



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

THE GOVERNOR UNVEILS A CAIRN AT THE BEENLEIGH HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND MUSEUM



Photo: Veronica Dawson

The Governor at The Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum

On 23 September, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC unveiled the cairn protecting a time capsule that is to be opened in 2064. There is a chamber under the cairn that contains records of Beenleigh and its people. The capsule also contains records of Beenleigh that were buried in the original time capsule in 1964.

President's Report

It gives me pleasure to welcome Michelle Pickering to the council of the Society. Michelle is the coordinator of the Brisbane Living Heritage Network and has qualifications and experience in museum and curatorial issues. We look forward to her contribution to the activities of the Society.

The Society held many significant events in recent weeks. Two weekends ago, the Commissariat Store was opened to members of the Society and guests to enjoy a pizza in a convivial environment with friends whilst watching Riverfire from the courtyard. It was a wonderful event even though numbers were down from last year, no doubt due to the difficult access made by the casino construction next door and the inclement weather.

The next event on 4 October 2017 was the launch of the *Behind the Lines* – Queensland soldiers in Naours and Vignacourt exhibition. We were all honoured to witness the interesting and informative lectures by Michael and Dianne Fiechtner and Otto Mellar the photographic conservator from Sydney. The lectures concerned the discovery of glass photographic plates in a barn at Vignacourt in France of WWI soldiers, many being Australian and the nearby signatures of soldiers written on a mediaeval cave wall in Naours. The skill and expertise of Otto Mellar who removed the images from the dirty glass plates was obvious for all to see. I thank all those volunteers who created the exhibition on the middle floor.

On 8 October a guided tour with Glenn Cooke to the exhibition *With Heart & Hand: Art Pottery in Queensland 1900–1950* held at Griffith University in Grey Street South Bank was held.

Open House was again held last weekend and despite the rain the Commissariat Store was visited by hundreds of members of the public. It was an excellent two days, and I again thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to act as guides. The monthly lecture, held on 10 October was delivered by Ros Lauder on the Yungaburra Rifle Club in 1914 and was well attended.

Jon Stanford is organising a bus trip to the Caboolture Heritage Centre on 17 November. You are all welcome to attend.

Pam Gough, well known Brisbane artist and Society member has agreed to donate her painting of the Commissariat Store to the Society. Pam's artistic work is influenced by her famous tutor William Robinson and it shows in her strong and vibrant colours of Brisbane's built architecture. Pam was inspired by Brisbane's history and heritage and city landscapes. This painting was presented to the Society on Friday evening 19 October at an exhibition of her artwork at the Graydon Gallery in New farm. We are indebted to Pamela for her generous gift.

Denver needs to be commended for his efforts concerning the project to reinvigorate the Dig Tree Reserve. He has spent an inordinate amount of time carrying this project forward. It is continuing.

Again, I wish to promote the Separation Day event to be held at the Commissariat Store on 10 December 2018 and two conferences being held in February next year. The first conference on Armistice Day, WWI and its aftermath will be held on Saturday 16 February 2019. This conference is being organised to satisfy the grant the Society has had the privilege to receive. The grant money is to be expended to publish papers on this topic and to organise a display in the museum.

Finally, the Society will partner with the ASHG to convene a conference on the history of the Stephens Shire being held on 23 February 2019 in Annerley.

Stephen Sheaffe
President

Stories of Stephens

The Annerley Stephens History Group Inc. is convening a history conference for Saturday 23 February 2019 at Our Lady's College, Ipswich Road, Annerley. Speakers have been engaged on Shire, Aboriginal and many other aspects of local history. It will be a great day. You are all welcome to attend. Please contact the president: 0417 770 176

Queensland News

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

Cooktown – Seven new interpretation signs have been erected in Cooktown's Historic Railway Park. They illustrate the water tank, engine turning pit and locomotive shed. Eighteen months of volunteer work, community and council donations of machinery works and services have helped clear the area and reveal the

remains of the Cooktown – Laura Railway. Phase two comprises plans to provide a covering over the locomotive shed and establish it as an exhibition area. Phase three involves a walking track along the line to the Racecourse and other walking paths around the station area. The local groups involved have been the Bowls Club, Medical Centre, Cooktown Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Lions Club, Men’s Shed and ‘Stay Another Day’. One hundred metres of boardwalk are required at a cost of around \$45,000. The \$2,400 heavy plastic signs have come from the United Kingdom. (*Cape York News* 15-21 August 2018 p. 10)

