



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

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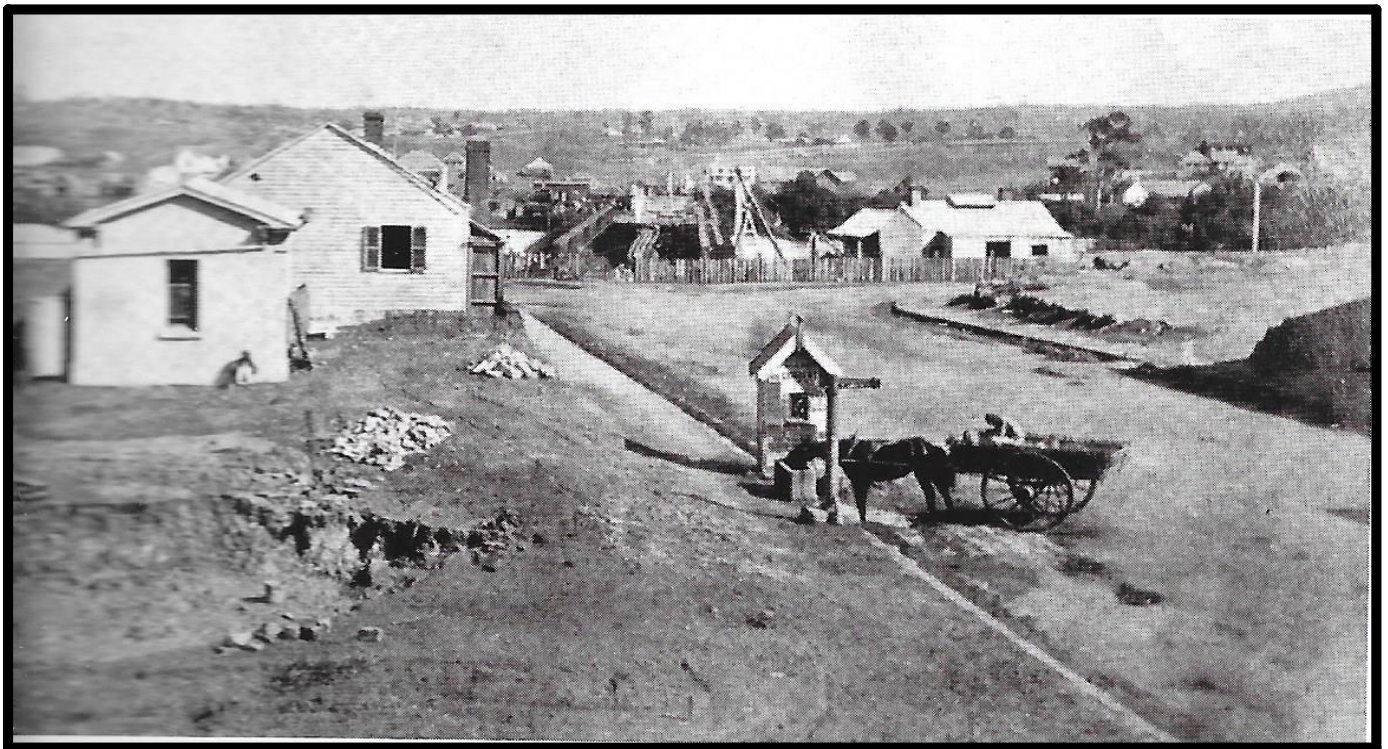
The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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

President: Stephen Sheaffe

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

## QUEEN STREET IN 1874



**Queen Street at its junction with North Quay**

The above photograph and text are taken from *Lost Brisbane and Surrounding Areas: 1860 - 1960*, page 31. In the background is South Brisbane, the river and the first permanent Victoria Bridge under construction. The photograph was taken from the Bank of New South Wales corner. A horse drinks from a trough not far from where the Military barracks stood and where the Treasury Building would be constructed.

The two books, *Lost Brisbane and Surrounding Areas: 1860 - 1960* and *Lost Brisbane 2 and Surrounding Areas: The Later Years* written by distinguished historians and published by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland are available for purchase at the Commissariat store, Tuesday to Friday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm for \$35.00.

