



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)

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## RECONCILIATION ROCKS IN COOKTOWN TO BE ON THE NATIONAL HERITAGE REGISTER



Cook Shire Council Photo

**Reconciliation Rocks in Cooktown have been nominated by the National Trust of Queensland for the National Heritage Register. This nomination reflects the remarkable story of sustained contact between two cultures that occurred in Gangaar/Cooktown from 18 June 1770 to 4 August 1770 when the two cultures shared knowledge, resources and mutual respect. During the 48 days that Cook and his crew were in Cooktown, they encountered a strong, dynamic and cultured group of Indigenous people – the substantial time ashore allowed the explorers to document the extensive dynamics and humanity of Australian Indigenous people. It was these cultural dynamics, combined with Cook’s luck in beaching Endeavour on land recognised by the Bama-ngay as neutral, which created the platform of observation, diplomacy, acceptance and humanity that allowed the act of reconciliation to take place between the two cultures. See item on page 3.**

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## President's Report

The commitment and effort by members, volunteers and Councillors of the Society to satisfy our objectives is extraordinary. Their skill level and enthusiasm is considerable. If I may, I will touch on a few of the activities undertaken since my last report.

On 16 February 2019 a large gathering attended the Armistice Day conference held at the Commissariat Store. The six papers dealt with the aftermath of the war, including the gruesome task of identifying and burying the dead and the acquisition and the bringing home of war trophies. The papers were of a very high standard, they have been edited and will be published in the next edition of *The Queensland History Journal*. The acquittal of the grant to publish the papers, hold an exhibition and conserve artefacts will soon be completed. One week later, on 23 February the Society partnered with the Annerley Stephens History Group to convene a conference on aspects of history of the local area. It also was a great success with well over 100 people attending. Again, the papers are currently being collected and edited and they will be published in one volume before the end of the year.

Last year a member of Council at our meeting raised issues of concern about the sustainability of the Queensland Women's Historical Association. Without having any knowledge of their true position, a meeting was arranged with their president and vice president. Dr Ruth Kerr and I had the pleasure to meet with them and we offered our assistance if it was needed. A letter was sent confirming this offer. In the future we look forward to working closely with the QWHA to each promote the others conferences and activities. It will be a win-win for both of us. We look forward to working together with them into the future.

On 9 March 19, Ruth Kerr, John Pearn and I attended a general meeting of the Cooroy Noosa Genealogical and Historical Research Group to present a Centenary Medal to them. The RHSQ Council had resolved to present a medal for their extraordinary effort in raising in excess \$250,000 towards the cost of erecting a building to house their research services. All their Volunteers worked assiduously to raise money for this purpose and they now occupy their own building. The Mayor, a Councillor and a very large gathering of their members and community friends attended the event. It was a marvellous occasion and the lunch provided was superb.

At the February meeting a representative of DBC presented one of their periodic reports to the Society on the Casino construction. Issues were raised about the parking at the rear of the Commissariat Store, access and our storage premises. They appeared to say that the rights that we have will end by the opening of the Casino in 2022, if not before. Dean Prangley and I met with Graeme Witherspoon to discuss these issues and negotiations are continuing in this regard. It has always been our hope that we will have access to the basement in the old library for storage of our museum artefacts.

The work with respect to the Dig Tree is continuing. We have had continuing discussions with the Department of the Environment and Science regarding funding. The necessary approvals have now mostly been granted and so the only issue is funding.

Further, the planning for the three Cook conferences in 2020 is continuing. It was resolved that a committee of interested organisations (RGS, MM, NTAQ, Cook Society and others) will be formed to help organise these events. On 14 March a telephone meeting was held with the 1770 Cook Committee and they are happy as to how the planning is proceeding. A brochure will be prepared over the next two weeks for circulation at this year's annual Cook events in the Town of 1770. An application for a Government Sponsorship has been submitted and I received a phone call from an officer at the Department Environment and Science asking me to orally advise what funding is needed. I so advised. It now looks as though the Government is showing some interest. These conferences will be wonderful events for the Society. The papers, the entire conferences and the subsequent book will be of the highest standard.

Finally, it was resolved that we will be holding a joint conference with the Stanthorpe and District Historical Society at Stanthorpe on 12 October 2019. Keep this day free.

