



**RHSQ**

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

**THE RHSQ**

# *Bulletin*

*78 years of continuous publication*

MAY 2020 No. 851

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)

---

## **A FAMOUS QUEENSLANDER**



Queensland State Library Photo

### **Thomas Welsby**

He helped to found the Historical Society of Queensland in 1913 and later became its president. He bequeathed to the Society a vast library of books that he had accumulated throughout his life, now known as The Welsby Library. See story pages 4 and 5.

---

## President's Report

With the current health crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commissariat Store museum has been closed. The decision to close the museum and library was made even before the direction from Government that all museums and libraries had to close. It was very clear to us that our mature age volunteers would be at significant risk if they were to have contact with visitors.

We have also cancelled all of our planned conferences, lectures and events for the next few months. The monthly lectures have been cancelled until at least July, the Queensland Day Dinner to be held on 6 June at the Brisbane Club has been postponed to a date to be fixed, the conference at Parliament House that was to be held in late July to commemorate the life of Sir Samuel Griffith has been cancelled (a centenary of his death) as have the three Cook conferences to be held on 23 May 2020 in Brisbane, on 29 May 2020 at Agnes Water and 1 August 2020 in Cooktown.

As for the Annual Queensland day dinner, we hope this event can be held on Separation day on 10 December 2020. However, it cannot be confirmed at this stage. We hope the Kerr Medal can be presented on this occasion. On Thursday evening 16 April, a Zoom Council meeting was held. The issue of holding the annual dinner on 10 December 2020 was discussed and it was agreed it was a sound objective we should try to achieve, but it is always subject to the repeal of the government imposed COVID-19 restrictions. Other issues discussed at the meeting involved membership fees, can we apply for payments from the Job Saver or other payments and the circulation of *The Queensland History Journal*.

As this medical emergency is having an impact on everyone it was resolved to reduce the membership fees for all categories by 30% for the next year only. The individual membership will now be \$48.00. Our secretary will be sending out renewal notices in June so payments can be made on or before 30 June 2020. It is obvious that we will be incurring a trading deficit for the next financial year. Therefore, to lessen the impact, can I invite members, who can afford it, to make a small additional contribution or donation with your membership renewal payment. Our outgoings will remain the same, but our income will decline because of the lost entrance fees and the reduction in membership fees. The treasurer has been invited to present an amended budget.

We will be making application for assistance from the Job Savers package. Our initial advice is that we will not be successful as Sophie West our new manager has not been in our employment for a year. If we are not successful, we will then ask the Minister to exercise his discretion in our favour.

Our sincere thanks for your support as we rely on our members to continue the important work to conserve, celebrate and record our history. The research, editing and collating articles for publication in *The Queensland History Journal* and *The RHSQ Bulletin* will continue.

To prevent the need for volunteers to attend the Commissariat Store to insert the *Journals* in envelopes and post, we believe it is in everybody's interest that the next *Journal* be circulated by email. A small number of the hard copies will be printed for the benefit of the authors and others. A second print will be made in due course if the demand requires it. Furthermore, the papers that were to be delivered at the conferences will still be collected, edited and published.

Finally, please look after yourselves and your loved ones. Please regularly wash your hands and comply with the social distancing rules.

We urge you to stay connected with us and keep updated via our website and bulletin. We are so grateful for your loyalty and look forward to the day that we can reopen the museum and library.

Welcome to Sophie our new Manager.

Stephen Sheaffe  
President

## Queensland News

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

**Cairns – Bellarine, Victoria** – Locomotive 3620 was bought by the company operating the Cairns – Kuranda tourist service in 2001. It has been in storage in Cairns since 2002. It has recently been sold to QTRain at Bellarine in Victoria. This ex-South African Railways engine is a 24-class locomotive. Distinct, 3620 is said to be the only locomotive preserved in Australia with the Berkshire (2-8-4) wheel arrangement and a Vanderbilt tender (cylindrical body with a fuel bunker set into the front end). 3620 began its journey south at

dawn from Cairns on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 on the back of a heavy-haul low loader. It was to travel over 3,200km in just under one week to be placed onto its new track at its new home, the Bellarine Railway for The Q Train's Steam Sundays. 3620 locomotive has travelled 25,500km and halfway around the world. Designed by Dr MM Loubser for the South African Railways and built in 1949-50 by the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow, 3620 travelled to Cape Town to become an integral component of the South African Railways for many years. In 1996 it went to Auckland, New Zealand where it was restored, before coming to Australia in 2001 when it joined the [Cairns - Kuranda Steam Train](#) service, operated by the [Savannahlander](#). It spent time in storage since 2002. 3620 was converted from traditional coal firing to waste oil firing to produce steam in 2003. When 3620 is driving Australia's only dedicated Rail Restaurant, this will provide regional organisations within Geelong and the Bellarine an opportunity to dispose of their waste oil in a safe and sustainable manner. In 2020, the large and legendary 3620 Locomotive Engine is set to become a Bellarine local. (<https://www.theqtrain.com.au/welcome-to-the-family-3620/>) 27 February 2020; *Tablelander* 10 March 2020 p. 10 including photograph)



Under the Whyte notation system, a steam locomotive that has two leading wheels arranged in a leading truck, eight coupled driving wheels and four trailing wheels in a trailing truck is designated a 2-8-4.



