



RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*76 years of continuous publication*

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,  
Governor of Queensland

President: Stephen Sheaffe

Website: [www.queenslandhistory.org.au](http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au)

## CATHOLIC CHURCH HISTORY



Wikipedia Photo

### The Cathedral of St Stephen

**The Cathedral of St Stephen is the heritage-listed cathedral church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and the seat of its archbishop. The cathedral is located on a site bounded by Elizabeth, Charlotte and Edward Streets, Brisbane.**

**Built between 1864 and 1922, with extensions made in 1989, the cathedral was established with James Quinn as its first bishop. Quinn planned to construct a large cathedral to accommodate a growing congregation. On 26 December 1863, the Feast of St Stephen, Quinn laid the foundation stone for a grand cathedral designed by Benjamin Backhouse. Backhouse's original design was changed and downsized numerous times over the course of the cathedral's completion, mainly for economic reasons. See the notice of an event at the cathedral on page 2.**

## President's Report

The activities of the Society have started in the new year with vigour and zest. The enthusiasm of the volunteers and our wonderful manager together with the strong attendances at our two recent February events shows that the interest in history is considerable and growing.

Well over fifty people attended the Commissariat Store on Wednesday to listened to the lecture about the successful response in Queensland to the 1919 Spanish Flu. Compared to other states, New Zealand and elsewhere in the world the number of fatalities in Queensland was very small. It is believed more people died from the flu around the world than from the war and the death of soldiers in 1918 was a factor leading to the Armistice treaty. On Saturday, we were all privileged to hear the six professional speakers on Remembering Armistice, papers that considered the aftermath of WWI including the collecting of war trophies by our diggers, the changing definition of peace and the ugly task of identifying and burying the war dead. It was a truly magnificent day. All these papers will be published in the next edition of the *Journal*, so if you did not attend the conference you will have the opportunity to read them.

This coming Saturday, 23 February, the Society is hosting in partnership with the Annerley Stephens History Group a conference on the history of the Stephens Shire. It is all organised and the number of paid attendees is quickly growing.

The first Council meeting of the year was held last week and many topics were considered. A representative of the Casino Development company attended and provided an up to date report on the adjacent development. The massive excavation is continuing and will be finished by August after about 400,000 cubic metres of fill are removed. The project is progressing on time and the only issue of concern to members of the Council is car access to the building and the availability of car parks when the project is completed in 2022. Discussions on this issue are continuing.

Three members of the Council are driving to Cooroy on Saturday 9 March to present a Centenary Medal to the Cooroy Historical Society for their considerable work in erecting a building for their research services to operate from.

Further, the work by Denver Beanland to move the Dig Tree project forward is continuing. The Manager of the Heritage Branch, Environmental Planning and Policy in the Department of Environment and Science has forwarded an Exemption Certificate for the development of the erosion control measures at the Dig Tree.

A draft of the speakers for the three conferences organised in 2020 to commemorate the passage of Lieutenant Cook up the east coast of Australia 250 years ago was tabled at the meeting. Over 40 very distinguished speakers have agreed to deliver papers at the conference, many of which will concern the impact on our first nation's people. May I suggest you start saving your pennies as it is a long and expensive journey to Cooktown and Seventeen Seventy.

I must congratulate Ilona for her considerable work in helping to organise these functions and to manage the affairs of the Society so efficiently. We thank you.

Stephen Sheaffe  
President

## A Brisbane Catholic Society Event

Brisbane Catholic Historical Society concerns itself with all aspects of the history of the Catholic Church and Catholic institutions within the five dioceses of the Queensland Province.

The Society now has a website: <https://www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au/>

Every two years the Society publishes in hard-copy a volume of its Periodical, Proceedings of the Brisbane Catholic Historical Society. Volume 16 is due to appear in December 2018. (The price of each volume is dependent on the cost of printing; and will be advised at a later time.)

The April meeting will be held in the Hanly Room at the Francis Rush Centre (adjacent to St Stephen Cathedral) at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 2 April and will feature a talk on "*Rosalie Parish 100 Years*" by Dr Liz Hampson & Mr Vince Hodge. Visitors are welcome and a gold coin donation is requested.

