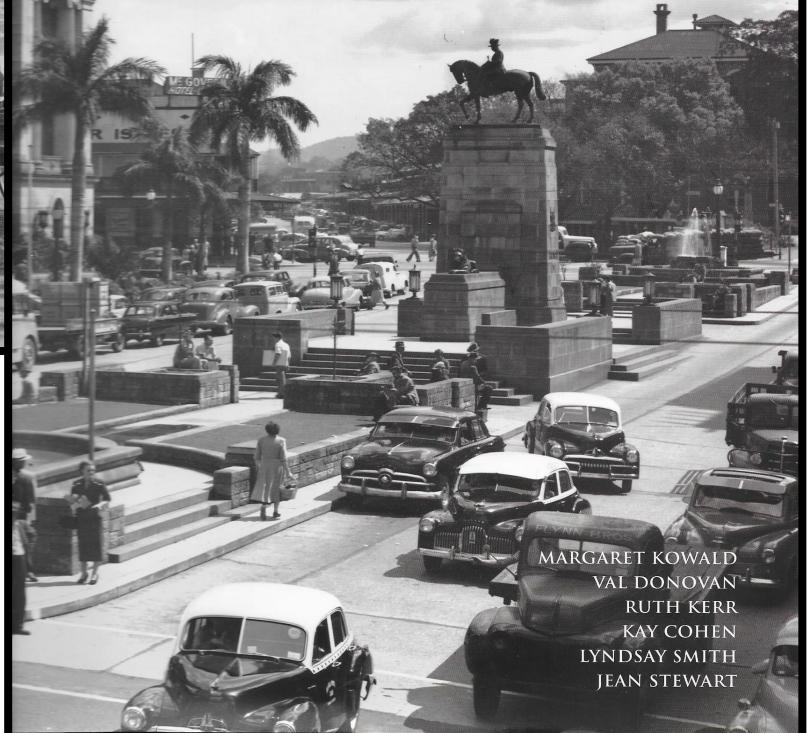
**LOOKING FOR A  
SUITABLE  
CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT?**

## LOST BRISBANE 2

AND SURROUNDING AREAS:

THE LATER YEARS

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND



**WHY NOT PURCHASE  
THESE BOOKS FROM  
THE SOCIETY'S  
OFFICE? CONTACT  
OUR MANAGER ON  
3221 4198**

MARGARET KOWALD  
VAL DONOVAN  
RUTH KERR  
KAY COHEN  
LYNDSAY SMITH  
JEAN STEWART

## President's Report

Dear Members,

As this is my last President's report before handing over to my successor at the AGM on 14 November I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as President of the Society for the last three years. It has been a most rewarding and enjoyable experience working with a dedicated team of professional historians and an enthusiastic group of volunteers to ensure that the RHSQ is viable and strong to face an exciting future.

Our commitment as trustees to preserve the Dig Tree or Camp 65 of the famed Burke and Wills expedition of 1860 was given a significant boost in September with a seminar held at Thargomindah followed by a visit to the Dig Tree site at Nappa Merrie Station. The Society was represented by Ruth Kerr, Denver Beanland, Stephen Sheaffe and John Pearn who travelled at their own expense to Thargomindah where they were met by the Bulloo Shire Council CEO, Edwina Marks and the State Member for Warrego, Ann Leahy MP.

The conference was held at the Kullulli room in the Thargomindah Visitor Information centre and was attended by over 50 people including representatives of the Dig Tree advisory board made up of The Burke and Wills Society, Outback Queensland Tourism, Nappa Merrie Station and Bulloo Shire Council. The Advisory Board also met that afternoon.

The following day a large contingent travelled the 350 km to Nappa Merrie Station on Cooper Creek for further detailed discussions and inspection of the Dig Tree reserve. From these discussions an agreement was reached on the best way to allocate the grant money to improve and preserve the site and also the facilities needed for the increasing number of visitors who are estimated to approach 35,000 each year and growing.

