

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

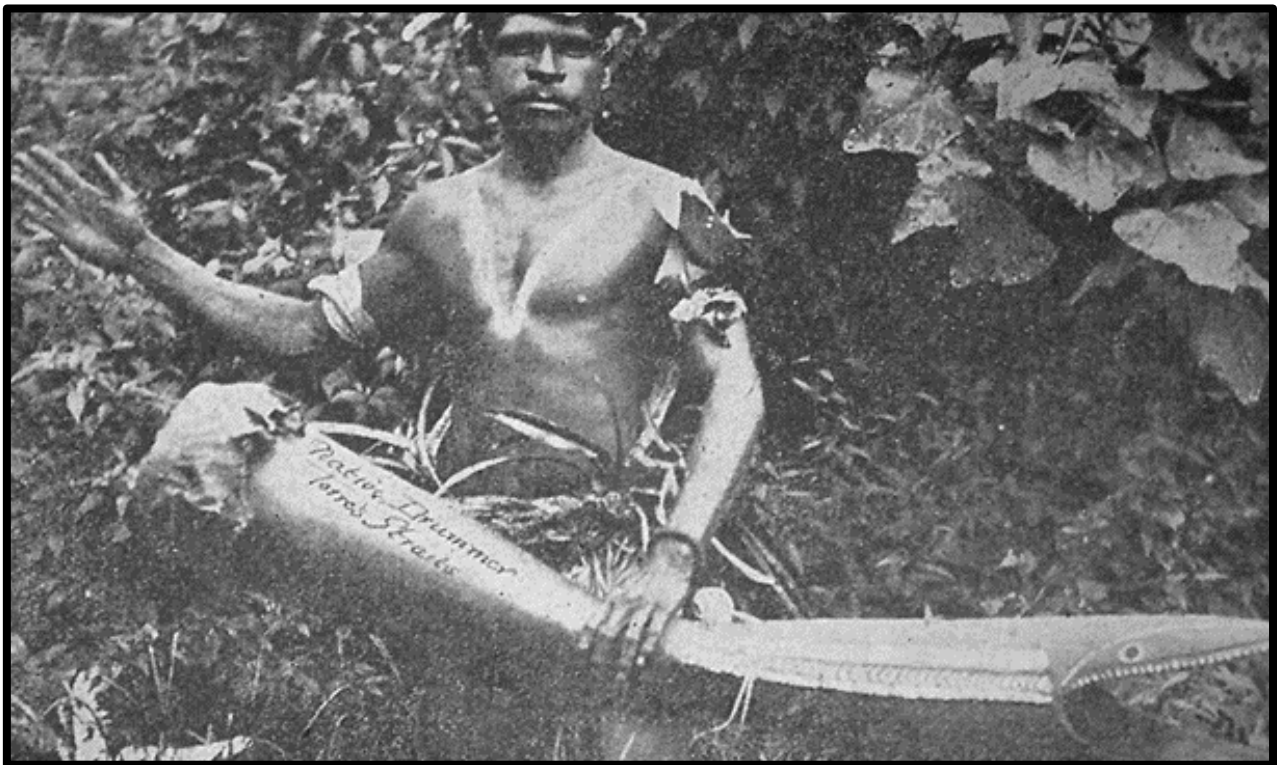
Bulletin

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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

A DRUMMER FROM THE TORRES STRAITS ISLANDS



RHSQ Digital Photo P510981

The above photo was first published in *The Week* newspaper, 9 December, 1910, p.21. The caption was 'Native Drummer Torres Straits Island'. There was no accompanying story. Copied as a digital photo in the RHSQ collection, it was posted on the RHSQ website's 'From the Archives' section in October 2019, with a story giving a general outline of the drum and other Torres Strait Islands' musical instruments. As the website is currently being redesigned and upgraded, this and other such stories are no longer available. Recently, Mr Reggie Simbolo contacted us about this posting to point out that it did not give the correct story of the drum. Reggie is the spokesperson for the drum's Traditional Owners. He has offered to provide us with a comprehensive overview of its history, its cultural significance and some details of how these drums have been made. We are grateful for his contacting us and we will be publishing his contribution in the *Bulletin* at a later date.

President's Report

A wine and cheese evening, to which all members of the RHSQ are invited free of charge, will be held on Friday 1 September 2023 between 5.30pm and 7.00pm to launch the Pollock Yellowwood Furniture display. It will be held at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane. The outstandingly, historically, significant furniture that belonged to Robert and Alice Pollock from the 1870s has been restored. The Pollocks were wealthy proprietors of the Lady Mary Gold Mine at Gympie. Our thanks to Frank von Brunschot Fine Furniture for restoring the yellowwood timber in nine of this eleven piece elaborately carved, drawing room suite. The RHSQ is also very appreciative of Art Sofa Upholstery who undertook the upholstery work on the furniture. In addition, a special thanks to Art Sofa who restored the fabric on the 'State Chair', a Victorian era throne-like chair, free of charge to the Society. For more details search the RHSQ e-Hive website.