Irvinebank – Ms Lorraine Reda of Irvinebank currently undertakes basic maintenance work in the Irvinebank Cemetery in Mareeba Shire. She has advised council of the poor state of the cemetery fencing. Recently the grave of astronomer and former medical officer of the Walsh District Hospital in Irvinebank, William McFarlane was visited by Australian astronomers celebrating the significance of McFarlane’s work in Irvinebank in discovering the Vulcan Star (named after a local tin mine, the deepest in Australia). Atherton State High School is undertaking an Online College of Advanced Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics project observing the Vulcan Star officially known as Nova Aquilae. Dr McFarlane discovered the star on 8 June 1918. McFarlane died on 17 August 1919 aged 53 years. A plaque was placed on McFarlane’s grave by astronomer, Dr Graeme White of Wagga Wagga, and Atherton State High School teacher, David Platz, to acknowledge his important contribution to astronomy. (*Tablelander* 14 August 2018 p. 9, and 21 August 2018 pp. 1,4-5 including six photographs)

Karumba – A Barramundi Discovery Centre is being opened to the public in the near future providing insights into the fishing industry over time. (*Tablelander* 21 August 2018 p. 23)

Moura – Moura people remembered the three underground mine disasters in August. The last was on 7 August 1994 when 11 men died in No 2 mine. Earlier mine disasters were on 16 July 1968 in No 4 mine when 12 men died. On 20 September 1975, 13 men died. The bodies of the miners were recovered after the first disaster only. (*Central Telegraph* 10 August 2018 p. 7 including two photographs)

Normanton – The town recently celebrated its 150 years anniversary as a regional town. It is the centre of the Carpentaria Shire. Burns Philp Pty Ltd operated a general store and shipping service for many decades. Today the town is known more for the Gulflander train and the Purple Pub. (*Tablelander* 21 August 2018 p. 23)

Deceased Members:

Michael de Burgh Persse Collins of Geelong died in May 2018. Joined the Society 2 February 1970.

Michael Hogan of Isle of Capri died in the second week of September 2018. Joined 31 March 1968.

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 20 NOVEMBER 2018 at 6.00 pm AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting
2. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President
3. Consideration of Audited Annual Financial Statement
4. Election of the President, one Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, ten Councillors
5. Appointment of Patron of the Society
6. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
7. Consideration of the recommendation by the Society’s Council that Ms Carolyn Nolan be elected as a Fellow of the Society, and Dr Graeme Nicholson be awarded a MacGregor Medal.

Fellowship

The Society’s Council recommends that Ms Carolyn Nolan be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 (d) of the Constitution, for her research and historical writing. Carolyn was President of the Society from 2009 to 2012 and was also awarded a Centenary Medal in 2013. Carolyn has written extensively on Queensland history – Stuartholme School, AP Eagers Motor Company, Alex Gow Funeral Directors, Charltons Stockbroking, Lawn Bowls in Queensland, and Brisbane’s Historic North Bank. Carolyn presented the Clem Lack Oration in 2016 on the Hamilton Suburb and was also chair of the Program Committee for several years.

Carolyn Nolan is Brisbane-born and a graduate of the University of Queensland (BA Hons English). She worked in reference at the John Oxley Library and was encouraged by the then John Oxley Librarian, Mamie O’Keeffe, to join RHSQ and has been a member since 1974. At State Library Carolyn did further reference work, then with the start of the History Research Service, having completed the 75 year history of Stuartholme School (1995), she wrote commissioned histories of Queensland firms, houses, towns, rural properties and far western shires, until 2006.

She was invited to work at the Brisbane Archdiocesan Archives in July 2006, where she assists the Archivist. As a private historian she has completed further histories, including the centenary history of AP Eagers Ltd (2013).

Carolyn is a Past President of RHSQ and delivered the Clem Lack Oration for 2017.

MacGregor Medal:

The Society’s Council recommends that Dr Graeme be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (f) of the Constitution, for his editing of the *Bulletin* for 11 years and contribution to the Society’s museum in a variety of ways. Graeme joined the Society in September 2007. He began editing the Society’s *Bulletin* in December 2007. His first *Bulletin* was February 2008 (No 716) and is now up to No 835. He has completed 82 projects for the Society, comprising building jobs such as the Book Display Cases in the foyer; upgrading the medal collection; building easels; cleaning and polishing of the HMAS *Brisbane* bell; and making display boxes, making photograph frames, photo stands, making a flag hanger, a bedspread stand, and the Perspex box that is placed on the table for the lunch money at the talks. He has also given several talks, one in particular for the Governor when he discussed the Society’s medal collection.

- 8. Award by the Council of Centenary Medals for Promotion of Queensland History:
Leigh Chamberlain, Marilyn England, Lorene Long of Stanthorpe, Glenda Sheaffe, and Les Sim, Cairns.
- 9. Award under Clause 36 of the Society’s Constitution of Certificates to Guides:
Estelle Schoch, Cathy Tully, Lana Czarniecki, Barbara Harman, Phil Adam and Anne Harding.