## Nominations are Called for the SE Stephens History Award

Nominations are being called for this year's award. Applicants should have spent several years researching and disseminating North Queensland history in the form of papers, newspaper items, journal articles, books, documentaries, photographic collections, exhibitions or a combination of these.

The focus should be on North Queensland history, taking in the area from a line from Cardwell to Burketown and north to Torres Strait. The work should be mainly original and expand the knowledge of Far North Queensland History. The Award can be made to an individual or a group.

Applicants do not have to live in North Queensland. The winner is not precluded from being nominated for a subsequent award based on new published material.

Nominations are called annually and must be accompanied by appropriate supporting material outlining the achievements of the relevant person or group. Closing date is the end of April.

All correspondence to be addressed to:

The Secretary, Cairns Historical Society, PO Box 319, Cairns Qld., 4870

## Queensland News

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

**Amiens** – The Amiens History Association has established an Information Centre at Amiens which focuses on the Soldier Settlement history of the area. As part of the centenary events, Queensland Rail participated at the opening of the first stage of the Amiens Legacy Centre, near Stanthorpe, that recognises the importance of the former 'soldier settler' community that was established in the area around a century ago. Queensland Rail provided a special display on the railway history of the area and the Amiens branch line that ran from Cottonvale on the southern line. More than 700 people attended the event, centred around a restored camp wagon converted into a display and information centre for Amiens. The event included a recreation of the signing of the Armistice by the students of the Amiens State School, poetry readings and bus tours along places on the former railway line. (Queensland Rail *Weekly Notice* E43, 14 November 2018)

**Cooktown** – The Cooktown Historical Society won the Arts award in the Cook Shire Council's 2019 Awards. The president, Mr Bob Norris accepted the award for the Society. The Mayor, Cr Scott complimented the Society on its role in Cooktown and noted its role to play in the Cook 2020 Festival. The Society has 15 volunteers. In 2018 the 16 year old centre, the former Cook Shire Council Offices, received 3000 visitors. The Society does extensive research for visitors. (*Cape York News* 30 January 2019 p. 14 including photograph)

**Ernest Junction** - On 6 February 2019 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of the Ernest Junction Railway Tunnel at Molendinar in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place. The tunnel was on the South Coast Railway constructed in 1888. A Friends of Ernest Junction Tunnel Group has been formed. The tunnel has been entered on the Gold Coast Council Heritage Register. (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-27/gold-coast-rail-tunnel-on-track-heritage-protection/10732322>; Department of Environment and Science Notification.)

**Eumundi Markets** are 40 years old. They began in 1985 in the CWA Hall. By 1990 it had grown to 203 stalls with 260,000 visitors per year. An exhibition about the markets is to be held from 23 March to the end of May in the Heritage and Visitor Centre. (*Noosa News* 18 January 2019, p. 22 including photograph)

**Rewan Station, central Queensland** - On 16 January 2019 the Department of Environment and Science (the Department) received an application proposing entry of the **Rewan Station** in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/).

## Queensland Memory State Library of Queensland November 2018

The Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame 2018 Fellow, and RHSQ member Dr Hilary Davies is currently researching the Canada Cycle and Motor Agency (Qld) Ltd (CCMA), a leading company in Queensland's cycling and early motor industry, between 1905 and 1930. Through examining the collections of the State Library of Queensland, Hilary's project will demonstrate CCMA's importance in the Queensland business landscape and contribute new knowledge about the motor industry in Queensland during the early twentieth century.

For more information or if you have any memories or a connection to CCMA and would like to contribute, contact Hilary through the State Library or telephone on 3840 7424.



