



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: Stephen Sheaffe

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

WHY 10 DECEMBER IS IMPORTANT IN QUEENSLAND HISTORY



Moves towards statehood began with a public meeting in 1851 to consider separation of Queensland from the Colony of New South Wales. As the push for separation gained momentum, Queen Victoria was approached to consider establishing a separate colony based at Moreton Bay. The Queen gave her approval and signed the Letters Patent on 6 June 1859. On the same day an Order-in-Council gave Queensland its own Constitution. Queensland became a self-governing colony with its own Governor, a nominated Legislative Council and an elected Legislative Assembly.

Now 6 June is celebrated by Queenslanders as the day when the new colony of Queensland was established. With the word 'Separation' painted on its hull, the ship *Clarence* sailed into Brisbane on 10 July 1859, to be greeted by a jubilant crowd eagerly awaiting the news of separation. *Clarence* was welcomed with a 14-gun salute, a 'blue light' display and fireworks.

On 20 July, Queensland was informed that Sir George Bowen would be the State's first Governor. On 10 December 1859, Governor Bowen arrived in Brisbane to a civic reception in the Botanic Gardens. He officially marked the historic occasion of Separation by reading a proclamation from the verandah of the 'Deanery' of St. John's Cathedral.

The 'Deanery' is a heritage-listed detached house at 417 Ann Street, Brisbane. It sits within the grounds of St John's Cathedral. It was originally known as Adelaide House and was constructed for Dr William Hobbs who arrived in Brisbane in May 1849 as the ship's surgeon on board the *Chaseley*, the second of Reverend John Dunmore Lang's immigrant ships. Hobbs was a prominent medical figure.

In 1853 Hobbs commissioned Andrew Petrie to build a two storey house on a hill overlooking the river. When Sir George Bowen was appointed the first Governor of Queensland in 1859, Government House was still being planned. As an interim measure, Adelaide House was rented by the government for £350 per year, as the Governor's residence.

On the completion of Government House in lower George Street in 1862, Dr Hobbs returned with his family to Adelaide House.



Old Heritage Photo

The 'Deanery' in 1921

President's Report

To be elected president of the Society after so many years as a member is a privilege and an honour. I know that it is a time consuming and demanding role especially when the Society is facing significant legal issues.

Nineteen years has elapsed since I was first elected to the Council in 1998. That was a very hectic time in the life of the Society as it was during that time that the Society received \$1.1m in a Commonwealth grant and a similar sum from the State Government and from private organisations. The amount received was in excess of \$2m and it was spent on the restoration of the Commissariat Store, the manufacture of the models on the ground floor, the purchase of the cabinets and the establishment of the museum. It became a revolutionary period in our Society. Almost every component in the building was installed, renovated or altered in some way during that time.

The Society is indebted to the many extremely talented people who are currently on the Council and who spend an enormous amount of time and their own money working for the benefit of the Society and its objectives. An example is that four Council members self-funded a four-day trip to the dig tree to inspect and assess the issues and problems that this iconic tree faces. The Society has applied successfully for grants to erect new information panels on the reserve and we hope these funds will be utilised to help resolve the compaction and the erosion issues around the tree.

We are all indebted to Dean Prangley for his excellent service to the Society as president over the last three years. He faced the enormous challenge that arose by the government's decision to grant a 99 year lease over all the land in the locality including the Commissariat Store to DBC, the new Casino

Development Company(s). This has the effect that our 30-year lease (12 years remaining) with the Government has been transferred to them. This means we now have a new landlord. The lease contains a clause that imposed a discretion on the government as to whether or not they would pay the outgoings, such as the rates, cleaning, security and insurance costs. As our Society is a volunteer organisation with public objectives the Government always paid these outgoings. The issue is whether this generosity will be continued by a private company that has commercial interests at heart. Thus far, the company has indicated they will continue paying these outgoings.

Dean has developed an excellent relationship with the Company representatives, he has considerable interpersonal skills and has provided an experienced steady hand on the RHSQ business over the last few years. We hope he continues in these important roles in the future.

We also thank Helen Bracken, who has decided not to renew her position on the Council. She has served in the office as manager and was president for two years. She was a very dedicated, hard-working and enthusiastic president and officer of the Society. She will be sadly missed. We thank her for her contributions.

