

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

## Award-winning History Display in Cairns



CDHS Photo

The Cooktown History Centre, run by the Cooktown & District Historical Society Volunteers, offers a unique insight into the intriguing history of the area with stories, photos, interactive displays, murals and oral histories. The Exhibition is set out in a time line which covers the years from 1770 to current times.

It is housed in the oldest building in Charlotte Street – it was erected in 1875 as Cooktown's first post and telegraph office.

## President's Report

With respect to the coronavirus pandemic, the lockdown is now achieving positive results. The number of infections is modest and now the whole community is slowly waking up from its slumber - well at least we hope so. Though social distancing and the prohibition on long distance travel will be with us for some time. On the other hand, the impact on our Society has been severe with the closure of the museum, lectures and conferences. The management of our affairs has been conducted from homes. Our Council meeting was again conducted by a Zoom last Thursday night. The Government has issued a road map to easing restrictions. As and from 12 June all Museums including the Commissariat Store can be opened. On 10 July the number of visitors can be increased to 100 persons. Then school children can then be invited back.

From a financial position there has been an impact. The Federal Government has paid \$10,000 into our bank account and another \$10,000 is due in October. We received advice that we were not entitled to claim the job keeper payment as our new manager Sophie was not employed on the requisite day of 1 March and had not been in our employ for one year. A letter was sent to our Society member, Senator Stoker seeking her assistance and her advice confirmed the original position. To spread the loss that everyone must endure in this difficult time, we reduced our membership fees by 30% but I still encourage you all to pay the full amount to protect the Societies bottom line. PLEASE PAY IN FULL.

The Dig Tree project is still continuing. The new board walk has been installed but the rest of the walkway with the panels and signs have not been installed as yet. There are issues with the weather and water levels and the organizational difficulties transporting workmen from Thargomindah. The introduction of WIFI to the area is still being negotiated.

A decision has not been made when the lectures will recommence but I expect it to be in a month or two, probably July. The Cook conferences have been cancelled or postponed and when and if they will be held is still being considered. Many of the papers are being handed in.

Also, the work at our archives at Stafford will continue from this date. The Strategic Plan meeting held earlier in the year with a SWOT analysis resulted in a draft being prepared. The draft was considered and all Councillors were invited to submit comments on it. Janet Prowse - you did a great job - thank you.

Further, the FAHS has requested comments on their constitution and have invited nominations for their awards. If you have any suggestions please tell me.

Do not forget the Commissariat Store and the Museum will be opened on 12 June. Also, the work at our archives will continue from this date. I look forward to seeing you there.

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)

**Clifton** –Queensland Railways is undertaking conservation work on the Clifton railway station. The original architectural design of the building including the awning will be retained. There was a line of bottle trees planted in Main Street opposite Clifton Railway station in 1920 representing each soldier who died from the district. There are only two left, very large ones nearly 100 years old. (*Clifton Courier*, 22 April 2020, p. 3 and Notes from Mr Dean Prangley)

Clifton is a town in the Darling Downs region of Queensland, situated just west of the New England Highway, about 50 km south of Toowoomba. The lands around the town were first settled by Europeans in 1840. The township came about from the opening of the railway line from Toowoomba to Hendon in 1869 but was limited to the station, a hotel and a few buildings for several years.

Clifton Station is an active, unmanned station which no longer has regular passenger services. Freight trains carrying grain & minerals regularly pass through. It is an interesting station in that it is also Clifton's Visitor Centre & houses a small museum in what was the waiting room. It is the 2nd oldest working station in Queensland.(Queensland State Archives)