The Society will also have on display paintings by Joseph Backler of both Robert and Alice Pollock which have been carefully conserved by Maïté Le Mens of Studio 204. All of the items belong to the Society's Museum Collection. The Society is appreciative of a grant for both the furniture and painting conservation work from the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Bookings are essential on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite' for catering purposes.

There are still two chairs from the collection, a grandfather and a grandmother chair, that remain to be restored for which the Society is seeking sponsors. Whether large or small any donations would be appreciated. Anyone interested please contact the RHSQ or myself.

The Mermaid, the Castaways, and European Exploration of the Brisbane River' is the topic for the RHSQ's next conference to be held on Saturday 9 September 2023 at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane. The conference will mark the bicentenary of John Oxley's voyage to Moreton Bay in 1823. This will be a half-day conference with registrations commencing at 9 am and the conference starting at 9.30am. This will be an exciting conference with a number of perspectives to be analysed. The registration fee is \$25 for members, and \$35 for non-members. Bookings are essential on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'.

The next Wednesday lunchtime lecture will be held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 12.30pm when Tamsin O'Connor will speak on 'How Brisbane Celebrated in 1923'. The lecture will analyse how Brisbane celebrated the first 100 years following Oxley's arrival and covers a number of contentious issues. Further, the paper examines how the people of Brisbane marked the milestone in 1924.

This will be followed on Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 12.30 pm when Harvey Greenfield will speak on 'Later Queensland Maritime History'.

For all Wednesday Lectures bookings are essential on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite', with a small charge for non-members. All of these events will be held at the RHSQ's Headquarters at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane. These lunchtime lectures are held between 12.30pm and 1.30pm.

All members of the RHSQ are invited to attend, free of charge, the wine and cheese evening on Friday 6 October 2023 between 5.30pm and 7.00pm at the Commissariat Store when the RHSQ will launch the two paintings sponsored by Queensland X-Ray. These two magnificent paintings, one by Vida Lahey 'View of Brisbane' while the other is by artist Harry Strongitharm Wilkinson entitled 'Amity' the home of Thomas Welsby at New Farm. Lahey was one of three Queensland artists to establish an international reputation during the mid-20th century. The RHSQ is very appreciative of Q-XRay in sponsoring two items from our Museum Collection. Bookings are essential for all the above events on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'

On Wednesday 8 November the Wednesday Lunch Time Lecture entitled 'One City, Two Venues Albert & Mayne Hall' will be delivered by Professor Peter Roennfeldt.

Upcoming events include the AGM which will be held at 5.30pm on 16 November together with the Clem Lack Oration. Also, the Separation Day Celebrations will be held on 10 December between 5.00pm and 7.00pm at the Commissariat Store to mark the day that Queensland separated from New South Wales.

On Tuesday 1 August 2023 I visited the Dig Tree with three other members of the Society. Members will be aware that the RHSQ is the Trustee of the Dig Tree Reserve of just over one acre some 340 kilometres west of Thargomindah, in far western Queensland. I am pleased to report that the trees on the Reserve look very healthy and that the Dig Tree Ranger is doing a great job. Also, we took the opportunity to meet the new Dig Tree Ranger on the Reserve.

Group tours of the Commissariat Store Museum are encouraged by community groups. If you are aware of any group that would like to undertake a tour, please have them contact the Society. Of course, we continue to encourage individual tours of the Museum open Tuesday to Friday between 10.00am and 4.00pm. 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 – The Executive Officer reported in the Cairns Historical Society’s July *Newsletter* on new initiatives for fundraising. They have been supported in three different ways by some of their members. Firstly, they received a generous financial donation from one member. Secondly, another member donated some publications for sale as fundraisers. Thirdly, a member donated their time to meet and talk with our visitors about growing up in Cairns which was warmly received by school groups. (Cairns Historical Society *Newsletter*, vol. 28 no.4, July 2023. Executive Officer’s Report. August 2023)

Maryborough – On 2nd July 2023 during the Mary Poppins Festival the last steam locomotive placed in service on a mainline Australian railway – BB18¼ class 4-6-2 1089 (Walkers B/N 557 of 1958) featured in a line-up of Queensland locomotives beside the replica of the first steam locomotive built in Queensland, *Mary Ann*, built by Walker & Co in 1873 for William Pettigrew’s Tin Can Bay timber tramway. The festival also celebrated 150 years of building trains in Maryborough. Other locomotives in the line-up were ex-QR B15 class 4-6-0 No 299 (Walkers B/N 1 of 1897), ex-QR DH class B-B DH73 (Walkers B/N 718 of 1973) and ex-Emu Bay Railway (Tasmania) 11 class B-B DH 1104 (B/N 641 of 1970). (*Railway Digest*, August 2023, vol. 61, no. 8, p. 54)



