



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: Dr Denver Beanland AM

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org

GEORGE STREET, BEENLEIGH 1908



JOL Photo BTS003

George Street Beenleigh Looking West.

The building on the left is the Imperial Hotel and the building in the centre with the wrap around verandah is the Sundowner Hotel, previously the Railway Hotel. The building on the immediate right is the Beenleigh Hotel and the Royal Hotel is at the far end on the right. The Imperial Hotel is the only one that has maintained its original name. The Beenleigh Hotel was demolished in 1977.

The photograph was taken at the Five Ways intersection. The railway cut across this intersection after the line was extended from Beenleigh to Southport in 1889.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

This is the last monthly report I will deliver as president. It is a privilege to be appointed to this position and to present a written report every month. Each term as president is for one year with a maximum of three years consecutively. I was first elected in November 2017 thus my three terms expire this month. This is my 33rd written presidents report. This is my second term of three years as president, previously, 1998-2001.

During the month I received a call from the Royal Geographic Society, offering the RHSQ a Dutch coin issued to commemorate the landing of *the Duyfken* on the coast of Cape York in 1606. I accepted this gift on behalf of our Society and it has subsequently arrived.

On the 5 November a telephone meeting was held by John Pearn, Sophie West and I with representatives of the Premiers Department to discuss the Cook Conference being held on 21 November 2020. It was required to ensure we had complied with the terms of the sponsorship agreement. We have so complied. They were informed that the conference has been fully booked out. It will be a great event.

A meeting was also held at our Stafford Archives with members of the Museum Committee and others to view and discuss the condition of the artefacts, including our books and journals. A large number of the books need restoration work and it is clear that many of the objects need to be deaccessioned and the excess journals sold. This is a project for 2021.

On 18 October the Society in conjunction with the Annerley Stephens History Group launched the new publication *Stephens and War*. It was a great event with almost 100 people in attendance. The Society supported the publication of this local history book.

On 12 November the Jeffrey Omara railway exhibition was launched. Members of his family and others came from Gympie and elsewhere for the launch. The exhibition was created in recognition of the wonderful work that Jeff undertook for the Society over many years. He was the book seller at conferences and other events and became the chair of the museum committee. He prepared many exhibitions for the Society.

On Sunday 15 November, a group of our Councillors drove to Brooweena in the old Woocoo Shire, now part of the Fraser Coast Shire to present a Centenary Medal to Gail Gauld for her contribution to local history. She was elected Hon Secretary of the Woocoo Historical Society in 1995 until she was recently elected President. Gail has made a very significant contribution to the study and promotion of local history over the years and has organized many events at the Brooweena Museum. She has also written local history books.

Stephen Sheaffe

Queensland News

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



SLQ Photo 67869)

A 1932 photograph of Nyrabilia House taken from Yabba Street.

Brisbane – *Nyrambla* house at 21 Henry Street, Ascot is for sale through expressions of interest. It was built in 1885 and owned by Andree Daws. Her grandfather, George Willoughby Whatmore bought the house in the 1920s. After he died in 1929 it was converted to flats. During World War II it was requisitioned by Allied Works Council. Under General Douglas MacArthur it became the central bureau for top secret decoding of Japanese radio transmissions until 1945. It is a heritage listed gated home with wrap around verandahs and there are extensive gardens. Callers on ABC Radio Steve Austin's Program on 16 November 2020 advocate that the house and garage be listed on the National Estate Register. (*Courier-Mail* 13 November 2020, p. 19 including four photographs and *Weekend Australian*, 14-15 November 2020, p. 32 including four photographs)

Beaudesert - The Historical Society's AGM was well attended. The new office bearers are: President: Mark Plunkett, Treasurer: Tom Plunkett, and Hon Secretary: Sue Weymouth. Ailsa Rolley will continue to compile *Smoke Signal*. Therese Cahill was thanked for 20 years as Treasurer, Ian Moss for his role as curator and Branda Moss for her years of work on soft furnishings. (*Beaudesert Times*, 21 October 2020, p. 11)

