



# RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*77 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 AM

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



Old Pics Photo

## G T Young's Store in Pittsworth

This store has an impressive double gabled facade with a plaque insert stating the store was established in 1901. There is an overhanging veranda, edged with wrought iron lacework.

Signs around the edge of the roof are advertising a bookseller, fancy goods sales, newsagent, bookseller again, tobacconist, stationer, and agent for Paling's pianos and organs. At the top is a sign denoting the store is a music warehouse.

See story on page 3.

## President's Report

It has been another very busy month for the Society. Yesterday members of the Society returned to Brisbane after attending a conference in Stanthorpe on aspects of their local history. The symposium was organized in conjunction with the Stanthorpe and District Historical Society and Museum. It was feared that the drought and recent fires in Stanthorpe would place a dampener on the organization of and the conference itself. Some suggested the conference should be cancelled whilst the drought was continuing. However, it was the complete opposite. The organizing committee were enthusiastic organisers and said this conference was a bright light in a difficult period for their community. It was a wonderful conference and I look forward to the presented papers being published. Thank you to all the organizers.

The exemption certificate has now been presented for the Dig Tree Project and so now all approvals have been given. Work can now get under way. We look forward to this project being completed later in the year or early next year. It is hoped we will have a launch at the Dig Tree next year and convene a nearby conference at the same time.

During the month Ruth, Ilona and I attended a small function with the staff at DBC to present a certificate to acknowledge and thank them for their assistance, courtesy and generosity as the gate keepers on the road adjacent to the Commissariat Store. The certificate was appreciated by them all. It will hang proudly in their common room.

Further meetings with DBC and Star Entertainment were held during the month. We are still negotiating to occupy a lower floor of the old library as our storage facility after the casino is built. A strategic plan conference will be held in February next year to discuss the issues that we will face when the new casino is built and our response to it. What will the Society then look like?

The RHSQ editors have very generously edited the eighteen papers for the new publication, *Echoes of Stories of Stephens*. These are the papers presented at a conference that was convened in February 2019 in Annerley for the Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc. A payment of \$500 has been made to the Society for this editing work. It is expected the book will be launched on the 9 December 2019. The ASHG is convening another conference to be held on 26 October 2019 titled Stephens and War. They are a busy lot.

We have been offered a sponsorship of \$10,000 to help fund the three Cook conferences next year. The terms of the sponsorship are still being negotiated and a meeting has been convened for next week with a representative of the Premiers Department to discuss the terms. We hope terms can be agreed. Please, if you are considering attending the Cooktown conference next year, please book now - as accommodation will be very difficult to find in due course. PLEASE FIND A PLACE AND BOOK NOW.

As I have previously stated the three conferences are in:

1. Brisbane on Saturday 23 May 2020 - at the State Library with dinner at the Tatts Club.
2. The Town of 1770 on Friday 29 May 2020 - the conference and the accommodation at Sandcastles 1770 Motel and Resort, Agnes Water.
3. Cooktown on 1 August 2020.

The AGM is being held on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at the Store. Our Clem Lack oration will be delivered by Ian Townsend and titled: A Perfect Cyclone: Exploring the 1899 Pearling Fleet Disaster. – Mahino, the worst cyclone in north Australian history

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

Much Appreciated  
Stephen Sheaffe  
President

## Queensland News

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

**Atherton Railway** – The Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway (AHRH) President and Secretary met with Hon Kate Jones MP, Minister for Tourism Industry, seeking a \$40,000 grant for a feasibility study of constructing and operating a new Atherton to Herberton railway (22km). At the Atherton end 2km has been restored from Platypus Park to Hastie Road. Meanwhile 3.5km has been completed at the Herberton end to the Herberton Village. \$410,000 is required for design, survey and geotechnical work to give an accurate costing for

a new bridge. AHHR undertook 15,000 volunteer hours of work in 2018. They have 99 members and have work crews of 15 two days a week. (*Tablelander* 17 September 2019 p. 7 including photograph)

**Cooktown** - The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) will be closing the James Cook Museum, Cooktown for essential conservation works and curatorial refresh. The museum will close from Tuesday 10 October, 2019, reopening mid-2020. The planned closure will allow for essential repairs and improvements to the museum which was last refurbished in 2001, including access and interpretation. (National Trust of Queensland Notification – 8 October 2019)

**Gympie:** Concerns continue to be expressed about the transfer under a lease arrangement of 81 railway rollingstock and parts from the Gympie and District Historical Society to the original Mary Valley Rattler Group in 1998. A report to Gympie Regional Council on the matter has been done by a consultant Stephen Eggins. The issue remains to be resolved between the three parties. (*Gympie Times* 21 September 2019 pp. 5,11)

**Lockhart River** – Pytham Passenger terminal was opened in September replacing the Iron Range terminal built by American servicemen in 1942. (Cape York News 18 September 2019 pp. 10-11)

**Pittsworth** – The *Toowoomba Chronicle* of 13 August 2019 (page 16) featured a photograph of GT Young's store in approx. 1915. Carrier, JW Andrews' cart included part of a motor vehicle for the seat. GT Young sold tobacco, stationery and pianos and organs.

**Rocky Creek near Tolga** – RHSQ member, war veteran Dr Stan Mellick, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) gave the keynote address at the recent Victory in the Pacific Memorial Service at Rocky Creek War Memorial Park. (*Tablelander* 20 August 2019 p. 31 including photograph)

**Stanthorpe** – The *Border Post* of 22 August 2019 (page 2) featured a photograph of the Perkins family at their home at the corner of Folkestone and Granite Streets, Stanthorpe. Lewis Perkins was involved in the first fatal accident in a tin mine in the Sugarloaf area in 1874.

