



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

FORSAYTH POLICE LOCKUP BECOMES A MUSEUM



There's no website for this new tourist attraction just yet, so to find out more about Forsayth Police Station and the old Forsayth Gaol Cells you'll have to investigate the old-fashioned way by going for a drive or catching the Savannahlander, dropping in and saying hello to Senior Constable Carroll and wife Kelly, who have some great stories to tell! See report on page 3.



QPS photos

President's Report

It is again a pleasure to present this April report. Two odd events occurred this month. Firstly, we received a letter from a gentleman in Scotland, who appeared on the face of the letter to be offering to gift to the Society certain clothing once owned by colonial premier, The Honourable Arthur MacAlister. A letter of thanks was forwarded to him and enquiring how the items were to be conveyed to Brisbane and who was to pay the transport costs. He replied that he wanted to sell the items and was seeking prospective purchasers for these clothing items. Apparently, the items he was trying to sell were not worn by the Premier when he lived in Queensland. That's the end of that matter. More surprisingly, we received a letter from a gentleman from near Pomona asking whether an award had been presented to a named person who was a candidate at the next Noosa Shire Council elections. This candidate had inserted in his Linked In account a statement that he had received an assortment of awards including an award from the RHSQ. A search revealed this person is not a member, was never a member and never received an award. A gentle phone call was made to him. He denied he is and was a member of the Society and that he had inserted such matters on his Linked In account. I invited him to check his account and if he discovered any errors, he should rectify them. The Linked In account was removed from the internet within a few days. Alas, the pressures of standing for elected office.

Recently we received two letters from authors who were hopeful the Society would publish their written works. On each occasion we wrote advising that the Society is not in the business of publishing books and we also have to obtain grants to publish our own publications. So if anyone asks this question, please inform them that the Society is not a publisher and does not fund the publication of books.

The president has spent an inordinate amount of time collecting and editing the papers delivered at our joint conference with the Annerley Stephens History Group held on 23 February 2019. We are working towards this book being published later in the year. As promised, I will be convening a joint conference to be held on 26 October 2019 at the Yeronga RSL Club titled Stephens and War. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

The Dig tree project is moving forward. A grant of \$40,000 has now been awarded though it has not been deposited into the bank account. All the artefacts have been sent to Thargomindah and the contractor has been engaged to build the boardwalk and undertake the creek rectification works, though agreements have not been signed. We all look forward to this project being finalized. Denver has done a great job on this project.

Iлона has drafted a brochure to be circulated around the Town of 1770 promoting the conference next year. It will be held on the 22-23 May 2020. Copies of the brochure have been printed by the 1770 committee and they will be circulated locally very soon. We are still waiting for a response from the National Maritime Museum in Sydney for confirmation as to when the Replica of the Endeavour will be arriving in both Brisbane and Cooktown. Once that arrives, we will confirm bookings and circulate the to be prepared brochures. An application for State sponsorship has been made and we have received a request for further information. This is still pending.

Finally, we have a full complement of speakers for our Stanthorpe conference that is being held on 12 October 2019. It will be an afternoon conference, with dinner that evening. You are all welcome to attend. Please note in your diary that the annual dinner is being held at the Brisbane Club on 6 June with his Excellency the Governor being the guest speaker and our annual conference on Exploration across the land, the sea and air will be held on the 31 August 2019 at the Commissariat. Please keep these dates free.

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)

Atherton - Tablelands Regional Council Library obtained a \$9200 grant for research of the identities of people in unmarked graves in the Thomas Park and Atherton Pioneer Cemetery. Thomas Park cemetery on Hastie Road was known as Carrington Cemetery. Atherton Pioneer Cemetery on Atherton – Herberton Road was known as Atherton cemetery between 1897 and 1927. There are 803 graves there and most of them are unmarked. (*Tablelander* 9 October 2018 p. 9)

Biggenden – The Capitol Theatre opened in 1938. It had previously been a garage and was remodelled into a theatre. It was operated by J A Archer until 1940 when Robert Archer took over. In 1953 Cecil White began operating the theatre followed by R A Marland in 1955 and J B Britnell in 1960. Locally made soft drinks were served. The local policeman provided security, preventing smoking and ensuring everyone paid for a ticket. The seats were wooden frames with canvas slings. Local shops remained open on movie nights. The building also hosted boxing matches, hypnotist shows and later roller skating. Attendance declined in the 1960s. The building was severely damaged in a storm on 1 December 1964. In 1996 the building was dismantled by Zane White the owner. (Woooco Historical Society *News Bulletin* Vol.33 No.1, April 2019, pp. 2-4)

Cooktown - The RHSQ Council has decided to support the nomination of the Cooktown Reconciliation Park for the National Heritage Register under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Society is sending a letter to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment, Hon Melissa Price MP, who makes the ultimate decision after it has been considered and recommended by the Australian Heritage Advisory Council. Reference to the Cooktown Reconciliation Park was featured in the RHSQ *Bulletin* for April 2019.

