



RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

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"Toots" Holzheimer Memorial



Photograph Diane Watson / Russell Byers / John Huth

A monument beside the Peninsula Development Road, Archer River Roadhouse, Archer River, 4871 commemorates "Toots" Holzheimer, a long haul female truckdriver who was killed in a trucking accident. "Toots" was one of Australia's best-known truckies and her sparkling Blue Man prime mover has pride of place in the National Transport Hall of Fame at Alice Springs. "Toots" and her truck were the lifeline for the communities the length of Cape York, wet or dry, until she was killed in a loading accident on the wharf at Weipa. See story and enlarged inscription at page 4.

President's Report

This is the final monthly report before the November AGM to be held on Wednesday Evening, 27 November. It has been another very busy month. Firstly, a very successful joint conference was held with the Stanthorpe District Historical Society and Museum on 12 October with over a dozen RHSQ members joining the local community at the conference. Extra enthusiasm was sparked by the pitter patter of rain whilst we were there.

The Commissariat Store was again opened to the public that same weekend during the Open House weekend. Then on 26 October the Society joined with the Annerley Stephens History Group in a joint symposium on Stephens and War held at the Yeronga RSL Club - again a great success.

During the month Dr Ruth Kerr and I presented a certificate of appreciation to the staff at DBC thanking them for their courtesy in the management of the gates on Queens Wharf Road. Similarly, we attended the launch of the first section of the bikeway and walkway adjacent to the river- it was a very pleasant occasion.

Dr Denver Beanland gave the monthly lecture in October titled the Rise and Fall of Colonial Queensland's Three Trading Banks. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend, but was informed it was well attended and well received. On 13 October, a musical ensemble was performed at the Commissariat Store.

We have now received the final certificate of approval from the Department concerning the Dig Tree project. With the MOU between the Bulloo Shire Council and the RHSQ signed, the work can now proceed. We hope the project will quickly move forward from now on.

Furthermore, we received a sponsorship of \$10,000 from the Government to help defray the costs of staging the three Cook Conferences next year. The first draft of the sponsorship contained rather cumbersome terms, in response Professor Pearn and I met with representatives from the Premiers Department and it was agreed that these onerous terms would be deleted. The agreement has now been executed.

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)

Allora town celebrated 150 years of European settlement on 20 July 2019 with numerous town events and a street parade of historic vehicles. HE The Governor, Paul de Jersey AC, attended and opened the celebrations and dedicated the renovated Old Shire Chambers which have been granted to the Allora Historical Society. *Talgai* homestead was also open to the public on the day. (*The Allora Advertiser* 20 July 2019)



Southern Downs Regional Council Photo

The Renovated Old Allora Shire Council Chambers

Aurukun families have agreed to digitise AAK: *Aboriginal estates and clans between the Embley and Edward Rivers*, a cultural resource produced by anthropologists Peter Sutton and David Martin with the help of the Wik and Kugu People. Grant funding will be sought for digitisation and installation of the information on Aurukun people’s smart phones. (*Cape York News* 24 October 2019 p. 5)

Irvinebank – The *Loudoun House* Museum holds the trophy for the entry of John Moffat in the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame which is a partnership with State Library of Queensland. It was presented by Ruth Kerr and the Mayor, Tom Gilmore, on the occasion of the visit of the Australasian Mining History Conference to delegates to Irvinebank. A committee is restoring the police building in Irvinebank, which opened in 1886. The buildings in the complex include the police station, court house and police lock-up. (*Tablelander* 20 August 2019 pp. 13 and 19 including four photographs)



Loudoun House Museum Photo

Loudoun House was Built by John Moffat c 1883/84



Loudoun House Museum Photo

The Old Irvinebank Police Station

The building was completed on the 13th December 1886 and two policemen moved into the new station on the 24th December 1886. By 1906 the station had become too small for the area and a new courtroom was

added. With a falling population and the Depression, the station was closed in January 1933 but was re-opened in March 1935. The Station was closed permanently in January 1965 and is now a private residence.

Laura Sandstone Basin, Cape York – A federal government grant of \$1.3 million has been provided through the Education portfolio for the mapping of Aboriginal rock art in the Laura region. The University of Notre Dame's Nulungu Research Institute's Dr Lynley Wallis and experts and other University partners will spend the next five years mapping the Laura Sandstone Basin. Traditional owners, ranger groups and land managers will work with the researchers to improve the conservation, promotion and management of the Indigenous history. (*Cape and Torres News* 7 November 2019 p. 11 including photograph)

Peregian Beach – A track running parallel to David Low Highway has been identified as a stone causeway used by World War II troops in the area. Peregian Beach Community Association weeding team members, Ron and Rochelle Gooch located the track after the recent fires. Coolum Beach historian, Frances Windolf, has assisted with the identification and report to the newspaper. A track was built between the swampy area in today's national park and the beach. Near the Coolum – Peregian roundabout a causeway had to be built over the area where the swamp drained towards the ocean. Real Estate agent, Peter Sharpe, stated that the track was clearly visible when Thiess Brothers started work on the David Low Highway. (*Noosa News* 8 November 2019 p. 15 including photograph)

Warwick East State School – The administration building and a vacant classroom burnt down at lunch time on 19 July. Schooling on the site dates back to the early 1850s. The buildings are on the Queensland Heritage List. (*Warwick Daily News* 20 July 2019 pp. 1 and 3 including photograph)

