



RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Notice to all Visitors, Volunteers and Staff

**This notice is given to protect our staff and volunteers
at the Commissariat Store.**

**The health and wellbeing of visitors and volunteers is a
priority for the RHSQ.**

If you have just arrived from overseas or have come in close contact with a person infected with Covid-19 you should self-isolate for 14 days.

If you experience symptoms of fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath, please seek medical advice!

Also, practise safe distancing procedures and if you have the above symptoms or have been tested positive for Covid-19 you will not be permitted to enter the Commissariat Store.

The Royal Historical Society
President

President's Report

The Coronavirus is and will continue to have a significant impact on the functioning of the Society. If you recently arrived from overseas you must self-isolate and if you have any of the notified symptoms please see your medical practitioner. In these circumstances practise safe distancing and if symptomatic or at risk of being so please do not visit the Society.

Sadly, our illustrious manager Ilona is shifting with her family to Melbourne and she has given notice of termination of her employment. She will be missed. Sophie West is a talented and well qualified replacement and I look forward to working with her.

If you have been in the Commissariat Store, you will notice that the ceiling has collapsed in both the upstairs floor area above the reception desk and on the second floor. It was caused by a burst water pipe, apparently due to a build-up of pressure in the pipes during the rain. The ceiling has been repaired but the water damaged lift has not been fixed because the replacement parts are not available.

We also thank Dr Ian Hadwen, our representative on the Newstead House Board, who has resigned from his position. Ian has given long term service to the Society, both on this Board, as a Councillor and President. Thankfully, Dean Prangley has agreed to accept the nomination of Council and his name has been placed before Government so his nomination can be approved by an Order-in-Council. He is the perfect replacement. Two new councillors have been appointed to Council; Dr Dan Morgan, a barrister, an expert on Constitutional History and currently the chair of the Newstead House Board and Lisa Jackson, an employee at the State Library.

The restoration work at the dig tree has been delayed because of rain. Cooper Creek is certainly at a raised level but not flood level and the ground is very soggy. It is expected the work will not be completed until later in the year.

The lecture programme for the year has been completed, though the lectures for April, May and June have been cancelled. Keep checking the website to find out the next speaking event. The March lecture on the history of St Patrick's Day was very well attended. I thank you all.

The planning for the Cook conference(s) was moving full steam ahead until the Coronavirus pandemic appeared. Unfortunately, the Brisbane and the Agnes Water conferences have been cancelled. The Cook Conference in Cooktown on 1 August 2020 and the conference on Samuel Griffiths in July have not been cancelled, though the position will be closely monitored.

Stephen Sheaffe
President

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Notice

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following Society events have been cancelled or postponed.

1. **The monthly lectures held on the Wednesday for the months of April, May and June 2020 have been cancelled. The planned lectures after June will be reviewed in due course.**
2. **The Cook Conference to be held on the 23 May 2020 at the State Library has been cancelled.**
3. **The Cook Conference to be held on 29 May 2020 at Agnes Water has been cancelled.**
4. **The Queensland Day Dinner to be held at the Brisbane Club on 6 June 2020 has been postponed. The postponed date is still to be decided.**

The Royal Historical Society
President

Queensland News

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

Blenheim State School, 81 Blenheim Road, Blenheim, Drayton State School, 55 Brisbane Street, Drayton and Mount Sylvia State School have been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register in accordance with s.53 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* on 28 February 2020 as it satisfied criteria a, d and g under s.35(1) of the Act.

Boonah – Templin Historic Village, 397 Boonah – Fassifern Road – There are more than a dozen buildings which contain displays. The exhibits are changed regularly in the Fashion House. The former Frazer view school contains a military and hospital display. The Templin school room presents education history. Historic engines and machinery are housed in the Bicentennial Shed. The Aratula CWA building and original Cannon Creek Church are located there. The village is open on Sundays from 9.30am to 3.30pm and other times by appointment. (*Beaudesert Times* 15 January 2020 p. 11)

Brooweena – The Woocoo Historical Society holds the wedding dress of Ethel Maud Lewis (née Mant). It is an intricately cut and hand stitched 1908 crème silk gown. It is housed in the CWA building. The Society has a steam engine which sits in front of the eating area. It illustrates how late electricity was connected to rural properties in the area including sawmills. (Woocoo Historical Society *News Bulletin*, vol.33 no. 3, December 2019, p. 5)

Cooktown - Reconciliation Rocks - The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) and the Bama Indigenous People are nominating the Reconciliation Rocks for entry on Australia's National Heritage List under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is where Indigenous Australians and European explorers reconciled their differences and restored peace and mutual respect, according to stories passed down by local Indigenous people known as Bama and information in the diaries of Lieutenant James Cook and Sir Joseph Banks. Reconciliation Rocks makes us consider what reconciliation means to us as Australians and why it is so important for the future of our country. (National Trust of Queensland Email of 3 February 2020). You can learn more about Reconciliation Rocks by visiting the website: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/spoken>.

