



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 AM

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

## A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE IN THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION: THE MEDALS OF COMMANDER ERIK FELDT OBE, RAN



RAN Photo



Graeme Nicholson Photo

Cdr Erik Feldt OBE

Medals of Cdr Feldt OBE

**Commander Eric Augustas Feldt OBE, RAN was an officer in the Royal Australian Navy and the director of the Coastwatchers organisation for much of the Second World War. His medals are in the Society's archives.**

### Medals of Commander Eric Feldt OBE

#### Royal Australian Navy

Left to right:

**Order on the British Empire, Military; British War Medal 1914-1918; Victory Medal 1914-1919; 1939-1945 Star; Pacific Star; Defence Medal; War Medal 1939-1945; Australian Service Medal 1939 -1945; Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal 1953.**

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report

About two years it was reported to the Council that the Flinders Memorial installed by the Society in the Glass House Mountains many decades ago had been removed or demolished. In response, it was resolved to undertake a stocktake of all the memorials installed or promoted by the Society over time. Beth Johnson, one of the researchers who attend the Commissariat Store each Thursday agreed to perform this work and it required her to examine all the minutes from our inception onwards. It was a massive effort. This report has now been completed. A special thank you is extended to Beth for this work. Now we will have to look at all these installed memorials and seek to ascertain their current status.

It is with sadness that I report the retirement from the Council of John Stanford. In a sense, he was a COVID resignation, with his illness he did not wish to be out late at night. John was elected to the Council on 26 October 2016 and was immediately appointed a member of the Membership and Program Committees. John is a member of the Economic History Society and his interest is in banking and finance history in Queensland. His papers on these themes have been published in our Journal and an article on the Land Bank in the Stephens Shire was recently published in *Echoes of Stories of Stephens*. His special skills will be missed. It is with pleasure that I welcome Jeff Brunne to the Council as his replacement. Jeff is a volunteer at the Society and has experience in strategic analysis. His skills will be extremely valuable. Michael Halliday has been appointed the chair of the Programme Committee. Michael, thank you for taking on this role.



Thargomindah Visitor Centre Photo

### The Dig Tree

The Board Walk is now completed and the reclamation work for the eroded area of the neighbouring gully area should be completed by the time of writing this report. The information boards and the new road signs have been installed. Furthermore, Sophie is in the process of setting up an online booking service for visitors. The only outstanding issue is the funding of the ranger who collects the money deposited in the receptacle at the gate and keeps an eye on the Reserve. This money is then deposited into the Dig Tree Reserve account at the Bullo Shire. A telephone hook-up is being arranged in August 2020 between representatives of



the RHSQ, Mr and Mrs Coulton, the owners of neighbouring station and the Bulloo Shire Council to discuss this issue. A launch of the boardwalk will be held later in the year. It will be great when this project is all completed. Again, a special thank you is extended to Denver. Just recently, and at his personal expense, he flew to Thargomindah and drove to the Dig Tree on Cooper Creek to examine the work undertaken and subsequently present a report to the Council with photographs. Replicas of the blazes cut into the trees over a century ago for people to touch have been installed on the boardwalk and additional copies were made and will be installed as a separate exhibition in the Commissariat Store. This exhibition will soon be launched.

Just prior to the next Council meeting, the Councillors have been invited to attend the Office (at the corner of Alice and George Streets) for the new casino development. We will receive an update of the project, take a bird's eye view of the building work and to examine the historical artefacts extracted from the site.

We still hope to reconvene the Cook Conferences at a COVID safe time. Please keep this space open. Many of the Cook papers have been received.

Yours

Stephen Sheaffe  
President

## Queensland News

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

**Atherton, Cairns and Townsville** - The last issue of the *Tablelander* appeared on Tuesday, 23 June 2020. It was among the large number of Australian regional newspapers closed by the Murdoch Press. Previous copies of the paper will be available for access in the Tableland Regional Council Library in Atherton. The paper had previously been called *Focus Tablelander* in the early 1970s when the paper began. It was first printed in Herberton. The *Atherton Tablelander*, *Northern Miner* (Charters Towers—started in 1872), *Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette*, *Burdekin Advocate* are continuing to appear in regional sections of the *Cairns Post* and *Townsville Bulletin*. (*Tablelander*, 23 June 2020, pp. 2,3,18 including photographs)

**Murgon** – An art gallery, fossil museum, art workshop and central prehistoric garden development at a cost of \$1.596 million have been approved for Murgon by the Commonwealth government's Building Better Regions Fund Program. The Creative Country Association (CCA), (a not-for-profit community group to promote the arts and the unique fossils found in the Murgon area.), applied for the funding for the Murgon project. CCA wants to build a museum to display the fossils, along with a "prehistoric garden" that would show what the swampy Eocene landscape of 55 million years looked like and the creatures that lived in the region at that time. The Cultural Centre will be built on a block of land in Macalister Street which has been donated to the CCA by a Murgon family. The complex would be about 30 metres square with an open-air garden in the centre. (*Murgon Moments*, June 2020, Issue 164, pp. 1, 12-15)

