



# RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC  
PSM, Governor of Queensland  
President: Dr Denver Beanland AM  
Website: [www.queenslandhistory.org](http://www.queenslandhistory.org)

## The Annan River Bridge



RHSQ Photo Collection P55616

**Diving team at the Annan River Bridge (or the 3-mile being its distance from Cooktown). The photo, taken in 1889, is one of a series taken by Jack D Goss of Cooktown and surrounding districts. The album was donated to the Society by Brian Stewart in 2008.**

As diving teams are usually associated with deep-sea diving activities, it is unusual to see one operating far from the ocean. In this photo, the team appears to be checking the bridge piles during construction of the Annan River Bridge, begun in 1886. This was possibly because the original screw piling technique adopted had been found to be unsuitable for the site. The bridge was officially opened in February 1889 and provided an important transport link between Cooktown and the Palmer River goldfields, and the Ross and Bloomfield areas. On completion, at 336 metres, it was the third longest metal girder bridge in Australia. A 5.6-metre-wide timber decking was laid on the girders. One innovative feature was the specially-designed collapsible,

hinged railings. Laid flat, they reduced the risk of damage to the bridge from river-borne debris. Over time, the railings were removed, the timber roadway was modified and the pier headstocks encased in concrete. By the late 1990s, high maintenance costs and negligible through traffic put the bridge's future in doubt, but it remains in use, giving access to popular boating and fishing areas along the river. The Annan River Bridge was entered on the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992. (QHR No. 600417).

## President's Report

Congratulations to our very own editor of the *Bulletin* newsletter Dr Graeme Alexander Nicholson OAM who received a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to community history and safety. Graeme, well deserved.

Members are reminded that it is membership renewal time. I believe that all members would have received a notice, with many already renewing. The Society, a volunteer not-for-profit volunteer organisation relies on its members to enable the continuation of its many, functions, responsibilities and activities

Volunteers are sought to staff the Commissariat Store Museum for Open House which this year will be held on Saturday 27 August and Sunday 28 August, the last week end in August. Anyone wishing to assist should telephone or email our manager Katrina at [info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au) or on 32214198 providing details of availability and contact number. The RHSQ's representative to Brisbane Living Heritage recently advised the Council that the organisation no longer has 'Network' attached to the end of the name. It is simply known now as Brisbane Living Heritage.

The Society does not hold a Wednesday Lecture in August as it falls on the Exhibition Wednesday Holiday. The next Wednesday Lecture will be by John Browning entitled 'Local Government, Private and Industrial Railways in Queensland History' I will be on 14 September at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane and bookings are through Eventbrite. Members and Non-members are asked to book their seats.

Members are reminded that the Society have a range of history and other books on sale at very competitive prices. The Society still has a supply of both Lost Brisbane 1 and Lost Brisbane 2 which are currently on sale. Meanwhile, both the Library Committee and the Museum Committee continue to be hard and effectively at work upgrading the digitisation of their respective areas.

A new display is currently on floor one called 'Mystery Objects'. It is worthwhile going and testing your skills in a small competition that is run in conjunction.

Congratulations to Dan Morgan convenor of the half-day conference 'Centenary of the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Queensland. Also, a special thanks to the guest speakers, Dan Morgan, Ian Callinan AC QC, Michael Halliday, Chris Dawson, Jess Parker and Stephen Sheaffe and the RHSQ functions co-ordinator Glenda Sheaffe for her exceptional morning tea. A stimulating and enjoyable time was had by all.

Members are reminded for further information on any RHSQ event or other activity, they should go to the RHSQ, Commissariat Store Museum or the [digtree.com.au](http://digtree.com.au) websites

I look forward to seeing members and visitors at forthcoming events.

Denver Beanland  
President.

## Queensland Report

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

**Bundaberg** - On 6 July 2022 the Department of Environment and Science (the Department) received an application proposing entry of the Anzac Park Memorial Pool (formerly the site of The Returned Soldiers' Memorial Baths), 19 Quay Street, Bundaberg in the Queensland Heritage Register (Heritage Register) as a State Heritage Place.

**Gympie** – In partnership with [Queensland Rail](http://Queensland Rail), the Mary Valley Rattler has been the custodian of the C17 Locomotive 974 known as the 'Brown Bomber' since 2018. It is now due to return to the QR Heritage workshop for its routine 5-year major inspection. Locomotive 974 left the Gympie Workshop during the week of the 20 June 2022. The return of the Locomotive to Brisbane was conducted by QR themselves. The 'Brown Bomber' was supported by Diesel Locomotives and was not in steam as it ran down the mainline to Brisbane. The Mary Valley Rattler operates on one of only a few operating heritage railway branch lines left on Queensland. (Mary Valley Rattler Face Book page).



