



THE RHSQ

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

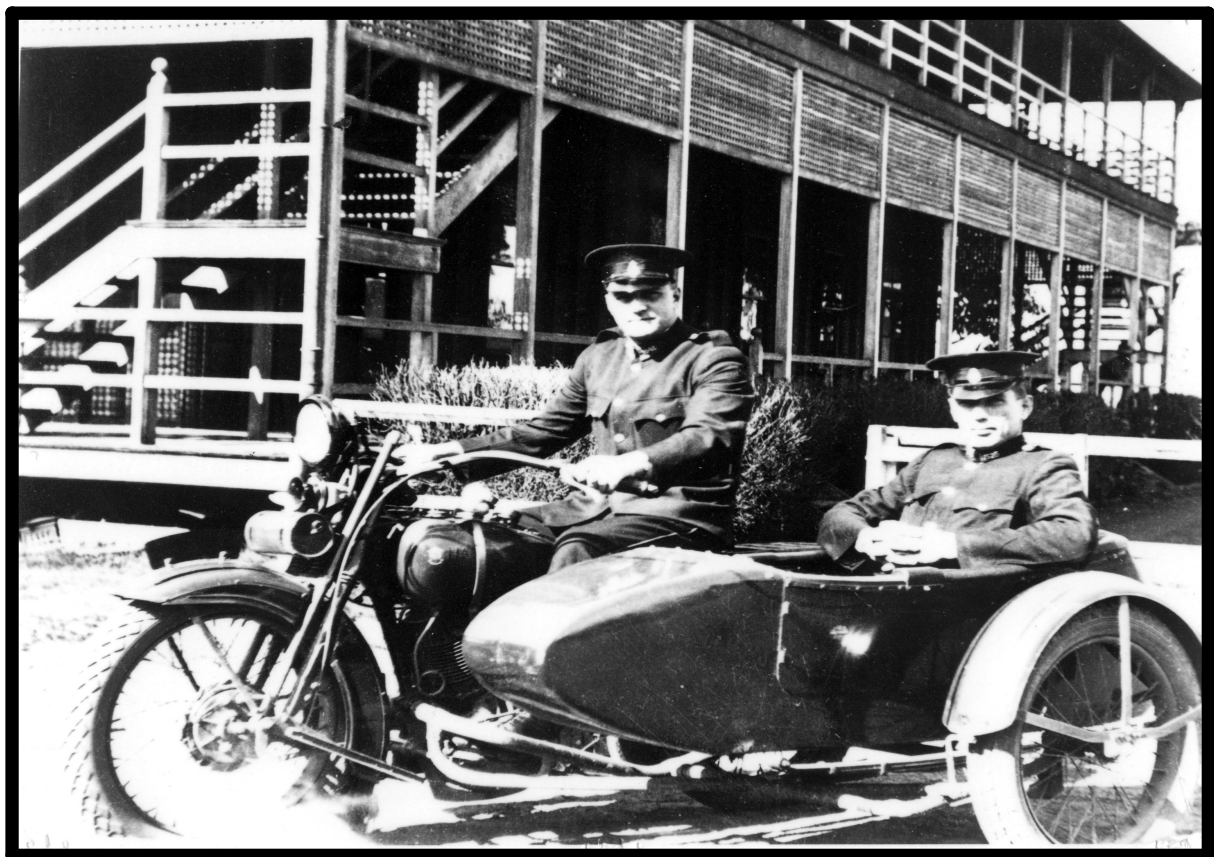
Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,
Governor of Queensland

President: Stephen Sheaffe

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

THE FIRST QUEENSLAND POLICE MOTORCYCLES

In February 1925 Police Commissioner William Ryan purchased the first police motorcycles – three Harley Davidson motorcycles with attached sidecars. By late 1925 police motorcycles were being used to advantage by Detectives and Finger-Print Experts to get to places not served by public transport.



1927 Harley Davidson motorcycle and side car, photograph taken in the grounds of the Petrie Terrace Depot, Brisbane.

(Image No. PM0013 Courtesy of the Queensland Police Museum)

By 1938 there were 38 motorcycles in the police fleet, made up of Royal Enfield motorcycles with side cars; English AJS 1000cc and BSA 1000cc V twin bikes. By the 1960s Nortons, Triumphs and a few BSA Lightning bikes were in use.

President's Report

Welcome back to members, volunteers and councillors. I hope you have all had a relaxing and pleasurable Christmas and New Year break and are ready for a busy year.

