



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)

## COOKTOWN CANNON TO BE SILENCED



Cook Shire Council Photo

### The Cannon on the Cooktown Foreshore

The cannon was brought to Cooktown at the request of the Town Council. On April 10<sup>th</sup> 1885 Cooktown Council carried the following motion. "A wire be sent to the Premier in Brisbane requesting he supply arms, ammunition & competent officer to take charge against a threat of Russian invasion." The cannon, cast in Scotland in 1803, 3 cannonballs, 2 rifles and 1 officer were sent. It is still fired on the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June. (See article on page 2)

## President's Report

The lecture programme for the year started off with an excellent talk by Jane Smith on the tragedy of the government assisted immigrant ship *The Emigrant*. The vessel sailed into Moreton Bay in 1850 and many of its passengers were infected with Typhus. They were quarantined in the rundown facilities at Dunwich and the ship's doctor and Dr Ballard, who was a leading doctor in the colony who volunteered to assist the sick passengers, contracted the disease and died. Over 36 people met their maker from this infection.

The lecture programme for the year has been completed. Keep checking the website to find out the next event.

The first Council meeting for the year was held on 13 February where the current issues were considered. The Council has resolved to obtain quotations for the manufacture and installation of an honours board to acknowledge past presidents. Quotations and plans are currently being obtained. I also wish to welcome our new Council Member Dan Morgan. Dan is a barrister, has academic history qualifications and has a strong interest in the subject. He is the current chairman of the Newstead House Trust. I think he will make a significant contribution to the activities of the Society.

We have held meetings of the Cook Committee. The three conferences are being organized. The brochures for the Brisbane and 1770 conferences and the local programme have now been settled. The standard of the lecturers and the lectures being delivered at these conferences are of a very high standard. In Brisbane the conference on 23 May will be held at the library and the evening dinner will be held at Tattersalls club. The conference in 1770 will be held the following 29 May and the Cooktown conference will be held on 1 August 2020. Please book early for these events.

Also, the Dig Tree project is continuing. Work is currently underway installing the boardwalk and the signs. We have also received a grant to manufacture copies of the blazes that were cut into the tree well over a century ago and to erect an exhibition of these blazes at the Commissariat Store. Over time the girths of trees on Cooper Creek have expanded and the blazes have mostly disappeared. The replicas are being reconstructed mainly from photographic images.

Last Saturday a strategy meeting was held to consider the issues moving forward, especially the impact of the new Queen Street Wharf project. This development will be completed by 2022/3. Issues such as the closure of Queens Wharf Road and the car park, the need to open seven days a week and its cost, access points to the building and other issues were considered and will have to be managed. The meeting was of the unanimous view that a coffee shop should not be installed inside the building and it was preferred that a coffee shop should not be installed in the car park. The meeting was a very valuable exercise. I thank Janet Prowse for her excellent work in organizing this event and to all those who attended.

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)

**Cooktown** – The historic monument in Charlotte Street, Cooktown will be turned into a public monument. Weapons Licensing Queensland has directed the Cook Shire Council to have the cannon rendered inoperable by an armourer and registered as a public monument. The cannon is classed as a category R weapon and there is no legislative provision for the Shire Council to hold a licence for this class of weapon. The cannon has traditionally been fired annually at the Cooktown Discovery Festival and for special occasions. It was cast in Scotland in 1803 and was brought to Cooktown in 1885 as a defence against the threat of Russian invasion. Council will apply to Weapons Licensing Queensland for an exemption to allow the cannon to be fired during Cooktown Expo 2020 events during July and August 2020. (*Cape York News* 5 February 2020 p. 11 including photograph)

**Kulangoor near Yandina**– The Big Cow dairy industry heritage landmark was removed from the Kulangoor on 10 January 2020 to an unknown destination. The Ayrshire cow was erected in the mid-1970s and the Country World tourist attraction was opened by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Doug Anthony. It was a working farm running Ayrshire cows and portrayed information on the history of the dairy industry. (*Gympie Times* 11 January 2020 p. 14 including photograph)

**Mackay War Memorial Swimming Pool** has been nominated on 20 January 2020 for entry on the Queensland Heritage Register.

