

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

WORLD CLASS DRAUGHTS IN BRISBANE



RHSQ Digital Photo P52815

Draughts Game Brisbane 1890

Mr Robert Mar (L) plays the “Herd Laddie,” Mr James Wylie, the then world champion, at the Metropolitan Hotel, Edward St., Brisbane. For an account of Mar’s career and this amazing game, see historyoutthere.com. For a fascinating history of draughts through the ages and its relationship to chess, see bobnewell.net

President's Report

All members of the RHSQ are invited to attend a wine and cheese evening, free of charge, another 'meet and greet' event, on Friday 6 October 2023 between 5.30 pm and 7.00 pm at the Commissariat Store when the Society will launch the two paintings generously 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', which was 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 Queensland X-Ray in sponsoring the conservation and reframing these two items from our Museum Collection. Bookings are essential for this event on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'. Both paintings will be major attractions in coming months at the Commissariat Store.

Anyone else or other companies wishing to sponsor the conservation of artifacts in the Society's collections are welcome to contact me or the Society.

The next Wednesday Lecture will be held on 11 October 2023 at 12.30 pm, when Harvey Greenfield will speak on 'Later Queensland Maritime History'. Harvey is a retired Barrister-at-Law and Corporate Counsel. Harvey's specialist areas in history are maritime discovery and exploration, and global strategy of sea power. On Wednesday 8 November the Wednesday Lunch Time Lecture between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm entitled 'One City, Two Venues Albert & Mayne Hall' will be delivered by Professor Peter Roennfeldt.

Members are reminded that the Clem Lack Oration will follow the Annual General Meeting to be held at 5.30 pm on 16 November 2023 with guest speaker Henry Reese. As with all events bookings are essential by those attending through the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'.

All members and friends are cordially invited to attend the Separation Day Celebrations to be held on Sunday 10 December between 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm at the Commissariat Store to mark the day that Queensland separated from New South Wales. The Patron of the RHSQ the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD will be our special guests that evening. Bookings are essential for the event through the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'.

Nominations are now being called for the John and Ruth Kerr Medal for Distinction in historiography, historical research and writing Australian history and will close on 31 March 2024. Details as to eligibility together with nomination forms are available on the RHSQ website under 'About' and then go to 'Awards and Medals'. This is an opportunity for you to nominate a suitable person for this distinguished award.

Petition for Coastwatchers Memorial in Brisbane.

Some of us will recall that in December last year Dr Betty Lee gave a fascinating talk on her Coastwatcher great uncle, Eric Feldt. Betty and others have now instigated a petition for a Coastwatchers memorial and would appreciate support from RHSQ members and friends. If you are willing to add your signature to the petition, please follow this link:

<https://www.epetitions.brisbane.qld.gov.au/petition/view/pid/1246> The petition closes in November. Coastwatchers have been in the news lately with a commemorative event held in Brisbane on 27 July by the Naval Association of Australia.

The Pollock Furniture launch, which included paintings of Robert and Alice Pollock, took the form of a wine and cheese evening on 1 September and was great success. Members and friends are invited to call at the Commissariat Store and witness first-hand the wonderful display. The conservation of these artifacts was funded by a grant from the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund. During August, David Bedford and Judith McKay authored an outstanding article in the August edition of *Australiana* published by the Australiana Society. Both David and Judith are members of the RHSQ and oversaw the project for which the Society is most appreciative. Also, other volunteer members of the Museum Committee, chaired by Dean Prangley, are to be commended for their role in effectively organising this and other Exhibitions.

On 9 September 2023 the Society held a half-day conference at the Commissariat Store entitled *The Mermaid, the castaways, and European exploration of the Brisbane River*. Our five guest speakers delivered interesting and thought-provoking papers. The Society is appreciative of the work of the Program Committee, particularly Matthew Rowe, the chair, together with Dan Morgan and Lisa Jackson, to make the conference such a success. Our thanks to Glenda Sheaffe who organised the morning tea in her usual capable and professional style.

The Society's Marketing Committee with Tracie Dornbusch as chair has been very active in lifting the profile of the Commissariat Store and well as contacting schools, groups and individuals to encourage them to visit our Convict and Queensland History Museum. With our new exhibitions, this has led to a substantial increase of visitors to the Commissariat Store. Over the coming weeks the Marketing Committee will be presenting further initiatives.

The Society's many "meet and greet" occasions, including our conferences and lectures, are a wonderful opportunity to meet likeminded people in a warm and friendly atmosphere to discuss issues of mutual interest. I look forward to meeting members and visitors at forthcoming events.

