

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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

Normanton - Croydon Railway Line History



Old Railway Steam Locomotive Museum Photo

Panhard Levassor Rail Motor No. 14, Operated on the Normanton to Croydon Railway Line from 1922 to 1941

The Panhard railmotor was built to carry ten passengers. In fine weather, passengers enjoyed good views of the country. It was open sided and canvas blinds were rolled down in wet weather. The Panhard railmotor was constructed in 1918 at the Ipswich Railway Workshops. The name Panhard was adopted from the engine which was made by the Panhard & Levassor company of France. In 1922 the Panhard was sent to the isolated Normanton to Croydon railway line (Gulf of Carpentaria). As well as passengers, it carried goods on a small trailer. The Panhard was officially withdrawn from service in 1941. (See story page 3).

President's Report

It is with a feeling of anticipation that I write this report. To me, the authorities appear to have forced the Covid-19 pandemic back into its box, though with the lid left partially open. Thus, the Society is starting to reconvene events. However, we must comply with Covid safe requirements such as social distancing, recording of names etc.

The events that are being planned for the next few months are:

1. The first reconvened lunch time lecture will be held on the second Wednesday, 14 October 2020 at the Commissariat Store. Historian Matthew Wengert and writer Louise Martin Chew will present a paper on the history of the Printing Office. The paper is titled: '*Stone & Ink' in Designs, Devils, Details; the Queensland Government Printing Office.*
2. The Society supported the conference convened by the Annerley Stephens History Group Inc. held October 2019 and now supports the launch of the book, titled *Stephens and War*. The launch will be held in front of the Cenotaph in Yeronga Park on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm, 18 October 2020. If you are attending please bring your own chair and afternoon tea. In the park it is much easier to be Covid compliant. You are all welcome to attend.
3. The papers being presented at the 2020 Annual Conference concern Cook's journey in the *Endeavour* up the east coast in 1770. The presenters will be those engaged to speak at the cancelled conference that was to be held in May at the State Library. The reconvened conference will now be at the Commissariat Store on Saturday 21 November 2020. It will be a full day event with 12 high quality presenters. It will be a hybrid affair with many speakers delivering their papers electronically.
4. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 25 November 2020. You are all encouraged to attend. The Clem Lack lecture will be on the *Restoration of the Commissariat Store: 1998-2000*. The AGM will also be a hybrid affair with many members attending by Zoom.
5. The annual dinner normally held on Queensland Day, will this year be held on Separation Day, Thursday evening 10 December 2020 at the Brisbane Club. Our guest speaker is the distinguished and well-known Professor Roly Sussex OAM.
6. On 12 February 2021, the launch of the Dig Tree Exhibition at the commissariat Store will take place.
7. On 20 February, the reconvened Griffith Conference will be held in the Red Chamber. You are all welcome to attend.
8. On 26 March 2021, a social event, given the appropriate name Burke and Wills under the Stars will be held at Thargomindah. The next day, the 27 March 2021, the Reserve Conservation Launch at the Burke and Wills Dig Tree Reserve will be held. We are all planning to fly or drive to Charleville then catch a bus to Thargomindah before heading to the Dig Tree. If you are considering attending please respond quickly as the seats available on the bus and the hotel rooms available at Thargomindah are limited.

As a cost saving measure, the FAHS has asked all State Historical Societies to periodically write and edit one of their periodic journals. If all Societies participate, each State will be responsible for one publication every four years. The RHSQ has volunteered to edit one edition and it has been agreed with the FAHS that we will do the first edition next year. Dr Beanland AM has agreed to draft a section on the Dig Tree Conservation Project. Many of us will make a contribution to this journal.

Finally, Denver and I have had discussions with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and other politicians regarding our tenure of the Commissariat Store after the lease expires in 2028. They all were supportive of our position. We hope to negotiate a long-term lease before the current term expires.

Yours
Stephen Sheaffe AM

Queensland News

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

Eumundi – The Eumundi Historical Association's museum is closed to allow their revitalisation project to proceed in the museum. The goals are to improve the entry appeal and usability of the facility. The front gardens will be modified with pathways leading to the entrance of the building. Asbestos will be removed and general maintenance done on the building. The interior will be modified to allow climate control and

exhibition spaces will be designed to allow for visiting exhibitions. (*Eumundi Voice*, Issue 1, 13 August 2020, pp.16-17 including artist's impression of building.)

Lowood – Further development and revegetation work is being done by volunteers on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail through Lowood. Shelters have also been erected, stump seats and tables installed and trees planted by federal politicians, Senator Paul Scarr and Shayne Neumann MP. (*Kilcoy Sentinel Community News*, 27 August 2020, p. 11 including five photographs).



Qld Government Photo

The Disused Railway Station at Lowood

Normanton – Croydon Railway was not operating for ten days less than three months. The big flood of 1974 resulted in a closure of public services for two days more than three months 8th Jan to 10th April. The Rail Motor had run just before the first public service, to check the line. The line has been closed twice for about three months, once by flood, once by a lockdown for a pandemic. Some other flood closures have been prolonged of course, being the fault of building the line on the surface. (Personal communication from John Knowles, London, author of the book, *Lonely Rails in the Gulf Country: the story of the Normanton – Croydon railway and the Gulflander*.)