Dimbulah – The Men’s Shed at Malanda have restored a 70 year old Broom and Wade N2 type compressor used in the mining industry. It was made in 1948 at High Wycombe, England. It was presented to the Men’s Shed by Owen Davies of Camp 64 Café and Museum at Dimbulah. Harry Skeet Broom and Thomas Wade formed Broom and Wade in 1898. (*Tablelander* 26 March 2019 p. 17 including photograph)

Forsayth – The old Forsayth Police Station Lockup has been transformed into a small museum. It was compiled by Senior Constable Ian Carroll and his wife, Kelly. They arrived in Forsayth in 2014. With the support of recently retired Inspector Rolf Straatemeier the police cells were gifted to the Etheridge Shire Council and restored in 2016. Photographs and memorabilia showcase local farming, mining and police history. Senior Constable Ian Carroll and like-minded people formed the Forsayth Improvements Group and have established a RV Dump Point, more park spaces, improved tourist signs, new children’s play equipment and greater recognition of local families through naming of creeks. (*Tablelander* 9 October 2018 p. 18 including three photographs)

Hope Vale, Cape York – Nearly 30 elders participated in an interview program, Bringing Hope Vale’s Past to the Present. They will be showcased at a whole-of-community event at the Hope Vale Multi-Purpose Centre on 17 May which is Hope Vale Evacuation Day, remembrance of the evacuation to Woorabinda in 1942. The program was funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors under the Advancing Queensland: An Age-Friendly Community 2018-2019 Grants Program. The elders including Pastor George Rosendale were able to record their memories of the evacuation and their return in 1950. Indigenous owned Cairns firm, Phisch, recorded the interviews. (*Cape York News* 27 March 2019 p. 5 including photograph)

Mareeba – Walkamin Rail Trail – The Mareeba Shire Council has secured a \$97,000 Queensland government grant to do a feasibility study for the use of the 14 km disused rail route as a bike and walking trail. The grant funds come from the Rail Trail Local Government grants program. (*Tablelander* 19 March 2019 p. 7)

The Walkamin Rail Trail

Rail Trail Australia Photo



Red Hill, Brisbane - A community open day was held at the Red Hill Skate Arena on 31 March. It was known as the State Theatres in the 1950s when owned by Peter Sourris. The roof was put on in 1953-54. It closed in 1960. A fire in 2002 reduced it to a skeleton of its former self. Various development plans have been advanced in recent years. The Sourris family plan to construct four boutique 60 seat cinemas and one 120 seat cinema. (*Westside News* 4 April 2019 p. 3 including four photographs)

Sandgate - On 23 and 24 November 2018 Sandgate history was promoted and displayed in a Bay of Lights outdoor projection on the foreshore from the Baptist Church to the corner of Flinders Parade and Cliff Street. It was a co-operative project between the Historical Society, the Brisbane City Council and Sandgate Creative Engine. (Sandgate and District Historical Society and Museum News)

Research Report

The work of our volunteer research team for the past month covers the following: queries about the arrival of the Howard family in Queensland: further information on Captain John Foley and family; who wrote the 'Nut Quad' newspaper columns, William Clark or Charles Melton; local background for a book on cricket; the Catholic School Girls Display, Brisbane Exhibition, 1956; the location of bomb shelters on Howard Smith Wharves; the 'Cornell Diary' presented by a Mr Martin to the RHSQ about the voyage of the immigrant ship 'Charlie Palmer'; photos of the interior of Christies' café, Queen St. Brisbane and of the Margaret St., Brisbane, premises of Watson Bros., Plumbers.

A message of thanks was received from Queensland State Archives for RHSQ's contribution to QSA's successful St Helena exhibition, 'Birdcage of the Bay'. Further information was received on Degilbo and on the Serecold Memorial, Rolleston, with a recent photo taken by Charles Tyson. Kenmore and District Historical Society members will visit the Library in May, following a most interesting and informative visit recently from our colleagues at the Queensland Women's Historical Association.

Marjorie Deacon's *Highfields Pioneer Village: its history and collections* has been purchased for the Library. Donations to the Library include: book and DVD *Echoes of the Past and Pioneer Families of Cooroy and District* (John Hartley); book *City in Masks* (Matthew Wengert); items relating to Burke & Wills (Bev Young); photographs of Feez family and polo (David Feez); and Panoramic booklet *36 Views Brisbane* (Melinda Randall).

The late Dr Drury Clarke's glass plate negative collection is now being correctly stored and conserved by volunteer Sarah Aldrich. We continue to source and present interesting historical photos and stories for the RHSQ website from our archival collection.