I would like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to the very successful separation day function held on 10 December 2017. Emeritus Professor Kay Saunders AM gave a cameo address on the historiography of this important day. Our Society operates very efficiently due to the excellent work of our volunteers, and on separation day Certificates of Appreciation were presented to volunteers Di Clancy and Noel Fawkes for their dedicated and long service to the Society. We thank you.

Over the holiday period members of the Council were still active performing duties for the Society. The assignment of the lease from the Government to DBC has now come into effect, so they are now the landlord. On 9 January 2018 a meeting was held between the president, the immediate past president and the representative from DBC concerning the landlord's rumoured intention with respect to the area at the back of the Stores. We were assured they had no plans. It was impressed upon him that the Society is the lessee and nothing can be done to the Commissariat Store without our consent. A meeting of representatives of the Department, DBC and members of the Society will be held on 24 January to discuss the changes to the lease. Discussions has been held with Wayne Hartfiel, a representative of the Cook 250 celebrations committee in 1770. It is hard to believe that in two years we will be celebrating the elapse of 250 years since Lieutenant Cook sailed up the east coast of Queensland and landed at 1770 and Cooktown. It is the Society's intention to organise a history conference at 1770 to celebrate this event. On 2 February a group of Councillors, (Halliday, Kerr, Beanland, Pearn and Sheaffe with some spouses) will be driving to 1770 to commence the organisation for this event.

On 18 January 2018 the Dig Tree committee again met. This meeting was held at the Department Offices at 440 George Street. The committee considered in detail the report provided by Adam Tom concerning the construction of a boardwalk and the reclamation of the eroded area just below the tree and near to the bank of Cooper Creek. Adam presented the report to the committee and spoke in support of it and other issues. The next step is for Ann Jones from Toadshow to prepare a design brief. The committee also discussed the wonderful role the Aboriginal people made to support Burke, Wills and Gray on their fateful expedition in 1860-1861. With respect to the wording of the Aboriginal panel, discussions were held the previous day with Anna Briggs the chair of the Wangkumarra Native Title Group. We have to obtain the support of the descendants of the Aboriginal groups who were present at the time of the expedition concerning the wording to be used on the panel.

Representing the Society, I have been invited to join the Governor for lunch on 7 February 2018 to celebrate Queensland Heritage.

Finally, on 20 February, a new exhibition titled *An Appalling Disaster, Shipwrecks in Queensland* will be launched at the Commissariat Store at 6.00 pm. Accompanying the official launch, Professor Pearn will present a lecture on the 1825 rescue of the crew and passengers of the *Royal Charlotte*. All members are welcome to attend.

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 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)

Forsyth, North Queensland – Cobbold Gorge – Cobbold Gorge Tours and Accommodation owned by Simon and Gaye Terry have won the 2017 Queensland Tourism Award for Hosted Accommodation. Cobbold Gorge is a spectacular, narrow, spring-fed gorge, hidden within rugged sandstone formations on the Terry family's *Robin Hood* station. The family also owns the *Goldfields Hotel* at Forsyth which won the Best Outback Queensland Pub Award. (*Tablelander* 28 November 2017 p. 14)

Junabee – east of Warwick - The public hall is being refurbished by the local community. The hall was originally constructed in 1944-45. A grant and donation from a local resident enabled the roof to be replaced. The hall has been restumped and refurbishment of the inside has commenced. A soldiers' memorial and garden are to be installed outside. Also planned is the construction of a replica of the play shed at the nearby Jingarry School. The rededication of the hall is planned for 23 September 2018. (*Warwick Daily News* 7 November 2017 p. 7 including four photographs)



Warwick Daily News photo

JUNABEE MEMORIAL HALL

Tolga Historical Society members are involved in the new Atherton Tablelands Rail Trail and new cycle routes. The Rail Trail is a 20.5 km journey from Walkamin to the Chinese Temple outside of Atherton. Interpretative signage has been installed showing the history of the Tolga – Kairi area. The Tolga – Kairi Loop was a Works for Queensland project. (*Tablelander* 28 November 2017 p. 17, 1 December 2017 pp. 12, 13 including photographs; and www.trc.qld.gov.au)

The Hou Wang Temple outside Atherton (referred to above)



SCENES FROM THE HOU WANG TEMPLE

(Photos and text courtesy of the National Trust)

The Hou Wang Temple was the social and religious heart of Atherton's Chinese community. Apart from the temple itself, there was also a community hall, kitchen and a pig oven. People gathered here to worship, celebrate festivals and discuss community issues.

