



# RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*81 years of continuous publication*

APRIL 2023 No. 883

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)

## LEST WE FORGET



Photo from Lt. F G Newton Diary 1914-1919, Vol.1. Welsby Library Collection RHSQ Digital Photo P72000.

**Figure 1: 5th Australian Light Horse (Qld) taken at Enoggera Camp 8 February 1915. They sailed from Pinkenba, Brisbane, on SS Itria 10 February 1915.**

The SS Itria docked at Alexandria, instead of Suez, on 23 March 1915. The brigade moved to Maadi Camp on 11 April 1915. For the following month they spent a considerable part of their days doing route marches to accustom them to infantry work. On 1 August, 1915, the brigade embarked from Alexandria and was finally disembarked at Suvla Bay on 8 August. It saw almost continuous fighting and sustained a high casualty rate. By 26 September, Newton reported that the regiment had been in the trenches for five months and his men were now feeling the cold.



P70586 RHSQ digital collection

### Gallipoli Peninsula, Troops Resting 1915

Over the following months, they moved positions several times and came under almost continuous fire. By 24 December, preparations had been completed for their withdrawal. As Newton wrote; “ The last few days was rather a strain – continually expecting the Turks to get news of our move, or see for themselves, from aeroplane or from Gaba Tepe, the emptiness of the beach .... we got them very jumpy, suddenly stopping firing for an hour or two and then rattling a few tins to make them think we were coming. .... I was particularly impressed with our men the last day – we were probably outnumbered 10 to 1 and without guns to support us....” (From Diary of (Captain) F G Newton, Archive Box 24, Folder 11, Welsby Library Collection)

### President’s Report

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland’s next Wednesday Lunchtime Lecture will be held on 12 April at 12.30 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane, when Paul Budde will deliver a talk on “The Dutch in Camp Columbia.” Paul, the acting president of the Dutch Australian Cultural Centre, will speak on the fascinating history of the Camp Colombia site, being the location of The Netherlands East Indies Government In-Exile.

On 10 May at the Wednesday Lunchtime Lecture Elisabeth Wheeler is speaking about the *Duporth* Private School for ladies at Oxley. This is the story about Janet O’Connor the first Lady Principal of the Brisbane Girls’ Grammar School. Bookings are essential for both of these events on the RHSQ website under ‘Events’ through ‘Eventbrite’, with a small charge for non-members. A reminder to keep the date free for this year’s Queensland Day Dinner on Tuesday 6 June 2023 at Tattersall’s Club in Queen Street, Brisbane.

The RHSQ’s half-day conference on Saturday 11 March on Turning the Pages: History of Libraries in Queensland was well attended with papers on the Fryer Library at The University of Queensland, the John Oxley Library and the Society’s Welsby Library. All those that attended had a pleasant and enjoyable time. The Society’s thanks the Program Committee, the Chair Matthew Rowe and Stephan Sheaffe the convenor of



the conference. Further, the Society greatly appreciates Glenda Sheaffe for again providing a wonderful Morning Tea.

The RHSQ is currently having a number of artefacts from the Museum collection professionally restored utilising funds from grants which the Society has received. Restoration includes Sir Samuel Walker Griffith's wig which has recently been on display and has become very fragile. When the work is completed, the Society plan to have an exhibition of Griffith artefacts which the Society has in its collection. Funding for this has come from a grant from the Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Grant and Brisbane City Council's Historical Organisation Assistance Grant Program. This grant is also funding with the professional restoration of the oil painting by J Campbell of Griffith's house 'Merthyr at New Farm and a photograph of Griffith. The RHSQ appreciates the Brisbane City Council grant for this work.

The State Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant which the Society recently received is funding the professional restoration of the Pollock furniture and a number of paintings including those of the Pollocks who donated the furniture. Oil paintings by Joseph Backler's of the Robert and Alice Pollock, Oscar Friström's painting of the male Native at Cairns NQ and a female Native at Cairns NQ, and his New Farm Reach painting are also being professionally restored. In addition, three water colours C Winn's Building on shoreline, Margaret Cilento's Chardon's Hotel, Annerley and Arthur Hingston's Old Breakfast Creek Bridge. The Society appreciates the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant for this work.

As I indicated last month, the RHSQ is very appreciative of Queensland X-Ray sponsoring the professional restoration of two oil paintings H Strongtharm Wilkinson's 'Amity' and Vida Lahey's 'View of Brisbane'. These Paintings once restored will be placed on display in the Commissariat Store Museum. The Society welcomes and appreciates private or public sponsorship for restoration of paintings in the Society's collection.

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)

**Atherton** - Historical photographs, documents and information about Atherton's Merriland Hall are being sought as the facility marks its 80th anniversary this year. The Atherton Show Society is calling on locals to share any and all information, photos, historical recounts and documents they may have about Merriland Hall over its eight decades of life for a special anniversary due to take place at the end of the year.



