



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

THIS RARE AMBULANCE WAS ON SHOW AT THE 'EKKA'



Photos: Graeme Nicholson

This Rare Arrol-Johnson Ambulance was at the Royal Queensland Show

This 1926 vehicle was commissioned in 1927 and operated from Nambour until retirement in 1935. It was then used for transporting newspapers and by a Caloundra painter and decorator, after which it was abandoned. It was restored in 1975 by Nev Schumann of Tingalpa and featured at the Brisbane Exhibition as part of the historical Cavalcade of Ambulance Transport. It was acquired by the ambulance service in 1989.

Arrol-Johnston was an early Scottish manufacturer of automobiles, which operated from 1896 to 1931 and produced the first automobile manufactured in Britain. The company also developed the world's first 'off-road' vehicle for the Egyptian government, and another designed to travel on ice and snow for Ernest Shackleton's Expedition to the South Pole.

This ambulance and many others is on display at the Ambulance Museum at Wynnum. Tours are by appointment only. To arrange for a tour please telephone 0407 117 916. Further information can be found at: www.ambulance.qld.au/history and on page 5 below.

President's Report

The members of the Council should be congratulated on their efforts in maintaining the activities of the Society during my recent short absence. I was away for a few weeks by reason of illness and everyone stepped in and filled the void and continued to undertake the many tasks that had to be carried out.

Despite believing our application for an Armistice grant would not be successful, a few days ago notification was received that we were wrong. The successful grant is from the Department of Veteran Affairs sponsored Armistice Centenary Grants Program. The grant is for \$15,610 to exhibit artefacts and publish conference papers on Armistice issues. The RHSQ has agreed to expend the money to conserve our Gordon album and panoramic photographs, to design and produce an exhibition catalogue and a children's exhibition catalogue and to publish a special edition of the Queensland History Journal. To achieve these objectives, a history conference we will be convened. A meeting of representatives of the program and museum committees is being arranged for Thursday next week, the first step in organising this event. A special congratulation is extended to Rebecca Ling and Denver for their work in applying for this grant.

Secondly, Councillor Vicki Howard from the Central Ward has provided a grant of \$988 for the acquisition of a new computer. This is a grant from the Lord Mayors Suburban Initiative Fund. We again thank all those involved in making this application, especially Councillor Howard.

The Bulloo Shire Council had applied for a grant on the RHSQ's behalf for the next stage of the Dig Tree program. It is a grant from the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Grant's programme. We have been successful but it has required a pro rata contribution from the RHSQ. We have applied for an exemption for this contribution but these issues are still pending. The particulars of this grant are not finalized as yet.

The Society is convening a conference this coming Saturday to celebrate 150 years since the first sitting of parliament in the new parliament house. It is being held in the Red Chamber and it is fully booked out with 160 attendees. It will be a wonderful event. Thank you to Janet Prowse the Parliamentary Librarian and RHSQ Councillor who is convening this event. The standard of the speakers and the papers will be very high and I look forward to them being published later in the year.

The Society was a beneficiary in the will of Mrs Kenyon. She bequeathed to the Society her books, house-hold furniture and an assortment of household chattels. Members of the Society have examined these chattels, mainly old furniture, books and tourist type items the deceased had collected on her many overseas travels. Except for a few books, these objects do not have any heritage significance and it has been decided that these items will be sold by auction and the sale proceeds be applied to the Societies activities. I thank Mrs Kenyon for her generosity and I encourage everyone to insert a bequest in their will for the benefit of the Society. More importantly encourage others to do so.

The Society has received offers to hold two separate music events in the Commissariat Store later in the year. One is for an opera performance and the other a classical chamber music event. These should be wonderful events if they proceed.

Finally, Jon Stanford is organising a bus trip to the Caboolture Heritage Centre in November later this year. You are all welcome to attend. Please look out for this event.

Stephen Sheaffe
President

Queensland News

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

Gympie - The Gympie Regional Council is undertaking consultation with the community on preservation plans for the Memorial Park. Cr Bob Fredman is taking a lead in the promotion of the conservation process. The park has changed very little in over 100 years. The Memorial Park Conservation Plan will be the outcome of the consultation. (*Gympie Times* 14 July 2018 p. 4 including photograph)