Finally, I thank Carolyn Nolan for her excellent presentation on the houses on Hamilton Hill at the AGM.

The next and final function for the year will be the Separation Day celebrations on the 10 December. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

This is my first report and the last report before Christmas. On behalf of the Society I wish you all a Merry and Happy Christmas and you return next year full of vigour and enthusiasm .

Stephen Sheaffe
President

Special Notice

THE JOHN DOUGLAS KERR MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

Nominations for the prestigious John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction for research and writing Queensland or Australian history have opened. The award is made jointly by The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland). Nominations close on 31 March 2018. Nomination forms can be downloaded from: www.queenslandhistory.org.au/Kerr_Nom.pdf
Further information about the award can be found at: www.queenslandhistory.org.au/JohnDKerr.html

Queensland News

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

Callandoon – 20 km west of Goondiwindi – There is a pioneer graveyard beside the St George – Goondiwindi Road containing five headstones. The Society featured a photograph from its collection of the shearing shed at *North Callandoon* on the front page of *Bulletin* No 692, November 2005. (Personal visit October 2017)

Chinchilla – A *Cactoblastis* Monument was opened at Chinchilla on 28 October 2017. It was the Department of Agriculture and Stock Field Station for researching the *Cactoblastis cactorum* in the Chinchilla area from 1925 and was on land owned by T A Cole. (*Chinchilla News* 2 November 2017 p. 8 including photograph)

Herberton – The historic Herberton Village has been named as one of the top 10 museums in Australia. It is privately owned by Craig and Connie Kimberley who reopened the museum in 2009. The museum receives 30,000 visitors per year and the 60 buildings present the history of the Cairns Hinterland and Gulf Country from which they were collected by Harry Skinner. A centrepiece is *Elderslie*, the home of John Newell in Herberton. (*Tablelander* 31 October 2017 p. 11)

Mount Tamborine – The Main Street, Tamborine Mountain's Road Reserve/Village Green at Mount Tamborine has been nominated by a member of the community for entry on the Queensland Heritage Register. Submissions close on 14 December 2017. The nomination can be viewed at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/. Submissions may be made to heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au.

New Farm – *Fenton* house at 388 and 404 Bowen Terrace, New Farm has been nominated by a member of the community for entry on the Queensland Heritage Register. Submissions close on 15 December 2017. The nomination can be viewed at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/. [Submissions may be made to heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au](mailto:Submissions_made_to_heritage@ehp.qld.gov.au).

Oxley Railway Station Master's House – More than 150 Corinda State High School woodwork students have spent several years restoring the historic Oxley station master's house. The house was donated to the school by Queensland Rail 10 years ago. The students worked on ceilings, timber windows, flooring and architraves. The house was constructed in 1875 when the railway from Ipswich to Brisbane was opened (except for the bridge over the Brisbane River at Indooroopilly, completed in 1876). (*Westside News* 1 November 2017 pp. 1 and 7 including two photographs)

Tinana – The Queensland Heritage Council has decided to enter the Pacific Islander Hospital and Cemetery site on the corner of Genrich and Bluebell Roads, Tinana on the Queensland Heritage Register. (Notification from Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and *Queensland Government Gazette* 10 November 2017)

Tolga – A 73.15ha property at Bones Knob on Bowcock Road has been offered for sale. It contains a heritage listed section of Mabi rainforest and two World War II concrete heritage listed igloos. The site is 940 metres above sea level (Ravenshoe 930m). There was also a British Advanced Chain Overseas (ACO) radar installation on the property. The igloos were built to house the radio electronics and two-tonne consoles for the transmitter and receiver. Receiving and transmitting equipment were in different igloos. There is a third igloo (smaller) in the Mabi forest. In recent years the property has been utilised for an art studio by its owner Hildergard Elisabet (Liah) Falkenberg who disappeared from the property on 6 September 2010, aged 79. The property has now been sold to Tammy and Marco Tiraboschi of Mareeba. (*Tablelander* 12 September 2017 pp. 1,9 and 20 including six photographs and 24 October 2017 p.24 and 7 November 2017 p. 9 including photograph)

Warwick – The Queensland Heritage Council decided on 27 October 2017 not to enter the lavatory block at the rear of the Town Hall and Footballers Memorial, 72 Palmerin Street, Warwick (Lot 17 RP47929) on the Queensland Heritage Register. A notice of the variation of the Register entry appeared in the *Queensland Government Gazette* on 10 November 2017.