HERITAGE

The Department of Environment and Science received applications proposing removal of parts of heritage places from the Queensland Heritage Register as follow:

- 20 August 2020 – part of North Ipswich Railway Workshops Complex,
- 25 August 2020 - Y Station, 16 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery
- 4 September 2020 - Wolston Park Hospital Complex.

On 17 August 2020 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of the Dominion Flour Mill Front Fence & Main Gateway (Archway) in the Queensland Heritage Register. The materials came from the Aldershot smelters site in March 1920.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 5.30 PM AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE
With social distancing and by ZOOM (registered with the Society's Office)

AGENDA

1. Opening, Attendance and Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
3. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President
4. Consideration of Audited Annual Financial Statement
5. Election of the President, one Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and 10 Councillors
6. Appointment of Patron of the Society
7. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
8. Consideration of the recommendation by the Society’s Council that Dr Rod Kirkpatrick be elected as a Fellow of the Society and that Mr Dean Prangley be awarded a MacGregor Medal.

Fellowship:

The Society’s Council recommends that Dr Rod Kirkpatrick be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 (d) of the Constitution, for his significant scholarly achievements in Australian newspaper history and the community. Rod Kirpatrick holds a PhD in History (1995) from The University of Queensland. He is the author of 10 books on the history of Australian newspapers including *Sworn to No Master: A History of the Provincial Press in Queensland to 1930* (1984), *Country Conscience: A History of the New South Wales Provincial Press, 1841-1995* (2000), *The Life and Times of Thadeus O’Kane* (2003), *Purposely Parochial: 100 Years of the Country Press in Queensland.* (2008), *The Bold Type: A History of Victoria’s Country Newspapers. 1840-2010* (2010), *A Short History of the Australian Country Press* (2013), and *Dailies in the Colonial Capitals: A Short History* (2016). He is also the author of published articles in History Journals including for the *RHSQ Journal* vol.12 no.1 pp.83-102, contributed chapters to books and has been a member of historical societies throughout Australia. He has been a member of this Society since 1979.

MacGregor Medal:

The Society’s Council recommends that Mr Dean Prangley be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (f) of the Constitution, for his role in the Society as President, Immediate Past President and Councillor, Chair of the Museum Committee and service on the Marketing and Program Committees. His advocacy on behalf of the Society in a variety of forums and with other community groups has advanced the study of history in the Queensland community significantly.

10. Presentation of Award of Centenary Medals to Mr Mick Davis, Mrs Gail Gauld, Mrs Merle Heiner and Mr Michael Strong who have all had significant roles in community history groups and museums in Queensland.
11. Close
12. The Clem Lack Oration will follow the AGM. It will be presented by Mr Stephen Sheaffe AM.

Dr 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 Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 5.30pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane with social distancing and by zoom (by registering with the Society’s Office).

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before close of business on 11 November 2020.

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.

 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:.....

Queensland Day Dinner

In April, the RHSQ advised members that the 2020 Queensland Day Dinner was postponed due to the Coronavirus. We are pleased to announce that the dinner will now be held on Separation Day, Thursday 10 December at The Brisbane Club. Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM, FQA, Chevalier des Palmes Académiques will be the guest speaker. More details are to be found in the attached invitation.

I hope that you will be able to attend.

Maryanne Pender, Councillor

Library and Research Report

Researchers answered the following requests received this month; photos of King Johnny Boat of Deception Bay (Billy Cook) with fishing nets, photos of and information on Moreton House (67 Edward Street, Brisbane City), information on former shop in Hawthorne Rd. Hawthorne, on Knockbrae Homestead, and on family land holdings in the Daintree (NQ) area. Other requests were, confirmation of the exact location of a farm in the Maroochy River area, history and photos of Somerset Dam Village Café, and Scottish actor Walter Bentley's life in late 19th Century Queensland and published historical accounts of that period.

Walter Bentley is little known in Australia today, but he had a long and successful career as a Shakespearean actor in Great Britain, the U.S. and across Australia.



Born Walter Begg in 1849 in Edinburgh, Scotland, Bentley signed on as an apprentice seaman with the White Star Line after his parents disapproved of his ambition to be an actor. After jumping ship in Australia, he worked as a stockman on Robert Towns' station *Calliungal* west of Townsville from 1867 to 1870. He rose to be station manager and around 1869, he was in charge of a cattle droving trip with a team of Aboriginal stockmen, to a property outside Brisbane. Returning to London in 1874, he became a protege of noted Shakespearean actor, Sir Henry Irving, and performed in Shakespeare plays in London, the English provinces and in the United States. In the early 1890s, invited to return to Australia, he acted in Melbourne and regional theatres. After forming his own production company, the Walter Bentley Players, in Sydney, for the following two decades he toured throughout Australia and became recognised as "the premier Shakespearean actor in the country". The company also toured in England, New Zealand and South Africa during these years from its base in Brisbane. After he retired from the stage, Bentley played the major part in the founding of the Australian Actor's Association in 1910. He also established Walter Bentley's College of Elocution and Dramatic Art which later merged with the Australian College of Music to become the [Sydney Academy of Music and Dramatic Art](#). He died aged 77 in Sydney.