The main expense will be the construction of an elevated boardwalk from the entrance of the 4064m<sup>2</sup> reserve to take people to each of the three trees (Dig, Brahe and Face) and to provide interpretive signage at each point. This board walk will be approximately 80 metres long and will need to be flood and termite proof. It is essential due to the compaction of the soil around the trees caused by thousands of shoes that will stress the root systems of the 200+ year old trees. The grant will also be expended on interpretation signs along the board walk and management of the erosion on the bank of Cooper Creek. Other expenses in the area are likely to be provision of road access signs, entry signs and upgrading of toilet facilities, which are outside the Dig Tree reserve.

The RHSQ, as trustee, has a duty of care to ensure visitors are safe and provided with the necessary facilities. These upgrades will ensure the protection of the trees and provide a rich experience to those travelling the 1500 km from Brisbane to see this historic site.

We recently received a bequest from the estate of long term member of the Society and former Councillor, Lesley Merle Williams. This generous gift will allow the Society to continue its work in the preservation and recording of Queensland history.

Thank you all for your support and continued membership 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)

**Herberton:** Three locomotives have been donated by MSF Sugar to the Herberton – Atherton Historic Railway (AHR) museum in Herberton. They have previously been stored at the Mulgrave Mill in Gordonvale since they were decommissioned several years ago. The 16 tonne Locomotive No.2 was built by Commonwealth Engineering Queensland and delivered to the mill in 1955. The other two are 6 tonne locomotives. No 10 was built by EMB Baldwin, New South Wales and delivered to Mulgrave Mill in 1964. The third is a Simplex locomotive built by Motor Rail in England in 1954 and was used initially at Hambleton Mill before being transferred to Mulgrave in 1991. AHR has stated that they plan to restore the locomotive for a static display. The MSF Sugar Mulgrave Mill reliability engineer, Morty Owens, stated that the Comeng locomotive was the first locomotive the company built for use in the sugar cane industry. (*Tablelander* 26 September 2017 p. 2 including photograph).

**Kuranda Range Road – Henry Ross Lookout:** On 3 December 1952 Henry J Brunnier, President and Founder of Rotary International unveiled a plaque to commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea, at the Henry Ross Lookout on the Kuranda range. The front inscription read ‘Erected to honour the victory of our gallant Australian and Allied Forces in the Coral Sea Battle, May 1942, Pacific Theatre of World War II, 1939-1945, and to perpetuate the friendship of the Australian and American People.’ During the past 20 years the plaque has been vandalised and eventually stolen. In August 2014 following a notice in *The Kuranda Paper* a local family returned it to Rev Chris Wright after finding it in an abandoned bush camp. It was returned to Kuranda Rotary. Member for Barron River, Craig Crawford MP, liaised with Road Tek to have a new plaque included in the refurbished Henry Ross Lookout. (*The Kuranda Paper* September 2017, Issue 291, p.1 including two photographs)

**Thargomindah –** On 28 September 2017 The Royal Historical Society of Queensland hosted a historical seminar in the Kullili Room of the Library and Visitor Information Centre in Thargomindah, entitled, ‘In the Footsteps of Burke and Wills 1861-1862’. There were eight papers presented and around 50 people attended. It was opened by Ann Leahy MP, State Member for Warrego. The seminar was promoted in the *Warrego Watchman* newspaper. The article featured the research indicating that the Dig Tree is the

smaller one in the centre of the three trees. (*Warrego Watchman* of 28 September 2017 pp. 1-2 including photograph)

**Woody Island Lighthouses** in Maryborough area – The island and structures are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register as a significant cultural landscape used for maritime purposes. The pair of lighthouses was built of octagonal timber frames with weatherboard sheeting in 1866. They were of substantial assistance in the development of the port of Maryborough. More than \$175,000 was spent in restoring the Middle Bluff lighthouse. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has decided not to conserve the second lighthouse and it will remain as a cultural ruin. (*Gympie Times* 15 July 2017 p. 21 including photograph)

**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 the Audited Annual Financial Statement
4. Election of a 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 Val Donovan be elected as a Fellow of the Society, Dianne Byrne be elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society, that Jeff O'Mara be awarded a MacGregor Medal and that Colin MacFarlane be awarded an Honorary MacGregor Medal.