## President's Report

In the May issue of this report, reference was made to a meeting held by the immediate past president (Dean Prangley) and I with David Edwards, the Project Chief Executive at the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games concerning our right to occupy the Commissariat store after our lease expires in 2028. The meeting was convened as members of our Council were concerned that the Casino, which has commercial incentives, may not be keen to renew the lease to a voluntary organisation with not for profit and public benefit objectives. During our discussions, Mr Edwards assured us there was no reason to be concerned and that it was a term of the not to be disclosed agreement between the Department and DBC that they must make available the Commissariat Store to the RHSQ on existing terms for the duration of DBC's 99-year lease. In other words, the RHSQ has a right to occupy the premises for the duration of the 99-year term. Mr Edwards promised to send a letter of comfort confirming this position. Well the letter has arrived. True to his word, Mr Edwards confirmed the Casino (DBC) is required to renew the lease on the same basis that currently exists. This is great news, so our tenure is assured for the future. However, in the future we still have to negotiate who pays the outgoings costs- but this was always the position.

During most Thursdays and on other days during the week, many members of the various committees are sitting around the table working on their various subject matters. This week the awards committee has deliberated on the recipients of the many awards that are offered annually. These prospective candidates will be presented to the Council for consideration at the July meeting. Furthermore, representatives from the PHA and the RHSQ met and jointly made a selection of the 2018 recipient of the John Kerr Medal of Distinction.

Discussions are continuing with respect to the Dig Tree and the issues concerning grant compliance. This should be achieved in the near future.

Further, I have now become a member of the Cooktown Advisory Committee that is organising the events leading up to the June 2020 events in Cooktown. As previously stated, we are convening three history conferences in 2020, one in Brisbane, one in The Town of 1770 and another in Cooktown to celebrate Captain Cook's encounter with the Australian coastline. Broadly, these conferences will be substantially from an Aboriginal perspective. Recently, the Commonwealth Government announced money in the budget for a new facility at Botany Bay to celebrate Cook's arrival, but nothing was announced for the events elsewhere. Negotiations are continuing on this issue.

I remind you that the Queensland Day Dinner is being held on 6 June at the Brisbane Club. I hope to see you there.

Stephen Sheaffe  
President

## Special Notice

**Members are urged to go onto 'thedigtree.com.au' website and check out the Society's new website on the Burke and Wills dig tree in western Queensland for which the RHSQ is the trustee. The site is also accessible through going onto the Society's main website and then pressing the 'Burke and Wills dig tree' box on the home page. This is the latest Society upgrade to the website which has been professionally done. The Society thanks the Commonwealth Government for a Heritage Grant to enable this work to be undertaken.**

## Queensland News

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

**Allora** – PL Travers Park in Allora was opened on 23 April 2018 by Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister of State, Ms Jennifer Howard MP. The Minister also opened the Southern Downs Council's Allora streetscape project and an exhibition at the Allora Court House to celebrate the history of the building. The Allora Historical Society was very involved in the organization of the historical preservation projects and events. (*Warwick Daily News* 21 April 2018 p. 3)

**Cooktown** – The 80 years old historic mango tree in front of the Cooktown Court House is to be removed. An arborist has reported that it is hollow. In 2005 Cooktown people petitioned successfully for its retention. Local people have been picking the mangoes each year since. (*Cape York News* 4-10- April 2018 p. 9 including photograph)

**Gympie** - Steam engine C17 974 and 3 Kuranda cars were scheduled to arrive at the inter-facepoint between the Mary Valley Rattler and Queensland Rail on Wednesday, 2 May 2018 at about 4.45pm. This will be the first steam operations on the Mary Valley Rattler lines since October 2012. (Email - Tony Hallam, Mary Valley Rattler – 20 April 2018)

**Kuranda** - On 4 April 2018 the Department of Environment and Science (the Department) received an application from a member of the community proposing entry of the **Avenue of *Ficus Microcarpa* and *Ficus Obliqua* trees** in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

**Mareeba** – The Mareeba Tobacco Selling Floors building in Chewko Road are to be demolished. The building was built in the 1950s and is said to have been the largest tobacco display floors in the southern hemisphere. Cairns based Anton Demolitions Pty Ltd are removing the steel work and flooring. The building contains 20,000 lineal metres of red tulip oak flooring in good condition. It will be retained for resale. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 27 April 2018 p. 6 including photograph).