Cooroy – The Eden Hospital is celebrating its 110-year history. The Cooroy Noosa Genealogical and Historical Research Group prepared a ‘history wall’ for the hospital entry. It was unveiled by the Noosa Shire Council Mayor, Cr Tony Wellington on 13th February 2020. The hospital began in 1910 as a 10-bed hospital opened by Dr Ellen Wood. It closed in 1914 when Dr Wood moved to Goomeri. It was re-opened in 1919 by two nurses and treated returned servicemen. Matron Morrison ran it for many years and it was known as St Margaret’s Hospital. The ownership of the hospital changed regularly. It was in poor condition financially in 1959 and it was rescued by becoming a community hospital run by Noosa District Friendly Society. It closed again in 1999 at the same time that the town’s sawmill closed under the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement processes, and was re-opened as Eden Hospital. A \$14 million redevelopment has been approved by its owners, Health Care Australia for the site. (*Noosa News* 18 February 2020 p. 7)

The first Gympie Junior Farmers Leadership School held in May 1953 was featured in the *Gympie Times* newspaper on 15 February 2020 (pages 22-23) with 10 photographs. Delegates came from Gympie, Mothar Mountain, Goomborian, Pie Creek, Mary’s Creek, Kingaroy, Bundaberg, Tiaro, Coulston lakes, Cooroy, Nanango, Samsonvale, Eidsvold, Murgon, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Goomeri, Pomona, Wooroolin, Bauple, Elimbah, Conondale, Maleny and Childers. The delegates stayed in Winston House in Channon Street, Gympie. The Leadership School was held in the May school holidays and visits were made to farms in the Gympie region.

Mulgowie – The *Gatton Star* on 14 February 2020 (page 8) featured a photograph, dated approximately 1930, at the railway station of a wagon hauled by six horses carrying bagged produce.

Toogoolawah – The movie theatre in Alexandra Hall is still operating with screenings every Saturday evening. It is believed that the first black and white film was screened in the first Alexandra Hall (built in 1906) in 1910. Enlarged in 1915 it was destroyed by fire in 1930. The current building was opened in January 1931. 2D Digital Cinema Projection and surround sound was introduced in 2014. (*Gatton Star* 26 February 2020 p. 19). See article following.

TOOGOOLAWAH'S ALEXANDRA HALL STILL SHOWING MOVIES



Toogoolawah Movies Photo

Alexandra Hall on Movie Night

The iconic movie theatre has been playing films since the 1920s in Alexandra Hall in Toogoolawah. Now known affectionately as the Toogoolawah Pictures, you can be rest assured a visit will result in more than you bargained for.

A visit offers a real country picture theatre experience, with canvas sling back seats. The pictures are operated by a group of friendly, hardworking volunteers. Volunteers operate an affordable snack bar that serves fresh popcorn, hot dogs and other delicious snacks.

Prices are \$6 per child, \$8 per adult and a family (two adults and up to six children) is \$25. The pictures operate on most Saturdays and some Friday evenings. So, why not head over to the Toogoolawah Pictures Facebook page and check out what is on next?

See story above.

Talk for April

NOTE: This talk is cancelled.

Library and Research Report

There is no report for this month

ANZAC DAY, 25 APRIL

A number of states have moved to cancel some Anzac Day services and ban the public from attending others in an attempt to thwart the spread of coronavirus.

Key points:

- All states and territories aside from South Australia, NT and ACT have cancelled Anzac Day services

- Many states are looking into alternative ways for people to commemorate the day
- The move has been made to "protect our older veterans" from the spread of COVID-19

The RSL branches in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia have made the decision more than a month out from the April 25 memorials.

A selection of dawn services will be held across the country but the public will be asked not to attend. Any marches or midday services will be cancelled.

As ANZAC DAY has been cancelled for this year, following are two poems dedicated to the memory of our fallen.

Graeme

FOR THE FALLEN

This poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), was published in *The Times* newspaper on 21 September 1914.

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain

THE ANZAC ON THE WALL

Written by Jim Brown

I was wandering in a country town 'cos I had time to spare;
So I went into an antique shop to see what was in there.
Bikes and pumps and kero lamps, but nearly hidden by it all,
A photo of a soldier – an Anzac on the Wall.
Such an honest open face, a young man in your prime,
And it seemed that when I looked at you, your eyes locked onto mine.
An image proud and confident inside a wooden frame,
I felt myself drawn to you in a way I can't explain.
"Does the Anzac have a name?" I asked. The old man answered "No,
The ones who could have told me mate have passed on long ago."
The old man kept on talking and, according to his tale,
The photo was unwanted junk from a clearance sale.
"I asked around," the old man said, "but no one knows his face,
He's been on that wall for years, he deserves a better place.
Someone must have loved him, it seems a shame somehow."

I nodded and said quietly, and said “I’ll take him now.”
 So you came home with me mate – too long you’ve been alone
 I don’t even know your name mate, but you’re welcome in my home.
 Did you fight at Flanders, or perhaps Gallipoli?
 I’ll never know the answer, but I know you fought for me.
 I wonder where they sent you, when you answered the call;
 Were you killed in action. Did you come home at all?
 You must have had a family – will you be claimed one day?
 To be honest, I hope not mate – ‘cos I want you to stay.
 People come to my house, and they question me
 And I tell them a white lie, and say you’re family.
 They say, “You must be proud of him.” I tell them, one and all,
 That that’s why you’ve got pride of place – my Anzac on the Wall.

Author’s Note: It started when I was a TV journalist preparing to travel to Gallipoli for the 75th anniversary of the landing [1990]. I went to Canberra to gather photographic support for a TV documentary, and while in the archives of the Canberra War Memorial Museum a lovely old man put a box of letters before me. The letters were untraceable, and had no addresses. They were written to and from the war front and I was entranced by them. I was not allowed to take them away, but I made notes. This was a long time before I became a bush poet,

The final cog in the wheel was about 5 years ago when I went into an antique shop and saw a photograph of a light horseman on the wall. For some reason I still can’t explain I had to have it, and started writing a poem based on the question who was he? This was the first or shorter version of the poem.

LEST WE FORGET!

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>APRIL</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
Wednesday 8 April, Talk - Cancelled	James Griffin
Thursday 9 April, Council Meeting - Cancelled	Yeronga
Wednesday 15 April, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline	Ashgrove
Saturday 25 April, ANZAC DAY services - Cancelled	Chapel Hill
	Highgate Hill

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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 Shrimpton, 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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		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member \$ 5,500.00