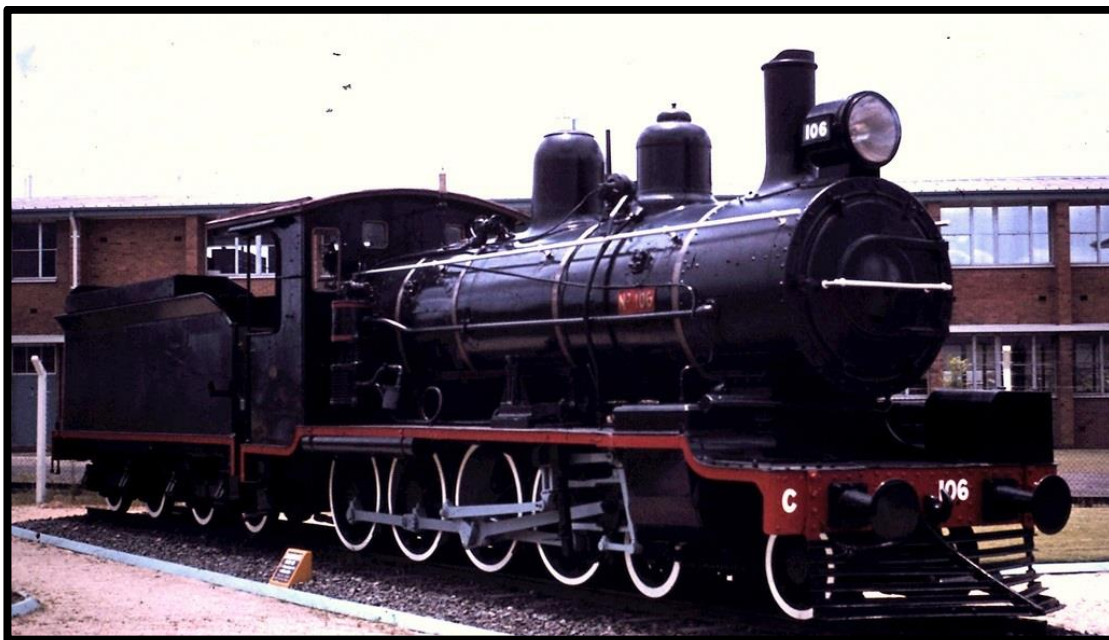
Denver Beanland,
President.

Queensland Report

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

Cooktown - This October Cook Shire Council and the Cooktown Historical Centre will be celebrating 150 years of Cooktown being founded as a town. They are holding a free community BBQ in William Daku Park on Wednesday 25 October and a Bush Dance featuring *The Whiskey Boat* at the Shire Hall on Friday 20 October. (Cooktown Historical Society Notice 30 August 2023)

Drayton – Locomotive C16 106, originally built in the Toowoomba about 1912 has returned to the rails. The relatively new group at Drayton near Toowoomba have rebuilt 106, once an exhibit at Redbank Museum. They are now working and well advanced on a BB18¼ ex the late Peter Ford restoration at Mackay. QR C17 974 is currently working out of Warwick in lieu of local C17 971 which is under repair. (Greg Hallam News, 30 August 2023)



DownsSteam Tourist Railway and Museum Photo

Locomotive C16 106 'Pride of Toowoomba'

Grandchester – The station reopened on 3 September following an agreement between Queensland Rail and the Australian Railway Historical Society (Queensland Division) (ARHS). The ARHS plans to attract small function bookings, markets, private tour groups, and motorcycle and car club tours. They desire to continue to work closely with Queensland Rail to preserve the Grandchester station and railway history. The 106-year-old World War 1 honour board will remain at Grandchester station under the licence. (*Ipswich News Today*, 31 August 2023, p. 1; *Ipswich Tribune*, 30 August 2023, p. 2)

Warra town, 45 km north west of Dalby contains extensive evidence of its history. The railway was opened to Warra on 10 September 1877. The complex of railway buildings (station master's office, telegraph office, waiting shed, ladies' room, and goods shed) was described in the *Queenslander* newspaper of 1 December 1877 as 'unduly lavish'. The railway station has been moved across to a heritage park in recent

