

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

Position Available:

DIG TREE RANGER

A permanent part time position as Caretaker/ Ranger for the Dig Tree Reserve, camping ground and associated facilities. This position is seasonal and busiest in the cooler months during peak tourist season from April until end September.

The successful applicant will be responsible for duties involving supervision of the historical features and information shelter, some collection of fees, management and cleaning of camping amenities and airfield and maintenance of the Cooper Creek designated reserve area.

A part time job could also be available at the station as camp cook during quieter times.

This position would ideally suit an active semi-retired, trustworthy, tidy, and enthusiastic person of sober habits willing to fit in with the Dig Tree tourists and also employees on a busy cattle station.

Single accommodation or shaded caravan site with access to facilities and all meals provided by Nappa Merrie Station. Vehicle supplied for work purposes.

Apply in writing to: Dig Tree Caretaker Position, PO BOX 616, Goondiwindi, 4390 or email kim@morellaag.com.au with details and phone number. References required

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President's Report

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland greatly appreciates Queensland X-Ray's generous sponsorship of \$5000 for the restoration of two of the Society's paintings. The paintings are H Strongtharm Wilkinson's painting of 'Amity' the home of Thomas Welsby and Frances Vida Lahey's painting of 'View of

Brisbane'. Once the paintings have been refurbished, with new frames, they will be placed on display. The Society would welcome other individuals or firms/companies to contact the Society should they wish to contribute to the restoration of the Society's art collection or other artefacts. As members would be aware Dr Judith McKay in her 'Significance Assessment of the Museum Collection' states that "the RHSQ has outstandingly significant library and museum collections." We welcome private or public sponsorship for restoration of our collection. Also, the RHSQ thanks Tracie Dornbusch, Chair of the Marketing and Membership Committee for her work in securing this sponsorship from Queensland X-Ray.

As members are aware The Royal Historical Society of Queensland is the Trustee of the Dig Tree Reserve on the bank of Cooper Creek in far western Queensland. We are currently having difficulty to attract a Ranger for the site. An advertisement appears elsewhere for the position which is also on thedigtree.com.au website. The DIG TREE RANGER'S position is a permanent part time position for a Caretaker/ Ranger for the Dig Tree Reserve, camping ground and associated facilities. The role can be fulfilled in a number of ways. Anyone interested should contact the Society.

On Friday 10 February I presented the Centenary Medal on behalf of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland to the Beenleigh and District Historical Society at a special function, which they organised. The Society is not only an historical society but also operates the Beenleigh Heritage Village at 205 Main Street, Beenleigh with a large group of volunteers. The Village is well worth a visit if you have not been there.

The Wednesday Lecture 8 March will be delivered by Dr Bill Metcalf on the topic "Brisbane: Utopians Dreams & Dystopian Nightmares". Bill Metcalf is well known to many as the author of some 11 scholarly books and many articles. The talk will be about communes and utopian visions for Brisbane that are probably not known to many. Between 1880 and 1920s some imagined 'utopian Brisbane' as the centre of the civilised world while others imagined 'dystopian Brisbane' to be utterly destroyed and abandoned. Bookings are essential on the website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite', with a small charge for non-members.

Our first conference for the year will be entitled 'Turning the Pages: History of Major Libraries in Queensland' to be held on Saturday 11 March 2023 commencing at 9.25 am with registration from 9.00 am at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane. Papers will be given on the Fryer Library of The University of Queensland, the John Oxley Library of the State Library of Queensland, the Welsby Library of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, and the Queensland Parliamentary Library established in 1860. Again, details of the speakers and program are on the RHSQ website under 'Events'. Bookings for all events is essential on the website under 'Events' through "Eventbrite" Members and non-members are welcome at all of these events.

