



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 MARY VALLEY 'RATTLER' WILL BE BACK IN ACTION SHORTLY

(see story on page 3)



Photo: [The historic steam train was once a tourism attraction as it meandered through 40km of Queensland's Mary Valley. \(Facebook: Mary Valley Rattler\)](#)

President's Report

It is with pleasure that I again report to you about the continuing work of the Council and the Volunteers of the Society.

On Friday 2 February 2018 five members of the Society made the almost six-hour reconnoitring trip to the Town of 1770 to begin organising a conference to celebrate the 250-year anniversary of Lt. Cook's landing on that part of the coast. It was a very successful three-day journey. A meeting was convened with many of the relevant organisers and stake holders involved in preparing the 2020 celebrations. It appears the conference will be held on Friday 22 May, two days before the actual anniversary of the landing. It is anticipated that a replica of the *Endeavour* will be anchoring nearby the day after the conference on Saturday, 23 May. A committee, with representatives from 1770, has been established to organise this conference and the first meeting will be held in Brisbane on 8 March 2018.

As President, I had the pleasure of representing the Society at a lunch at the Governor's residence on 7 February 2018. The lunch was organised to help celebrate Queensland Heritage and his excellency thanked those organisations, including the RHSQ, that have played a part in preserving our heritage and history.

A Council meeting was held on 8 February 2018. At the meeting, Graham Witherspoon and an archaeologist gave a presentation of the work being undertaken in the area where the casino is to be built. As you can see the executive building and other government buildings have been demolished. I suggest you take a close look as you drive or walk past as it is unlikely you will ever observe this vista of vacant ground adjacent to the Commissariat Store again. The next step is the excavation of the area.

Our immediate past president, Dean Prangley represented the Society when DBC removed one of the old gas light tubes from below the ground. A portion of these tubes will be gifted to the Society for a display. You may have observed Dean being interviewed on TV regarding these tubes. Dean also gave the Wednesday lecture this month on the Dig Tree Story. Well done Dean for your continuing commitment.

The assignment of the lease from the Government to DBC has now come into effect, so they are now our 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 immediate 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 was held on 24 January where the changes to the lease were discussed.

The work with respect to the Dig Tree is continuing. On 12 February 2018 a meeting was again held and Ann Jones from Toadshow prepared and tendered a design brief. The panel concerning the contribution by the Aboriginal people to the support of Burke, Wills and Gray on their fateful expedition in 1860-1861 will describe them as Aboriginal people and the name of any one group will not be identified at this stage. It is apparent that two groups have a Native Title claim over the area.

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. It will be launched by the chair of the Museum Committee Jeffrey O'Mara. We are indebted to Jeffrey and the committee for establishing this exhibition. Accompanying the official launch, Professor Pearn will present a lecture on the 1825 rescue of the crew and passengers of the *Royal Charlotte*.

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: <http://www.queenslandhistory.org/awards-and-medals/>

Queensland News

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

Cairns - Kuranda Railway – On Australia Day 470 Cairns people travelled on the Kuranda Scenic Railway trip along with the tourists. The train travellers met at Freshwater railway station where they were greeted by an Aussie Bush band and a classic Australian barbecue with lamingtons. The Queensland Rail Kuranda Railway staff hosted the event. (*Queensland Rail Weekly Notice* 5 February 2018)

Gympie Rattler Train – The Gympie Regional Council has responsibility for bringing the Mary Valley Rattler train and railway line back to operation. At present 11 people are employed (expenses \$23,000) and there are 20 volunteers. After having already received regulatory approval to operate, rail services are expected to commence in the Autumn. (*Gympie Times* 2 February 2018 p. 1)