Ipswich - Historian and First Nations registered nurse, Professor Odette Best, at Ipswich Campus of University of Southern Queensland has received \$116,000 to research the stories of Aboriginal women who trained as nurses or midwives from the 1890s to the 1950s. The grant has come through the Australian Research Council's Special Research Initiative Scheme focussing on Australian Society, History and Culture. Aboriginal women were trained as registered nurses well before the 1950s. Professor Best has found that a May Yarrowyck qualified as a midwife in 1906 at Crowne Street Hospital in Sydney and an Aboriginal woman worked as a nurse on the ambulance trains in Belgium and France during World War I. This research challenges the assumption that Aboriginal women could not access education or employment in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Through the study, 13 communities will be visited across Queensland for the research. (*The Fassifern Guardian & Tribune*, 21 October 2020, p. 12 including one photograph)

Heritage

On 16 October 2020 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of Redwood Park, Old Toll Bar Road, Redwood, Toowoomba in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

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.

I hope that you will be able to attend.

Maryanne Pender, Councillor

Library and Research Report

Beth Johnson. We recently received the sad news that Beth, long-time Society member and stalwart of the Library and Research team, has died. Kind and caring, with a great sense of humour, she was a meticulous and efficient researcher. As well as mentoring our young volunteer researchers, she undertook major projects, including preparing the catalogue for past rare book auctions and reading 50 years of Council Minutes to identify memorials and commemorative plaques sponsored by the Society. In 2016, Beth was awarded the MacGregor Medal for services to the Society. Her biography of ancestor Robert Cribb, *From an Iceberg to Brisbane Town*, remains an authoritative account of the 19th Century development of Brisbane, its business enterprises and personalities.

Research enquiries received over the past month were: photos of the 1999-2001 Commissariat Store conservation project; photo and history of 19th Century house in Red Hill, Brisbane; photos of a 19th Century dwelling at the corner of Albert and Elizabeth Streets, Brisbane, for a descendant of the owners; town/lot plans and photos of houses for descendants of 19th Century residents of "Kanaka Town", North Rockhampton; list of sales of buildings and their later location, especially *Auchenflower House*, after Early St. Historical Village, Norman Park, Brisbane, closed; information re the artist who painted the portrait of John Melton Black now in Townsville's Perc Tucker Gallery, people named in a West End School of Arts prize book, pulmonary tuberculosis in Brisbane in 1951, two houses *Craigie Knowe* and *Fairy Knowe* in Kedron/West

Chermside, a house in Greenslopes, Brisbane, Queensland Postal Notes 1880-1910, Bukkulla pastoral run and its owners, the Wyndham family, who were ancestors of poet Judith Wright; the provenance of antique scissors and various small items found in a tool chest; and photos of Sir Samuel and his house *Merthyr*.

Our thanks to the donors of the following items: Bernadette Le Goullan for copies of several “Australia 1888” Bulletins produced for the Australian Bi-Centennial Committee in 1981; Geoff Campbell for 1920s photos of Southport Pier and the Chelmsford Guest House; the Berzinski family, Melbourne, for photos from 1954 of Sunnybank’s Oasis pool, the Moiralan Private Hotel, North Quay, Brisbane and Southport beach.

Sea Memories, Life of Captain John Mackay. According to the author, “the book is about the sea going life of my great grandfather Captain John Mackay (1856 – 1937) who left the Isle of Skye at 15, arriving in Queensland in 1881.” For over 14 years, as Captain of sailing ships, he recruited South Sea Islanders for the Queensland sugar industry. Subsequently he captained AUSN coal-fired steam ships transporting people, mail, equipment and produce from Brisbane to Cooktown. He retired in 1924. While he was at sea, his wife Alexandrina raised their eleven children. He is not the Captain John Mackay after whom the city of Mackay is named. The book presents an interesting insight into north Queensland history, with many illustrations and maps. It is available from the author Dr Robert Staib rstaib@wix.com.au

Kay Cohen

Society Members Visit Brooweena



Lee Beanland Photo

L to R: John Pearn, Ruth Kerr, Gail Gauld, Stephen Sheaffe, Denver Beanland, Gloria Banting, Bill Hughes and Glenda Sheaffe, in front of the windmill at Woocoo Historical Society Museum at Brooweena.

