

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

Australia Day, 31 January 1949. Queensland Historical Society Float in the Centenary Celebrations Parade, George St., Brisbane.



RHSQ Digital Collection P56467 Photo

The 1949 Float

This may be the first and only time the Society has had a float in a parade in Brisbane. In June 1948, Arthur Laurie, the Historical Society's Vice-President, was named President of the Australia Day Celebrations Committee and the Society's representative on it. The Committee wrote two letters to the society requesting its support for the celebrations and Laurie was authorised to act on behalf of the Society in any arrangements to be made. The Society's float duly took part in the parade. It was subsequently noted in the Minutes of a Council meeting in February 1949 that the "trustees" had paid for the float. We have been unable to find any further information about this event in the Library archives, nor can we identify the "trustees". (Minutes of QHS Council Meetings, 24.6.1948, 25.11.1948, 24.2.1949)

Cultural Centre/Precinct. It is interesting to note that during 1948, the Council met with other cultural organisations to agree on a proposal that they should pressure the government of the day to establish a Cultural Centre/Precinct.

Kay Cohen

President's Report

The Queensland Day Dinner of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ) is again to be held this year on Tuesday 6 June at Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen 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. The special guest speaker will be well-known Queenslander Steve Wilson AM, whose talk will include the restoration of Lamb House. 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 from 6.30pm and commencement at 7.00pm. Members are encouraged to have their friends attend the occasion. The formal part of the night will conclude by approximately 9.00pm with time for socialising during the function and at the end.

The RHSQ's next Wednesday Lecture is to be held on 14 June 2023, commencing at 12.30pm until 1.30pm, at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane when George Symons will deliver the talk on the topic Symons Menswear. George Symons' grandfather and namesake, George Symons, was the founder of the Men's suit tailoring business Symons Menswear. George will speak about his grandfather and the history of business.

On Wednesday 12 July 2023 the Wednesday Lecture, between 12.30pm and 1.30pm, will focus on the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA). It will be presented by Sheila Campbell the President of the QCWA who will talk to us about the history and role of the Association. 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.

Your Society continues to function from the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane and is open each week between Tuesday and Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Displays are regularly changed and in the coming months we will be exhibiting some of our collection that we are currently having restored.

The RHSQ has received advice from the Australian Government's Minister for Veterans' Affairs that, following our application, we have been given a grant of \$10,000 under the 'Saluting their service (STS) Commemorative Grant Program'. This grant is for the conservation of some of our many photographs and artefacts that are part of our war memorabilia. Once conserved the Society will have an exhibition. The RHSQ is very appreciative of the government's support for this work to be undertaken.

As I indicated in recent months, 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 invites and appreciates private or public sponsorship for restoration of paintings in the Society's collection. Should you or anyone else be interested in supporting the restoration of the RHSQ's 'significantly outstanding museum collection', please contact the Manager.

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)

Deebing Creek – A cultural centre is being planned on a small portion of the former Deebing Creek Aboriginal Mission grounds. Deebing Heights housing estate developers, Stockland, AV Jennings and Moremac have committed to the project. A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the developers and the Yuggera Ugarapul People native title claimants has been signed in mid-April 2023 for the purpose. (*Ipswich Tribune*, 26 April 2023, pp.1 and 5)

Beaudesert – The railway turntable is now located at the Australian Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Society's (ANGRMS) headquarters at Woodford. It was relocated from property of the Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division) at Rosewood to Woodford in 2022. The foundations of the turntable were exposed in an archaeological dig at the old Beaudesert railway station in 2022 when the Scenic Rim Shire Council was constructing a carpark in the station yard area. (*ANGRMS Annual Report 2022* and personal visit)

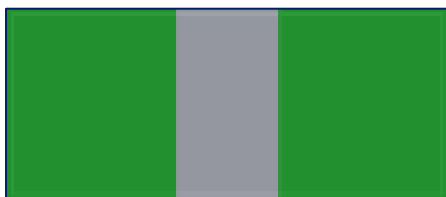


Leonard J Matthews/Flickr photo

At Beaudesert, Queensland, a PB15 class steam locomotive being manually turned on the station's turntable. Photograph taken circa mid to late 1960s.

