

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

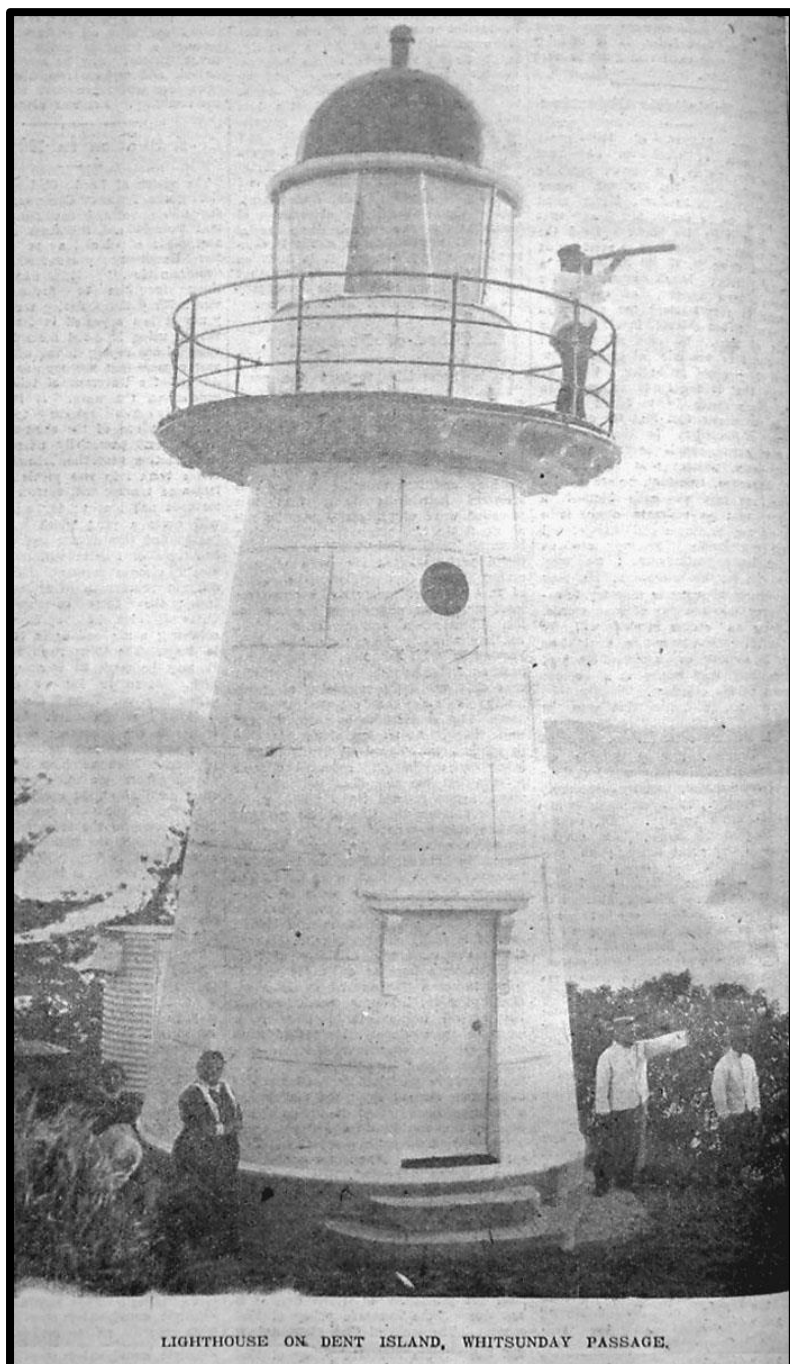
Bulletin

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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

THE LIGHTHOUSE ON DENT ISLAND



LIGHTHOUSE ON DENT ISLAND, WHITSUNDAY PASSAGE.

The lighthouse and keepers' cottages were constructed in 1879 at the same time as the lighthouse at Cape Cleveland off the coast of Townsville. The first lighthouse along the Queensland coast was at Cape Moreton. Among other well-known ones constructed over the following decades were Sandy Cape, Bustard Head, Caloundra and Cape Bowling Green.

Dent Island is a little-known example, possibly because of the difficulty of access. It was manned until 1981 when it was the last Queensland lighthouse to be converted to solar. Originally, these were timber and iron structures. Peter Marquis-Kyle has highlighted the contribution of leading colonial architects and engineers to devising a successful, innovative design to combat the rigours of the Queensland coastal climate. When the Commonwealth took over responsibility for lighthouses and light ships in 1915, the universal model adopted was the iconic white concrete body and red-light housing canopy.