Ruth S Kerr
Hon Secretary

**THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
NOMINATION FORM**

For the election of the President, Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, and 10 Councillors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 20 November 2018 at 6pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before close of business on 6 November 2018.

Nominations must be signed by 2 (two) financial members of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member.

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We nominate
for the office of
Signed
Signed
If elected I agree to act in the position of
.....

Signature

Received by Hon Secretary
Signed:
Date:

----- ✂ -----

Research Report

The following are the research requests received in the past month: -

History and photographs of St Helena Island Prison; background history of the Hamilton Wharves downstream from Racecourse Road and the development of the North Shore area; history and photographs of South Sea Islanders in Queensland; origin of the name ‘Turbot Street’ Brisbane; aspects of the early life of representative Rugby player Peter Donald Thompson; copy of paper ‘Robert Hoddle, Assistant Surveyor. Was he with Oxley at Moreton Bay in 1824?’ in Royal Australian Historical Society Journal 1925; early paintings of Hamilton, 1874-1887; photographs of Henry Edward Clinton.

There was also correspondence with Emeritus Professor Maurice French about the possibility of the RHSQ obtaining relevant material for our Library archives from the collection of the late Duncan Waterson.

Donations: - from Dean Prangley and Ruth Kerr, books from the Kenyon Estate; from Maurice French, photographs of Queensland Premier Thomas McIlwraith; book from Griffith Art Museum, “With Heart and Hand. Art Pottery in Queensland 1900-1950; book from author Peter Hinds “The Campbelltown Convicts”; book from author Stig R Hokanson ‘The Show Must Go On ... Thespian Lodge No. 268UGLQ 100 Years 1918-2018’; book from the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament “The People’s House: Queensland’s Parliament in Pictures”; book from author Lyndon Megarrity “Goldfields that made Townsville: Cape River, Ravenswood and Charters Towers”; from G. Gregory, copies of newspaper Supplements covering major Royal events.

Our volunteers also continue to work on the Library digitisation project, including culling many newspaper cuttings now available on the NLA’s Trove that are currently held in files or in cutting books, and on preparations for the Library’s online catalogue.

Kay Cohen

The Talk for November

Wednesday 14 November

Speaker: Mark Whitmore

Topic: ‘All Aboard for the Western Front’

Railways were of unprecedented importance throughout WW1. The nature of the conflict was largely shaped by the ability of railways to support rapid, mass mobilisation of armies on the continent, and then to maintain the huge volumes of supplies of all types needed to maintain them in the field. As the war dragged on into 1916, the railways in France and Belgium struggled to keep up with the demands of the British forces. One strategy for dealing with this problem was an appeal to the Australian Government to recruit experienced railway men. Ultimately six Australian railway operating companies were raised, with the 4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company being largely recruited in Queensland. In March 1918 this Company were almost over-run by the huge German spring offensive, but showed great initiative in withdrawing their locomotives and other equipment under sometimes intense artillery and machine-gun fire. They were subsequently based in Dunkerque, where bombing and long range shelling frequently disrupted operations. This presentation will talk about their experiences and will also look at what can be seen today along the lines that they operated. If anyone has any private diaries, letters or photographs relating to these men, the author would be very interested to hear of them.

Mark Whitmore. Mark was formerly a Senior Curator at the Queensland Museum, where he wrote a book on Mephisto in 1989. He subsequently worked at the Australian War Memorial and retired as Director of Collections and Research at the Imperial War Museum in the UK in 2015, but continues with historical research and museum consultancy work. He is currently writing a book on the Australian Railway Operating Companies in WW1.

Distinguished Scholar Award

Dr William (Bill) Metcalf, of Griffith University and University of Queensland, received the *Distinguished Scholar Award* at the recent conference of the *Communal Studies Association* in Illinois, USA. According to the citation, “This award honors those persons who have contributed greatly to the scholarly study of communal societies, both past and present”.

see: <http://www.communalstudies.org/awards> or <https://vimeo.com/290828062>

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The RHSQ *Bulletin*

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**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS****NOVEMBER****Thursday 8 November - Council Meeting****Wednesday 14 November - 12.30 pm Talk****Speaker: Mark Whitmore****Topic: 'All Aboard for the Western Front'****Thursday 15 November - *Bulletin* deadline****Saturday 17 November - Bus Trip****NEW MEMBERS****Callum Hipworth Tarragindi (Junior member)**

Contact Details

Bulletin Articles Only

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