



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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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 AM

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org

President's Report

It has been another very busy month for the Society. The Annual Conference held on Saturday 31 August 2019 with the theme Exploration on Land, Water and Sky was a great success with six high quality papers presented to a keen and interested audience. A thank you to the presenters as the considerable time taken to research and prepare the presentation is well known and appreciated. A special thank you is extended to all those who helped to organize the conference especially Ilona Fekete and Michelle Pickering.

Sixty people attended the Wednesday lunch time lecture by Tamsin O'Connor on Wednesday 11 September. This strong attendance shows that a well promoted paper on a topic that interests a large group works well. A paper on convicts and especially convict women in Moreton Bay is in this category and it also shows that those 144 convict women in Moreton Bay are not forgotten. Tamsin, thank you, for your well researched paper.

The Dig Tree work is slowly coming to a conclusion. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Bulloo Shire Council and the RHSQ has been executed and as soon as the final approval is given and payment is made to the Bulloo Council the work should commence by them. We hope it will be completed by Christmas.

Since the last meeting Dean Prangley and I have had meetings with Graeme Witherspoon (from DBC) and Geoff Hogg (from Star Entertainment) about the possibility of us occupying the second basement floor of the old library building. We were taken through the vacant floor and had a close look at it. It is a wonderful space and the location is perfect. These negotiations are continuing, but a final result will not be known for some time. A part of the discussion concerned the Society convening a strategy meeting next year when everyone can raise issues as to our preparation and what can be achieved after the casino begins its operation. Most of these issues arise from the additional foot traffic in the locality. Some of the issues are: should we be opened 7 days a week, how do we fund it, should we have two entrances for visitors – at the ground floor and William Street. We should be preparing a strategy document that encapsulates our thoughts and plans. If you have any thoughts please communicate them to the Society. I know Tim Roberts has already undertaken work on this topic.

The organization for the Cook conferences next year is continuing. As for Brisbane the conference will possibly be held at the library with dinner that evening at the Tatts Club. The 1770 conference organization is continuing. As for Cooktown, the proposed dinner that was to be held on the Saturday evening will now be linked to the Cook Ball and Dinner organized by the Cooktown organizing committee.

Our next conferences are the Stanthorpe conference on 12 October and then the Stephens and War conference on 26 October 2019.

Please, if you are considering attending the Cooktown conference, book now - as accommodation will be very difficult to find in due course. PLEASE FIND A PLACE AND BOOK NOW!

Furthermore, the Programme Committee is searching for speakers for the lunch time talks next year - if you are interested or know of someone who is researching a topic please contact the Society (3221 4198)

Stephen Sheaffe
President

SEARCHING FOR LUNCH TIME SPEAKERS FOR NEXT YEAR

Please contact the Society- The Society calls for lunch time speakers next year. Please contact the office.

Vale Jeffrey Lyle O'Mara

It is with sadness we report that Jeff O'Mara, our councillor, good friend and colleague passed away at the Princess Alexander Hospital on Friday night 30 August 2019, aged 67 years. As expected, a large number of councillors and volunteers attended the funeral. Jeff was born in Brisbane on 15 June 1952, the youngest of four children. After leaving school he joined the bank and during this time was transferred to Mt Morgan. In 1977 he travelled overseas and on his return home he completed a computer course and spent a large part of his working life in the accounts department at Colorado.

Jeff was a wonderfully kind and generous person. He began his life at the Society by selling books at conferences and other events held at the Commissariat Store and elsewhere. He regularly attended the Queensland History Alive weekends at Fort Lytton with other volunteers.

He began guiding visitors at the Commissariat Store many years ago and he continued to do so until recently especially on days when a large group of school children were booked. His interest and enthusiasm for history was obvious. He soon joined the Museum Committee and was appointed its chairman.

He spent many hours preparing exhibitions. Two exhibitions he designed and had a major role in establishing were the Edison Tubes display and the Shipwrecks in Queensland exhibition, an exhibition he helped to launch. His knowledge was inciteful and encyclopaedic. As acting curator, Jeff organised and prepared the display for our joint seminar with the Lebanese Historical Society. He was also working on digitising the Pettigrew Diaries that the Society holds. Jeff was appointed to the Council in 2015.

Jeff took on the task of monitoring the move and supervising the careful packing of every item in our museum archive from linen handkerchiefs to ships' wheels from National Trust House to the new building at Woolloongabba. He either alone or with a small team unpacked the many hundreds of items at the new location.