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

Coming Events

31 May, Friday, 7:00 pm - Fragments Ensemble: Songs, signs and messages

Fragments Ensemble is the Ensemble in Residence at the Commissariat Store in 2019. Their first concert will be part of the 4MBS Festival of Classics.

Read more about how they bring contemporary European composers to the Store:

<http://www.queenslandhistory.org/event/fragments-ensemble-songs-signs-and-messages-1>

6 June, Thursday, 6:30 pm – Qld Day Dinner and the Presentation of the J D Kerr Medal of Distinction

This year's special guest speaker will be His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, Patron of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

You are able to book your tickets online – ticket prices remained the same as last year: \$135/members, \$145 / guests

Please, send an email/ give us a call if you have any dietary requirements.

<http://www.queenslandhistory.org/event/queensland-day-dinner-and-the-presentation-of-the-j-d-kerr-medal-of-distinction>

What's on at The Queensland Women's Historical Association

Sunday the 9th June - 01:30 PM

Afternoon Tea and Talk: 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start

"Elizabeth Coxen (1825-1906): pioneer naturalist and the Queensland Museum's first woman curator"

Guest Speakers: Dr John Healy, Curator of Molluscs at the Queensland Museum and Dr Judith Mackay, historian and museum consultant.

Elizabeth Coxen was a remarkable woman of her time. The wife of naturalist, politician and public servant Charles Coxen, best known as founder of the Queensland Museum, Elizabeth shared her husband's scientific interests. Not only a knowledgeable companion, she achieved notability in her own right: as a conchologist, meteorologist and horticulturist. More remarkably, in 1877, in middle age, she became the Queensland Museum's first woman curator (molluscs) - probably the first woman curator of any natural history museum in Australia. Respected within the scientific community, in 1886 she became the first woman to be elected as a member of a scientific organisation in Queensland. This talk will record Elizabeth Coxen's life and her various contributions to science and public life in colonial Queensland.

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

What's on at The Queensland State Archives

Exhibition: Birdcage of the Bay: St Helena Island Prison

Birdcage of the Bay recreates the prison stockade using plans from the collection of Queensland State Archives and other historical sources to show the extent of the prison establishment.

During the years of St Helena's operation only prisoners, guards and their families experienced life in the stockade, while visitors met prisoners in a hot, mosquito-infested building known as the 'birdcage'.

Birdcage of the Bay offers glimpses of life at the St Helena Island Prison beyond the walls of the visitor box.

Come visit the exhibition from 25 March to 6 September, or book for a free one-hour Curator tour at these times:

- 10.00 am, Wednesday 1 May
- 1.00 pm, Wednesday 29 May
- 10.00 am, Wednesday 24 July
- 1.00 pm, Wednesday 4 September.

Queensland State Archives is open from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday, and the second Saturday of every month. Located at 435 Compton Rd, Runcorn.

Launch of a New History Book

A new history book : *The History of The Beenleigh and District Historical Society: The First 50 Years 1969 - 2019*, written by Dr Graeme Nicholson with a Foreword by our President, Mr Stephen Sheaffe, will be launched at a morning tea at The Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum, Main Street Beenleigh at 10.00 am on Tuesday 14 May. Everyone Welcome!

The Talk for May

Wednesday 8 May 12.30 pm

Topic: "Australia after the tragedy of the Great War".

Speaker: Philip Castle

The subject will be summary of Australia's involvement in WWI and the many events after 1918. This includes the effect on the social lives of those who lost their loved ones, over 62,000, and those who returned wounded mentally and physically; over 200,000 from a population of just over 5 million. It was not just Australia of course but the long enduring tragedy of the losses, costs, social disruptions and the impact on the government, medical services, families, church, economy, infrastructure and and politics. What was the cost and were there any positives?

Philip Castle is a retired print journalist having worked in the media for over 40 years, most recently as a journalism lecturer at QUT. . He is a historian especially on Australia's military history. He has published many articles , booklets etc holds three degrees; an History Political science BA (ANU), Journalism BA (Canberra Uni) and a research masters (QUT) . He served in Vietnam during the war, his father was a RAAF Bomber pilot in the UK and his step grandfather served in WWI. Over the past four years he has given a number of talks on the Australians during WWI, the Boer War, Vietnam and WWII.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

MAY

Wednesday 8 May, Talk 12.30 to 1.30 pm

Topic: Australia after World War I. by

Speaker: Philip Castle

Thursday 9 May, Council Meeting

Wednesday 15 May, *Bulletin* Deadline

[Programs in May – http://www.queenslandhistory.org/events](http://www.queenslandhistory.org/events)

NEW MEMBERS

Natalie Anderson	Coorparoo
Graeme R Prideaux	Bard Hills
Elsie Portch	Glenvale
Cheryl Willis	Murrumba Downs

Contact Details

Bulletin Articles Only

Subscriptions

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		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00