



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

REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR 1914-18



RHSQ Digital Photo P53413

Camels at Cloncurry November 1916

Photos of camels often show a laden camel train silhouetted against the sky traversing rough, arid outback country. This photo is unusual in that it shows camels at rest in a paddock outside Cloncurry, their packs unloaded and strewn over the ground around them.

The Imperial Camel Corps Brigade was formed in 1916 from British and Commonwealth troops and was attached to the Anzac Mounted Division. There were four regiments: the 1st and 3rd were Australian, the 2nd was British, and the 4th was a mix of New Zealanders and Australians. Each regiment had around 770 men, and at full strength the brigade contained almost 4,000 camels.

In 1917 the brigade took part in the fighting at Gaza and Beersheba in Palestine. By the following year the country's harsh terrain had made the camels less effective than horses. No longer needed, the Australian cameliers were transferred to the light horse.

LEST WE FORGET

President's Report

Members are reminded that on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 5.30 pm the Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane, to be followed by the Clem Lack Oration with our guest speaker Dr Margaret Kowald who is the editor of the Society's *Queensland History Journal*. The title of her topic is: *Queensland's struggle against rabbits: How far have we come?* All members of the Society and friends are invited to attend. We ask those wishing to attend to book their seats through the RHSQ website under 'Events' on 'Eventbrite'.

On 9 November at 12.30 pm the next Wednesday Lecture will be by Pam Verney speaking on the restoration of Atkin Monument. Learn more about Robert Travers Atkin and Lord Atkin's restoration of the monument and the story of Lord Atkin, a leading jurist. Again, those wishing to attend are reminded to book through 'Eventbrite'.

At 6.00 pm on Friday 2 December the Society will be launching its Muriel MacDiarmid pottery collection exhibition for which the Society is producing a catalogue. MacDiarmid was a leading Queensland potter and the RHSQ is fortunate to be holding so many of her pieces in our Museum Collection that we can hold an exhibition. Again, members wishing to attend are reminded to book on 'Eventbrite.' The RHSQ appreciates the grant funding provided by the Brisbane City Council for this event.

The RHSQ will be holding its famous Separation Day Celebrations again this year on Saturday 10 December, between 6.00 pm and 7.30 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, City. Our guest speaker is Dr Katie McConnel speaking on Lady Diamantina Bowen, the wife of the first Governor George Bowen GCMG PC. Again, those wishing to attend are reminded to book on 'Eventbrite.'

The RHSQ's monthly talk on Wednesday 14 December at 12.30 pm. will be Dr Betty Lee speaking on Commander Eric Feldt OBE and the Coast Watchers. This will be the Society's last event for the year. Again, those wishing to attend are reminded to book on 'Eventbrite.'

The RHSQ publication *James Cook in Queensland* was launched by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD on Thursday 13 October. Her Excellency, the RHSQ's Patron, had been invited to visit the Commissariat Store for an inspection on that day. This event was well attended. Her Excellency presented to the Society a framed certificate of Patronage as the Patron of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland. It was a delightful day in which Her Excellency both inspected the Commissariat Store Museum and Library and launched the publication. The Society appreciates Her Excellency's interest in its activities. Those wishing to purchase a copy should contact the Society.

The RHSQ appreciates the work of Stephen Sheaffe AM and Professor John Pearn AO RFD who convened the Cook in Queensland 250-year Symposia that led to this book and the RHSQ's four editors of the work. In addition, we thank the authors and those who assisted in funding the publication of the book. Also, we thank Glenda Sheaffe for providing another fantastic Morning Tea for the occasion. 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)

Almaden – A 2020 trip on the Savannahlander train which runs from Cairns to Forsayth has brought a family and the Almaden town, 170 kms west of Cairns, together. Father and daughter Don and Marion Lawie, from Babinda, were travelling on the Savannahlander train when it stopped in Almaden for the night. They visited the cemetery and saw the grave of a Nellie Ryan who died on 29 March 1904. The gravestone erected reads: "Though from us you have flown but, in our memory, you never forgotten shall be, while your grave marks the spot near that white blossomed tree". It is said the entire town turned out for her funeral.