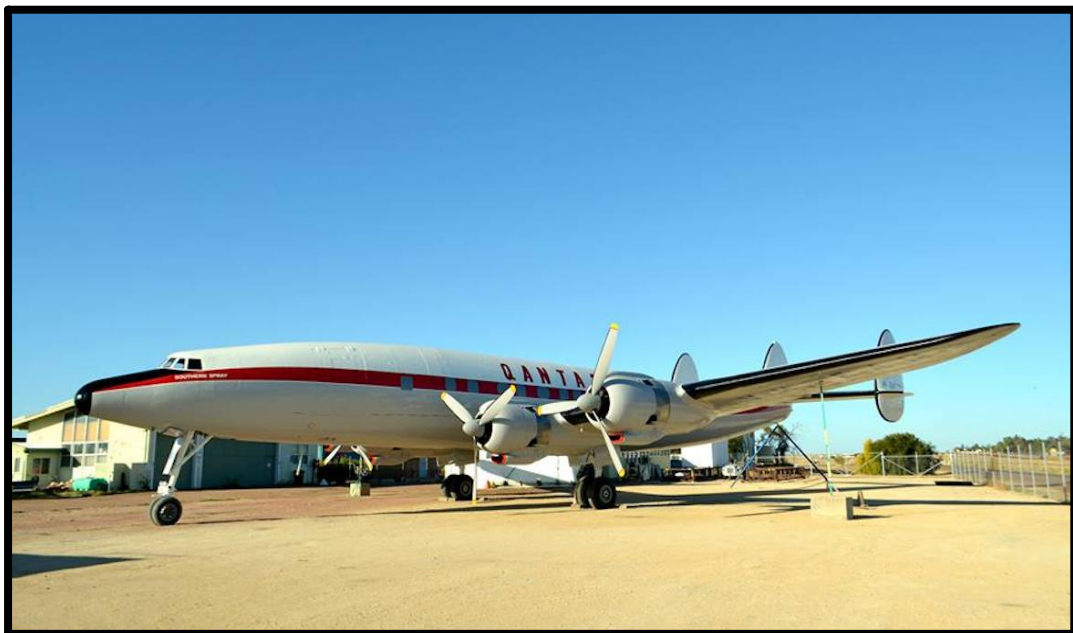
Longreach – A launch ceremony was organised in August for the Super Constellation aircraft which has been restored since its purchase from Manilla International Airport in 2017. Fifty to 60 people worked on the restoration fixing corroded and missing areas, reassembling the aircraft and repainting it. The project was funded by the Qantas Foundation Memorial Ltd, Qantas Airways and the Australian government through the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Fund. An Airpark Roof is to be built to protect the aircraft and provide shade for visitors. Celebrations will be held to celebrate the centenary of Qantas formed in Winton on 16

November 1926. The museum's Q100 project will feature 100 past Qantas employees from 1920 to the present day telling their stories through interactive exhibits and displays. The museum's Boeing 707 and 747 will be repainted and they hope to build a replica Short Empire Class Flying Boat. (*Longreach Leader* 13 July 2018 p. 7 including photograph and *Rural Weekly* 13 July 2018 p. 38 including four photographs)



QANTAS Founder Museum Photo

The Constellation at Manilla Airport



QANTAS Founder Museum Photo

At Longreach After Restoration

Millaa Millaa – Centenarian, Mr Henry Tranter, of Eacham Historical Society received the SE Stephens award for 2018. It was presented at Millaa Millaa in July. He was nominated by Duncan Ray of the Eacham Historical Society. Henry and his late wife Elaine were in the group which formed the Eacham Historical Society in 1976. The award in honour of a Cairns local historian, naturalist and collector, was presented by the President of the Cairns Historical Society, Clive Skarott. Henry Tranter organised many historical horse rides – Palmer, Cairns Centenary ride, and mapped the northern route of the Bicentennial Trail. He contributed information used for the erection of the statues of Christie Palmerston and Pompo in Millaa Millaa and many other historical plaques across the Tablelands. The presentation event was very well

attended including Alan and Pat Broughton, long term members of the Cairns Historical Society and who were recipients of the RHSQ's Centenary Medal when it was first awarded in 2013. (*Tablelander* 3 July 2018 pp. 8-9 including four photographs)

Kuranda Historical Society has been formed. Its objective is: 'To receive and preserve historical items from or relevant to Kuranda region and display them appropriately to as wide an audience as possible.' The office bearers are: President: Dugg Stratford, Hon Secretary Annie Clarke, and Hon Treasurer Gayle Hannah. Mareeba Shire Council is providing the Society with premises in Centenary Park in Kuranda. The Society has obtained two small grants from GLAM Peak (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Digital Access to Collections Project supported by the Commonwealth government through the Catalyst Arts and Culture Fund. The Society offers special events and guest speakers, assistance with historical research, a monthly *Newsletter* to members, a vote at the AGM, and opportunity to participate in and help grown this new community group. The annual subscription rates are: \$15 single, \$10 concession, \$20 family. Contact details are: Email: kurandahistory@gmail.com or by post: c/- PO Box 66 Kuranda Qld 4881 or Facebook: [Kuranda Historical Society](#). The Society featured a photograph in *The Kuranda Paper* of 'Big Mama' travelling down the Kennedy Highway to Cairns on 7 August 1978. It was a 57 feet ferro cement boat. It was built over seven years at Rosebud Farm at Speerwah under the skipper'ship of Kim Haskell and was clearly visible from the Kennedy Highway. It was lifted into the sea on 8 August 1978 and sailed to its permanent home at Bloomfield. (*The Kuranda Paper*, August 2018, p. 8 including photograph by Deacon Chaplin courtesy of Kim and Anni Haskell)

Winton – The new all-weather road from the Landsborough Highway to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum 24 km south east of Winton has been named the Butch Lenton Way after the mayor of the Winton Council who died in 2017. The museum is said to be the largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils in the world. (*Longreach Leader* 13 July 2018 p. 3 including photograph)

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. Police Remembrance Day this year will be held on Friday 28 September in your local District.