Winton – The late Toots Holzheimer's truck which travelled Cape York roads was on display at Winton's Outback Festival. Four men who helped set up Winton's Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum were honoured as well – 'Shawie' Shaw, 'Buddo' Grant, 'Big Dave' Gillies and 'Butch' Lenton. An estimated 8,000 people attended the five-day festival. (*Cape and Torres News* 17 October 2019 p. 10 including three photographs)



Facebook Photo

The Blue Man Truck Owned and Driven by "Toots" Holzheimer

Inscription on the Memorial from page 1

In memory of
"Toots" Holzheimer
Thora Daphne

*She will always be remembered
as the pioneering legend of the Cape*
Born 7-3-34 accidentally killed 29-2-92

We have a legend here in the Cape,
We relied on her to bring our freight

**When the rain started to ease,
 The dust must fly,
 And Toots was always the first
 To give it a try.
 Over the hills and gullies,
 Her truck started to move
 With the heat and the flies,
 She always came through.
 She`s left us now
 But her legend lives on.
 So chin up there mate
 And keep moving on**

Library and Research Report

These are the research enquiries for the past month; histories of a Wellington Rd., East Brisbane site; a Taringa, Brisbane, property, and a Surfers Paradise apartment building; trams and tram tracks that run/ran through Brisbane; J. Sutton's demonstrations of his experiments with Rontgen rays to the Society; material on Sir William Flood Webb, former Judge and Chief Justice of Queensland, and presiding Judge at the post-World War Two Tokyo War Crimes trials; photographs of cane trains and early Queensland railway stations for the forthcoming Museum railways exhibition. Donations included material on the rations and clothing allowances of assigned convicts, original photographs (now framed) signed by Thomas Welsby for his book on Bribie The Basket-Maker, and a copy of a Moreton Bay convict's 'Certificate of Freedom', together with Baker family historical documents. All papers and photographs donated by the estate of the late Dr Ron Wood, a past president of the Society, have now been processed and catalogued. Working on the project to identify plaques and memorials throughout Queensland in which the RHSQ has played a part, Beth Johnson has recorded some interesting examples, including a plaque for the cairn in Spicer's Gap Cemetery in 1967. We would like to thank Dr Sarah Bartels for her dedicated volunteer work over the past four years and wish her all the best in her new employment in Canberra.

Notes for researchers accessing RHSQ Library holdings:

1. **Copying.** Under Section 51(1) of the Copyright Act, libraries may photocopy **unpublished** manuscript material held in their collections if the material is required for research purposes, but only if the creator of the material has been dead for more than 50 years. As a guide for print materials, a reasonable portion is regarded as 10% of a **published** edition, or **one** chapter. As a guide for electronic materials, a reasonable portion is regarded as 10% of the number of words in a **published work**. Copyright law applies to published and unpublished material;

2. Library holdings may be accessed on Thursdays and only under the supervision of a research team member. Other times for access may be arranged with a team member.

Kay Cohen

Talk for December

Topic: Edward Barton: father of the electricity industry in Qld

Speakers: Brian Beconsall and Stuart Wallace

December 11, 2019 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

A light lunch costing \$5 follows

Outline of Topic

The presentation will cover the contribution that Edward Barton made as a pioneering Electrical Engineer and who laid the foundations for the start of the electricity supply industry in Queensland. Born in Melbourne in 1858, his early training in Germany, Scotland and England prepared him for his role in Brisbane, commissioning and operating the first Government Printery power station in 1886. He then started Barton & White & Co., Queensland's first company to supply electricity to the public in Brisbane from his Edison Lane Power station

in 1888. His successor companies Brisbane Electric Supply Company and City Electric Light Co. developed the supply system from the central city to the expanding suburbs in the 1920's. He was the founding president of the Queensland Electrical Association, later Queensland Institute of Engineers, and set up electrical education at the Brisbane Technical College and University of Queensland. An eloquent speaker and widely travelled, he was a member of the Royal Geographic Society both in Qld and London, the Decimal Association and The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

About the speakers

Brian Becconsall is a retired electrical engineer, a Fellow of Engineers Australia and a long-time member of Engineering Heritage Qld. He spent 48 years in the Queensland Electricity Industry, starting as a cadet with the SEAQ in 1956, graduating UQ in 1961, worked overseas in Canada and USA for 2 years, and in Queensland with QEGB, QEC and Powerlink Qld in High Voltage Transmission before retiring in 2004. He was involved in the first 1992 dig for the Edison Tubes in William St. by Energex and Qld Museum with researchers Don McKenzie (QM) and Emeritus Professor Syd Prentice (UQ), and the 2018 recovery of Edison Street Tubes. He has presented talks and displays on the Edison Tubes in 2018 and 2019.

Stuart Wallace is a retired electrical engineer, a Fellow of Engineers Australia and an active member of Engineering Heritage Australia (Queensland). A graduate of both QUT (then QIT) and UQ, his career of over 40 years was mostly spent in consulting in the fields of power generation and transportation across the globe. His keen interest in electrical engineering history is both professional and personal as he is a fourth-generation engineer and third-generation electrical engineer. He has been active as a research engineer with EHQ in the recovery of the Edison Tubes in 2018, and given presentations on their history.

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
Tuesday 10 December, Separation Day Celebration, 6.00 - 8.00 pm	Paul Budde	Brisbane City
Wednesday 11 December, Talk, 'Edward Barton: father of the electricity industry in Qld' by Brian Becconsall and Stuart Wallace	Joy Bain	Toowong
Thursday 12 December, Council Meeting	Jimi Morgan	Ascot

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email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
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.	Libraries: \$ 66.00
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