For a detailed history of Queensland lighthouses, see J.H. Thorburn's comprehensive articles, especially, "Major Lighthouses of Queensland, Part 11", in *Queensland Heritage*, 1,7, pp.15-24, www.espace.library.uq.edu.au. Also, Peter Marquis-Kyle, "Queensland' timber and iron lighthouses; 19th Century colonial innovation", www.marquis-kyle.com.au

P50645 RHSQ Digital Photo

President's Report

Dear Member,

It is my great privilege to provide you with the RHSQ President's Report in the absence of our President, Dr Denver Beanland AM, who is currently traveling overseas. The Society has enjoyed a number of sterling events since last *Bulletin*. I had the opportunity to represent the Society at the 'Brisbane Open House' launch, the launch of Dr Jennifer Harrison's great book *Fettered Frontier* and at the Open House weekend during which the Commissariat Store received almost 500 visitors on Sunday alone. Well done to all involved.

We also have a full calendar of upcoming events for you to enjoy.

The Society is holding its Oxley conference on Saturday, 9 September 2023 at the Commissariat Store commencing at 9.25 am. The half-day conference, with Morning Tea, will focus on Oxley's European exploration of the Brisbane River. The entry fee will be \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Bookings through 'Eventbrite' are essential for all of our events and details can be found on the RHSQ website under 'Events'.

Our Wednesday lecture series continues with vigour, held at the Commissariat Store, Brisbane between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm. There will be no Wednesday Lecture in August due to the Royal Queensland Show (the Ekka). On Wednesday, 13 September 2023, Tamsin O'Connor will present on how Brisbane marked the Centenary of European exploration of the area in 1923. On 11 October our Wednesday lecture will be presented by Harvey Greenfield, on *Later Colonial Maritime History*, following on from his well subscribed lecture last year. Professor Peter Roennfeldt will present on *One City, Two Venues: Albert and Mayne Halls* on 8 November. Then, on 13 December, Dr Natalie Fong presents her research on *Chinese Youth Club in Queensland*.

I encourage anyone who has not been into the Commissariat Store recently to come and enjoy the rejuvenated space and exhibitions. On the middle level our volunteer Museum Committee has installed new displays from our significant museum collection. The outstandingly well restored, historically significant furniture that belonged to Robert and Alice Pollock of the Lady Mary Gold Mine at Gympie is also on display on our entry level. Two pieces yet to be restored are sitting adjacent to the restored Pollock furniture and serve as a great visual reminder of the work that can be done by the Society, with generous financial support.

If you are able to assist financially in supporting this restoration work, or any other part of our work, please contact the Society or call me direct. No donation or bequest is too little or too much and is a wonderful way to be remembered as a contributor to Queensland history.

The Society continues to deliver historical information and support to historians and enthusiasts across the State. The Library and Research Committee continues to produce exceptional work, cooperating with South Bank TAFE Library in student support and training as well as researching Moreton Bay convict history as part of future plans to have a light show across the riverside wall of the Commissariat Store, a credit to all involved.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and thank you for your ongoing support.

Matthew Rowe, Vice President (for Dr Denver Beanland AM, President).

Queensland Report

(Collected by Ruth Kerr from personal Queensland contacts, Affiliated Societies, Newspapers and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection official notifications)

Babinda – The State Hotel at Babinda is for sale for \$3.6 million. It is significant in that it was a State Hotel under the *State Enterprises Act 1918*. That act provided for all state pastoral stations, butchers' shops, sawmills, coal mines, iron and steel works, canneries, batteries (mining) and hotels purchased or constructed under the provisions of the act. The state government built the Babinda State Hotel to accommodate sugar cane workers. The Babinda State Hotel was extremely profitable as the only hotel in the town at the time. In 1929 the conservative government passed the *State Hotel Babinda Sale Act*. Legal issues precluded the completion of the sale until an Order in Council was made in 1936. The other state enterprises in Queensland were divested under the *State Enterprises Repeal Act 1931*. The current hotel is on two titles and the hotel includes several businesses along with the public bar and accommodation. (*North Queensland Register*, 6 July 2023, p. 2)



Margaret Surig Photo

Babinda State Hotel

Beaudesert – The Scenic Rim Regional Council won an appeal in the Planning and Environment Court against the heritage listing of the Pig and Calf Saleyards at Beaudesert. Regional Council outlaid \$250,000 in undertaking the court appeal. The saleyards will now be demolished to enable carpark to be built there. The Council now plans to spend \$100,000 on a heritage display outlining the history of the Beaudesert Pig and Calf Saleyards. (*Fassifern Guardian*, 21 June 2023, pp. 1,6)