Ipswich – Brisbane Railway – The turning of the first sod occurred on 30 January 1873 on Panton's Hill (cotton grower). A thousand people attended. The wheelbarrow used had been made at the Locomotive Department at Ipswich. It was made by Flavelle Bros and Roberts in Brisbane. The handle of the spade was tulip wood and the blade silver. It bore the Governor, The Marquis of Normanby's coat of arms and crest and breast plate for the inscription. The inscription read: 'This spade was used by the Marquis of Normanby, Governor of Queensland on January 30, 1873, when His Excellency turned the first sod of the Brisbane and Ipswich railway.' On 3 June 1874 a locomotive was taken down the line to do the ballasting. Twenty-four bullocks hauled it on a large trolley. The first section to Oxley was completed on 25 August 1874 when the Mayor of Ipswich, Thomas Pryde and fellow Aldermen, went on a special train on this section with the Chief Engineer, J T Smith. (*Queensland Times* 3 February 2018 p. 12)

Queensland Heritage Listings Under Consideration

Ashgrove, Morningside, West End State Schools were nominated on 1 February 2018 by a member of the community.

At its meeting of 25 January 2018, the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter the **Waaje Fire Tower No. 4, Barakula State Forest, Barakula (east of Chinchilla)** in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

Also at this meeting, the Queensland Heritage Council resolved not to enter **Somerset Grave at Somerset on Cape York**, and the **Albion Park Racecourse, and to remove part of St Brigid's Convent at Red Hill** on the Queensland Heritage Register.

Notices for these entries and removals and amendment were placed in the *Queensland Government Gazette* of 2 February 2018.

Cairns Historical Society - S E Stephens History Award

Nominations for this award are now open. The criteria are:

- The focus should be on Far North Queensland History - ie area from Cardwell in the south, to Torres Strait in the north and west to Normanton.
- The winner should have devoted several years to researching and the dissemination of Far North Queensland history.
- The history can be presented in the form of papers, newspaper items, journal articles, books, documentaries, photographic collections, exhibitions or any combination of these.
- The work should be mainly original research further expanding the knowledge of Far North Queensland history.
- The material should be presented in a manner that is readily understood by most people.
- The award can be made to an individual or a group.
- The winner/winners do not necessarily have to live in Far North Queensland.
- Winning the award does not necessarily preclude the winner/winners from being nominated for different work at a later date.
- Nominations will be called annually but will only be awarded if there is an acceptable candidate.
- Nominations must be accompanied by appropriate supporting material outlining the achievements of the person/group selected.

Nominations should be in the hands of the Secretary of the Society by the end of April.

The Award will be presented during Heritage Week.

Apply to Cairns Historical Society, PO Box 319 Cairns Qld 4870, Ph 07 4051 5582, Email:

histsoc@cairnsmuseum.org.au

S E Stephens was a founding member of the Cairns Historical Society and long term staff member of the Department of Agriculture and Stock (later Primary Industries) and travelled extensively across north Queensland noting historical places and located significant government records of the Palmer Goldfield in the 1870-1880s in a ship's tank at Maytown.

(Cairns Historical Society *Newsletter*, Vol 23 Issue 1, January 2018)

The Wednesday talk for March

Topic – Memorialising Irish Australians in Southeast Queensland, 1872-2017

This presentation investigates Irish-Australian memorialisation in Southeast Queensland, from 1872 to 2017. The sample ranges from 1870s obelisks to a commemorative headstone in Nudgee Cemetery, unveiled in 2017. It includes memorials to both Protestant and Catholic Irish and examines the messages they can transmit, not only about the past, but also the present and the future. The presentation concludes with some reflections on Irish-Australian memorialisation and the interplay between history and memory.

Rodney Sullivan

Rodney Sullivan is an honorary research associate professor in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at The University of Queensland. He is researching the history of Queensland's Irish community. Rodney was formerly an Associate Professor in the Department of History & Politics at James Cook University, Townsville. He has published in the fields of Australian and Philippine-American history. His publications include: *Exemplar of Americanism: The Philippine Career of Dean C. Worcester* (1991 and 1993), *Words to Walk By: Exploring Literary Brisbane* (2005) and recent articles on the Irish in Queensland. He contributes to the Australian Dictionary of Biography and the Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate.