Paul Shepherd Photo

### The 'Brown Bomber' C17 Locomotive 974

**Toowoomba** – Emeritus Professor Maurice French and his wife Judy Brewer has written and published two volumes on hotels and licensees in Toowoomba since the 1840s. It was launched at the Stock Hotel in Anzac Parade, Harristown on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June with approx. 60 people attending. Two members of RHSQ, Margaret Deacon of Gold Coast and Ruth Kerr attended. During the proceedings a Watco train of grain wagons trundled past the hotel loudly going west.

**Toowoomba** – The Toowoomba *Chronicle* featured a photograph of a vice regal rail coach used by the Governor Sir John Goodwin on touring trips in Queensland in its issue on 29 June 2022 (page 18).

### RECOLLECTIONS OF ARCHER PARK STATION AND ROCKHAMPTON'S OTHER STATIONS

By Jack Ford

It has been noted that the 1899 Archer Park Station closed during the 1970s. Unsurprisingly, *WIKIPEDIA* has got it wrong by claiming that it closed in 1990. The confusion lies in the use of the term "closed". To Qld Rail, "closed" seems to mean when a site no longer belongs to QR. To most people, "closed" indicates when a site is no longer open to usage. Thus, QR donated the small Archer Park Station property to the Rockhampton City Council on 1990 but this station had been closed to rail activity for many decades before this.

I lived and grew-up in Rockhampton from 1966-81. After my father died in May 1966, (my mother had died previously in 1963), I was taken from my Mt Gravatt home, to go & live with my maternal grandmother in 'Rocky'. In May 1966, we caught an old, wooden train north to Rockhampton and we detrained at the old 1886 South Rockhampton Station.



Source: [www.odysseytraveller.com/articles/historic-railway-stations-of-rockhampton-queensland/](http://www.odysseytraveller.com/articles/historic-railway-stations-of-rockhampton-queensland/)

My grandmother and I then walked from that railway station (above) and around the outskirts of the rail yards before walking down South Street, where my grandmother lived at Depot Hill.

For the first three years (1966-69), we would catch the train to Yeppoon, during the annual December/January school holidays. We would catch a taxi to the entrance to the South Rockhampton Station's Stanley Street entrance. I remember that this car park was set amongst other QR buildings so that the railway station was a part of the larger Rockhampton Rail Workshops. My grandmother and I would always leave from the nearby South Rockhampton Station. I have no recollection of the train ever entering Archer Park Station. North of Archer Park Station was the most exciting part of this rail trip, when we crossed the Fitzroy River on the steel-truss 1889 Alexandra Bridge. From there the train would turn right and head towards the

only other passenger station, which was the 1888 North Rockhampton Station. The train would stop there and we would sometimes collect my cousins before continuing the rail trip to Yeppoon Station.

QR began to construct a replacement South Rockhampton Station at the start of the 1970s. I recall exploring and playing in that construction site, with many of the other local kids. This new station was opened on 24 August 1973. It was from the new station that I finally got to visit my sister in Brisbane, in 1975, by utilising my QR Student Discount (15%, I think?). While a tertiary student at the then Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education (now CQU), I lived in a share



house at 188 Archer Street, up the road from Archer Park Station during 1977-78. I enlisted in the Army Reserve's 42nd Battalion, which had its barracks fronting Archer Street but beside the Archer Park Station, in 1978. Every Tuesday night, we reservists used to park our cars outside the front entrance to that station before going onto parade. That station looked unused, with overgrown grass in its small car park. During those years of 1977 to 1981, the Archer Park Station was always closed and fenced-off and I never once saw any activity in its small rail yard (basically the length of the platform).

In May 1981, I was employed as a casual labourer engaged on render removal on the windowsills during the construction of the new Railway Administration Building. It opened on 10 November 1982. This was built near the end of Murray Street, beside the rail workshops, as the South Rockhampton Station remained the only viable passenger station, after the Rockhampton to Yeppoon rail passenger service had closed (c1970?).