Six members of the Society - Stephen and Glenda Sheaffe, Denver and Lee Beanland, Ruth Kerr and John Pearn - travelled to Brooweena, west of Maryborough for the presentation on 15 November 2020 of one of the Society’s Centenary Medals to Gail Gauld, the President of the Woocoo Historical Society. Around 70 members of the local historical society and friends from surrounding areas and Brisbane attended the

presentation and luncheon at the Woocoo Historical Society Museum. Gloria Banting, the last Mayor of the Woocoo Shire Council, was MC for the function. The history and format of the Centenary Medal was outlined to the gathering by John Pearn and Stephen Sheaffe read the citation and presented the medal. Gail was also presented with Life Membership of the Woocoo Historical Society by a past president, Bill Hughes.

Gail Gauld has made a very significant contribution to the study and promotion of local history in the Brooweena and surrounding areas of the Woocoo Shire, now part of the Fraser Coast Shire. Gail was elected Hon Secretary of the Woocoo Historical Society in 1995 and served in that position continuously until elected President of the Society in 2020. Gail organised many events at the Brooweena Museum over the last 25 years including: Anzac Day Services and Morning teas, Queensland Day Activities for school children, Bi-annual Pioneer Days, Annual over 60s reunions, 2000 and Q150 celebrations, and prepared the Society *Newsletter*. Publication of local history has been an important feature of Gail's work and included Brooweena School Centenary 2004, Lone Graves 2008, a Recipe Book fund raiser, *Tangible Links* 2015 and *Moments in Time* Book 2 in 2020. The *History of Lone Graves in Woocoo Shire and Surrounds 1853-2008* by Gail has been a major publication by the Woocoo Historical Society. Gail has also been vitally involved in collecting, recording and caring for items illustrating life in the Brooweena region and preserving them in the Museum. This has enabled her to promote history and the region in the tourism industry.



Ruth Kerr Photo

Photograph of a section of the people attending the Woocoo Historical Society event for the presentation of the Centenary Medal to Gail Gauld on 15 November 2020.

Talk for December

To be presented by Timothy Roberts on 'Thomas Domville Taylor and Early Days on The Downs'
Please book through Eventbrite [here](#) to register your attendance.

English-born Thomas John Domville Taylor arrived on the Darling Downs by 1842, making him one of the earliest European settlers in the region. While living and working on his property Tummaville, Taylor kept a visual record of the world around him in the form of pencil sketches. Today, these sketches provide some of the earliest insights into life on the Downs. Join art historian Timothy Roberts as he explores Taylor's life in Australia both from historic sources and Taylor's extraordinary drawings.

Timothy Roberts is a professional art historian specialising in Australian art heritage, decorative arts and material culture before 1945. In 2019 he was appointed a Visiting Fellow of the Harry Gentle Resource Centre, Griffith University, to research artistic impressions made in or inspired by the geographical region that would become Queensland in 1859.

The New Council Members for 2020-21 Elected at the AGM on 25 November

President	Dr Denver Beanland AM	Dig Tree Committee Chair
Vice President	Mr Michael Halliday	Membership Committee Chair
Honorary Secretary	Dr Ruth Kerr OAM	Library Manager
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Barrie Rollason	
Councillor	Dr Rebecca Ling	Grants Councillor
Councillor	Prof. John Pearn AO	
Councillor	Ms Maryanne Pender	
Councillor	Ms Janet Prowse	
Councillor	Ms Lise Jackson	
Councillor	Ms Elizabeth Nunn	
Councillor	Mr Daniel Morgan	
Councillor	Mr Dean Prangley	Museum Committee Chair
Councillor	Mr Jeff Brunne	
Councillor	Mrs Ros Lauder	
Immediate Past President	Mr Stephen Sheaffe AM	

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
Tuesday 8 December, Council Meeting Wednesday 9 December, Talk 12.30 pm Thursday 10 December, Separation Day Dinner	Dr Christopher Strakosch Capt. Sir Kasper Kuiper Charlie Maiden	Greenslopes City East Alexandra Hills

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> 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	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.	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