Railway Digest Photo

The line of locomotives mentioned above



Graeme Nicholson Photo

The *Mary Ann* locomotive

Mount Isa – As part of the 100-year celebrations, Mount Isa City Council is placing murals on a dormant substation building near the railway line, featuring the progress and prosper train when it came into Mount Isa in April 1929. The line opened officially on 27 May 1929. They feature a steam locomotive 746 hauling a passenger train, the front of the locomotives festooned with flags and the sign ‘Progress and Prosper’ and numerous men on hats and suits standing beside the locomotive. Additionally, a rail related static display will be placed on the site is a 6m x 4m concrete slab. The substation building will have the mural on three sides and the concrete slab on the left will have a static historical item. The commemorative project is being co-ordinated by Petra Osinski, Community Development Officer, Promotions and Development, Mount Isa City Council. (Historical information from Greg Hallam, Queensland Rail, 11 August 2023)

Rocky Creek near Tolga – Fifteen more memorial plaques were installed at Rocky Creek Park on Victory in the Pacific Day. The Rocky Creek Military Hospital was the largest hospital in the southern hemisphere during World War II. (*Mareeba Express*, 9 August 2023, p. 2)

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

**NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023 at 5.30PM
at THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE**

AGENDA

- 1. Opening, Attendance and Apologies**
- 2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President**
- 4. Consideration of Audited Annual Financial Statement**
- 5. Election of the President, one Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and 10 Councillors**
- 6. Appointment of Patron of the Society**
- 7. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor**
- 8. Consideration of Awards**
- 9. Any other business notified in terms of the Constitution.**
- 10. Close:**

The Clem Lack Oration will follow the AGM. It will be presented by Mr Henry Reece on the development of the electricity industry.

Dr Ruth S. Kerr
Hon Secretary

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND: NOMINATION FORM

For the election of the President, Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, and 10 Councillors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 5.30pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane.

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before close of business on 2 November 2023.

Nominations must be signed by 2 (two) financial members of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member.

We nominatefor the office of
SignedSigned
If elected I agree to act in the position of.....
Signature

Received by Hon Secretary Signed:Date:.....

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

Photo Albums of 1893 Floods - Our thanks to Society members who made suggestions as to the provenance of the two albums in the library. It seems that multiple copies of these albums were produced and distributed. The John Oxley Library may hold a copy but we would need to go through the laborious process of copying and comparing our albums’ photos with the JOL albums to be certain. There remains the question of why there are none of the usual publication details, such as printer and date of printing. It is possible that the library’s copies were donated in 1962 by Western Australian Liberal Senator, Agnes Robertson, through her local family connections. Another possible donor is Sam Wellstead Jack in 1942. Any further information would be welcome.

Photos from 1940s on - We have had a couple of offers of donations from members, thank you. More would be appreciated.

Research Enquiries - Possible access to online copy of Pettigrew dairies; correct referencing for online version of the Pettigrew Diaries; glass beads used as indigenous trading goods and possible link with

beads discovered at the Commissariat Store; information on Beneke's Bush at Prince Charles Hospital and the German Beneke family after whom it was named; more information on Mr. F O Nixon, a Vice-President of the Society in 1948 and the address he gave that year to the Society; Brisbane locations relating to Major Michael Shanahan, a disabled World War Two veteran who worked as a lift operator at Finney's store for many years.

Donations - Our thanks for the following book donations: author John Pearn for *The Edith Cavell Building, The Australian Memorial Building of Special Significance*; author John Pearn for *Doctors of the World. A History of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Queensland and its people*; author David Corke for *Exploring Burke & Wills: Enigmas and Curiosities*; Bulloo Shire Council for brochure *Explore Bulloo – More Than Just a One-Night Stand*.

Projects - Skye has now digitised four volumes of the early RHSQ Council Meetings' handwritten Minutes. This is a laborious, time-consuming process as each page is photographed and then transferred to the main data base. The priority list of books for conservation is being finalised and an accredited conservator now being sought. Ian Hadwen is progressing through an assessment of the library's maps, plans and panoramas, having previously carried out a similar assessment of items held at the Stafford storage. Helen and I are working through the piles of material, including photographs, left on the library benches, some of it without any indication of donor or purpose. Suitable books are gradually being placed on the library shelves in the public access room, in place of the volumes of Parliamentary Debates, Queensland Government Gazettes and other weighty series now removed to Stafford. Dorothy continues to examine the contents of the very large archive boxes held in the library. These often contain multiple copies of newspapers, especially those that deal with the Royal Family and Coronation ceremonies over the past century. They are being assessed for de-accessioning, as are more books identified as being outside Library parameters of Queensland and PNG history. Books identified as being part of the Thomas Welsby collection are regarded as one entity and are not being de-accessioned.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
Wednesday 13 September, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30 Tamsin O'Connor will speak on 'How Brisbane Celebrated in 1923' Thursday 14 September, Council Meeting. Friday 15 September, Bulletin Deadline.	Kaylie Bourke, Coorparoo, 4151 Chris Skelton, Coorparoo, 4151 Juanita Simmonds, Greenslopes, 4120

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; 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