Robin Sullivan

Robin Sullivan is an honorary research associate professor in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at The University of Queensland. She was formerly Queensland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and a Director-General in the Queensland public service. Her publications include articles on labour history, education and family issues. She has co-authored recent articles on the Irish in Queensland. Robin holds honorary doctorates from the Queensland University of Technology and the Central Queensland University.

Research Report

Though summer has been emphatically making its presence felt, researchers have been kept busy attending to the following email queries: search for descendants of Percy Adsett; request from a Brisbane artist for material on Wolston Farmhouse, Boggo Road Gaol, and Old Government House; request from a University of Tasmania academic for any letters, memorabilia, or photographs of Charles Smethurst Snow; and, for information on the Thargominda Methodist Church constructed from cane-grass. There were also requests for photographs of the Lands Administration Building and the Queensland National Art Gallery.

As well as email requests, there have been walk-in research requests on such interesting topics as the convict who died on the treadmill in the Wickham Terrace Observatory and any information about early Ipswich and Brisbane area doctor, Kevin O'Doherty.

We have also been fortunate to receive a donation from Mr Paul Saltmarsh of a photograph of Currans Federal Bakery in Nundah, 1958. The library has been fortunate to receive a donated copy of the booklet *The Role of Petitions in the Mobilization of Women for the Right to Vote: The Case of Queensland, Australia, 1894, 1897*, by Deborah Jordan. Also, Dean Prangley recently donated copies of *The Original 29 Convicts at Moreton Bay*, *The Personal Bicentennial Diary*, *In the Wild Part 1*, *In the Wild Part 2*, *The Struggle for Unity*, *A Portrait of a Governor*, and, *Brisbane*, as well as documents relating to the Rocklea Munitions Works. Dave Phoenix recently donated a copy of *Following Burke and Wills Across Australia, A Touring Guide*.

Work on The Burke and Wills page on the website is continuing with Beth Johnson contributing short biographies on Burke, Wills, Gray, and King. Beth is currently working on four more biographies that will be added very soon.

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.

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.

Windmill of your mind Exhibition

Date: Now

Time: 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

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 Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum

Beenleigh Historical Village & Museum (BHV&M), located at 205 Main Street Beenleigh QLD 4207, takes you on a journey of years gone by. This collection of our Early Australian heritage is organised as a village and dedicated to preserving the cultural legacy of the old Beenleigh region for current and future generations. Normally, the Village is open seven days from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm except on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and ANZAC Day.

Special Notice

Royal Alumni Dinner

Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Brisbane Women's Hospital

Join us for a special evening of good food, fine wine, amazing friends and colleagues, and plenty of reminiscing as this year we celebrate yet another milestone in Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital's history, the 80th anniversary of the Brisbane Women's Hospital.

Special guest speaker on the night will be Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO RFD. Prof Pearn is a renowned Brisbane paediatrician, Honorary Consultant at Royal Women's Hospital, former staff member at Royal Brisbane Hospital, and Senior Clinician at Royal Children's Hospital for 46 years.

The dinner is being held on Friday 23 March at Royal on the Park, Brisbane. Tickets for the dinner are \$150 each and include a three course meal and drinks.

Call RBWH Foundation on 07 3646 7588 to purchase tickets over the phone or download a booking form and return it to RBWH Foundation via mail, email or fax.

The Royal Historical Society of Qld
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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
FEBRUARY 2018

Thursday 8 March - Council Meeting
Wednesday 14 March - 12.30 pm Talk
‘Memorialising Irish Australians in Southeast
Queensland, 1872-2017’
 Rodney and Robin Sullivan
Thursday 15 March - *Bulletin* deadline

NEW MEMBERS

Glen Allen Ankins (National Trust) Petrie Terrace
 Daryl Clifford Brisbane
 Margaret Wilson Indooroopilly

Contact Details

Bulletin Articles Only

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