**South Burnett Regional Council's Community Grants** - Successful applicants include: Blackbutt & District Tourism Association - Story Boards of Benarkin - \$839.0 and Queensland Dairy & Heritage Museum, Murgon - Childhood Memories - \$2,600.00. (*Murgon Moments*, June 2020, Issue 164, p. 35)

**Boonah** - The old Boonah railway goods shed is to become the Rotary Clubhouse. It will be relocated to the Bicentennial Park. It will be approx. 300 metres of where it originally stood. The building was gifted by Alistair and Joy Ross of Farmcraft to the Rotary Club in 2019. The Scenic Rim Regional Council has given in-principle conditional support to relocate the building, refurbish the interior and empathetically renovate the exterior of the building. The Rotary Club will seek grants for the work. The building will be used for club meetings and possibly for other community groups. The railway to Boonah was opened on 12 September 1887 and closed on 30 June 1964. The line from Ipswich (Churchill Saleyards) to Boonah and Dugandan had come from Harrisville (opened on 10 July 1882). Tenders were called in November 1888 for the erection of the Boonah goods shed and it was completed in 1889. It was built by contractor, John Raymond, for £112.2.0. When the railway closed the building was purchased by businessman, David Evans and relocated to David Evans Group machinery yard at the corner of Macquarie Street and Coronation Drive. (*The Fassifern Guardian*, 20 May 2020, p.4 including three photographs; *Brisbane Courier*, 24 November 1888, p. 5.)



Flickr Photo

### The Old Boonah Railway Goods Shed

**Kalbar** – The Progress Association is arranging for banners with historical stories to be placed in vacant shop windows. The Bendigo Bank has sponsored the first two banners which are in the Wiss Emporium building. Once the building becomes tenanted, the banner will be displayed outside the building. (*The Fassifern Guardian*, 17 June 2020, p. 6 including photograph)



Fassifern Guardian Photo

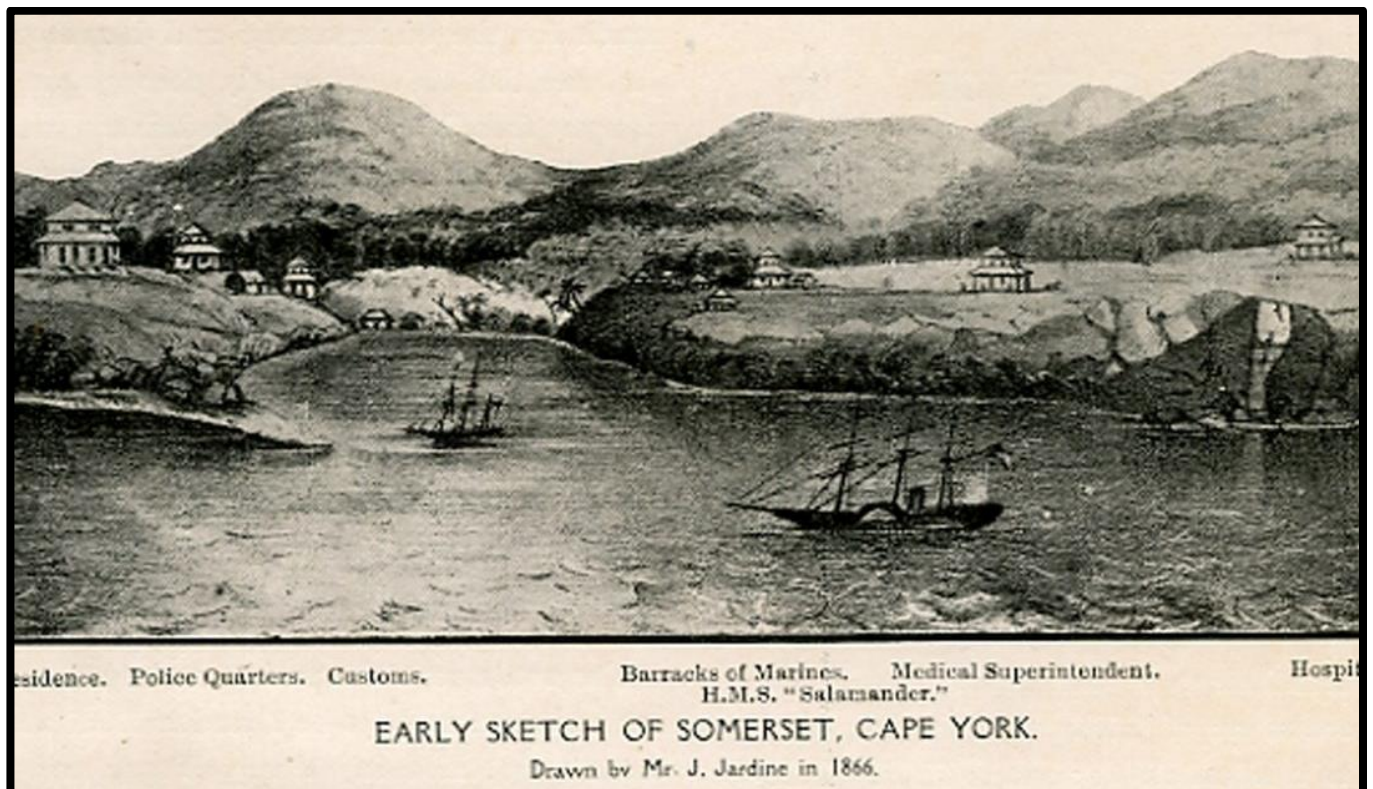
**One of a number of banners. This one was displayed in the window of the Wiss Emporium**