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockhampton\\_railway\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockhampton_railway_station)



Source: [www.aurizon.com.au/news/2017/aurizon-announces-investment-in-regions](http://www.aurizon.com.au/news/2017/aurizon-announces-investment-in-regions)

## Library and Research Report

Research queries for the past month were as follows: information on a woman who worked on a property Bullamon near Mungindi in late 1870s; storeman who worked in the Bond Store, Brisbane, in the mid-1800s; copy of S E Pearson paper "In the Kalkadoon Country"; history of a piano displayed at Beenleigh Historical Village; confirmation of International Exhibition held in Brisbane in 1897; and Edmund Lockyer's diary of his 1825 expedition up the Brisbane River.

Visitors: Richard Clarke consulted the diary kept by his great-grandfather, ER Drury, on his voyage of emigration to Australia. It was part of the late Dr Drury Clarke's papers recently donated to the RHSQ Library. The story and photos of copies of the Torres Strait Pilot and Papuan Village newspapers held in the library highlighted in last month's *Bulletin* attracted the attention of Anna Shnukal. She visited the library to see an actual copy of a paper she had heard about but never seen. Anna is a long-time, well-known and highly-regarded specialist on the history and peoples of the Torres Strait and adjacent areas of PNG. Some time ago, she did a useful service for the library. Attempting to transcribe the faded entries in the 1867-76 Somerset Water Police Log, we were having difficulty deciphering the names of vessels and their skippers. Anna provided the library with a transcript of the entries, which ran to 30 typed pages. This transcript and the Water Police Log have since been digitised.

Donation: thanks to Patrick Collins for the donation of the updated edition of his book *Goodbye Bussamarai: the Mandandanji land war Southern Queensland 1842-1852*

Kay Cohen

**Exhibition Launch of Mystery Objects at The Commissariat  
By Sophie West**

**Thursday, 1 September, the first day of spring, from 5.30 to 7.00 pm  
It will take the form of a wine and cheese and all members of the RHSQ are invited for a Meet  
and Greet of like-minded members of the Society. Bookings on Eventbrite as usual.**

## Call for articles for the *Qld History Journal*

After the positive response to the November 2021 issue of the *QHJ* on the ‘Visual Arts of Queensland’, I thought I might ‘test the water’ by suggesting an issue focussed on ‘The Home and the Domestic World’. There could be members (perhaps you?) whose research interests cover topics such as: Making a home in the bush; Whatever happened to domestic skills?; Banishing the sunroom and the development of the family room; Creativity and the growth of hobbies; Collecting interests; Social gatherings: Patio to the fire pit; Musical interludes; Singing around the piano to media rooms; Developing a sense of the individual and privacy in the home; Revival of the veggie garden; Shifts in interior decoration, style and colour in the home; and Rise of the ‘man cave’ and ‘men’s sheds’. The topics are endless. You could email me at [racoontoo@gmail.com](mailto:racoontoo@gmail.com) with your ideas and we can arrange a chat!

Glenn R Cooke: Curator at the Qld Art Gallery, 1981-2013; RHSQ member; and convenor of authors for the November 2021 *QHJ*.

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>AUGUST/SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p><b>Wednesday 10 August, No Talk</b>  <b>Thursday 11 August, Council Meeting.</b>  <b>Monday 15 August, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.</b>  <b>Wednesday 14 September, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30,</b>  ‘Local Government, Private and Industrial Railways in Queensland History’ by John Browning.</p>	<p><b>Brisbane City Council</b>  <b>Walter Blake (Auchenflower)</b>  <b>Michael Fletcher (Ashgrove)</b>  <b>Lorelle Pacello (Bridgeman Downs)</b>  <b>Ian Bates (Cooroy)</b>  <b>Dan Morgan (Hendra)</b>  <b>Ethan Clark-Kistowski (Red Hill)</b>  <b>Hannah Orchard (Birkdale)</b>  <b>Leigh Chamberlain (Toowong)</b></p>

Contact Details	Bulletin Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Katrina Rose	Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson OAM	Ordinary Member: \$ 75.00
ABN: 34 217 251 028	A/Editor: Gloria Nicholson	Partner of Member: \$ 25.00
Phone: 07 3221 4198	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Junior Member (U18): \$ 13.00
Fax: 07 3221 4698	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Full-time Student (U25): \$ 38.00
email: <a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>	email: <a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>	Affiliated Society: \$ 63.00
website: <a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org">www.queenslandhistory.org</a>	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.	Library Member: \$ 75.00
Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane, George Street, 4003		Corporate member: \$ 315.00
		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00