**Australian Army canteen "igloo" under construction in Atherton, Queensland, 1943**

Merriland Hall was constructed in 1943 and was formerly a military store depot for the troops stationed around the Tablelands. It was the largest igloo of its kind erected on the Tablelands and one of the few that remained on its original site. Merriland Hall played host to a variety of events and functions from military purposes during the war to the annual Atherton Show, debutante balls, weddings and cabarets. They are also looking for any information surrounding the 50th anniversary of the hall as there were a number of celebrations to mark the event. Any information on the hall can be emailed to [info@athertonshow.com.au](mailto:info@athertonshow.com.au) or by calling the office on Ph (07) 4091 4260. (*Mareeba Express*, 22 February 2023, p. 15)



Qld Government Photo

### Merriland Hall (2000)

**Cooroy** – There is a proposal that the Cooroy Police Station prisoner cell be moved down to Maple Street beside the Memorial Hall. The Cooroy Memorial Hall Association envisages that the cell block will be utilised for interactive displays about Cooroy history. (*Your Local Lifestyle*, December 2022, p. 20).

**Mount Carbine** - Australia's only primary producing tungsten mine at Mount Carbine, operated by EQ Resources Limited, is increasing its production. Wolfram was discovered by Baird Brothers at Mount Carbine in 1895 and the discovery was named after the Melbourne Cup winner in 1890. The first mines were on the south east side of Manganese Creek there. The Irvinebank Mining Company acquired the mines in 1906 and developed them and constructed a treatment work. Mount Carbine was a contributor with Koorboora, Bamford, Fossilbrook and Wolfram Camp to Queensland being Australia's largest wolfram producer. These north Queensland mines produced 87% of the Queensland production and became the world's largest supplier of the mineral to Germany before World War I. The Mount Carbine hill was mined extensively by Roche Brothers in the 1990s. (*Mareeba Express*, 15 March 2023, pp. 1,3 and Queensland Mines Department *Annual Reports* 1904-1914)





EQ Resources Photo

### The Mount Carbine mine

**Warwick** – The historic AC16 steam locomotive is back in service, for a two-month period in the Western Southern Downs. It was overhauled in 2003, including the replacement of the cab, tender, and wheels. The AC16 played a key role in transporting troops, freight, and passengers during the 1940s and 1950s and transported coal and military personnel. It was imported to Queensland in 1943 from America and served Queensland communities well into the late 1960s.



John Riley Photo

Locomotive 221A is shown at Redbank Railway Museum in this Easter 1982 photograph. Of interest is the original US Army tender, which is significantly higher than the C-17 tenders more commonly fitted (The 'A' stands for 'American').

No.221A is a 2-8-2 freight locomotive supplied to the Queensland Government Railways during World War 2 as one of 20 'AC16 class' locomotives. It was built in 1943 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, USA (builder's number 69456) to a standard US wartime design and made available under 'lend-lease' finance. These wartime locomotives were known as 'MacArthurs' and identical engines were supplied to metre and 1067mm-gauge lines in India, Greece, Malaya and Thailand as part of the war effort, where some remained at work until the late 1980's. Queensland's rail gauge is 1067mm (3ft 6ins). Under the Whyte notation for the classification of steam locomotives, 2-8-2 represents the wheel arrangement of two leading wheels on one axle, usually in a leading truck, eight powered and coupled driving wheels on four axles and two trailing wheels on one axle, usually in a trailing truck.

## Library and Research Report

Library and research enquiries received this month were: Request from the Robinson family for a copy of Alfred Robinson's 1835 Apprenticeship Indenture Paper, donated to the Society by the family in 1971; request from Henry Pike MP for permission to be photographed with the Breast Plates awarded to Aboriginal men, Toompani and Woondy, in recognition of their part in the rescue of the shipwrecked *Sovereign* survivors; information about the construction of Welford Homestead; background material on Fanny Trundle; records of past Aides-de-Camp to the Queensland Governor; family history re Dianne Cavanagh (Falconer) who lived at Eidsvold; confirmation of Dosh Mahomet painting featured at the Burke & Wills 'Dig Tree' site; possible link between Alma Turner/Kalmakuta/Toorbul memorial and Sir Raphael Cilento; information on Sandgate Railway; Donation: offer of a copy of the publication, *Queensland Centenary, The First Hundred Years 1859-1959*.

The Libraries Conference held at The Commissariat Store, 11 March 2023. As Library Manager and Library and Research Coordinator respectively, Dr Ruth Kerr and I presented papers on the story of the Thomas Welsby Library from its inception to the present day. The Society plans to publish papers from the conference in the near future.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>APRIL</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<p><b>Wednesday 12 April, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30</b>, Paul Budde will deliver a talk on “The Dutch in Camp Columbia.”</p> <p><b>Thursday 13 April, Council Meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 15 April, Bulletin Deadline.</b></p>	<p>Elizabeth Wray</p> <p>Robert Bourke</p> <p>Joseph Begley</p> <p>David Slater</p> <p>Kris Fraser</p> <p>Darryl Bennet</p> <p>Hamish Magarry</p>	<p>The Gap</p> <p>Stafford Heights</p> <p>Herston</p> <p>Milton</p> <p>Bardon</p> <p>Bellbowrie</p> <p>Woolloowin</p>

Contact Details	Bulletin Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Hannah Orchard	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: 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		Corporate member: \$ 315.00
Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane, George Street, 4003		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00