**Fellowship:**

The Society's Council recommends that 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 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 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 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

**The Wednesday talk for November**

***Australia's Worst Disaster; WWI***

**Speaker: Philip Castle**

Australia entered WWI with great enthusiasm in late 1914, but by the armistice in November 1918 it had become our worst ever disaster. With total deaths exceeding 62,000 and more than 250,000 wounded from a population of only 5.5 million, this was a huge loss. Worse was to come as those who returned suffered with an estimated another 60,000 dying prematurely as result of the war. Families and friends were devastated with over 18,500 having no known graves. Many families suffered badly with the loss of loved

ones; the wounded and mentally scarred returned servicemen. The Australians in WWI were mostly heroic and after the debacle of Gallipoli in 1915 many thought it could not be worse, but it was as is demonstrated by the huge casualties on the Western Front in 1916. The worst year was 1917, coincidentally 100 years ago, and 1918 was almost as bad. The consequences for Australia after the war were also enormous and still felt today.

Philip Castle is a retired journalist and amateur historian who has travelled twice to both Gallipoli and the western front. In his talk he will examine these campaigns with an emphasis on the western front and will also examine what happened to Australia post 1918. He served in Vietnam during the conflict there for two years, was a print journalist, head of the Australian Federal Police's Public Affairs and for 15 years until his recent retirement was a journalism lecturer at QUT. He holds three degrees; BA Arts (History and Political Science) ANU, BA Arts (Journalism and Professional Writing) CCAE and a Research Masters (Journalists suffering trauma) QUT.

## Research Report

It has been another busy month. Researchers have visited the library to explore the following topics: Professor Pepper, William Henry Yardley Blacksmith, Brisbane Basketball, Lendlease and the settlement of the Preston-Boondooma area.

In addition to work on ongoing research projects the team has responded to enquiries on the following subjects: Brisbane Basketball Association, Cribb Island, background material for a historical novel set in early Brisbane, Arthur Mercer, Target Archery in the nineteenth century, 'Garden of Roses' Café in the Botanic Gardens, World War II Brisbane and Mackay and Small families.

Maryanne Pender

## 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://myPoliceMuseum.myPolice.qld.gov.au/museum)

## What's on at the Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) has many treasures and resources for both government and public clients. We host regular events and have displays of some of our collections. Visit our Flickr page or the QSA blog for a glimpse into our collections.

### Upcoming events:

#### Windmill of your mind Exhibition

**Date:** Now

**Time:** 9.00am – 4.30pm

**Location:** Queensland State Archives Foyer

**Details:** The Spring Hill Windmill, built by convicts in 1828, is the oldest surviving building in Queensland. An enduring presence in Brisbane's landscape, it has borne witness to the changing face of Brisbane and many tumultuous events in Queensland's past. Inspired by stories from the collection, students and others from Queensland College of Art have created works reflecting the windmill and historic events that took place around it.

## What's on at the Queensland Women's Historical Association

**Sunday 12 November, Afternoon Tea and Talk: 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start**

**'Mrs Janet O'Connor of the Duporth School'**

Guest Speaker: Elisabeth Wheeler QWHA Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15 (includes afternoon tea).

The Royal Historical Society of Qld  
 PO Box 12057 Brisbane George St.  
 QLD 4003  
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<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p><u>NOVEMBER 2017</u></p> <p><b>Wednesday 8 November - 12.30 pm Talk</b>  <b>‘Australia’s Worst Disaster; WWI’</b>  <b>Philip Castle</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 9 November - Council Meeting</b>  <b>Tuesday 14 November - 6.00 pm AGM</b>  <b>Wednesday 15 November - <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</b></p> <p><u>DECEMBER 2017</u></p> <p><b>Sunday 10 December - Separation Day</b></p>	<p>Chris and Leila Evans            Heather Scantlebury            Nathan Dally            Bulloo Shire Council</p> <p>Quilpie            Cheuron Island            Roma</p>

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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