

# RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*81 years of continuous publication*  
NOVEMBER 2023 No. 890

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](http://www.queenslandhistory.org)

## Celtic Nations Monument: Brisbane's Standing Stones



Celtic Council of Australia (Queensland) Photo

The inauguration of the Celtic Nations Monument took place on 8 October, 2023, in Moorlands Park, Brisbane, well-known for its historic link with the Mayne family. The monument celebrates the contribution of people from Celtic nations to Queensland's development over almost two centuries. It consists of "five large natural granite Standing Stones representing the stars of the Southern Cross, Australia's emblematic constellation, and oriented toward the Winter and Summer Solstices, from which the calendar of the Celtic year is derived." Such stones have long been a distinctive feature of Celtic landscapes in Western Europe, the largest still extant collection of 3000 stones being found at Carnac in Brittany, France. Modern Celtic nations include Scotland (Alba), Ireland (Eire), Isle of Man (Mannin), Wales (Cymru), Cornwall (Kernow), Brittany (Breizh), and Galicia and Asturias in Northern Spain. (My thanks to Jeff Spender, President of the Queensland Irish Association, which recently celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, and Mavis Williams, President of the Celtic Council of Australia (Queensland) for permission to use the Standing Stones information).

Kay Cohen

## President's Report

On Wednesday 8 November, between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm, the RHSQ's next Lecture will be delivered at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane by Professor Emeritus Peter Rosenfeldt entitled 'One City, Two Venues: Albert and Mayne Hall'. From the opening of Albert Hall in 1901 to the refurbishment of Mayne Hall in 2002 much of Brisbane's cultural life centred, in turn, on these medium-sized public facilities. This talk will examine the distinctive features and commonalities of two of Brisbane's much-used multipurpose venues. All members and friends are invited, with a small charge for non-members. Bookings are essential for above event, as with all events, on the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite.'

As a member of the RHSQ you are invited to attend a 'meet and greet event' a wine and cheese evening, free of charge, on Friday 10 November between 5.30 pm and 7.00 pm at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane when the Society will launch three paintings funded by a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The paintings are St Helena Island Penal Establishment, Moreton Bay by Charles Edward Winn; *Chardon's Hotel Annerley* by Margaret Cilento; and *Old Breakfast Creek Bridge* by Arthur James Hingston. In addition, on the evening we will be launching three displays an Updated Convict Exhibition, an Explorers and Surveyors Exhibition, and an early Queensland Building Materials and Tools Exhibition. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people in a warm and friendly atmosphere to discuss issues of mutual interest.

All members are invited to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting, at the Commissariat Store Museum, followed by the Clem Lack Oration commencing at 5.30 pm on 16 November with guest speaker Dr Henry Reese. Dr Reese's topic is "Electrifying Queensland: Towards a Cultural History of Electricity in the Sunshine State." This will be a fascinating oration about an issue in which Queensland over decades gave enormous importance. As with all events bookings are essential by those attending through the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite.'

Also, 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 Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane to mark the day that Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859. The Patron of the RHSQ the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD will be our special guests that evening. As has been the practice in recent times there will be nibbles and light refreshments served. Glenda Sheaffe will again be catering and we thank Glenda for her fantastic catering which delivers such wonderful food. Bookings are essential for the event through the RHSQ website under 'Events' through 'Eventbrite'

The RHSQ's last lecture for the year will be held on Wednesday 13 December between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm at the Commissariat Store Museum, when our guest speaker will be Dr Natalie Fong speaking on the topic Chinese Youth Club and League.

On 6 October the RHSQ launched the two magnificent paintings, sponsored by Queensland X-Ray one by Vida Lahey *View of Brisbane*, while the other was by artist Harry Strongitharm Wilkinson entitled *Amity*, which was the home of Thomas Welsby at New Farm. The RHSQ is very appreciative of Queensland X-Ray in sponsoring the conservation and reframing these two artefacts from our Museum Collection. 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.

Our Society's Manager, Hannah, has over recent months been updating our three websites: the RHSQ; the Commissariat Store Museum; and the digtree.com.au. In the process with technology changing so rapidly, she has saved the Society \$114 per month which is a considerable saving. The Society's Council is very appreciative of the work undertaken by Hannah in this and other areas of our operations.

Your Society recently made a further submission to the Australian Heritage Council to have the Commissariat Store placed on the National Heritage List. However, we have now been advised that the Commissariat Store has again failed to be listed.

