



RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

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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

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The Nora Nathan Sculptures

The RHSQ has acted as guardian for three small sculptures, the work of Aboriginal Sculptor, Nora Nathan, since they were donated in 1939. They were donated by Mrs Watts, wife of the then lessee of Ardmore pastoral station near Dajarra. Mrs Watts was well-known for caring for local Aboriginal families and Nora Nathan's family believes the sculptures were a 'thank you' gift to her. On Friday 24 March, we hosted a gathering of Nora's extended family, many of whom live in the Mount Isa area. Following a previous visit by four family members in 2019, it was a pleasure to welcome back 17 family members to see the sculptures. Ruth Kerr and I, assisted by volunteer Lecy, were able to collect much-needed information about Nora and the sculptures. Two other examples are held in the Art Gallery of New South Wales but there is no accompanying information about the sculptor. We were also able to record a conversation with a family member in Mount Isa who was too frail to travel. He provided us with very valuable background information, supplemented by explanatory comments from the family listening in. We hope to have a further conversation with him which will also be recorded on camera by family members. The nominated family representative has given the RHSQ authority to remain as the guardian of Nora Nathan's three sculptures.

Kay Cohen



The Nora Nathan sculptures at RHSQ 24 March 2023, courtesy Annette Radeker

President's Report

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland's next Wednesday Lecture is to be held on 10 May 2023, commencing at 12.30pm until 1.30pm, at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane when Keith Boulton will deliver the talk on the topic "Wrecks in Moreton Bay". There are approximately 122 wrecks recorded in Moreton Bay and 76 in the Brisbane River. This is an opportunity to look back upon the many ship disasters that have occurred in the Bay.

On Wednesday 14 June 2023 the Wednesday Lecture will focus on Symons Menswear and the speaker will be George Symon. The Lecture will be held as usual at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Bookings are essential for both of these events on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite', with a small charge for non-members. More details are available on the website.

The Queensland Day Dinner is again to be held this year on 6 June, a Tuesday, at Tattersall's Club, 215 Queensland Street, Brisbane. It was on this day in 1859 that Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent for Queensland to become a separate colony from New South Wales. Bookings are essential for this event on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'. More details are available on the website. This is the Society's major event of the year with drinks at 6.30pm and commencement at 7pm.

Over more than a decade, the Society, on several occasions without success, has tried to obtain the Queensland Government's approval to have the convict-built Commissariat Store, Queensland's oldest habitable building, listed for inclusion on Australia's National Heritage List. I am pleased to advise Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning has now given approval for the Society to proceed to have the convict-built building listed. The project is now proceeding after all these years. The building is of course listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and the RHSQ looks forward to having it on the Commonwealth Register.

As many of you are aware, over many years, the RHSQ has sought to have the Queensland Government provide air-conditioning for the Commissariat Store. Unfortunately, this has not been achieved. The Society is continuing its campaign to have air-conditioning installed in the building which can become very hot and stuffy. Public servants would not be expected to work in such sweltering conditions and the Society does not believe our volunteers or visiting public, should be either. Although we have never been officially advised of the change of landlord from the Queensland Government to the Destination Brisbane Consortium, the builders of the Queen's Wharf Development, we are continuing to increase pressure for air-conditioning on both parties.

In mid-March the "Preservation Needs Assessment" of our collections was completed by Maïté Le Mens for the National Library of Australia. This follows on from the "Significance Assessment of the Museum Collection" by Judith McKay in June 2021. Both of these projects were funded by the National Library of Australia. As the Society has an outstandingly significant library and museum collections, apart from grants, we are looking for sponsorships to conserve our many paintings and other artefacts.

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)

Herberton – The oldest commercial building in Herberton is the Royal Hotel built in 1880. The second oldest is the Library in the School of Arts commenced in 1881. £50 was provided for the purpose in public subscriptions following a meeting in December 1880. A site was purchased for £18 in January 1881 and a bark structure was erected in February 1881. (*Mareeba Express*, 12 April 2023, p. 12 including photograph)



The oldest image found of the Royal Hotel in 1888. A single-story timber building