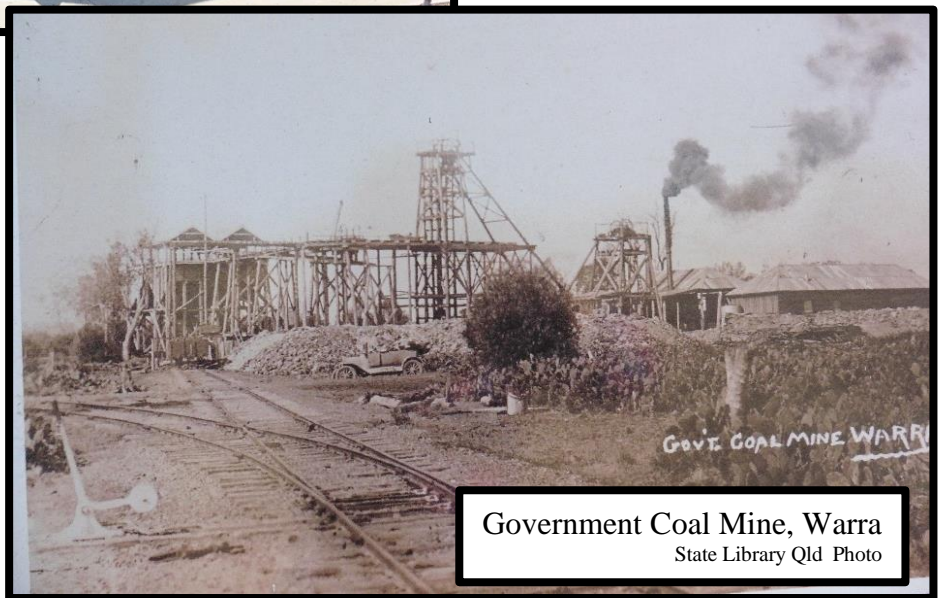


Warra Railway Station
Ruth Kerr Photo

years. An unusual feature of the railway through Warra is that there is a subway for pedestrians which was constructed in 1911-12, and is unusual on rural railways. A dam was constructed on Cooranga Creek to provide water for locomotives on opening of the railway. The largest number of passengers recorded for the station was 6580 in 1914. The heritage park adjacent to the railway and the town's hotel contains the Haystack School building, a historic baker's oven barbecue and the restored railway station.

A state coal mine operated at Warra from 1914 to 1919. The mine

site is still visible and featured by a silhouette statue and a small wagon on a concrete base and is marked by a small plaque unveiled by Mr Russell D'Arcy, an officer of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water on 28 March 2004. The siding from the mine to the railway station is also traceable. Detailed signage listing the line employees together with photographs of the mine in operation has been erected utilising funding from the CFMEU Union and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. (Commissioner for Railways *Annual Report* 1911-12 p. 129; Mines Department *Annual Report* 1917 p. 127; *Queensland Government Gazette*, June 1877, vol 20, pp. 1505 and 1641; Working Time Tables 1885-88; Queensland Parliamentary Papers 1919, vol. 4, p. 980; Personal Visit by Ruth Kerr on 26 August 2023). A Significance Assessment, Preserving Today, Warra's Yesterdays, For Tomorrow, was prepared in 2021 for Warra Progress & Heritage Society Inc. by historian, Dr Tony J Brady.



Government Coal Mine, Warra
State Library Qld Photo

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

Research enquiries received were: location of various houses and their occupants for a family history; background notes or diaries for Sydney May’s *The Story of Waltzing Matilda* published in 1944; information on possible source of materials used in building the Commissariat Store and if the mortar used in the Treasury building came from the midden heap at Toorbul/Godwin Beach. Was there a kiln for lime-burning at Scarborough? Thanks to Ian Hadwen for his donation of 2 albums of family photos from 1959-1962 which he purchased at auction some years ago. One album in particular is very useful for the library photo collection. Its photos show various scenes from around Brisbane and nearby beaches but taken from an unusual aspect. Many are in colour. They proved helpful in suggesting alternative photos for the Chermside Hospital Foundation Memory project.

We have been assisting with checking the didactics for the forthcoming exhibition of paintings held in the RHSQ Museum collection, which have been restored through donations from Queensland X-Ray. Through Emily’s work in listing the RHSQ’s 2-mile and 4-mile series maps and comparing the lists with holdings at the QSA and SLQ, it has been found that we hold maps missing from their collections. These maps will be retained. We have been assessing the old newspapers in the large archive boxes. They will be removed as they are in very poor condition but mainly, because of the leaching of the print into the paper itself, they have an adverse effect on other material in the boxes.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Friday 6 October, 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm ‘Meet and Greet’ event.</p> <p>Wednesday, 11 October, 12.30 – 1.30 pm Harvey Greenfield will give a presentation on the topic “Later Colonial Maritime History.”</p> <p>Thursday 12 October, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Sunday 15 October, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline.</p>	<p>Kathy Frankland, Camp Hill, 4152</p> <p>Liz Bissell, Red Hill, 4059</p> <p>Nick Hadnutt, South Brisbane, 4101</p> <p>Pamela Greet, Ashgrove, 4060</p> <p>Megan Martin, Stones Corner, 4120</p> <p>Sally May, South Brisbane, 4101</p> <p>Sallyanne Atkinson, South Brisbane, 4101</p> <p>Jack Barton, Redland City, 4161</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; 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