## Library and Research Report

Volunteers for our Library and Research team have dwindled to four in recent weeks. If you, or someone you know especially with IT skills, would like to be a volunteer, please let us know. The work is interesting, not difficult and we are a friendly, socially-distancing group.

Research enquiries over the past month were; re sketches by John Jardine of Somerset, Cape York, and photos of Somerset Police Magistrates, Henry Marjoribanks Chester and Captain Henry George Simpson, photos of Queen St and its buildings; history of Brisbane's Hamilton Town Hall for upcoming 100-year anniversary, copy of the will of a person who died in 1888, pictorial record of early trading and supply activities at Brisbane's Queen's Wharf and adjacent riverfront, information on John Melton Black. Yvonne Evans visited the Library to discuss writing and publishing articles based on her family's extensive papers, photos, and diaries. The diaries record in particular details of the daily life of her grandfather and great-uncle, Arthur and Harry Sheffield. Also covering other family members, they tell of horse-raising, and of gold prospecting at North Queensland's Palmer River, Hall's Creek in Western Australia. Then they travelled in British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska. They survived traversing White Horse Pass to the Klondike fields, building a boat to return to the coast down the Yukon River. By 1901, Arthur and Harry have re-located to Queensland. After some years living off the land in South-East Queensland, they move to Cooktown where Arthur lived until his death aged 93.



RHSQ Photo

### A Sketch by Mr J Jardine (mentioned above)

A special visitor was Peter Wade who donated documents to add to the history of his ancestor Henry Wade (1810-1854) he donated to the Society a few years ago. He was also seeking the Society's support for his proposal to have a plaque erected to commemorate five early Moreton Bay surveyors, Robert Dixon, Granville Stapylton, James Warner, Henry Wade and James Burnett. Henry Wade followed Robert Dixon as chief surveyor at Moreton Bay, serving from 1842-44. He became known as the person who shifted the pegs to widen the narrow streets planned by New South Wales Governor George Gipps on his visit to Moreton Bay in 1842 (See W. Ross Johnston, *The Call of the Land*). As a result, Brisbane, as it developed, avoided Sydney's problems arising from Gipps narrow streets' policy there. Wade resigned due to ill-health in 1844. Among his many surveys, including an 1842 Brisbane town plan, was an 1843 survey setting out garden allotments for Limestone (the site later identified as West Ipswich). This was well in advance of Britain where legislative provisions for such allotments were enacted in 1908 but only became a reality during World War One. Our

Library archives has a very fragile copy of Wade’s garden allotments’ survey, as well as his 1842 Moreton Bay Settlement survey.

Kay Cohen

## Hervey Bay Historical Village is Re-opening



Hervey Bay Historical Village Photo

### The 1930s Replica Garage at The Hervey Bay Historical Village

The Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum has managed to preserve some of that early history and now you can walk through our museum that covers 1.2 hectares and: explore 21 buildings from those early days; examine 12,000 items, both large and small, in our collection; take part in interactive demonstrations of some of the skills those early settlers needed to survive in what was a harsh and untamed environment and discover what life was like for the people who settled this area.

We are delighted to announce that we will be re-opening on 1 August. Initially: Saturdays 1.00 to 4.30 pm and Sundays 10.30 am to 4.30 pm (Demonstrations 1.00 to 3.00 pm depending on Volunteer availability)

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>AUGUST</u>	Jeff Brunne	Fairfield
<b>Thursday 13 August, Council Meeting</b>	Samuel Pulsford	Holland Park West
<b>Saturday 15 August, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</b>	Frederick Carter	Crestmead
	Scott Malcolmson	Paddington

Contact Details	Bulletin Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Sophie West	Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson	Ordinary Member: \$ 66.00
ABN: 34 217 251 028	A/Editor: Gloria Nicholson	Partner of Member: \$ 22.00
Phone: 07 3221 4198	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Junior Member (U18): \$ 11.00
Fax: 07 3221 4698	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Full-time Student (U25): \$ 33.00
email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
website: www.queenslandhistory.org	<b>The Society acknowledges financial assistance from: Commonwealth Government Heritage Grants; Qld Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund; Lord Mayor Adrian Shrinner, The Lord Mayor’s Suburban Initiative Fund; Brisbane City Council; Our Honorary Auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd.</b>	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