Nowadays, it is the only remaining structure of the original town. It is highly significant as a rare example of temples in overseas Chinese settlements. This unique building houses elaborate carvings and has an intriguing past. It was donated to the National Trust of Queensland by the Fong On family in 1979.

Hou Wang is not a name, but a title. It can be translated as 'Prince Marquis' - a reference to Yang Liang Chieh, the bodyguard commander of the last Song Emperor (1127-1280 AD), the eight year old Ti Ping. When the Emperor fled from Guandong ahead of the Mongols in 1280 AD, Hou Wang was left in charge of the rearguard.

Yang Liang Chieh was posthumously honoured for his loyalty by being raised to the rank of Hou Wang and in 1731 the first temple was dedicated to him in Kowloon. Atherton Chinatown's Temple is believed to be the only remaining temple dedicated to Hou Wang outside China.

Townsville - Local Townsville cameraman Paul Lyons and media personality Rick Anderton, are attributed with saving television media from TNQ7, Townsville's first TV channel. Local entrepreneur, Jack Gleeson, who owned TNQ7 provided storage in the *Queens Hotel* for many years after the media was saved. His daughter Therese Smith recently gifted the collection to Townsville City Council. Ms Annette Burns of City Libraries Townsville stated that Local History staff are preparing the collection for storage and gems are being identified. There are many opportunities ahead for learning and public engagement. (State Library of Queensland Qld Memory *eNewsletter*, November 2017)

Warwick – Trotting races commenced in Warwick in 1868. *Beaushang*, pictured in the *Warwick Daily News* was said to have held the Warwick trotting record in the nineteenth century. The Warwick Trotting Club began in 1915 at Allman Park. After World War II harness racing moved to Warwick Showgrounds

until it closed down in 1967. It was re-established in 2014 at Allman Park. The Warwick Pacing Cup was introduced in 2015. (*Warwick Daily News* 7 November 2018 p. 10)



Warwick Daily News Photo

ALLMAN PARK TROTTING TRACK AT WARWICK

The Wednesday talk for February

The Burke and Wills Expedition

Speaker : Dean Prangley

Dean Prangley will be our Wednesday speaker for February. Dean is the immediate past president of the RHSQ and an amateur historian with an interest in Queensland history. He is a member of the RHSQ Dig Tree Committee responsible for overseeing the upgrading and preservation of the famous Camp 65 of the ill fated Burke and Wills expedition.

The topic is: ‘The Burke and Wills Expedition’. Dean will discuss the founding of the expedition, the logistical problems, the human failings, triumphs and bad decisions which eventually led to the deaths of Burke and Wills at Cooper Creek.

Research Report

Over the period from the end of December 2017 to January 2018, researchers have attended to the following email queries: identifying whether old family photographs were taken in Brisbane; a house history – Quay Street, Milton; Stanthorpe RSL Sub-branch history for their 100th Anniversary; the Queen’s visit to Brisbane; Brisbane’s timber bridges.

Also, we had requests for photographs of: the old Esk Railway Station and adjoining tearooms; a 1889 photograph of the kiosk in the Botanic Gardens, as featured in the *Lost Brisbane* publication; the Brisbane Club Hotel; the Barnes Auto Co. building, North Quay (Luton J White).

Jacqui Stockdale
Honorary Researcher

Queensland Police Museum

[2018 Sunday Lecture Series](#)

by Qld Police Museum <https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/museum/2018/01/16/2018-sunday-lecture-series/>

The Queensland Police Museum welcomes you to the 2018 Sunday Lecture Series. Unless otherwise advised, lectures are held on the last Sunday of the month (between February and November) from 11.00 am until 12.30 pm, within the Police Headquarters ground level conference room.

The Royal Historical Society of Qld
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<p><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>FEBRUARY 2018</u></p> <p>Thursday 8 February - Council Meeting Wednesday 14 February - 12.30 pm Talk ‘The Burke and Wills Expedition’ Dean Prangley Thursday 15 February - <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</p>	<p><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p>

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only	Subscriptions
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ABN: 34 217 251 028	A/Editor: Gloria Nicholson	Partner of Member: \$ 22.00
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email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
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; Blockside and Ferguson Real Estate; Our Honorary Auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd.</p>	Libraries: \$ 66.00
Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane		Corporate/Institutions: \$ 275.00
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