**Three QTrain Photographs of Locomotive 3620**

**Chinchilla** – The *Chinchilla News* of 12 March 2020 at page 2 featured a photograph of Dorney's Garage and Reboring and Oxy Welding businesses for cars, trucks and Fordson tractors in Chinchilla. Dorney's Garage opened in Chinchilla Street in 1933 on railway leasehold land. The family residences were behind the business premises. (Photograph donated to the newspaper by Muriel Aloizos nee Dorney.)

**Emerald** - On 31 March 2020 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing removal of part of Emerald Railway Station Complex from the Queensland Heritage Register. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/)

**Forest Hill** – A photograph of logs being hauled to Muckert's sawmill at Forest Hill by a purpose-built tractor was published in the *Gatton Star* of 13 March 2020 at page 8. The photograph comes from the Laidley Pioneer Museum.



*The Courier Mail Photo*

**Amity House**

**New Farm** – *Amity House* at 101 Welsby Street, New Farm, once owned by Thomas Welsby, foundation Treasurer of the Historical Society of Queensland and President from 1936-37 and Vice President from 1917-36 and 1937-41, is for sale. The owners, architect Tony Dempsey and his wife Poppy have listed the house with Place Real Estate for \$15 million. The four bedroom and three-bathroom house is set on 2127 sq metres of north-east facing waterfront land. A vacant 672 sq metre block is also for sale. *Amity* was built in 1892 for Thomas Welsby, company director, politician and historian. Tony Dempsey purchased the house in 1997 and later sought approval for a six-storey apartment block in the house's backyard. This proposal was rejected in 2008 and a four-storey proposal was rejected in 2011. (*Weekend Australian* 4-5 April 2020 p. 31)

**Teebar** - The property, *Teebar*, west of Maryborough is owned by Brian Hughes and family who are related to the Eaton family. *Teebar* of approx. 20,000 acres was taken up by Henry Cox-Corfield in 1849. He married Jessie Murray in 1852 and she came to live on the property. She died in childbirth in 1853 and is buried on the property. Cox-Corfield sold out to John Eaton, Brian Hughes' great-grandfather in 1854. He and his wife Mary Ann came from the Richmond River area, bringing several hundred head of cattle and horses. Eaton built a house *Rosehill* in Maryborough and became the second mayor of the town. Mary Ann died in 1887 aged 74 and is buried on *Teebar*. John Eaton died in 1904 aged 94 years and is buried at *Teebar*. The property was then sold to DOS Jones a member of the David Jones department store family. In 1997 the property was sold to the Hughes family, descendants of the Eaton family. ('A Short Story of the Property known as *Teebar* by Brian Hughes, *Woocoo Historical Society News Bulletin*, vol.34 no.1, April 2020, pp. 6-7)

**Toogoolawah** – On 23 March 2020 an application was made to remove *Inverness* house at 59 Fulham Street, Toogoolawah from the Queensland Heritage Register under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Queensland Government website at [www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/).

## Welcome to Our New Manager

Having previously worked for the National Trust in the UK for eight years, I moved to Brisbane in October last year. I have a BA in History and MA in Museum Studies. Outside of history, I have a lot of interests including bushwalking, baking and Pilates, and have recently taken up pottery (with mixed success!). I'm very much looking forward to working for the RHSQ.



**Sophie West**

## Library and Research Report

Although the Commissariat Store is closed and the RHSQ's archival resources are not to hand, our research service continues to function. Working remotely and using relevant online resources, available publications and experience in Queensland history, our volunteer team has received and successfully responded to several research enquiries. They were: information on a Dr Robert Hart, identifying the location of a chemist shop from a photo and a 1960s phone number, Spanish Flu pandemic, *Meteor Downs* pastoral lease, Somerset, Cape York.)

Another enquiry was for historical background, description and photos of boundary riders' huts. This was of particular interest as the historical role of these huts has recently enjoyed a revival. Several regional museums have now incorporated them into their displays and stories of country life. As the name suggests, boundary huts provided a permanent shelter, usually constructed of galvanised iron, for horse riders patrolling the fenced boundaries of the large pastoral stations. Photographs available online, including Hugh Sawrey's well-known painting, show a range of structures. For the single boundary rider, it was a simple hut. It provided shelter from the elements while personal possessions and food were kept inside in tin boxes to protect them from local fauna, such as ants, rats and snakes. All activities, except for sleeping, took place outside. More elaborate huts were built when families lived with the boundary riders. With their distinctive sloping roof designed to catch rain and rammed earth floor, they had a sheltered section at the front, with a lean-to for cooking and often another one for ablutions and washing. As management of the large pastoral stations changed, boundary huts became obsolete. They were used occasionally during musters and by those using travelling stock routes. In 2018 the Bulloo Shire Council decided to bring into Thargomindah a hut from a pastoral station as a tourist attraction. It had been the cells at the Thargomindah police station and had been sold to a pastoralist. (Thargomindah Police Station file, QSA)

We are currently working on the Society's application for a grant from the National Library's Community Heritage Grants program. This grant funding is available for conservation/ preservation projects for Library holdings and includes support for migrating data from old formats to digital storage.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<b>MAY</b>	
<b>Wednesday 13 May, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</b>	
<b>Thursday 14 May, Council Meeting</b>	

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Sophie West	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: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
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 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