**Warwick** – Mrs Janice Flood performed the opening of the Southern Downs Heritage Festival at St Marks Anglican Church on 20 April 2018. St Marks Church has been celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the church building in 1868. Mrs Flood noted that the heritage festival stimulates interaction between community organisations. (*Warwick Daily News* 21 April 2018 p. 2 including photograph)

**Winton** – The Waltzing Matilda Centre is being re-opened three years after the fire. Winton's Way Out West Festival will help celebrate the centre's rebirth. 7,000 people are expected for the event. The Governor General performed the re-opening event on 20 April 2018. (*Longreach Leader* 6 April 2018 p. 7 including photograph; <https://www.gg.gov.au/events>)

**Chillagoe** - On 17 May 2018 in Chillagoe the Society's Honorary Secretary, Dr Ruth Kerr, presented one of the Society's Centenary Medals to Mary Bolam of Chillagoe, north Queensland. Mary is a history and



**Mary Bolam (left) is presented with the Society's Centenary Medal by Dr Ruth Kerr**

heritage advocate for the region and has worked hard since the 1980s to preserve the Chillagoe smelters site, the Court House and Railway Station. She has also been a constant advocate for improved roads and has collected stories about the prominent families in Chillagoe and Mungana history.

The respect with which Mary Bolam is held for her work was demonstrated by the attendance of the Mayor of Chillagoe Shire, Tom Gilmore, and three Councillors Lenore Wyatt, Mary Graham and Edward ('Nipper') Brown together with approximately 35 Chillagoe Alliance Inc members, townspeople, Auctus Resources mining company managers and Historical Society members from Mareeba. Mr Tom Prior drove one of his antique Ford utilities to the event.

The event was held in the historic Chillagoe Court House which is now a museum and a lunch was held afterwards in the Chillagoe Town Hall.

## A Call for speakers

Planning is underway for the third Family and Local History Conference and Fair on 24–26 May 2019. [Caloundra Family History Research Inc.](http://www.caloundrafamilyhistoryresearchinc.com.au) will host the event in 2019 with support from History Queensland Inc. The program will cover a broad range of topics and interests for beginner and experienced researchers.

The conference committee invites enthusiastic and passionate family historians and leaders in the fields of genealogy and local history to come forward with proposals by 31 August 2018. Up to three proposals may be submitted. All successful speakers will be notified in November 2018.

To find out more, including how to submit a proposal, visit the [Waves in Time](http://www.wavesintime2019.org.au) conference website <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/>, and follow on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/wavesintime2019)

## The Wednesday talk for June

### Okinawan 'pearling specialists' in Torres Strait and the end of the Queensland pearl-shelling industry, 1958-1963.

The north Queensland pearl shelling industry resumed in 1946 without its pre-war Japanese indentured labour force. Despite high prices for shell, the shortage of skilled workers meant that the master pearlers could not exploit the deepest beds. They lobbied for permission to import their highly skilled pre-war Japanese indents, a deeply unpopular proposal, arguing that Indigenous divers were unable or unwilling to dive to the depths required. This seminar is based on an unpublished 2016 paper, 'A failed experiment: Okinawan indents and the post-war Torres Strait pearl fishery, 1958-1963', and outlines the background to Queensland's decision to import 'Okinawan pearling specialists' to Thursday Island in 1958. This 'Okinawan experiment', a relatively unknown episode of post-war Queensland social, political, economic and Indigenous history, set against the normalisation of Australian-Japanese relations, coincided with the end of the industry. It was universally considered a failure but the Okinawans were not only to blame: equally at fault were the master pearlers and the three governments involved.