## Conservation of Records and Objects

**Blue Shield Australia** (BSA) is one of the national committees of an international organisation working to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by natural disasters and they have a well-developed website with information on how to tackle this daunting task.

They can help with information relating to:

- How to salvage precious belongings?
- Salvaging fire-damaged possessions
- Salvaging water-damaged materials
- [Recovering fire-damaged records](#)
- [Recovering flood-damaged records](#)
- Preserving information and records

Please pass on this link to anyone in need <http://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/resources/>

## Talk for March

**Topic: Irishness on Parade: St Patrick's Day in Brisbane, 1886-2019**

**Speakers: Rodney and Robin Sullivan**

**March 11, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**

This presentation surveys St Patrick's Day parades in Brisbane from 1886 to the present. Some attention will be paid to fluctuations in the relative importance attached to events in Ireland and Australia. The processions show how Irishness was portrayed and changed over time. They responded to changing national and international contexts. St Patrick's Day marchers, floats and symbols reflected the changing priorities of participants over the decades.

**Speakers:**

**Rodney Sullivan**

Rodney Sullivan is an Honorary Research Associate Professor in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at The University of Queensland and formerly an Associate Professor in the Department of History & Politics at James Cook University, Townsville. He has published in the fields of Australian and Philippine-American history. His recent research on the Irish in Queensland, has focused on memory practices and sectarianism. He has contributed to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and the *Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate*.

**Robin Sullivan**

Robin Sullivan is an Honorary Research Associate Professor in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at The University of Queensland. She was formerly Queensland Commissioner for Children and Young People and a Director-General in the Queensland public service. Her publications include articles on labour history, education and family issues. She has co-authored recent articles on Irish memorials and symbols in Queensland.

Robin holds honorary doctorates from the Queensland University of Technology and the Central Queensland University.

Rodney and Robin Sullivan are Honorary Historians of the Queensland Irish Association. They are writing a history of the Association to be published for its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.

**Wednesday Talks are free, light lunch afterwards is \$5.**

## Library and Research Report

Photos of interiors of Newstead House; photo of a plane landing on a beach and its possible location; history of Kalboori Youngi/Nora Nathan figures; Rawbelle Station, Monto; Pink Elephant Cafe; Inigo Jones 1939 Address to RHSQ; "Dovercourt", Toowong; Oxley Bricks – Brittain's Bricks; Cullen-la-Ringo; items from manuscript collection for RHSQ Railways Exhibition; copy of E V Stephens' paper "The Windmill: Greycliffe Homestead, Biloela.