The Society thanks the Brisbane History Group for its publication, *Schemes and Dreams*, BHG Papers No.23, and Frances White for a copy of a letter from Surgeon James Murray. He wrote it from a ship landed at Amity Point, Moreton Bay, in 1827, apparently bringing the first female convicts to the Penal Colony.

Upgrading the Library catalogue software has become a matter of some urgency. Useful input from our tech-savvy volunteers has enabled us to refine the requirements for this upgrade and its ongoing cost. RHSQ Council has approved the proposal to employ a cataloguer one morning a week to assist in bringing the Library catalogue up to date.

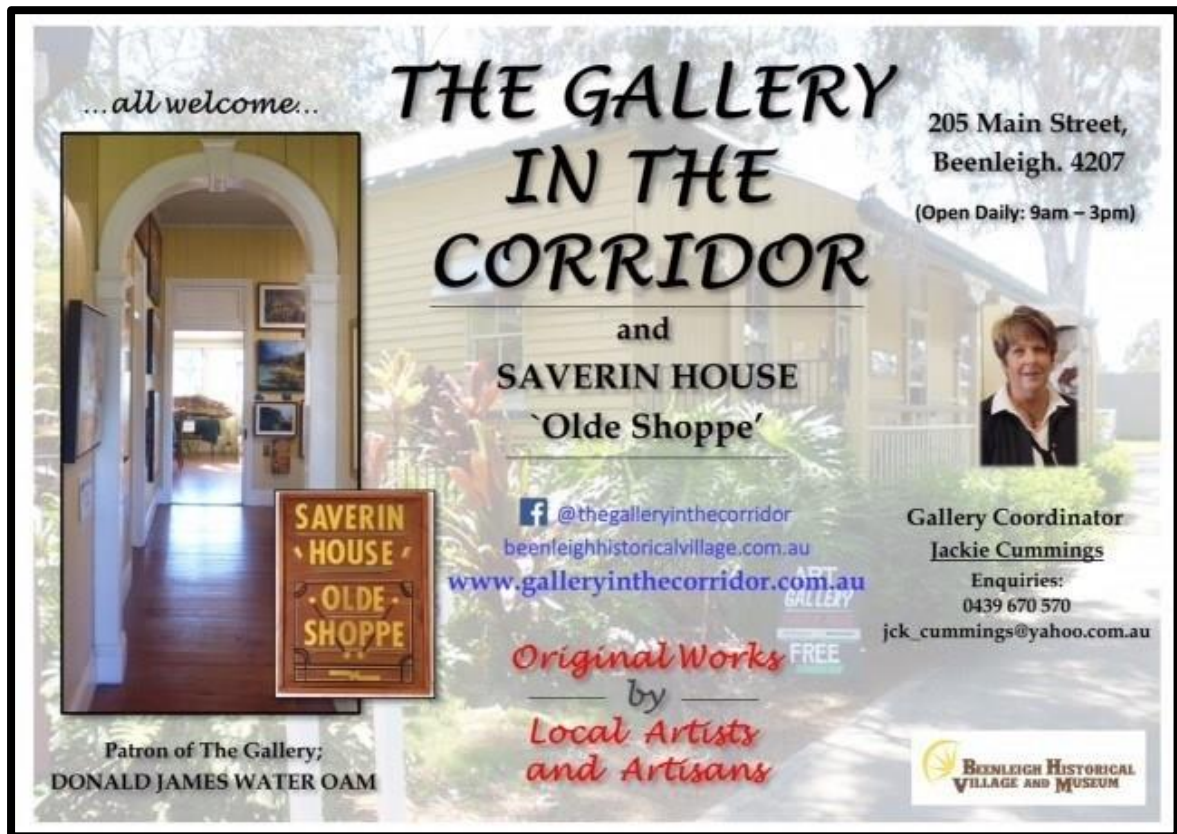
Kay Cohen

HERITAGE

A number of applications have been made in recent months for the removal of places (or part thereof) from the Queensland Heritage Register:

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ipswich on 19 March 2020; *Inverness* House in Toogoolawah on 23 March 2020; and Cairns Railway, Section from Redlynch to Crooked Creek Bridge on 8 April 2020.

On 2 March 2020 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of The Fort at Oxley and on 23 July 2020 the Beaudesert Pig & Calf Saleyard in the Queensland Heritage Register as State Heritage Places.



The Gallery in the Corridor Poster

This Art Gallery and Olde Shoppe are Part of the Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Thursday 8 October, Council Meeting Thursday 15 October, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</p>	

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	<p>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.</p>	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