## Graceville Bowls Club Members 2018

### Celebrating the Centenary of the Graceville Bowls Club

On Friday 15 February 2019 the Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, visited the Graceville Bowls Club to launch the celebrations for the centenary of the club, one of only five accredited clubs in Brisbane to have reached 100. On Monday 11 February, the date of our foundation, there were further celebrations with a centenary dinner in the new pavilion area. On the following Friday, 15 February, I gave a presentation at the AGM of the Oxley-Corinda Historical Society on the history of the bowls club, based on the booklet I wrote titled *From fields to greens: The Centenary of the Graceville Bowls Club 1919-2019*. The club had borrowed the display boards from the Oxley-Corinda Historical Society through the auspices of Marion Mackenzie, long-time office holder in that society and member of the RHSQ, which were then transported to their meeting. There were about 50 people in attendance, including a few members of the RHSQ and a couple of historians who I had helped as a Research Officer at the Commissariat Store. So I'm still flying the flag for RHSQ.

Val Donovan

### National Archives of Australia

18 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill Qld

#### Self Service Digitisation of Selected Records by the Public

The Queensland Office of the National Archives is testing the feasibility of allowing self-service digitisation of selected records by the public in a controlled reading room environment. It is being trialled in the Queensland Reading Room only, from 8 November 2018 to 30 April 2019.

#### Instructions for participating in this trial and digitising record for personal use

1. Ask the Archives Officer on duty if the file you wish to digitise is suitable for this service. The Archives Officer will allow digitisation of files that are robust enough to handle the process with minimal risk of damage.
2. The Archives Officer on duty will ensure the scanner is ready to operate. If in doubt, ask.
3. Do not change any scanner settings. The scanner is set to the Archives digitisation standards.
4. Digitise each page
  - a. Start at the front file cover.
  - b. Press the green button on the scanner, or click the 'Scan' button on the screen.
  - c. Scan every page, starting from the top page and continuing to the bottom.
  - d. Place the page in the centre of the glass – the scanner will align the image automatically
  - e. Include the back of any page that has information regardless of its significance

- f. If you make a mistake, just repeat the scan and inform the attendant.
  - g. Once you have finished, return all pages to the file pin.
  - h. It is important that the pages are returned in their original order.
5. If you have any questions, ask the Archives Officer.
  6. If you wish to digitise more than one file, inform the Archives Officer. After each file is complete, the Archives Officer will collate the images into a file folder.
  7. Once completed, the Archives Officer will download the images to a USB for you to take with you. The images created you may be processed and loaded to the Archives' RecordSearch database where they can be viewed by the public. The images will be subject to quality assurance before they are loaded. And some files may be rejected.
- (Information provided by David Swift, Manager, National Archives of Australia, Queensland Office.)

### **NOMINATIONS FOR JOHN DOUGLAS KERR**

#### **MEDAL OF DISTINCTION FOR RESEARCH AND WRITING AUSTRALIAN HISTORY**

Nominations are called for the John Douglas Kerr Medal which is awarded each year for distinction in research and writing Australian History. Details of the award are available on the Society's website at: <http://www.queenslandhistory.org/awards-and-medals/>

The criteria for the award are:

1. Demonstrated excellence in historical research in any one or more fields of Queensland or Australian history
2. Demonstrated and identified use of wide-spread appropriate source material in the context of the nominee's research field or fields
3. Demonstrated objective analysis, distillation and interpretation of historical source material leading to the formation of historical arguments arising out of the research
4. Demonstrated acceptance of the highest standards of scholarship as judged by the Queensland community of professional historians, assessing the work of written contributions of the nominee
5. Is currently practicing as a historian at a professional standard.

**Nominations close with the RHSQ on 31 March 2019.**

## **Research Report**

The research volunteers have tackled a number of requests in the past month, these are: an inquiry about our holdings pertaining to Hayman Island. The inquirer has a collection of photographs from 1983-1989 that he is interested in contributing to the Welsby Library; a women's discussion group requested information pertaining to early women's prisons and factories in Brisbane. The group will likely visit in the coming weeks; a University of Queensland researcher wrote to inquire about independent Brisbane bookstores between 1950-2000. In particular she is interested in Thomson's Book Store and owner Wattie Thomson; we received a website inquiry regarding former Honorary Librarian C G Austin; an individual requested information on her Queenslander home. The structure had been moved in 2001 from Greenslopes to Sandy Creek but little other information was known; staff at Language Worker at the Central Queensland Language Centre in Bundaberg wrote to inquire about Indigenous populations in Bundaberg, McKenzies Road and Indigenous people moved from humpies to houses in the area, circa 1940s-50s; staff from Queensland State Archives visited to research documents for an upcoming exhibition; we assisted a researcher in obtaining high resolution historic photos for his apartment and building.