Stephen Sheaffe  
President

## A Brisbane Catholic Society Event

Brisbane Catholic Historical Society concerns itself with all aspects of the history of the Catholic Church and Catholic institutions within the five dioceses of the Queensland Province.

[The Society now has a website: https://www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au/](https://www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au/)

Every two years the Society publishes in hard-copy a volume of its Periodical, Proceedings of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society. Volume 16 is due to appear in December 2018. (The price of each volume is dependent on the cost of printing; and will be advised at a later time.)

The April meeting will be held in the Hanly Room at the Francis Rush Centre (adjacent to St Stephen Cathedral) at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 2 April and will feature a talk on “*Rosalie Parish 100 Years*” by Dr Liz Hampson & Mr Vince Hodge. Visitors are welcome and a gold coin donation is requested.

## Nominations are Called for the SE Stephens History Award

Nominations are being called for this year’s award. Applicants should have spent several years researching and disseminating North Queensland history in the form of papers, newspaper items, journal articles, books, documentaries, photographic collections, exhibitions or a combination of these. The focus should be on North Queensland history, taking in the area from a line from Cardwell to

Burketown and north to Torres Strait. The work should be mainly original and expand the knowledge of Far North Queensland History. The Award can be made to an individual or a group.

Applicants do not have to live in North Queensland. The winner is not precluded from being nominated for a subsequent award based on new published material.

Nominations are called annually and must be accompanied by appropriate supporting material outlining the achievements of the relevant person or group. Closing date is the end of April.

All correspondence to be addressed to:

The Secretary, Cairns Historical Society, PO Box 319, Cairns Qld., 4870

## Queensland News

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

**Bauple** – The Fraser Coast Regional Council is running a program with Bank of Ideas Founder Peter Kenyon and inviting Bauple residents to participate. The residents are focussing on the historical museum and the new art gallery (named after the Macadamia nut, *Racemes*, found in the Bauple area). It is intended that Bauple become a “Sunday” destination in the region. (*Gympie Times* 9 March 2019, p. 10)

**Cooktown** – The Reconciliation Rocks in Cooktown have been nominated by the National Trust of Queensland for the National Heritage Register under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The nomination marks the place of 48 days of mutual respect between the Indigenous and European People as recorded in Bama oral history and the Journals of Cook and Banks. (*Cape York News* 20-26 February 2019, p. 6)

**Proserpine** - The Proserpine sugar mill started its first crush in 1897. Jim Wright worked for the Sugar Mill in the 1940s and operated the locomotive nicknamed “Tilly”. Jim and Vic Williams, the fireman, camped at “The Pocket” in a corrugated iron hut. The Lethebrook area was known as Banana Pocket. They had to get the cane to a derrick (a lift) at Gunyarra railhead, where it was loaded on to tramway wagons and transported to town. The loading was carried out by Tortin Stevens and achieved by walking a horse in a circle to raise the bundles of cane sticks from the train truck to the railway wagons. Three tram truck bundles to one rail wagon. Jim Wright and Vic Williams did three trips a day to Gunyarra siding. “Tilly” was No.6 in the mill loco fleet. Eventually the line extended to the mill. The rail route to the sugar mill went through Glen Isla, near where the BP service station is, and continued on through where Pioneer Park and Freshfields are located, across Herbert St, close behind the hospital, across Chapman Street and came out beside the *Proserpine Hotel*, which is now the IGA, across Mill Street into the mill yard. “Tilly” was too small for the town run so Jim Wright began driving “Perry”, a larger loco. There were two shifts on this line: 6.00 am–2.00 pm and 2.00–10.00 pm. (Ian McIntosh notes, 1996, Proserpine Museum Magazine; *Whitsunday Guardian*, 8 March 2019, p. 4)

**Heritage Nominations** - The **Duaranga** State School, **Geebung** State School at 250 Newham Road, Geebung, **Redcliffe** State High School, **Roadvale** State School have been nominated on 15 February 2019 for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register (Heritage Register) as a State Heritage Place. (Department of

Environment and Science Information can be viewed on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/.](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/)

**Ravenswood** - The history of the Ravenswood school teacher's residence built in 1873 (now town community centre) is well told on the Australian Heritage Council website: <http://155.187.2.69/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/ourhouse/qld03.html> by Society member, Peter Bell.