Waymark Gallery Photo

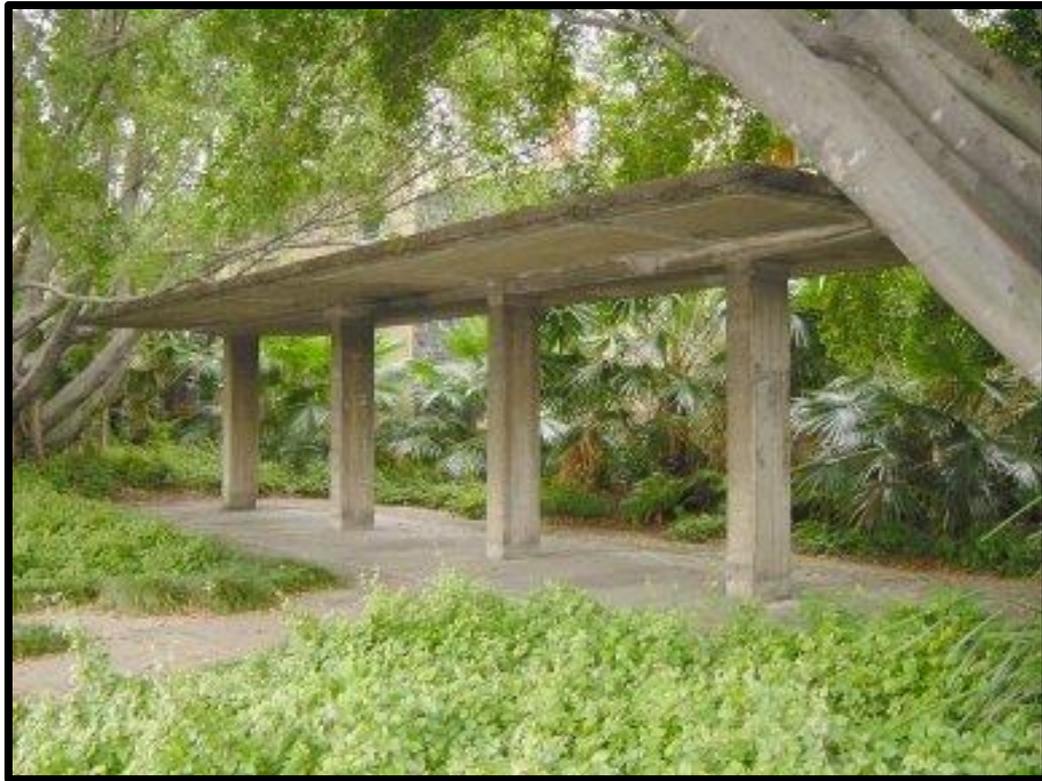
**Clifton Railway Station**



Queensland State Archives Photo

**Clifton Railway Station 1897**

**Fortitude Valley** - On 1 May 2020 the Department of Environment and Science (the Department) received an application proposing entry of the Fortitude Valley Air Raid Shelters in the Queensland Heritage Register (Heritage Register) as a State Heritage Place. 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/) from 15 May 2020.



P.Dunn Photo

### **WW2 Bomb Shelter in Wickam Street Fortitude Valley Almost Opposite the Valley Baths**

**Templin Historical Village** - Four kms west of Boonah has been operating since 1975. It is operated by the Fassifern District Historical Society of 70 members. The museum is on Shire Council land and Council provides a grant of approx. \$3,000 per year to the Society. The museum opens on Sundays from 9.30am to 3.30pm. The Society has a large number of volunteers who restore and maintain the buildings in the Templin Historical Village. The buildings comprise: Templin State School (1892-1974); Slab Hut constructed by Carl Stumer in 1877; School Play shed; Mount Alford Telephone Exchange (1950-1982); Power Generating Windmill built by Oscar Badke; Bonke's blacksmith shop from Coulson (1880s – 1950); Le Budd Shed housing farm machinery; Bicentenary Shed containing Bruckner's sawmill steam engine, German wagons and timber jinker, Richter 'Champion' corn husker and sheller, reaper and binder, 32 volt lighting plant and piston pump driven by stationery engines; The Shed erected in 2005 containing header, harvester, seed grader, potato diggers, ploughs and farm machinery, petrol bowser, double pump chaff cutter; Wittenhagen's dairy; RAAF building from Amberley RAAF base housing a large gallery of displays; Frazerview State School (1916-1975); Goolman Shire building from Boonah (1900); Kalbar Café; House of Fashion housing the largest textile collection outside of Brisbane reputedly (Templin teacher's residence) (1892); Aratula CWA building formerly a butcher shop; and St John's Church of England from Cannon Creek (1911-1951). (<https://www.facebook.com/TemplinMuseum/>; Museum brochure and leaflet on buildings and their history; Angela Collyer, *Templin: a German settlement in Queensland*, 1992)

## **Templin Historical Village**

Templin Historical Village contains an interesting collection of relics and records from yesteryear. Step back in time, learn about our forbears' lifestyles and cultures.