## HERITAGE

**Allenstown and Berserker State Schools** have been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register on 20 September 2019.

## Research and Library Report

Research enquiries over the past month were as follows: history of Hardgrave Park, off Petrie Tce., Brisbane; family connections to a 1940s Wharf St., Brisbane, boarding house; information about a Moreton Bay convict's 'Certificate of Freedom', a family Bible donated to the Society, historical maps used in a Society exhibition, early surveyors of the Bundaberg district, Francis John Fleet whose military medals were donated to the Society, as well as location of a family Bible and 1880s copies of 16<sup>th</sup> century maps of parts of Australia's coastline. Visiting researchers looked at the Pettigrew Diaries and background to indigenous artefacts. A most interesting inquiry, the answer to which remains elusive, concerns a very large sculpted metal Coat-of-Arms, in the mode of the Australian Coat-of-Arms, possibly installed on the exterior of a building. Its main point of difference lies in the oval, rather than the customary shield shape at the centre. It has been suggested that the sculpture was designed, before Federation and before the official Australian Coat-of-Arms, for the exterior of a commercial or bank building. Author Duncan Richardson has donated *Captives of the Spanish Lady*. It deals with the Tenterfield Quarantine Camp at the outbreak of the Spanish 'flu in January 1919.

Our volunteer numbers have dropped recently, so we have had to suspend the Library's digitisation project for now.

Correction: In the October *Bulletin* on p. 3 the title given for Beth Johnson's recent book: *Robert Cribb: a short biography* was wrongly printed as '*A short biography of Benjamin Cribb*'.

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

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**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.

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We nominate .....for the office of .....

Signed .....Signed .....

If elected I agree to act in the position of.....

Signature .....

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Received by Honorary Secretary

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**Wednesday Talk for November**

November 13 at 12.30 to 1.30 followed by a light lunch for \$5.

**Topic:** Miss Bedford and Dr Cooper: A potent force for social change

Abstract of Topic: When Josephine Bedford and her companion Lilian Cooper arrived in Brisbane from London in 1891, they found a frontier town of some 50,000 people with a network of largely unsealed roads; poor sanitation and 61 doctors. Lilian had been recruited at the request of the governor’s wife Lady Norman who had recognized the need for a female medical practitioner in the colony. They soon overcame the inherent prejudice to create a presence in the town. Lilian established her surgical reputation through her work as an Honorary MO to the hospitals in Brisbane whilst Josephine was passionate about family welfare and children’s development through her involvement with the Playground Association and the Crèche and Kindergarten Association, and with the Prevention of Cruelty. They made two return visits to England in 1904 and in 1911 via the USA; Josephine studying trends in animal and child welfare and the emergence of playgrounds and Lilian gaining further surgical experience at the Mayo Clinic; Chicago and London. In 1916 they volunteered for service in a field hospital on the front line in Serbia and remained for over a year Lilian as a surgeon and Josephine as an ambulance driver. In late 1917 they returned to Brisbane; Josephine to the responsibilities of her many committees and Lilian to resume her successful surgical career and to be elected to fellowship of the RACS; being the first female to be so recognized. In 1926 they relocated to live at Kangaroo Point. Following Lilian’s death Josephine bequeathed the property to the Sisters of Charity for the purpose of establishing a hospice. Mt Olivet now St Vincents Hospital and Marycrest Hostel stand as a lasting memorial to two truly remarkable women.

**Speaker:** John Earwaker is a diagnostic radiologist. He graduated in Medicine from UQ; trained in Radiology in Brisbane, with postgraduate experience in Melbourne, London and Oslo. In 1974 he established a successful radiology practice: Queensland Medical Imaging, whilst also pursuing an academic career. He retired from

that in 2004 to continue his academic pursuits initially as a Consultant Radiologist at the Mater Children’s Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital, a post that he has held for the past 40 years, which enables him to continue his interest in the training of registrars. He is a Gold Medallist and Past president of the RANZCR. He is an Associate Professor of Radiology at UQ: an adjunct Professor in the School of Engineering Systems at QUT: and a Silver Medallist of the International Skeletal Society. His particular interests lie in Spinal; Musculoskeletal, and Paediatric Imaging. In recent years he has pursued an interest in silviculture. and he and his wife Libby have established a eucalyptus tree plantation near Gympie. This combined with his interest in history prompted a research project in the global “migration” of the species. Other various historical projects have included Alfred Nobel; Fritjof Nansen: and the death of Napoleon

| <b><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u></b><br><b><u>NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER</u></b>   | <b><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></b>   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Save the dates in November and December:<br/>           6 November, Wednesday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, A pictorial history of forestry in Queensland by John Huth<br/>           13 November, Wednesday, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm, Lillian Cooper and Josephine Bedford by John Earwaker<br/>           27 November, Wednesday, 6pm, The RHSQ Annual General Meeting<br/>           29 November, Friday, 7.00 pm, Ensemble in Residence 4. - A Camouflage Opera<br/>           10 December, Tuesday, 6.00 pm, Separation Day Celebrations<br/>           11 December, Wednesday, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm, Edward Barton: father of the electricity industry in Qld</p> | <p>Dale Clancy<br/>           Alfred Swiss<br/>           Jo Willans<br/>           Dale A Dagiiesh<br/>           Chris Burgin</p> | <p>Jamboree Heights<br/>           Kenmore<br/>           Geebung<br/>           Bellevue<br/>           Mitchelton</p> |
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| website: www.queenslandhistory.org   | <b>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.</b> | Libraries: \$ 66.00  |
| Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane<br>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 |