Biggenden - Historical Society member, Moira Thompson of Biggenden has organised a Celebration of the 200th Birthday of William Henry Walsh, squatter, pastoralist, politician, born 1823 in Berkshire, England, died in 1888 in Toowong, Brisbane. Walsh was said to be the first colonist to settle at Degilbo, outside Biggenden. He followed explorers Perrier and Burnett who recorded the Burnett River. William's *Degilbo* Station, which extended for 150 square miles, provided for sheep grazing and export of wool. The celebrations will be held on 13th, 14th and 15th October 2023, to coincide with the Biggenden State School 1968-year 10 reunion, the "Friends of Lofty Wendt 8/9 RAR." reunion and a "Back to Biggenden" for those who have moved away and would like a reason to return. It will also coincide with the blooming of the rose gardens. Enquires: - Moira Thompson 0458 365 051, Fiona Bayliss 0427 0637 574. (Woocoo Historical Society *Bulletin*, vol 37 no. 1, April 2023, p. 5)

One suggestion of how the name *Degilbo* came about was from an Aboriginal word *dackeel bo* meaning *sharp or upright stones*. Also, a very popular story is that *Degilbo* is actually the word *obliged* spelt backwards, attributed to a railway surveyor, who had to assign names to many railway stations, had run out of ideas but as he was *obliged* to come up with a name, he wrote that word down backwards. Being perhaps a more entertaining story, the story of the backwards spelling is frequently published, and is usually followed by a spate of correspondence pointing out that the name of the pastoral run preceded the railway station by at least 20 years.



The 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR) is a motorised infantry battalion of the Australian Army. It was originally formed in 1973 by linking together both the 8th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. Over the next twenty-four years the battalion would remain on the Australian Order of Battle based at Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane, Queensland, until it was disbanded in 1997 amid a number of Defence-wide cutbacks introduced by the Howard government. In 2006 it was announced that the battalion would be re-raised as part of a plan to expand the size of the Army and since then it established itself as a fully deployable motorised infantry battalion as part of 7th Brigade.



Pastoralist. Arrived in Sydney in the 'Mary Sharp' on 11 June 1844. Gained experience with David Perrier at Bathurst. In 1847 opened a station in the Moreton Bay district. Opened another station for Perrier, Griffiths, Fanning & Co., of Sydney; afterwards acquired the latter himself. In 1859 was in a partnership with Fanning in 7 runs totalling 115,200 acres in Wide Bay, Burnett and Port Curtis districts. Invested in coal and minerals. Executive Commissioner of Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London from 1885 until 1886 at considerable personal expense; died comparatively poor. Lived at Bulimba, Brisbane from 1864. Fought at a later time for the rights of Aborigines, Kanakas and Chinese. Member of the Queensland Club.

William Henry Walsh

Brooweena - On 8th December 2022 a severe storm hit Brooweena and District damaging the roof of the CWA building in the museum complex. Water came into the building but luckily no exhibits were damaged.



Brooweena Museum Photo

Brooweena Historical Village and Museum

The Woocoo Historical Society is currently obtaining quotes for repairs which will be a large expense for the small, not for profit Society. The Pioneer Day on 25th March 2023 was very successful. The museum displays were supervised by members and volunteers. The children turned the handle on the washing machine, corn cracker, chaff cutter, milk and cream separator and making butter. Rope making by the Krafft family was popular. An appearance by Town Crier Stephen Battye and two musical entertainers were crowd pleasers. The Wide Bay Trail Riders Club rode in on horses from North Aramara. The society received sponsorship from Fraser Coast Regional Council Deputy Mayor, Dennis Chapman and Councillor James Hansen. (Woocoo Historical Society *Bulletin*, vol 37 no. 1, April 2023, p. 4)