A report in the *Wild River Times* newspaper (published in Herberton) on 20 April 1904 stated that Nellie Ryan's was the first funeral in Almaden, a station on the Mareeba to Chillagoe railway, that she was 25 years old, was from Georgetown and died of tuberculosis (described in the newspaper as consumption). It was reported that she had consulted Dr. Bacot in Townsville who held out no hope other than to return to dry climate of the Etheridge Goldfield. The newspaper stated that she was so exhausted on reaching Almaden that she was carried to Wieland's Hotel where she died at 9pm on 29 March. John Prince, engine driver for EB Torpy of Chillagoe, made a cedar coffin. All the residents of Almaden assembled at the grave next morning

at 11am. Rev. RR Greenwood who was passing through read the funeral service. The coffin was covered with a wreath in the shape of a cross, made from white flowers from the bush. Mining Warden Haldane also passing through gave the order for the burial.

The Lawies made a commitment that evening to do something about Nellie Ryan's grave and the mysterious white blossom tree. They saw the native bauhinia (*Lysiphyllum hookeri*) growing at Mount Surprise. On 28 September 2022 the Lawies joined residents, tourism operators, and descendants of the Ryan family to plant four *Lysiphyllum hookeri* trees in Nellie's honour at the cemetery, caravan park, railway station, and outside the local hotel. "The trees are for Nellie, who we believe is an ambassador of people who care for other people and for outback hospitality," Ms Lawie says. While researching information about Nellie Ryan, the Lawies found distant relatives still living in far north Queensland. And while Nellie did not have any children, the descendants of her nieces and nephews made the trip to Almaden to witness the tree plantings.

Local historian Dell Childs discovered she was related to Nellie Ryan soon after the Lawies put a call out for relatives. "Nellie is the sister of my great-grandmother and after doing a bit of research we found out quite a bit of information. Nellie was born on the Darling Downs, but then the family moved around, starting in Normanton and then Georgetown and, at the age of 10, she lost her own mother, who died during childbirth. While she did not marry or have children, she did have five brothers and sisters and we believe that there are now a few hundred descendants from the Ryan family and seven of them are here today," she says.

(<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/how-a-gravestone-clue-about-a-flowering-bush-led-to-a-family-reunion-in-almaden/ar-AA12umk3> - 2 October 2022 including photograph; *Wild River Times*, 20 April 1904.)

Beenleigh - The Historical Village has a new Print Shop, thanks to the passionate work of member, Des Cater. The 130 square metre building has a guillotine, two type setting machines, for printing machines, a trimming saw, a hand operated proof press and 120 cases of hardset type. The new building was specifically designed to house this equipment. The liaison person for the print shop, Jaye Rose, stated that her favourite print shop show piece is Pearl, a 1930s treadle-operated press. (*My City Logan*, 4-10 October 2022, p. 6)

Biggenden – The Wall of Fame and Pioneer Walk 2 was opened on 24 September 2022 at Beier's Park in Edward Street, Biggenden. A local history book, *Her Story: a walk in her shoes: stories from Women of the North Burnett ... from a Bygone Era* by Rensina van den Heuvel has been published through Genesis Publishing.

Cooktown – After Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's recent death Cooktown people laid flowers around the three concrete steps beside the Endeavour River in Cooktown which were constructed for the Queen to disembark from a boat in order to visit Cooktown and open the new museum in the Convent building in 1970. The Cook Shire Council plans to place an interpretative sign near the steps indicating their purpose. (Pers. Comm. by Cr Marilyn Morris, Cook Shire Council, 13 October 2022)