#### Speaker: Dr Anna Shnukal

Dr Anna Shnukal is a linguist who has lived on and off in Torres Strait since 1981. Currently an Honorary Associate of the Queensland Museum, she has produced almost 100 books, book chapters, journal articles, government reports, bibliographies, conference papers, reviews and seminars on aspects of Torres Strait language, ethnography and history.

## Research Report

This month, the research team has received enquiries regarding:

- Thompson's Estate, Woolloongabba
- The location of Strathbourne during the Second World War
- The Richard Daintree glass plate negatives
- The Provenance of the No 1 QANTAS Ticket
- Kingsholme Taringa
- Judge William Flood Webb
- Lawrence of Arabia in World War I.

There were several visitors to the library seeking our assistance regarding:

- Brisbane Tramways
- WW1 Nurses, Anzac Hostel, Repatriation Hospitals, Kangaroo Point and Rosemount.
- The Queen’s Commendation for Brave Conduct
- Cutting Books in the 1930s
- A Thomas Welsby book on Australian Rules Football, 1883
- Rosemount Hospital Windsor
- Early Sunshine Coast (pre-1890s) and Early Birdsville and Diamantina District

Many thanks to Ian Else, for his donation of four postcards of the Brisbane River, River Road, Hamilton Reach; the Botanical Gardens; Mowbray Park, Brisbane; and the Story Bridge. They provide an important snapshot of Brisbane in the 1940s.

Richard Hunt  
Honorary Researcher

## What’s On at the Queensland Women’s Historical Association

**Sunday 10 June , Afternoon Tea and Talk: 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start**

**Topic: ‘Mrs Janet Walker, Brisbane’s leading Dressmaker and Costumier: The Final Chapter 1902-1938’**

**Guest Speaker: Dr Michael Marendy**

Dr Marendy’s work and research has been in the area of fashion education, clothing design and textile conservation. This has included researching the lives of the special women involved in the custom-made clothing trades in early Brisbane. Michael has assisted at Miegunyah over many years, particularly in the specialist area of re-housing and restoration of the textile items held in the QWHA collection.

QWHA Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15 (includes afternoon tea).

## Queensland Police Museum

### [2018 Sunday Lecture Series](#)

[by Old Police Museum https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/museum/2018/01/16/2018-sunday-lecture-series/](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

### **Inaugural Artist-in-residence – Matt Mawson**

**Date:** Now

**Time:** each Thursday from 10.00 am-3.00 pm (excluding 5 and 12 April)

**Location:** Queensland State Archives Foyer

**Details:** Gold Coast-based cartoonist and illustrator Matt Mawson joined the Queensland State Archives (QSA), Thursday, 1 March 2018, as the organisation’s inaugural Artist in Residence. Much of Matt’s work as Artist in Residence will reflect on the upcoming exhibition, focussed on the release of the 1987 Cabinet Minutes: *Sunshine Rebooted: the final Bjelke-Petersen Cabinet Minutes*. Matt Mawson’s artist residency runs from 1 March until 18 May 2018.

## 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.

If undelivered return to:

The Royal Historical Society of Qld  
PO Box 12057  
BRISBANE GEORGE St. QLD 4003

The RHSQ Bulletin

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS**  
**JUNE 2018**

**Wednesday 6 June - Queensland Day Dinner**  
**Wednesday 13 June - 12.30 pm Talk**  
**Okinawan ‘pearling specialists’ in Torres Strait**  
**and the end of the Queensland pearl-shelling**  
**industry, 1958-1963.**

**Speaker: Dr Anna Shnukal**

**Thursday 14 June - Council Meeting**

**Friday 15 June - *Bulletin* deadline**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Malcolm Knowles  
Sharyn Merkley  
Christopher M Price  
Elizabeth Jolly

Rochedale  
Gumdale  
Ashgate  
St Lucia

Contact Details

*Bulletin* Articles Only

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website: <a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au">www.queenslandhistory.org.au</a>	The Society acknowledges financial assistance from: Commonwealth Government Heritage Grants; Qld Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund; Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, The Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund; Brisbane City Council; 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