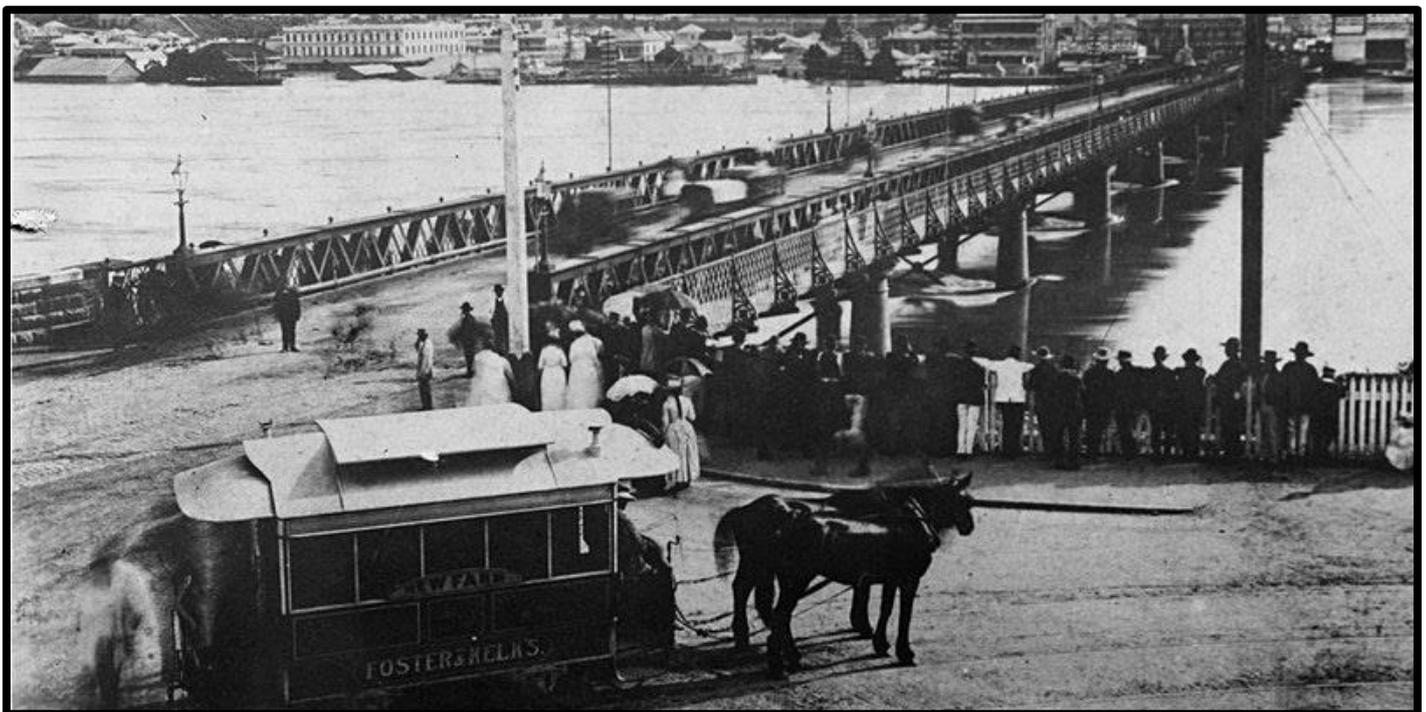
Several donations to the Library, including photos, postcards and books will be acknowledged in next month's *Bulletin*.

The start of 2020 heralds a strategic review for our Research and Library operations. Among the projects confirmed are, assessment of extensive newspaper and cuttings material, much of which is now accessible through Trove; continuing digitisation of holdings, especially photographs. (Our volunteer photographer Lyndsay Smith has now digitised almost 6000 of the Society's 22,000 photos.) conversion of digitised documents to searchable pdf files; professional conservation of "old" bound Library books; rationalisation of multiple copies of kindred societies' journals, most of which are now accessible online; writing more stories highlighting the Library's photos and documents for the RHSQ website; negotiations re adding the Library catalogue to the website; maintenance and updating of Library catalogue. Recently our research team of long-term members, Ruth, Beth, Elizabeth and Dorothy, welcomed new volunteers. They are recent graduates Peter and Vivian who have valuable IT skills, Shane with overall library experience, and Andrew, also a Museum guide, with many years' administrative experience.

Kay Cohen

## What's on at the Queensland State Archives

**QSA Talks is a series of free history seminars hosted by Queensland State Archives. This event is part of the Asia Pacific Architecture Festival, an initiative of Architecture Media and State Library of Queensland.**



QSA Photo

### Victoria Bridge

#### **A Talk by Ian Ainsworth at the QSA Saturday 14 March 10.30 - 11.30 am 'River City Bridges - Past, Present and Future'**

As a river city, Brisbane has had an interesting relationship with water, giving its river bridges a colourful history. Join Principal of Arup Ian Ainsworth in a comparative presentation of some of Brisbane's historical and contemporary bridges. As a Project Director responsible for engineering the design of the Goodwill and Kurilpa Bridges, Ian will share learnings and aspects of the city's active transport bridges, along with the interesting history of the multiple Victoria Bridges. Original records of Victoria Bridge will be on display.

## About Ian Ainsworth

Ian Ainsworth is a Principal of Arup, now based in Brisbane. During more than 35 years with the firm he has worked in Arup offices in Australia, UK, UAE, Singapore and USA, making major contributions to some of the most significant projects undertaken by the practice. Ian is a structural engineer by training, who has broadened his scope to encompass the planning and multi-disciplinary design of all types of buildings, with particular expertise in cultural, sport and education buildings, high rise and long-span structures, foot-bridges and transport buildings.