Seven months after moving to Woolloongabba the Society was forced to again move its entire museum collection to another building in Stafford after the Government decided to demolish the Woolloongabba building for the new Cross River Rail Project. As museum chair, Jeff again took responsibility for the move and again spent many hours and days unpacking and placing items in the new premises. He also noted that severe mould had appeared on the leather and wooden items including on the covers of hundreds of leather-bound books. Jeff and other volunteers spent hours treating affected items with appropriate cleaning fluid.

The dedication and commitment Jeff had given to the Society was of the highest order and he was held in the highest of esteem by everyone who knew him. For his distinguished service, at the 2017 AGM, he was presented the McGregor Medal. A very worthy recipient.

To satisfy his great interest in our history he was also a collector of history books and maps. After discussion with his family, consideration is being given to the proposal that his books and maps be donated to the Society. In recognition of his service an exhibition will be established in his name.

On behalf of the Society, I offer our condolences to his family and express our admiration and thanks for his significant and wonderful contribution over many years. He will be sadly missed.

Queensland News

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

Brooweena – The centenary of St Mary's Anglican Church and Cemetery at Brooweena is to be celebrated in a commemorative service conducted by Bishop Jeremy Greaves at 10.30am on 2 November 2019, the actual centenary. Local people had worked for 20 years raising funds for a church at Brooweena, a timber industry town west of Maryborough. An acre of land near Sandy Creek was donated by Elizabeth Thomas for a church and cemetery. A contract was let to a Mr Rooney to build the church. A stump-capping ceremony, community picnic and church service were held on 24 September 1919. The first service in the new building was held on 2 November 1919 by Revd James Hardingham. The church was dedicated by Archbishop Donaldson three weeks later. The cemetery grounds known as Clifton cemetery were consecrated in 21 November 1923. The first burial there was of Abraham John Ezzy who died on 18 August 1921. The current warden of St Mary's Church is Gail

Gauld, who is also Secretary of the Woocoo Historical Society at Brooweena. (Woocoo Historical Society *News Bulletin* vol 33 no. 2, August 2019)

Dalby – A 3D street art commemorating the Cactoblastis insect which eradicated prickly pear had been created on the footpath of Marble Street, Dalby by artist, Jenny McCracken. Mrs McCracken has recently painted water towers in Gulargambone and Gunnedah. (*Toowoomba Chronicle* 26 August 2019 p. 15)

Gympie – Mary Valley Rattler – A report into the operation of the Mary Valley Rattler heritage railway has been compiled by Earthcheck who did the business case for the project in 2016. Ticket sales in 2019-2020 are forecast at 34,000. Average spend in Gympie by visitors is estimated at \$245. Seventy-four jobs are created in the area. Further reports on the cost increases and the standard of the rail infrastructure are awaited. (*Gympie Times* 17 August 219 pp. 1,5)

Rainbow Beach – A search is underway for photographs and artefacts relating to the *Natone*, a Norwegian freighter used in Norwegian and Australian Antarctic exploration as the centenary of her launching approaches. The 450-ton cattle freighter with six officers and 12 Papuans founded on the night of 23-24 January 1959 off Double Island Point in the tail end of the cyclone, *Beatrice*. The plight of the freighter and the aftermath were recorded in the *Gympie Times* of 27 January 1959. The ship did service in Antarctica as the *Wyatt Earp* in 1947-48. The full history is outlined in the *Gympie Times* of 15 June 2019 p. 20 including two photographs. The Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) veterans have joined with the Norwegian Embassy in Canberra in holding a special commemoration luncheon in Hobart of 27 September 2019, the centenary of her launch date in Molde in Norway. RHSQ member, David Dodd, who is treasurer and project officer of ANARE is collecting memorabilia about the *Natone*. (Contact: email: natone@anareclub.org.au and per MOB 0401726525)

Stanthorpe – The Granite Belt is severely drought stricken. The historic Storm King Dam bridge is becoming more and more visible in the landscape. (*Border Post* 13 August 2019 p. 2 including photograph)