Award to Members

The State Library of New South Wales, Mitchell Library has awarded the 2018 CH Currey Fellow, to Dr Emma Christopher for the project: '*Sugar and Slavery: An Australian Legacy?*'

Your New Council Members

Following is a list of the new Council members elected at the AGM:

President:	Stephen Sheaffe
Hon Secretary:	Ruth Kerr
Hon Treasurer:	Barrie Rollason
Councillors:	Denver Beanland
	Rebecca Ling
	Jeff O'Mara
	John Pearn
	Maryanne Pender
	Janet Prowse
	Tim Roberts
	Jon Stanford
	Immediate Past President: Dean Prangley

(The Council will consider the appointment of a Vice President at the next Council Meeting.)

The Wednesday talk for December

Topic: The Queensland Railways, the Eggs, the Prime Minister and Warwick

Speaker: Greg Hallam.

Greg Hallam is a professional historian, member of the PHAQ and has been employed by Queensland Rail for nearly 20 years. He is also a member of the RHSQ and recently was involved in the commemorations of the centenary of the egg throwing event at Warwick in 1917, against Prime Minister Billy Hughes, during the second conscription referendum.

Abstract:

In November of 1917 two eggs were flung at the Prime Minister of Australia, William (Billy) Morris Hughes, that knocked his hat off, at Warwick railway station. The incident took place during the heated atmosphere of the second Conscription Referendum in Australia, and led to the creation of the Commonwealth Police. The egg incident, had its own moments of drama at Warwick, as did the journey of the Prime Minister by train- but at the time itself the Queensland Railways also found themselves embroiled in the wartime crisis on the home front whilst the war was being waged. Greg will look at the background story of the Queensland Railways in 1917, and something of the events of that day in Warwick.

Research Report

During the month, our researchers have attended to the following email queries: photographer Thomas Mathewson's house, Auchenflower; history of South Bank settlement from indigenous presence to early European settlement; wharf development in colonial times; celebration of North-Western Queensland separation on 21 June 1862; houses in Reedy Creek Road, Brisbane; Robert Cliff Mackie; Women's National Emergency Legion at Archerfield Aerodrome; Australian Steam Navigation Company in Brisbane, 1850s – 1860s; John Clements *Wickham* and *Dundali*.

Photographs: Permission to use a painting of Brisbane, c1855; Brisbane during World War II; the suburb of Hamilton 1850-1895; copyright of a Brisbane 1974 flood photograph; Ascot Taxis depot, Barry Parade; Dr Lillian Cooper.

We met with representatives from the Brisbane Cross River Rail Project to discuss historical research on the communities that have lived along the proposed rail route.

Our photographer, Lyndsay Smith, continues to add to the Society's collection of digitised photographs, including recent donations. Christine Cormack and Maryanne Pender are working on new stories highlighting the history of buildings and people associated with the Queen's Wharf Precinct for the Destinations Brisbane Consortium. Elizabeth Nunn enters the constant stream of new material in the RHSQ catalogue, as well as correcting errors found in existing entries. Beth Johnson and Dorothy Collins have been assisting the Queensland Parliamentary Library researchers to process the very large number of photographs of former members of Queensland parliament held by the RHSQ. Our congratulations to long-time member of the research team, Val Donovan, on her well-deserved award of an RHSQ Fellowship.

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.Museum, at mypolice.qld.gov.au/museum)

**THE STAFF AT *THE RHSQ*
BULLETIN WISH YOU A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

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<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>DECEMBER 2017</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<p>Sunday 10 December - Separation Day Wednesday 13 December - 12.30 pm Talk 'The Queensland Railways, the Eggs, the Prime Minister and Warwick' Greg Hallam Thursday 14 December - Council Meeting</p>	<p>Christine Grimwade David & Kim Coulton Jonathan Fisher Cecile Bennett</p>	<p>Atherton Goondiwindi Beechmont Manly</p>

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website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au	<p>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.</p>	Libraries: \$ 66.00
<p>Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane, George Street, 4003</p>		Corporate/Institutions: \$ 275.00
		<p>Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00</p>