Ian is renowned as an innovative designer and a hands-on project leader with a reputation for reliable delivery of even the most challenging and complex projects. Ian's international project credits include Intelsat HQ (Washington DC), Stansted Airport (UK), UOB Plaza (Singapore), Ben Gurion Airport (Israel), Abu Dhabi International Airport (UAE), and Singapore Sports Hub. Ian's Queensland project credits include Kurilpa Bridge, Goodwill Bridge, Suncorp Stadium, Metricon Stadium, Qld State Velodrome, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, One One One Eagle St, Millennium Arts Project, Cairns Convention Centre and the North Qld Stadium currently under construction in Townsville.

## What's on at the Queensland Women's Historical Association

**Sunday the 1st - 10:30 AM till 04:00 PM**

**Wednesday the 4th - 10:30 AM till 04:00 PM**

**Display: Silver and Lace**

**Marvel at the intricate details and decoration of silver trinkets, watches and personal items selected from the extensive QWHA collection. Allied with this are delicate lace jackets, dresses, trims and lace items from this era.**

Many of the QWHA pieces discussed by Dianne Byrne in her lecture will be on display.

Display is open during Miegunyah's normal opening hours until Easter, 2020: Saturday 12 noon - 4pm, tours at 1pm and 3pm; Wednesday and Sunday: 10am until 4pm, with last tours starting at 2pm.

Normal House entry applies: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (school age).

Free entry for QWHA members

Devonshire tea is also available for \$10 per person.

Please call Miegunyah on 07 3252 2979 for more information.

### **Become a Member**

By becoming a member of the QWHA and a Miegunyah supporter, you are strengthening our and your ability to preserve our endangered heritage.

To join the QWHA contact Miegunyah on 07 3252 2979

## The Caboolture Historical Village



CHV Photo

**The Village Train**

The Caboolture Historical Village is situated on 4 hectares (about 12 acres) of land just north of Caboolture town centre on the old Bruce Highway. It is listed as the Number One Tourist destination in the region on TripAdvisor.

The dream of preserving our local heritage started with the formation of the Caboolture Historical Society in 1957. The first building arrived 20 years later when the old Caboolture Shire Council Chambers was moved to the site. Since that time with the contribution of many volunteers and supporters, the Village has grown to be the popular destination for tourists and locals to explore the local history.

In the Village there are over 70 buildings, and more than 110,000 museum pieces. Visitors walk through the visitors centre and step out into a Village of yesteryear. The street with the old post office, barber, butcher and general store will bring back memories for many, however there is much more including an exhibition from the Queensland Prison's Museum, the old Caboolture Hospital, several cottages that were moved from various sites around Caboolture, the old Caboolture Railway Station, and a popular exhibit with models of ships from the First Fleet to arrive in Sydney in 1788 in the Maritime Museum.

The grounds are laid out in Village style and our beautiful buildings house a vast array of memorabilia. You can easily spend a couple of hours reminiscing as you wander around. During school holidays, children are entertained by a variety of activities and opportunities to explore within the Village. Special events are held throughout the year.

Contact Details: Telephone: 07 5495 4581 or [info@historicalvillage.com.au](mailto:info@historicalvillage.com.au)

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>MARCH</u>		
<b>Wednesday 11 March, Talk 12.30 pm</b> <b>Topic: St Patrick's Day in Brisbane, 1886-2019</b> <b>Speakers: Rodney and Robin Sullivan</b> <b>Thursday 12 March, Council Meeting</b> <b>Sunday 15 March, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</b>	<b>Liam Hennessy,</b> <b>Marty Rowan,</b> <b>Tiebao Zhang,</b> <b>Sam O'Connor,</b> <b>Arms Collectors Guild</b> <b>of Qld Inc,</b> <b>Dr. Neville F. Hacker,</b> <b>Bruce Arthur,</b> <b>Preston Hoad &amp;</b> <b>Dale Symons,</b>	<b>Brisbane City</b> <b>Brisbane City</b> <b>Fortitude Valley</b> <b>Labrador</b>  <b>Nanango</b> <b>New Farm</b> <b>Highfields</b>  <b>Camp Hill</b>

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> 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: <a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>	email: <a href="mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au">info@queenslandhistory.org.au</a>	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
website: <a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org">www.queenslandhistory.org</a>	<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 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