The Wednesday talk for September

Topic: Wal Stubbings

Speaker: Lesley Synge

Wal Stubbings was born in Tasmania in 1913. He settled in Brisbane in the war years and worked on the wharves. Militant workers like him were demonised and accused of wrecking the country. So what was it like to be a wharfie? Especially one who visited the USSR, was involved in street marches, was under constant surveillance by ASIO and yet survived to the ripe old age of 101? This is the story of one man's journey through a tumultuous century.

Lesley Synge is a Brisbane writer and an award-winning novelist (*Cry Ma Ma to the Moon*). She has co-written and published this life story on behalf of Wal Stubbings and his family.

Research Report

Recently, a researcher visited the RHSQ Library to assess the Richard Daintree glass plate negative collection as part of a national survey. He was surprised at the extent of the RHSQ holdings as, apparently, they had not been previously recorded nationally. This historic resource has been in the Library for many years, with copies made on 35mm slides and conservation undertaken on part of the collection. It now appears that one box, containing approximately one-third of the original collection, is missing from the Library. The results of the survey will be forwarded to us to add to the Daintree archive.

Other research matters include; documentation on the provenance of various items displayed at Newstead House; the Durack family and Paddy Durack's historic *Thylungra* station-Barkly Tableland trek; Henry St J Bridgeman, his land holdings and the Catholic Church; mid-late 19th Century Brisbane postcards published by professional photographer Albert Lomer; history of Brisbane furniture company, Bell Bros.; *Thorncliffe* and the history of Kangaroo Point; J C H Gill and his Journal article 'The Last Days of Rabaul'; School history project – Kelvin Grove; location of Dorothy Blyth's cross-stitch sampler; rock walls of the Burnett River; wreck of the *Scottish Prince* and H J Cotton sketch; location of World War II U S Army bases in Brisbane; sporting events at Lang Park; Cloncurry history. There were also three family history enquiries which we referred to the relevant agencies. Although the Library holds numerous, often unique, personal and family documents such as diaries and letters, it does not have the comprehensive resources needed to respond to many of the family history enquiries.

To highlight the Society's extensive photographic collection, we are selecting interesting photographs from across Queensland to add to the website's photo Gallery.

We are still waiting on reports from the Society's IT consultant before we are able to proceed with the digitisation program and the migration of the catalogue from the current obsolete software.

Kay Cohen

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. In the last month a large colonial 'Queenslander', donated by the Heck family, has been delivered to the Village in three pieces and is now being reassembled. 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.

Queensland Ambulance Museum – Wynnum

The Queensland Ambulance Museum in Wynnum is the first of its kind to be established within Australia, even though many more have sprung into existence since. The exhibits of the museum show the progress of ambulance development which started with the simple first-aid kits of the 19th century to the defibrillators of the 21st century.

The museum also showcases the evolution of the hand-held stretcher, through the hand-wheeled litter, to the motorised ambulances of today. The set-up of the museum brings to mind a 1930s ambulance station with its casualty and communication rooms.

Location:

33-35 Tingal Road, Wynnum (access via Cedar Street)

Contact:

0407 117 916

Opening hours:

By appointment. A visitor donation of \$5 per person helps to maintain this important collection. Carers of a person with a disability and charter bus drivers are exempt from this request.

The Brisbane History Group

The Brisbane History Group owes its longevity to its members who over the years have contributed their time, expertise and enthusiasm organising and participating in seminars and like events, publishing high quality historical research material and attending to ongoing administration. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the history of Brisbane and the surrounding region. Active participation is encouraged (we are a volunteer based organisation) but not a pre-requisite. Membership does, however, bring with it a number of benefits. Members receive reduced admission rates to our events, discount on BHG publications, (pre-arranged) access to the BHG Research Library, copies of our Newsletter and access to 'Member only' website resources.

Annual membership fees are : \$30.00 (Standard rate) \$40.00 (Family/Group rate)

Contact: www.brisbanehistorygroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads-Membership-Application

If undelivered return to:

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The RHSQ Bulletin

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IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
SEPTEMBER 2018

Wednesday 12 September - 12.30 pm Talk

Topic: Wal Stubbings

Speaker: Lesley Syngé

Thursday 13 September - Council Meeting

Saturday 15 September - *Bulletin* deadline

NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Weinstein	Broadbeach Waters
Kaylene Sloman	Bouliá
Rebecca Gallagher	Yatala
Lindy Esler	Bardon
Nick Korganow	Sherwood
Keith Brennan	Bardon
Rev. Peter Devenish-Meares	Paddington
Jane Smith	East Toowoomba

Contact Details

Bulletin Articles Only

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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: 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