Research and Library Report

The following research queries were received in the past month: information re house built at Mount Tamborine in the 1980s; Butterfield St., Herston, Brisbane, in relation to the home and estate of John Herbert, Queensland's first Premier (Chief Secretary); dating a photograph with reference to the women's fashions depicted; information on the building between the former Bank of New South Wales building on corner of George and Queen Streets, Brisbane and Barry & Roberts' department store, now part of Myer Centre, Queen St. Mall. This brought back memories of the well-known Chemist Roush American-style milk bar and soda fountain operating in the building in the 1960s; re Queenslanders quarantined at Tenterfield during 1919 influenza epidemic, a *Bulletin* reader has contributed more information about quarantine camps in Brisbane from postcards sent to them by relatives. Relevant information can also be found in Matthew Wengert's new publication, *City of Masks*. The original inquiry re a possible connection between Houthem village, The Netherlands, and Houthem St., Camp Hill, Brisbane has led down interesting paths. There was a possible connection between the dairy farm established on that land and a World War One returned serviceman, but no firm conclusion was reached. With the help of The Coorparoo Historical Society and Dr Jack Ford, it was determined that Houthem, south of Bruges, Belgium, was an Allied supply depot, close to the town of Hamel. Both Houthem and Hamel Sts. were probably named in the early 1920s by the then Coorparoo Shire Council.

Volunteer researcher Beth Johnson has donated *A Short Biography of Benjamin Cribb*, a shorter version of her major publication *Robert Cribb: From an Iceberg to Brisbane Town*. Dr Michael White has donated three of his books, *TC Beirne School of Law, A History*; *UQ Lawyers Lost in WWII*; and *19th Century Pioneer: Frank Villeneuve Nicholson Family in Australia*. John Tidey donated a copy of *Voyage to the South Seas*, a diary written by his forebear Newton Barton. Photographs of William Main's photos of Bribie Island lagoons taken for Thomas Welsby's book *Bribie the Basket Maker* were donated by the Bribie Historical Society.

Congratulations to our volunteer researcher Dr. Sarah Bartels. Her book, *The Devil and the Victorians*, based on her PhD thesis, has been accepted for publication in 2020 by major publisher Routledge.

Kay Cohen

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6PM
AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, RBISBANE
AGENDA

1. Opening, Attendance and Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2018 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, ten 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 Dr Denver Beanland be elected as a Fellow of the Society and that Mr Barrie Rollason be awarded a MacGregor Medal.

Fellowship:

The Society's Council recommends that Dr Denver Beanland be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 (d) of the Constitution, for his significant scholarly achievements with the Society and the community. Denver Beanland holds a Bachelor of Arts with first class Honours in History (2003) and a PhD in History (2008) from The University of Queensland. Denver is the author of three books: *A Court Apart: The District Court of Queensland*, a history of the Court, (2009); a biography, *The Queensland Caesar: Sir Thomas McIlwraith*, a three times colonial Premier, (2013); and *Brisbane – Australia's New World City: A History of the old Town Hall, City Hall, and the Brisbane City Council 1985 – 2013*, (2016). He is also the author of many published articles including for the *Queensland History Journal* – on colonial banks, the economy and migration, Queensland court rules, first government of Queensland, coastal exploration, the political history, the public service and local history. He also wrote many articles on the history of several legal matters for the *Supreme Court History Program Yearbook* and the *Queensland Legal Yearbook*.

MacGregor Medal:

The Society's Council recommends that Mr Barrie Rollason be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (f) of the Constitution, for his role on the Society's Council as Hon Treasurer and his careful, deliberative consideration of many aspects of the Society's activities. Barrie Rollason joined the Society on 26 February 1998. He is a retired Auditor General for Queensland (1992-1997) and has brought the skills of that office to his role as Hon Treasurer of the Society since 2007. He is a regular attender at the Society's functions and a contributor to our committees.

9. Amendment of the Society's Constitution:

The Society's Council recommends to the AGM that Clause 37 of the Society's Constitution be amended by deleting in the first line the word, 'Douglas', and inserting the words, 'and Ruth', in its place.

The amended clause will read:

37 Kerr Medal

The John and Ruth Kerr Medal for Distinction in historiography, historical research and writing may be awarded each year by the Society in conjunction with the Professional Historians Association (Queensland). The Society in conjunction with the Professional Historians Association (Queensland) shall have a joint committee which will establish the criteria and rules under which the award may be made. The Council shall appoint those members of the joint committee from the Society and approve the criteria and rules on behalf of the Society. The joint committee will decide on the recipient or recipients of the award, if any, on behalf of both the Society and the Professional Historians Association (Queensland).