Herberton Heritage Railway - Mount Emerald Wind Farm have been great supporters of the Herberton railway and once again they have given funding of \$5335 to purchase a new compressor. The volunteers are very grateful. The new one has made workshop projects much faster. Coal has arrived from Clermont, all 23 tonnes of it. Glencore has donated 10 tonnes of the truck load. It is interesting that the association's two Pecketts worked for many years on the Mount Isa Mines lease which is now owned by Glencore. 1069 was MIM No 1 and 1174 was MIM No 2 until they were decommissioned in approx. 1954. (*Herberton Heritage Railway Newsletter*, September 2022)

Maryborough – Society member, Mervyn Vockler died recently. He and Peter Olds, engineer, were featured in an article in the February 2021 *Bulletin*. Mervyn bought the nameplate of the Mary Ann locomotive from a friend in the Gympie area about 20 years ago. He donated it to the Whistlestop museum in Maryborough at which Peter Olds runs the Mary Ann locomotive in December 2020. The nameplate was later mounted to the back of the Mary Ann replica with a plaque noting its donation. This was unveiled in March 2021. (Reminiscences by Merv Vockler's sister, Marilyn Jensen of Maryborough, 9 October 2022)

Nambour – Mrs Audienne Blyth of Yandina Historical Society has written a brief history of Nambour Police Station in *Your Time Magazine* for September 2022 (page 14). The first police building on the Sunshine Coast was a gold escort station at Yandina in 1868. A police station was opened at Cobbs Camp (Woombye) in 1874 and a court house in 1887. In 1897 the Moreton Sugar Mill was opened in Nambour and a police station was opened in a private residence in Currie Street, Nambour that year. The court proceedings were held in the School of Arts building until the Woombye court house was relocated there in 1898. A purpose-built police station was opened in Nambour in 1910. It operated until 1963 when a new station and courthouse was opened. Extensions were added in 2006. An American Military Police Unit operated in the backyard of the police station in World War II. The old courthouse building was removed to Petrie Park and it burnt down

in 1982. The 1910 police station building was removed to Petrie Park and it burnt down in 1997. The 1910 police station lock-up was moved to Burnside Street Scout Den and then to Pacific Paradise.

Vale Spencer Routh OAM

25.07.1935 – 25.09.2022

Spencer Routh was appointed the first Reference Librarian for the University of Queensland Central Library in 1959. For many RHSQ members and countless UQ students (myself included), he will be remembered as never being too busy to be of assistance and an invaluable help in navigating the resources of the Library. Some years ago, to further my MA thesis research, he wrote a reference which achieved the almost impossible feat of gaining access for me to the London School of Economics Library where I had no student status. Spencer had many interests, from sport of all types to opera, and was a long-term member of the Australian Dictionary of Biography Queensland Working Party. Throughout his life he made an invaluable contribution to Queensland scholarship and culture. See also, www.slq.qld.gov.au blog 'Spencer Routh' which includes an interview with Christina Ealing-Goldbold.

Kay Cohen

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 5.30 PM AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE

AGENDA

1. Opening, Attendance and Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2021 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 Mr William Kitson be elected as a Fellow of the Society. Mr William (Bill) Kitson has been a member of the Society since March 1984 and has contributed enormously to the scholarship of Queensland history in his particular field of surveying history. He has presented many historical presentations on surveying to Society conferences, the most recent being on 12 February 2022. He also wrote a history with Dr Judith McKay on the history of surveying in Queensland. He has been a great encourager of Queenslanders studying local history when he has given innumerable public lectures relating to surveying. When in the Queensland public service Bill established the Mapping and Surveying Museum from which he could educate the public in the subject of surveying history.
10. Presentation of Award of Centenary Medals to Beenleigh and District Historical Society, Woodford Historical Society and Ms Audienne Blyth of the Yandina Historical Society.
11. Presentation of Certificates to Society volunteers: Mr Richard Hunt, Mr Dion Rowe and Mrs Jeff Zayer.
12. Presentation of Certificates to Members of the Society of more than 50 years standing: Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division), Mr William Heaslop; Beaudesert Historical Society, Ms Judith Weedon, Ipswich Historical Society, Warwick Historical Society, Dr Ian and Mrs Margaret Marsh, Queensland Women's Historical Society, Mr Robert Williams, Dr John and Mrs Susan Slaughter, Mr Ian McConachie OAM.
13. Any other business notified in terms of the Constitution.
14. Close:

The Clem Lack Oration will follow the AGM. It will be presented by Dr Margaret Kowald on the topic: *Queensland's struggle against rabbits: How far have we come?*

Dr Ruth Kerr,
Honorary 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 Thursday, 17 November 2022 at 5.30pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane with social distancing.