## **Presentation of the John White Medal to Doctor Ruth Kerr OAM**

On Saturday, 9 March 2019, Major General John Pearn presented the John White Medal to Dr Ruth Kerr “for her long-standing and enduring service to the domain of history and the heritage of health care in all its forms”.

The John White Medal was established in 2004 by the three most recent Surgeon Generals of the Australian Defence Force, to both commemorate the life and works of Australia’s first doctor, Surgeon General John White (of the First Fleet), and to recognise the service of those who have promoted the history and heritage of health care in its widest forms. Since its initial commission, some 20 John White Medals have been bestowed on exceptional recipients working in diverse fields of health care.

Dr Ruth Kerr has, for more than four decades, provided help and encouragement and skilled professional advice to scholars researching in many fields related to public health and preventive medicine. She has done this, freely and without personal recompense, as a service both to individual researchers and writers and to the broad domain of heritage preservation. In addition, she has published about the role of doctors and nurses in both pre- and post- Federation Queensland, particularly in the field of mining history.

Dr Ruth Kerr, herself raised on a farm at Cooroy in Queensland, has been a long-standing member of the Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical and Historical Group, in Cooroy in Noosa Shire, Queensland. On 9 March 2019, the Cooroy-Noosa Group hosted a Ceremony on the occasion of that Group’s receipt of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland’s Centenary Medal. It was also an appropriate occasion on which to recognise Dr Kerr’s contributions to health care research. The medal was bestowed in the presence and company of scores of friends and acquaintances of the Cooroy-Noosa Group and the President of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

The John White Medal is a gold medal (24 karat), inscribed on the Obverse with the phrase, “For Service to Health in Its Many Forms”. The Reverse is inscribed with the phrase, “That Health and Healing Might Flourish”.

John Pearn

## **National Archives of Australia**

**18 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill Qld**

### **Self Service Digitisation of Selected Records by the Public**

The Queensland Office of the National Archives is testing the feasibility of allowing self-service digitisation of selected records by the public in a controlled reading room environment. It is being trialled in the Queensland Reading Room only, from 8 November 2018 to 30 April 2019.

#### **Instructions for participating in this trial and digitising record for personal use**

1. Ask the Archives Officer on duty if the file you wish to digitise is suitable for this service. The Archives Officer will allow digitisation of files that are robust enough to handle the process with minimal risk of damage.
2. The Archives Officer on duty will ensure the scanner is ready to operate. If in doubt, ask.
3. Do not change any scanner settings. The scanner is set to the Archives digitisation standards.
4. Digitise each page
  - a. Start at the front file cover.
  - b. Press the green button on the scanner, or click the ‘Scan’ button on the screen.
  - c. Scan every page, starting from the top page and continuing to the bottom.
  - d. Place the page in the centre of the glass – the scanner will align the image automatically
  - e. Include the back of any page that has information regardless of its significance
  - f. If you make a mistake, just repeat the scan and inform the attendant.
  - g. Once you have finished, return all pages to the file pin.

- h. It is important that the pages are returned in their original order.
5. If you have any questions, ask the Archives Officer.
  6. If you wish to digitise more than one file, inform the Archives Officer. After each file is complete, the Archives Officer will collate the images into a file folder.
  7. Once completed, the Archives Officer will download the images to a USB for you to take with you. The images created you may be processed and loaded to the Archives' RecordSearch database where they can be viewed by the public. The images will be subject to quality assurance before they are loaded. And some files may be rejected.
- (Information provided by David Swift, Manager, National Archives of Australia, Queensland Office.)

## Research Report

Our research team dealt with the following enquiries over the past month: the location of Brisbane wharves used by the AUSN shipping company; information on the C E Y (Clyde Engineering) building in Adelaide St, City, possibly scheduled for demolition, and the heritage-listed Brisbane Dental Hospital; passenger list for the 1866 voyage of the Black Ball Line ship *Light of the Age*; origin of various Brisbane street names prior to 1925; origin of an architect's sketch of proposed Kangaroo Point (Story) Bridge, 1933; Oxley meatworks and the Blunder family.

Permission was given for use by a Tahiti-based publisher of an RHSQ photo of Narcisse Pelletier; receipt of information on the journeys of explorers Leichhardt and Mitchell, among others; re-attribution of a painting wrongly cited in some publications as part of the RHSQ art collection; request for copies of photos from the Library's Richard Daintree glass-plate negatives collection. This follows on from a national survey identifying where these negatives are held. Apparently, our large collection was previously not documented at the national level.