Thousands of artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, newspapers etc.

Open: Sunday 9.30 am-3.30 pm or by appointment (when permitted)

Admission: \$7 for adults, \$3 for children and \$15 for families

**Location:** 397 Boonah Fassifern Rd, Templin,



Templin Historical Village Photo

## Templin Historical Village

### Some New Resources

Forwarded by Dr Heather Blasdale-Clarke, Australian Dance Historian:

We have a number of items which may be of interest to your members for the 250th anniversary of Cook's landing in Australia:

- Website featuring the historical music, dances and theatrical works associated with Captain Cook <https://www.colonialdance.com.au/dancing-with-cook>
- Related Book and CD soon to be released *Captain Cook's Country Dance*
- An online resource for Primary School Teachers <https://danceteachingideas.com/dance-resources-for-primary-teachers/>

### Library and Research Report

The Society thanks the donors of these recent additions to the Library: Australian authority and Society member Ian McConachie's detailed history of the macadamia nut industry; albums of photos of North Queensland in the 1950s and 1960s by radiographer Ken Christie, from his daughter Barbara Le Breton; Scarlett family photo album of Old Government House activities pre-World War One, when Sir William MacGregor was Governor. Research requests were for; information on Jessie Bannister Campbell (1859-90) and Wilhelmina Fraser Munro (1867-1940), the wives of Sir Robert Philp founder of Burns Philp and Premier of Queensland (1899-1903 and 1907-1908); name of the City Botanic Gardens café around 1890, as shown in the RHSQ's *Lost Brisbane* publication.

Another enquiry led to the rediscovery of an important aspect of Queensland's transport history. It relates to a 1950s Springsure ambulance, currently being restored for display at the Springsure Museum. The researcher asked for historical information about the ambulance and its possible original colour. The name Áthol Hedges' has long been associated with Brisbane City Council (BCC) buses. Hedges headed the team which constructed the Council's first forward-control buses in 1940 at the Charles Hope motor bodyworks factory in Fortitude Valley. During World War Two, the factory also converted vehicles for use as ambulances, usually by fitting a canvas top to a small truck's tray. After working at the Hornibrook Highway Bus Service in 1945 helping to build Queensland's first all-steel semi-trailer bus, Hedges established his own business, moving in 1947 to a large factory at Northgate, Brisbane. With a reputation for top-quality motor bodyworks, he became the largest operator in Queensland.

In March 1949, the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade placed its largest ever order for ambulances and, by 1955, he was Australia’s biggest ambulance body manufacturer. In 1967, he had the contract to build BCC buses to replace the city’s trams, delivering 204 of the still well-known Leyland Panther models by 1969. Hedges also specialising in caravans, including the popular ‘Aly Van’. He invented the ‘Monotop’ Canopy, a hard shell which could be fitted quite cheaply to small trucks and utilities. (see [qcos.org.au/athol-hedges/](http://qcos.org.au/athol-hedges/)) The Springsure ambulance may have been one of these, or one of QATB’s regular orders. The QATB, formed in 1902, later took over the administration of all regional and local ambulance brigades established over the years. In 1991, it was replaced by the Queensland Ambulance Service consisting of all 96 local ambulance services.

Kay Cohen



*Courier-Mail*, 10.08.1953, p.4.

| <u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>    | <u>NEW MEMBERS</u> |                |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| <u>JUNE</u>                              |                    |                |
| Friday 12 June, Museum Open              | Fiona McLeod -     | Ocean View     |
| Thursday 11 June, Council Meeting        | Marney Jones       | - Clematis VIC |
| Monday 15 June, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline | Andrew Tunny       | - Kenmore      |
|  |                    |                |

| 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: <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<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 |