Statement:

The Society's Council recommends that the John Douglas Kerr Medal become the John and Ruth Kerr Medal in recognition of her historiography and contribution to community and academic history in Australia and the major role that Ruth has also played in the Society for over 50 years. Ruth's roles in the Society include: being a past president, Honorary Secretary, assistant editor of the *Queensland History Journal*, and manager of Library Services and numerous others. Ruth is the Society's only honorary life member. She received the Kerr Medal in 2013, awarded a Fellowship of the Society in 1984, and a MacGregor Medal in 1998.

10. Presentation of Award of Centenary Medals to James Nixon, Dorothy Jeffrey, Edith Cuffe and Dennis Peel.

11. Close

12. The Clem Lack Oration will follow the AGM. It will be presented by Mr Ian Townsend on Australia’s worst cyclone, the Mahino, at Bathurst Bay on Cape York in 1899.

Ruth S. Kerr
Honorary 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 Wednesday, 27 November 2019 at 6pm 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 13 November 2019.

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 Honorary Secretary

Signed:

Date:

Wednesday Talk for October

Wednesday 9 October 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Topic: The rise and fall of Colonial Queensland’s three trading banks

Speaker: Denver Beanland

The paper chronicles the economic successes and upheavals that eventually crushed the aspirations of Colonial Queensland’s Three Trading Banks. It traces the history of the three Queensland based, deposit-taking and note-issuing, trading banks that were established in the 1870s and 1880s; namely the Queensland National Bank Limited, Royal Bank of Queensland Limited and Bank of North Queensland Limited. These three banks were registered and incorporated under the Queensland *Companies Act 1863*. By tracing the banks history, Queensland’s economic development is also being examined. The paper concludes with their takeover by the National Bank of Australasia.

Denver Beanland holds a Bachelor of Arts with first class Honours in History (2003) and a PhD in History (2008) from The University of Queensland. Denver is the author of three books: *A Court Apart: The District Court of Queensland*, a history of the Court, (2009), a biography; *The Queensland Caesar: Sir Thomas McIlwraith*, a three times colonial Premier, (2013); his latest book is entitled *Brisbane – Australia’s New World City: A History of the old Town Hall, City Hall, and the Brisbane City Council 1985 – 2013*, (2016). He is also the author of many published articles. Denver served as a Member of the Queensland Parliament from 1986 to 2001. He was the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister

Responsible for Consumer Affairs from 1996-98 and was leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party 1990-91. Between 1976 and 1986 Denver was an Alderman of the Brisbane City Council and, in 1985-86, was Vice-Mayor. He is a past President of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and currently serves on the Society's Council. Denver is Chair of the National Archives of Australia Advisory Council and is also Chair of the Brisbane City Council's Heritage Advisory Committee. He is Patron of the Brisbane City Pops Orchestra (BCPO).

Upcoming Events of Note

12 October, Saturday 10am to 4pm – Brisbane Open House at the Commissariat store, all day free admission

13 October, Sunday, 3pm – Ensemble in Residence - Fragments Ensemble: A Garden of Weeds
Fragments Ensemble, together with the Brisbane Commissariat Store, invite you into their home for Brisbane Open House.

This special concert will feature chamber music for soprano, clarinet and piano, performed by internationally acclaimed musicians Judith Molnar, Rianne Wilschut and Brieley Cutting.

Our concert program brings together a unique selection of serious to light-hearted compositions, music from American and English composers contrasting with Eastern European.

RHSQ members \$25, General admission \$30 – Online:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=550237&>

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>												
<p>Wednesday 9 October 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Topic: The rise and fall of Colonial Queensland's three trading banks Speaker: Denver Beanland Thursday 10 October, Council Meeting Saturday 12 October, Commissariat Open House Sunday 13 October, 3.00 pm Ensemble in Residence Tuesday 15 October, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</p>	<table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gary Bacon</td> <td>Ferny Grove</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Craig Howeson</td> <td>Deagon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anne C Paul</td> <td>St Lucia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Desley Pedrazzini</td> <td>Red Hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Baker</td> <td>West End</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greg Czechura</td> <td>Caboolture</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Gary Bacon	Ferny Grove	Craig Howeson	Deagon	Anne C Paul	St Lucia	Desley Pedrazzini	Red Hill	Mark Baker	West End	Greg Czechura	Caboolture
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website: www.queenslandhistory.org	<p>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.</p>	Libraries: \$ 66.00
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		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00