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before close of business on 3 November 2022.

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:

Library and Research Report

Thanks to RHSQ Councillor Ros Lauder for passing on this link. North Queensland historian Trish Fielding did the research. Many of you will be familiar with these pen names and will have enjoyed their stories of events in their particular districts. The gossipy columns by ‘Tramp’ in the Cummins & Campbell magazine were especially entertaining. The RHSQ Library holds a bound volume of 300 Cummins & Campbell issues, in addition to numerous extracts containing stories relating to specific Queensland districts. <https://northqueenslandhistory.blogspot.com/2022/09/a-penchant-for-pen-names.html?fbclid=IwAR3dMvyd8hgDicyPRZiqqscVfhOS6RxBG1K86vGNdz3UWd2vjew-Hz02EPI>

Research enquiries received were; seeking a copy of a talk former Native Police Inspector and Police Magistrate Ernest Eglinton gave to the RHSQ (then the Historical Society) in December 1920; verification of a story re an unpaid debt relating to Queensland Administrator and Legislative Councillor, Sir Maurice O’Connell; copy of a 1937 photograph of the Royal Hotel, Queen St.; places in Queensland named after Lord Raglan; removal of petrol rationing in Queensland after World War Two; information on Narcisse Pelletier’s stay in Somerset in 1875; information on artefacts excavated during Cross River Rail works at Woolloongabba; date of the formation of the Queensland Marine Defence Force.

Donations: Offer of slides of 1950s Brisbane and the Gold Coast; past RHSQ president Michael White has donated a collection of books on Queensland history. In the past few years, the library has on occasions received gifts of books as people downsize their personal libraries and are keen for them to have an appropriate home. These gifts take some time to process and register them on the library catalogue.

A new project is being undertaken by our very reduced volunteer team. Archive boxes water-damaged owing to a serious leak from the overhead air-conditioner are gradually being replaced. With each of these, contents are being verified against catalogue entries and a list of contents posted on the outside of the relevant box. On occasions, archive box contents have not been the same as listed in the catalogue. The error has usually only been discovered when a research query has led us to a specific archive box. Otherwise, those items would have remained lost.

More on the Mystery of the Mining Stretcher Photo

Further to Michael Brumby's comments in last month's Bulletin Michael commented that he did know the photo was taken at Charters Towers but concluded it was taken elsewhere because of the poinciana tree. He has subsequently received calls from ambulance experts. The most relevant was the following information from John Stibbs from the Charters Towers Ambulance Museum. "That is Supt. T W Treacy's patented mining retrieval stretcher (mine accidents) called the Scott Treacy stretcher. Scott was an honorary officer who worked with Treacy. Treacy is to the left wearing the Ambulance cap." The photo was probably taken in the Ambulance yard. Thank you to everyone for their input into solving the mystery of the photo.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Wednesday 9 November, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30, Talk, Pam Verney speaking on the restoration of Atkin Monument. Booking and more information here.</p> <p>Thursday 10 November, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Tuesday 15 November, Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>Thursday 17 November, 5.30 pm, AGM followed by the Clem Lack Oration. The Clem Lack Oration will be on 'Queensland's struggle against rabbits: How far have we come?' by Guest Speaker Dr Margaret Kowald</p>	<p>Cliff Pollard (Redcliffe QLD)</p> <p>Luke Kirkwood (Moorooka QLD)</p> <p>Jill Wright (Holland Park QLD)</p>

Contact Details	Bulletin Articles Only	Subscriptions
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email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 63.00
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.	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