I look forward to meeting 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)

Cairns Historical Society and Museum – Executive Officer, Dr Sandi Robb, reported on the plans for the Society this year: 'The Image, Archive and Research team have consolidated under the one banner of the Research Centre which takes care of both the public interface when members and visitors come into the centre to look for information and photographs, as well as manage the daily duties associated with the small teams of volunteers who work in archives, image and collection care ... Volunteers in the Image department are always busy working on their program of adding information to our database, making corrections and going through a myriad of CD's to cross check if the material on them is in our system! We currently have over 43,000 images in our system!

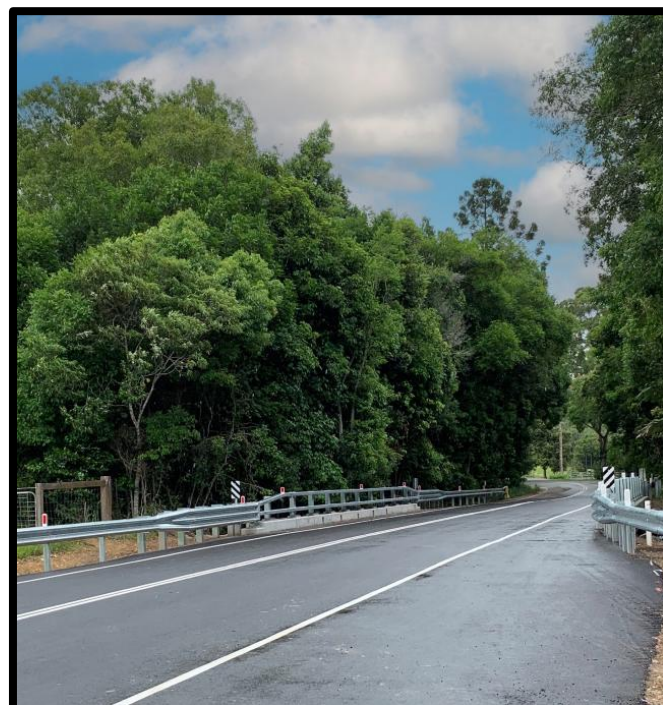
In the Archives, managers are Dr Jan Wegner and Dr Nicky Horsfall. Volunteers continue to work hard on the usual range of tasks, which include database operations, scanning paper documents, indexing books, transcribing handwritten documents into print, sorting the material in a large collection, and answering public research inquiries. There is currently a PhD student, Janine Evans, helping the CHSM with selection of interesting Historical stories and images to form part of our social media posts.' (Cairns Historical Society *Newsletter*, vol. 28, issue 1, January 2023, p.2)



Cairns Museum Photo

The Cairns Historical Society and Museum

Cooroy – A new bridge has been constructed over five months on Cooroy – Belli Creek Road at a cost of \$1.3 million. It replaces one opened in 1929 and which was the oldest bridge maintained by the Noosa Shire Council. There was an earlier bridge opened on 1914 and known locally as the Victory bridge. (*Cooroy Rag*, 21 December 2022, p. 4 and *Your Local Lifestyle*, December 2022, p. 35)



Star News Group Photo

Traffic is now free to move over the completed Cooroy Belli Creek Bridge.

Maryborough, Wide Bay and Burnett Historical Society is located in the multi-storied heritage School of Arts Building and has 24 members. The School of Arts Library books are still on the shelves. Mr Ken Brooks is the president. They have a very active research group and have museum displays on the ground floor. There are many cultural organisations in Maryborough given its heritage character and rail history. (Personal visit on 3 February 2023)



Maryborough, Wide Bay and Burnett Historical Society Photo

The Society Building and Interior

Murgon – Kilkivan Rail Trail Funding - \$631,141 has been received to repair and upgrade the rail trail of the former Theebine – Kilkivan – Murgon railway line. This was a joint Federal and State funded grant to repair flood damaged community infrastructure. The Murgon end in particular is significantly damaged and Council has constructed a detour to keep the trail open. This funding was approved under the Community and Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience Program being administered by the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport. This funding allocation is part of a \$75 million jointly funded Australian and Queensland Government initiative to assist in the clean-up and repair of community and recreational assets damaged by the natural disaster events of financial year 2021-22. (*Murgon Moments*, issue 194, December 2022, pp. 6,13)



Qld Gov Photos

The Murgon – Kilkivan Rail trail

Library and Research Report

Here is another usual photo from the RHSQ digital photo collection. Do you know what it is?