Robert Aspinall Photo

Royal Hotel, November 2000

Ipswich – Urban Utilities has agreed to retain the Pettigrew Hill Water Reservoir landmark water tower at Eastern Heights ‘in recognition of its heritage value to the Ipswich community’. Division 3 Councillor, Mamie Doyle supported residents’ desire for preservation of the tower and advocated it in Council and the Ipswich City Council resolved to apply to the Queensland Heritage Council for the entry of the water tower on the State Heritage Register. The water tower had been identified as a structure of heritage significance in the draft Ipswich Planning Scheme. The water tower was built in 1929 and had not been used since 2009. Urban Utilities had commissioned an independent heritage assessment of the water tower which recognised the tower to be of local significance due to its historic and aesthetic values and possible rarity. The tower is structurally sound. Some maintenance including repairs to the reservoir and roof and concrete and removal of external ladders. (*The Ipswich Tribune*, 5 April 2023, pp.1 and 3)



Brian Bennion Photo

Optus erected a modern, steel phone tower next to the iconic water tower.

Murgon – The Dairy and Heritage Museum is displaying local cattle brands at the Murgon Show. The Museum is also seeking new volunteers. (*Murgon Moments*, Issue 199, April 2023, p. 5)



Dairy and Heritage Museum Photo

The Dairy and Heritage Museum, Murgon

Yungaburra – The Allumbah Heritage Walk has now been opened. It was supported by the Tablelands Regional Council, local Indigenous Elders, Yungaburra Information Centre and Landcare. The Eacham Historical Society fact-checked the work. (*Mareeba Express*, 12 April 2023, p. 20)



The Express Photo

Members of the Yungaburra Landcare Group with the sign that marks the beginning of the new Allumbah Heritage Walk

Library and Research Report

Research enquiries received were: location of the diary/journal of Charles Arthur, Surveyor at Port Curtis 1853-54; historic material for Brisbane River boat trips; request for copy of paper published in 1962 RHSQ Monthly Bulletin; looking for maps to guide walkers on historic tours of Ashgrove, Wilston/Windsor/Grange areas; information about Sandgate Railways and from Commissioner for Railways Annual Reports; seeking confirmation that the portrait of Dosh Mahomet by William Strutt on RHSQ 'Dig Tree' website is of Dosh Mahomet(1839-1881); request for photo of Narcisse Pelletier for a French publication; information on women working at the Central Bureau at *Nyrambla* (Ascot) during World War 11; a map of Brisbane's CBD during World War 11; natural hazards/disasters in the Brookfield area. Visitors researched Library material on Clement Wragge and on Sandgate Railways. Donations: Margaret Kowald donated a copy of her recently-published book *Beyond the Fence: Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board, 1892-1922*; offer of a document written by a woman who was a light keeper on North Bernard Island off Innisfail; offer of 8 pre-war ledger books.

Numerous donated books surplus to Library requirements have now been processed and de-accessioned. They will be offered for sale in the near future. The TV in the Commissariat Store reception area has been re-activated. An initial Powerpoint presentation prepared by Lecy has highlighted information about the Store and the early days of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement. Other presentations, including relevant Museum items and historical photographs of Queensland, will follow.

Kay Cohen

Crows Nest Museum and Historical Village

Be Transported Back Through Time

Show your children how it happened when things moved at a slower pace.

The museum boasts its very own village! Buildings have been lovingly restored by our volunteers who have paid great attention to every detail making sure that everything is as close to authentic as possible.

Take your time exploring with a self-guided tour sheet or ask for a guided tour for your group.

Crows Nest Museum has an Information Centre that's open 7 days from 10am to 3pm with the last entry to the museum at 2pm

Bring your own tucker, we have tables and chairs for your own picnic or we can cater for your family or group - breakfast, morning / afternoon teas and lunches.

Visit the village and spend just an hour or the whole day
 Schools and groups of all kinds are welcome. Be sure to [book ahead](#) so we can personally look after you.
 We offer group booking discounts, call 0411358660



Crows Nest Museum and Historical Village Photo

Crows Nest Museum and Historical Village

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>Wednesday 10 May, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30, Keith Boulton will deliver the talk on the topic “Wrecks in Moreton Bay”.</p> <p>Thursday 11 May, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Monday 15 May, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline.</p>	<p>Michael D’Arcy Geoffrey Keating Veronika Folkmanova Julia Fielding Bridget Wegner</p>	<p>Saint Lucia Newtown Broadbeach Alderley Saint Lucia</p>

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only	Subscriptions
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