Qld Government Photo

Beaudesert Pig and Calf Saleyards

Cooktown – The last visible remains of the railway line in Cooktown has disappeared as part of the Revitalisation of Charlotte Street Project under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme for the town. Some of the railway line and attached sleepers on the line down to the wharf had been visible under a mango tree in the middle of the street, since the closure of the line in 1961. Under the revitalisation scheme kerbing and channelling, traffic islands, ramps, parking bays and landscaping are being undertaken. The work is expected to be completed by mid-2024. (*Mareeba Express*, 7 June 2023, p. 12, and personal observation on 20 June 2023)

Maryborough - Queensland Rail's iconic No.1089 BB18¼ Steam Locomotive participated in the Mary Poppins Festival in Maryborough over the weekend of 1-2 July. As the birthplace of Mary Poppins author, P. L. Travers, Maryborough's equally iconic festival celebrated the location's connection to the author through storytelling, imagination, and heritage — including recognising 150 years of rail manufacturing in Maryborough. Heritage Tutor Driver, Greg Smith, was the locomotive driver, noting that it was the first time the steam engine had been on track in almost five years. BB18¼ 1089 was the last ever steam locomotive commissioned and placed in service in Australia and was built at Walkers' Maryborough factory. BB18¼ 1089 was retired from service in 1969 after connecting communities around the Darling Downs, and in sugar freight in the Mackay region. In 2001, after a careful two-year restoration effort by the team at the Ipswich Workshops, it was returned to the tracks as part of Queensland Rail's Heritage Fleet. (Greg Hallam, Queensland Rail, 5 July 2023)



Graham Watkins Photo

BB18¼ 1089 leads 1079 up the Main Range on the combined ARHS/SunSteam Mountaineer Tour to Toowoomba tour on 13 April 2002.

Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc Memories of Stephens 21 October 2023

A history conference is being held on Saturday 21 October 2023
at Our Lady's College, 15 Chester Road, Annerley, 4103.

The venue is not the hall on Ipswich Road that we have used in the past.

Please drive down Chester Road and turn right into the carpark and follow the signs to the hall located on the eastern side of the school campus.

Papers will be presented on the history of the Stephens Shire, including local railway and tram history, the Stephens Scout Group, Chinese in Stephens, the cemetery, Tennyson, Yeronga Aboriginal history, the Congregational church, the Wilderness and Tarragindi, the eminent Dr Winterbottom and WWII war heroes.

Twelve distinguished speakers have been engaged to present papers.

Registration begins at 8.30 am and the conference commences at 9.00 am.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

It will be a great day and you are all welcome to attend.

An invitation is extended to guests to bring and display any memorabilia and photographs.

RSVP: Please contact: Convener: Stephen Sheaffe: 0417 770 176: ssheaffe@qldbar.asn.au

President: Jeff Brunne: 0410 551 354

Secretary: Denis Peel: 0408 001 362

Attendance: Cost \$40.00 pp for morning tea and lunch. Presenters will be given a discount of \$20.00 for the lunch.

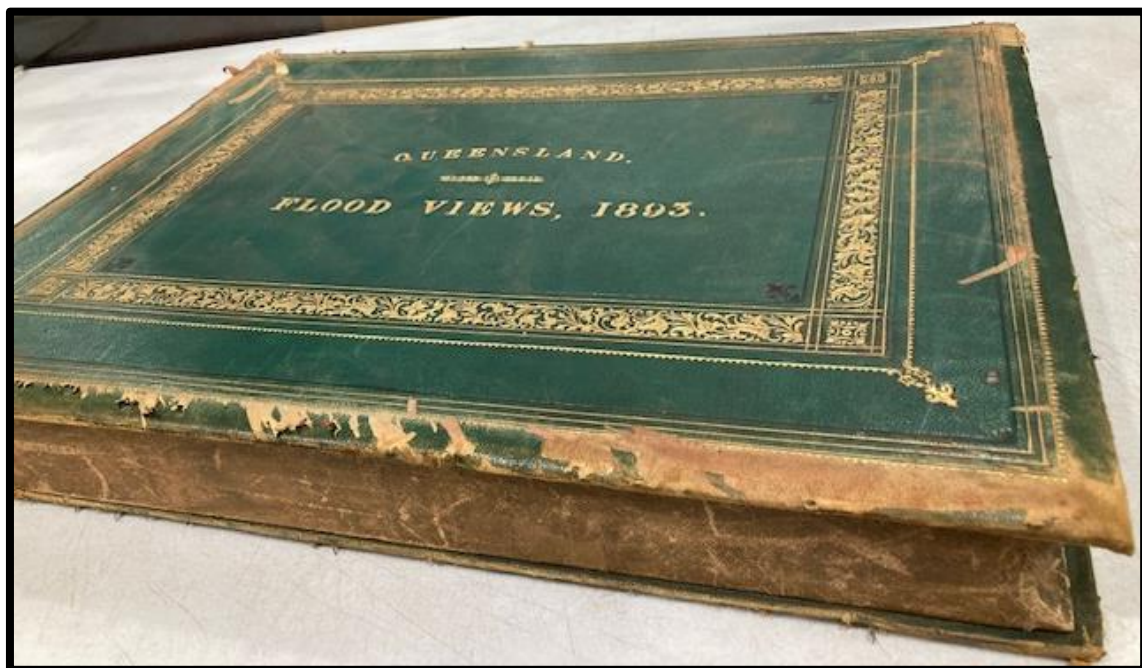
Name (s) of person (s) attending:

Address: email:

Phone number

Payment: Deposit into the Annerley-Stephens Bank account, Westpac, BSB 034-033: ACC 30-9907 (insert name on the deposit slip), alternatively send a cheque to the ASHG addressed to Stephen Sheaffe, 19 Ponsonby Street, Annerley, 4103.

Library and Research Report



Album of Photographs, 1893. RHSQ Library

A recent discovery in the RHSQ Library is the above album. Containing 81 A4-size photos of the 1893 floods in Brisbane and other towns, including Ipswich and Bundaberg, it measures 39 cm x 55 cm x 5 cm. Each photo is positioned within a rectangle of blue lines. The exterior is made of timber and finished with a fine leather cover to resemble an album. A second album in the library is , except that it has a standard album cover. Its provenance is unknown. The library catalogue does not record the donor or a year for its donation. Most unusually, there is no publisher or publisher date on the album, yet it is clearly professionally produced. No similar album has been sighted on any online listings. One possibility is that it is the work of noted photographer Poul Poulsen. His name is inscribed on one of the photos but his commercial stamp should be on the entire album. We would be grateful to hear from any members who might have information that could lead to solving this mystery.

Research Requests . A French publisher has sought permission to use the Library's photo of Narcisse Pelletier; how to obtain copies of photos from the *Lost Brisbane* books; information on grants available to fund a small local history publication; more information on the 2-mile and 4-mile series maps, and the location of Chinese people on various North Queensland goldfields; permission to use photo of Torres Strait Island drummer that appeared in a story posted on the RHSQ website some time ago; possible involvement in a project to compile an updated guide to Sources for North Queensland History.

Our thanks for the following donations: Douglas Kesteven for copies of his reminiscence of the Donald Dixon Tannery at Hemmant. Douglas was Dixon's son-in-law and a former Tannery employee; Anne Zoet for photographs of Brisbane landmarks taken in the late 1940s.

Nora Nathan Sculptures. Apologies to Sharon Williams whom I referred to previously as Shirley Williams. Sharon and her very professional Sharing Stories Foundation team spent a morning at the Commissariat Store capturing the sculptures and a talk by me on the RHSQ's connection to them on video. The video will be uploaded to the Sharing Stories website in the near future. Thanks to everyone who made this very important recording possible.

Progress is being made on the project to enclose fragile Library books in a Myla cover, with the early editions of Pugh's Almanac now treated. Being too fragile, they are not available for personal perusal and have been digitised.

This month we welcome new volunteer Emily. She is doing 100 hours of work experience with us, as part of her course in Library and Archives' studies. We anticipate hosting more students doing this type of work experience as it becomes a valuable component of these courses.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>AUGUST</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Wednesday 9 August, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30 No talk due to EKKA</p> <p>Thursday 10 August, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Tuesday 15 August, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline.</p>	<p>Shelley Blackman – Lowood, 4311</p> <p>Gail Young – Coorparoo, 4151</p> <p>Fay O'Sullivan – The Gap, 4061</p> <p>Paul Lucas – Kangaroo Point, 4169</p> <p>Jill Rogers – Mitchelton, 4053</p> <p>Elizabeth Ulrick – New Farm, 4005</p> <p>Edward McArdle – Chelmer, 4068</p> <p>David Swift – Cannon Hill, 4170</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; 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