Waterford – A Rail Trail Diversion Group has formed seeking to remove the Bethania to Yarrabilba Rail Trail from the vicinity of the Bethania and Waterford Palm Lake Resorts and Palm Lake Aged Care. The unfenced formation of the closed Bethania to Beaudesert railway is being converted to a rail trail for cyclists, horse riders and walkers and is considered by the Rail Trail Diversion group to be too close to private residences. The Rail Trail is being funded by the Logan City Council. The line from Bethania near the Retirement Village area has been cleared of vegetation. The original line from Bethania to Logan Village was opened on 21 September 1885 and to Beaudesert on 16 May 1888. The line was closed on 15 May 1996. It was rejuvenated by a private railway group for a short time under a Centenary of Federation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Government. (*My City Logan*, 18-24 April 2023, p. 10)



Heritage

Brisbane - On 2 March 2023 the Department of Environment and Science received a valid application proposing entry of the Riverside Centre, 123 Eagle Street, Brisbane in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

The Riverside Centre, a Brisbane icon, is a commercial office building at 123 Eagle Street in the heart of the financial district. Rising 40 stories and 146 metres high from the banks of the Brisbane River, it was completed in 1986.

The building was designed by the award-winning architect Harry Seidler and is renowned for its wave shape, glass-walled lobby and plaza featuring unsurpassed views of the Brisbane River.

Besides being one of Brisbane's most sought-after commercial spaces, the Riverside Centre is popular with locals and visitors because of its riverside terraces with cafes and restaurants and the hugely popular Riverwalk, which links the CBD to suburbs along the Brisbane river. The 40-storey-high Riverside Centre building (on the left) was the

tallest building in Brisbane from 1986 until 1988. Now it is dwarfed by the 54 storey-high One One One Eagle Street building. (https://www.brisbane.com.au/riverside_centre.htm Accessed 13 May 23)

Important Notice

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Library and Research Report

Research requests received this month were: background information and link to accredited historian for SBS series “Who Do you Think You are?”; provision of photos of various aspects of Queensland’s history between 1920 and 1970 for the creation of a memory lane corridor at Prince Charles Hospital; search for a German ancestor who possibly arrived on ship *Martene*; search of Pettigrew’s diaries and other material for description of costumes of women attending cultural events. Visitors to the Library were researching Ruth Kerr and Kay Cohen’s book on the Treasury and Lands Office buildings; the history of currency in early Queensland and the link between currency provisions and businesses, such as Brookes Ironmongery and Pettigrews.

We thank Yvonne Evans for the donation of her book.

Lynda continues to write stories illuminating photos from the RHSQ collection for the publication *Your Time* and for the website in a shorter version. Recent stories completed include, a Boer War Parade in Brisbane 1901, Weipa Mission School, South Brisbane before building commenced for Expo 88, and the Queensland Draughts Championship held in Brisbane in 1908.

Kay Cohen

The Logan Village Museum Complex

The Logan Village Museum complex is set within the Logan Village Green complex. This area is bounded by Wharf Street, River Street and Logan Street. This is a collection of historic buildings with two being original to the site, therefore heritage listed. The other buildings have been moved to the complex and renovated. All buildings except for the upper floor of the old school, and the new Railway Hut have wheel chair access. Enquiries Telephone: 0418738458

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>JUNE</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Tuesday 6 June, Queensland Day dinner. Thursday 8 June, Council Meeting. Wednesday 14 June, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30 ‘Symons Menswear’. The speaker will be George Symon. Thursday 15 June, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline.</p>	<p>Judy Wakabayashi, Fitzgibbon 4018 Janis Hanley, Greenslopes 4120 John Byrnes, Camphill 4152 Andrew Cope, Keilor East 3033 Helen Sims, Supreme Court Library Queensland, Brisbane 4000 Barclay McGain, Worongary 4213 Dianne and Michelle Nicol, Burleigh Heads 4220</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
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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; Queensland X-Ray.	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