Society's many "meet and greet" occasions, including our conferences, lectures, Exhibition openings, AGM and Clem Lack Oration, Separation Day Celebrations, and our many other activities are a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people. I look forward to meeting members and visitors at forthcoming events.

Denver Beanland,  
President.



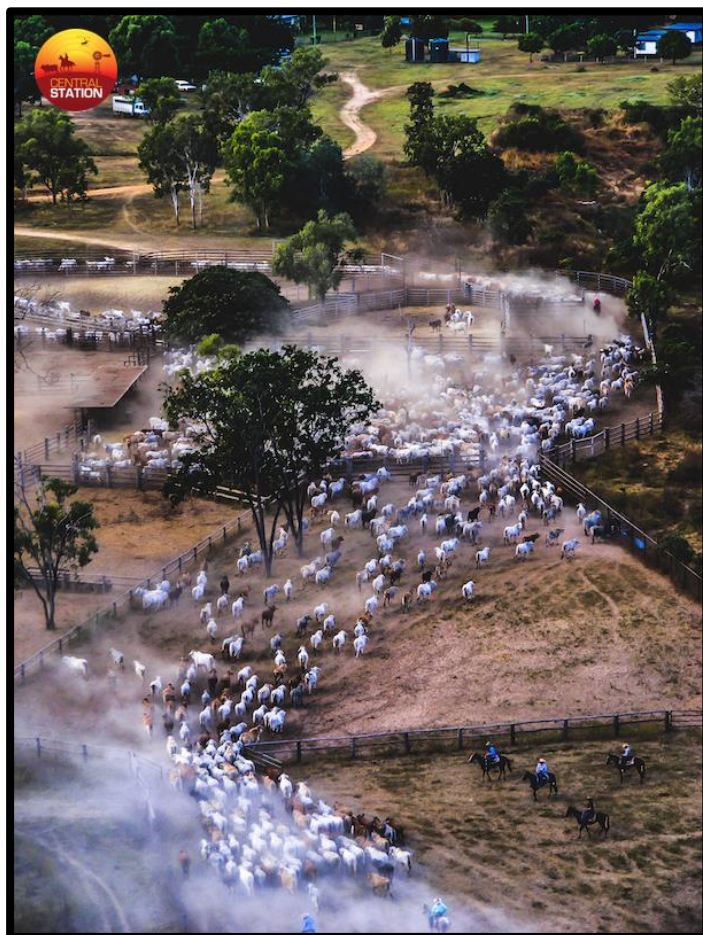
## Queensland Report

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

**Mount Perry** – Back-to-back celebratory weekends are being held in November – an 1870s themed heritage dinner at Fig Tree Camp near the Perseverance mine. The 40-year anniversary of the opening of the Rolonda Tunnel (942 metres long) on the Mount Perry railway will be celebrated on 12 November. The 151<sup>st</sup> Mount Perry races will be held on 18 November. (*Burnett Today*, 28 September 2023, p. 15)

**Proston** celebrated its centenary as a town in September. The town was originally in *Proston* run which was part of the *Boondooma* consolidated run. *Proston* run was opened for selection in the early 1900s and by 1912 most of the blocks in the Kinleymore, Proston, Okeden, Abbeywood and Stalworth areas were occupied. Selectors agitated for a railway which was opened on 24 February 1923. A school followed in 1924. Numerous retail and cultural and health related services followed as reported on by the *Queenslander* in July 1928. The town declined in the 1960s with the closure of the sleeper mill and butter factory and the fire in the *Terminus* hotel in March 1966 (built in 1923). The construction of the Boondooma dam in the early 1980s provided employment and the caravan park and recreation area were opened in 2001. Library, swimming pool, community hall and school extensions followed. The railway closed in 1993 and the concrete block railway station is now a cultural centre for small groups. The Proston and District Heritage Association has established a heritage trail with 52 plaques in the town – [prostonheritage.org.au/heritage-trail](http://prostonheritage.org.au/heritage-trail) (*Burnett Today*, 28 September 2023, pp. 12-15 including historic photographs, one of which was the opening of the first Proston Show on 15 March 1958 by the local member of parliament, Johannes Bjelke-Petersen MP)

**Wrotham Park station, 80km west of Chillagoe** is 150 years old. Cattle were first brought to the property by Alexander Charles Grant in 1873. The Department of Agriculture and Stock had a research station on the property aiming to establish grain crops in the region. Current owners have grown cotton and sorghum crops in recent year. The Walsh Bush Races have been revived with 300 patrons attending this year. Consolidated Pastoral Company bought the property in 2009. It is managed by Simon and Kirsty Cobb. (*North Queensland Register*, 21 September 2023, p. 30)



Yarding up at Wrotham Park Homestead 2008, Photo by Alex Fraser.