Merv Hopton has continued to contribute excellent resources to our archive pertaining to the Bundaberg region. This month he has sent us seven register sheets on the structure of Walla. His work has singlehandedly improved our Bundaberg offerings. We appreciate his hard work and partnership.

We successfully cleared the hurdles to upgrade our cataloguing software, InMagic. With the technical specifications sorted, we look forward to launching an online version of the database in the coming months.

A gem from our collection, the 1898 St. Helena penal journal has successfully been digitised. With 186 pages, researchers can now browse the document on the computer. The document will be loaned to State Archives for an upcoming exhibition.

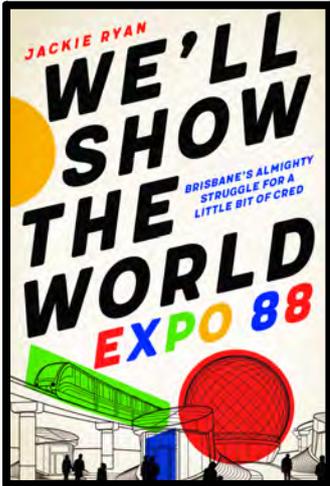
Sarah Aldrich

## **Talk at the Wynnum Library - Thursday 28 February - 10.00 to 11.00 am**

The life and Times of a Brisbane waterside worker, based on the book, *Wharfie* by the co-author Lesley Synge

# The Talk for March - *We'll Show the World: Expo 88*

Wednesday 13 March 12.30 to 1.30 pm



**World Expo 88 was the largest, longest, and loudest of Australia's bicentennial events.**

A shiny 1980s amalgam of cultural precinct, shopping mall, theme park, travelogue, and rock concert, Expo 88 is commonly credited as the catalyst for Brisbane's 'coming of age'. So how did an elaborate and expensive party change a city forever?

*We'll Show the World* explores the shifting social and political environment of Expo 88, shaped as much by Queensland's controversial premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen as it was by those who reacted against him. It shows how something initially greeted with outrage, scepticism, and indifference came to mean so much to so many, how a state better known for eliciting insults enchanted much of the nation, and how, to Brisbane, Expo was personal.

## Speaker

The Speaker is Jackie Ryan who holds a PhD in history and political science from The University of Queensland, where she was an Honorary Research Fellow. She wrote the didactic text for the Museum of Brisbane's 'Light Fantastic' exhibition on Expo 88 in 2013, and has devised audiovisual material on Expo for the Southbank Corporation and the Queensland Museum. She produces the Aurealis Award-winning *Burger Force* comic series and founded comedy writing collective the Fanciful Fiction Auxiliary; the websites for both of these projects have been archived by the National Library of Australia as sites of cultural significance. Jackie is the programs manager at the Queensland Writers Centre. She still has her Expo season pass.

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>MARCH</u>		
Wednesday 13 March, Talk 12.30 to 1.30 pm 'We'll Show the World: Expo 88' Speaker: Jackie Ryan	Louise Knox	Bellmere
Thursday 14 March, Council Meeting	Carolyn Mary Knox	Bellmere
Friday 15 March, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline	Charles Tyson	Springsure
	Michael Freeman	Clayfield

Contact Details	Bulletin Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Ilona Fekete	Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson	Ordinary Member: \$ 66.00
ABN: 34 217 251 028	A/Editor: Gloria Nicholson	Partner of Member: \$ 22.00
Phone: 07 3221 4198	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Junior Member (U18): \$ 11.00
Fax: 07 3221 4698	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Full-time Student (U25): \$ 33.00
email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au	The Society acknowledges financial assistance from: Commonwealth Government Heritage Grants; Qld Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund; Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, The Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund; Brisbane City Council; Qld State Archives; Blocksidge and Ferguson Real Estate; Our Honorary Auditor, Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd.	Libraries: \$ 66.00
Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane, George Street, 4003		Corporate/Institutions: \$ 275.00
		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00