We were able to contribute material to a presentation on the little-researched life of Lilian Cooper's life-long companion, (Mary) Josephine Bedford and her connection to St. Mary's Rectory, Kangaroo Point. It is planned to be included in the RHSQ's Wednesday talk series. The publication 'Kyoomba Sanatorium', Vols. 1 & 2, by Deborah Wheeler, has been added to the Library. It tells the story of this AIF facility treating soldiers with tuberculosis between 1916-1935. Copies are now on sale at the RHSQ. In addition to an application for a grant towards the cost of upgrading the Library catalogue software, preliminary work has been done on a grant application for equipment relating to an interactive display focusing on St. Helena Island. We have already contributed items and historical information to the current St Helena Stockade interactive exhibition at the Queensland State Archives.

Kay Cohen

## Spreadborough Family Reunion

Any descendants of William Spreadborough and his first wife Jane nee Walter and descendants of William and his second wife Mary nee Knight are invited to attend. William and Mary Spreadborough arrived in Sydney on board the sailing ship *Canton* on 12 June 1848. They made their way to the Darling Downs via Spicers Gap and resided on Talgai Station and Canning Downs Station before purchasing five blocks of land on the southern outskirts of Warwick in the 1850s land sales. William was an early pioneering settler of Warwick and established a celebrated farm, orchard and vineyard called *Norbiton*. He was a prominent citizen, involved in establishing St Marks Church of England and The Eastern Downs Horticultural and Agricultural Society as well as being involved in other organisations, taking a keen interest in matters associated with the town.

Surnames of interest: Bowles; Glasby; Grayson; Keable; Knight; Lamb; Moss; Peters; Spreadborough. Lexene Spreadborough is organising the reunion and anyone interested in the reunion or who would like further information should contact Lexene Spreadborough on 0427 311498 or [finsburypark@bordnet.com.au](mailto:finsburypark@bordnet.com.au).

## The Talk for April

**Wednesday 10 April 12.30 pm**

**Speaker: Professor Kay Saunders AM**

**Topic: The Red Flag Riots**

A hundred years ago Brisbane inadvertently was at the centre of world events. Tom Sergeev (aka Artum) arrived in 1911 as a refugee from persecution in Czarist Russia. Six years later he returned to his homeland to help plan the Bolshevik Revolution. The presence of radical Russian Bolsheviks in South Brisbane became increasingly untenable. The Red Flag Riots in March 1919 where Empire Loyalists stormed the Russian precinct in Merivale Street highlighted these ideological tensions.

### Biographical Details

Trained in Anthropology, Kay Saunders AM was professor of History and Senator of the University of Queensland from 2002-6 and CEO of The Brisbane Institute, 2006-9. She also worked at Bond University 2012-14. Serving on the Council of the Australian War Memorial (1994-7), she was Chairman of the Official History to the Australia at War Committee. Professor Saunders was appointed to the Council of the National Maritime Museum of Australia (1994-6) and was director of the National Australia Day Council (1992-7). She served as Chair of the Queensland government's Cultural Advisory Council (1997-99) and was a member of the Premier's Advisory Council on Women's Policy (1999-2001). She is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Royal Society for Arts, the Royal Historical Society (London) and the Royal Anthropological Institute. In 2001 she received the Medal of the National Museum of Australia and in 2006 was the recipient of the John Kerr Medal from the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and is a recipient of the Federation Medal. She is an entry in Who's Who of Australia. Her most recent books include *A Crowning Achievement: A Study of Australian Beauty, Business and Charitable Enterprise* (2005), *Between the Covers: Revealing the State Library of Queensland's Collection* (2006) and *Queensland: 150 years of Achievement* (2009), *Notorious Australian Women* (2011), *Deadly Australian Women* (2013) and *Bond University: The First 25 Years* (2014).

### IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

#### APRIL

**Wednesday 10 April, Talk 12.30 to 1.30 pm**

**Topic: The Red Flag Riots**

**Speaker: Professor Kay Saunders AM**

**Thursday 11 April, Council Meeting**

**Monday 15 April, *Bulletin* Deadline**

### NEW MEMBERS

John Matthews	Fairfield Gardens
Raymond McNab	Beenleigh
Deborah Wheeler	Warwick

#### Contact Details

#### Bulletin Articles Only

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