RHSQ Photo P53377

The photo shows a van equipped with a gas bag on its roof to provide fuel to reduce petrol consumption. Taken in a Brisbane Street c. 1944.

Petrol was rationed in Australia during WW2 and most people were not able to obtain petrol so they put their cars up on blocks in the garage for the duration. In some cases, vehicle owners donated their batteries and tyres to the army.

Some vehicle owners installed gas producers on their vehicles. Gas producers used a fuel made from wood ash or charcoal which was produced by burning large chunks of wood. The engine power delivered by the product of a gas producer was not very good.

The first time petrol rationing was enforced in Australia was in October 1940, a little over twelve months after the commencement of the war. Although the cuts were not very drastic, petrol was rationed with privately owned cars being restricted to travelling the equivalent of about 5000 km a year. This measure, however, had little impact on most people's lives until the restrictions were considerably tightened the following year commencing at the beginning of April 1941 when replenishment stocks from overseas supplies became increasingly difficult to procure.



Photos: - Daniel Hultgren

A one-gallon and a two-gallon Motor Spirit Ration Tickets

Research requests for the past month were: information on RHSQ Museum item, a Boulia rain stone; identification of a small brass plaque inscribed with REX and letters FLR; photos of the Broadway Hotel, Woolloongabba; seeking papers of Admiral Creswell from when he was Commandant of the Queensland Naval Brigade; further request for information on Australians of Irish descent who lived in Brisbane in the 1930s and 1940s; information on Norwegian-made whaling harpoon from Tangalooma whaling station in Moreton Bay, now at Hervey Bay Museum; a timeline of the arrival in Australia of southeast Asian tribes, Malaysian pygmies, Murrayians and PNG and Torres Strait Islanders;); letters of 19th Century essayist and opium addict, Thomas de Quincy; possible connection between Channel Islands, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, and islands of the same names in the Burrum River, near Bundaberg; photos of 1974 floods in Brisbane for a theatre production; and material for book on growing up in Brisbane in the 1980s and 1990s. Visitors to the Library conducted research on sugar plantation owner, J E Davidson, whose diaries are held in the RHSQ Library; and the background to medal belonging to Don Jamie Barrie (1824-1903). We received a request from a writer to comment, before its publication, on a story about the placename *Boongary*, once a siding on the now closed Kabra to Mount Morgan railway line. Boongary is an area near the town of Gracemere.

Library Catalogue software. Lucidea, providers of Inmagic DBTextWorks, our current catalogue software, has advised that they will soon no longer support this software. They recommend PrestoWorks, a program suited to small operators that do not data-share. Our ‘tech-savvy’ volunteer, Maxton, prepared a report exploring options and questions that we needed answering. Following our Zoom meeting with Lucidea staff (in Canada), we received confirmation that migration from our current software to the new program is not a problem and that there will be no increase in current fees. On this basis, we have forwarded our recommendation to the RHSQ Council to proceed with moving to PrestoWorks.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<u>MARCH</u>	
<p>Wednesday 8 March, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30, by Dr Bill Metcalf on the topic “Brisbane: Utopians Dreams & Dystopian Nightmares”.</p> <p>Thursday 9 March, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Saturday 11 March, The first conference for the year will be entitled ‘Turning the Pages: History of Major Libraries in Queensland’ commencing at 9.25 am with registration from 9.00 am.</p> <p>Wednesday 15 March, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline.</p>	<p>Natalie Fong, Robertson Dan Ryan, Bardon Rose O’Brien, Mt Gravatt East Alyssa Madden, Aspley</p>

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only	Subscriptions
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Fax: 07 3221 4698	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Full-time Student (U25): \$ 38.00
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