**Yarraman Heritage Museum** - The Heritage house was originally built as a convent in anticipation of Australia being invaded in World War II. The Sisters of Mercy took over the convent and opened it as a school comprising a boarding school for boys which operated from 1946 to 1966. (An original bed and mattress are displayed in the museum.) The Roman Catholic Church took it over and operated it as a half way house for Aboriginals from the 1980s after it was used as a Nun's retreat and safe house for women and children. The Museum comprises eight historic buildings, craft shop, museum, community radio, and the historian about pioneer families. There is also the Yarraman Railway Station, Arthur Brown's Butcher Shop, a typical slab hut circa 1921, and a farmer's cottage circa 1930. Yarraman is the start of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail to Ipswich. (*Murgon Moments*, October 2023, p.18)



State Library of Queensland Photo

**Opening of the railway to Yarraman, 1913**



State Library of Queensland Photo

**Opening of the Country Women's Association Hall, Yarraman, 1928**



**Yarraman Heritage House**

---

**THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND  
NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023  
at 5.30 PM 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 the recommendation by the Society's Council that Professor John Pearn be awarded a MacGregor Medal under clause 35(f) of the Society's Constitution.  
Professor John Pearn joined the Society in 1980, has been a member of the Society's Council from 1988 – 2000, 2006 to date, and Vice President 1990-1996. He has been a member of Awards Committee from 2010 to date, a member of the Kerr Medal Committee since 2005, a member of the Dig Tree Committee since its formation, the Matthew Flinders Committee 1998-2004, the Cook conference and book publication committee 2018 to 2022, and the Moreton Bay history conference committee for 2024. Professor Pearn was instrumental in the initiation and production of the Kerr Medals, the Centenary Medal and the MacGregor Medal for the Society. He has been a conscientious member of Council and committees and a great encourager of historians to research, write and publish history and present papers at conferences, and has given outstanding service to the Society.
9. Presentation of Centenary Medals to Ms Jessica Harrington and Mr Paul Brown of the New Volunteer Rifles & Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-members' Association Museum, Wacol
10. Any other business notified in terms of the Constitution.
11. 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



## Library and Research Report

Research queries received this month were as follows: Norman Land McKellar and his involvement with the RHSQ between 1946 and 1985 for his biographer; photo of King Andy of Petrie's Breastplate for a Sunshine Coast Council project; living conditions, including catering arrangements, for Somerset Dam construction workers; information on the Victoria Hospital, Stanley St., South Brisbane, in the early 1900s. We were asked to check Richard Hunt's work on 'Commandants of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement'. This will feature as a video presentation of the Commissariat Store Museum. I recently attended the launch of Melissa Lucashenko's novel *Edenglassie*. Last year Melissa visited the library to obtain some background information on the life of Aboriginal people in the early years of the Moreton Bay Settlement and to learn of other sources she might consult. Also at the launch was Quandamooka elder and long-time RHSQ member, Uncle Bob Anderson, soon to celebrate his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Few people at the launch knew the origin of the book's title. Some thought it was a corruption of Edinburgh and Glasgow. It was the name of the estate in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, of the then Chief Justice of New South Wales, Sir Francis Forbes. He, Governor Brisbane and John Oxley visited the Penal Colony with a view to assessing its suitability for a future free settlement. Oxley and Brisbane overrode Forbes and confirmed the name of Brisbane for the settlement. Edenglassie was never an official name for the Moreton Bay Settlement.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p><b>Wednesday, 8 November, 12.30 – 1.30 pm</b> Talk by Professor Emeritus Peter Rosenfeldt entitled 'One City, Two Venues: Albert and Mayne Hall'.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 9 November, Council Meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Friday, 10 November, 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm</b> A 'meet and greet event;' a wine and cheese evening, free of charge at the Commissariat.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 15 November, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline.</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, 16 November, RHSQ AGM, 5.30 pm.</b></p>	<p>Patricia Mitchell OAM, Albion, 4010</p> <p>Teagan Arnold, Emerald, 4720</p> <p>Michael Cowlick, Narangba, 4504</p> <p>Brian Martin, Corinda, 4075</p> <p>The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc</p>

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> 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