



RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,
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President: Stephen Sheaffe AM

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THE GERMAN WAGON



Graeme Nicholson Photo

An Old German Wagon Being Repainted

The wagon pictured above is one used in the Beenleigh District by early German settlers beginning in the 1860s. These traditional horse-drawn German wagons were quite distinct from their British counterparts and were recognised as being ‘typically’ German in design. The German wagon is typified by outward sloping sides, with four upright standards set into the ends of the cross-support timbers over the axle beds. Distinctive slatted sides are attached to these standards which angle outwards and are easily removed providing numerous adaptations.

This wagon is part of the historical collection of heritage farm equipment that is on display at The Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum, which is now open to visitors. More information at: beenleighhistoricalvillage.com.au ; Phone: (07) 3382 0608

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

The COVID-19 lockdown is slowing coming to an end. The Commissariat Store museum was reopened to visitors on 12 June 2020 provided social distancing is adhered to and a maximum of twenty guests at a time. The Council meeting held last night on 11 June was a hybrid affair with most Councillors attending in person and a few attended by Zoom. We met on the ground floor.

A special congratulations is extended to Dr Denver Beanland who was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list. This deserved award is in recognition of his long and glittering career in Brisbane Council and State politics, as an author, and for his contribution to history through his involvement with archives and history.

A special thank you is extended to Sophie who drafted the Covid-19 safety plan. Superbly done. This plan will be available to anyone who wishes to examine it when they enter the building.

Recently John Pearn and I had a telephone link up with the Premiers Department concerning the cancelled and postponed Cook conferences. We are planning to reconvene the Brisbane and the Cooktown conferences and possibly the Town of 1770 conference. The dates of these conferences are yet to be chosen, but if lockdown is ended very soon - we expect the Brisbane conference to be held later in the year and the Cooktown conference possible in June - July next year. If the Brisbane conference is held this year it will be promoted as our annual conference. The conference to commemorate the life of Sir Samuel Griffith will also be reconvened early next year. Irrespective of whether these conferences are held all the papers will be published.

The decision as to if and when to restart the monthly lectures will be made in July 2020.

On 9 June 2020, Dean Prangley and I attended a meeting with DBC (Graeme Witherspoon) to consider the RHSQ's preparedness for when the new Casino opens in late 2022. It is planned to open the Commissariat Store for longer periods of time, possibly seven days a week, so members of the public who attend the casino can also visit the commissariat store at the same time. We are planning to meet again in the next week or so to further discuss these issues. However, to open for longer periods of time, especially at weekends will require additional paid staff. Furthermore, the Queens Wharf Road will be closed to traffic and we will be unable to park at the Commissariat Store. Discussions need to be had about obtaining car parks for volunteers.

On the 6 June 2020, I was interviewed by the ABC about Queensland Day, the day, 161 years ago when Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent for Queensland to become a separate Colony that took effect on 10 December 1859. The planned second interview on the 9 June, to commemorate the 92 years since Sir Charles Kingsford Smith flew across the Pacific Ocean and landed in Brisbane did not proceed.

The Dig Tree project at Cooper Creek is slowly coming to fruition. Most of the Board walk is completed, but the information signs have not been installed and the water erosion reclamation work has not been completed.

As for the installation of the blazes at the Commissariat Store, that project is also coming to an end. The panels, the blazes and the entire exhibition will be completed very soon. We hope to have a launch of this new exhibition as soon as possible. Further we wish to convene a conference at Thargomindah and a launch of the completed works at the Dig Tree when it is all finished.

The Society has been gifted a model of a colonial house described as a doll's house. The museum committee have resolved that the acquisition is within the ambit of our acquisition policy and recommended to Council that we accept the item. The Council has so approved.

Again, thank you all.

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)

Atherton – The old Vit House on the corner of Jack and Beatrice Streets, Atherton was built by Alfred Pillinger (1868-1967). Pillinger, known as Fred, went to north Queensland in 1898 as a bridge builder and timber inspector on the Mareeba to Chillagoe railway. He then went to Atherton as a timber-getter, bridge and house builder. He worked in Cairns for a short while but his main career was in Atherton as a builder. He and his wife Amelia retired to Brisbane in 1939. (*Tablelander*, 12 May 2020, p. 17, Letter to Editor by Lorraine Edwards, Mareeba.)

Mount Morgan - The mystery surrounding dinosaur footprints on a cave ceiling in Central Queensland has been solved after more than a half a century. University of Queensland palaeontologist, [Dr Anthony Romilio](#), discovered pieces to a decades-old puzzle in a cupboard under the stairs of a suburban Sydney home. Mount Morgan near Rockhampton has hundreds of fossil footprints and has the highest dinosaur track diversity for the entire eastern half of Australia. Earlier examinations of the ceiling footprints suggested that a carnivorous theropod walked on all four legs. The track site had been closed for over a decade. Geologist, Ross Staines, father of local dentist, Dr Roslyn Dick, reported on the Mount Morgan caves containing the dinosaur tracks in 1954. His daughters, Roslyn Dick, Heather Skinner and Janice Millar kept his photographs and published articles in Sydney. [Dr Anthony Romilio](#) has digitised the photographs and made a 3D model of the dinosaur footprint. The team firstly concluded that all five tracks were foot impressions – that none were dinosaur handprints. Also, the splayed toes and moderately long middle digit of the footprints resembled two-legged herbivorous dinosaur tracks, differing from prints made by theropods. Rather than one dinosaur walking on four legs, it seems as though there were two dinosaurs – both plant-eaters that walked bipedally along the shore of an ancient lake, as outlined by Dr Romilio. He outlined that the tracks lining the cave-ceiling were not made by dinosaurs hanging up-side-down, instead the dinosaurs walked on the lake sediment and these imprints were covered in sand. In the Mount Morgan caves, the softer lake sediment eroded away and left the harder sandstone in-fills. The research has been published in *Historical Biology* (DOI: [10.1080/08912963.2020.1720014](https://doi.org/10.1080/08912963.2020.1720014)); (<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2020/02/dinosaur-cupboard-under-stairs>, 17 February 2020; The 3D virtual model of the Staines' family track is [available for download](#).)

South Burnett Rail Trails - At 161km, the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is the longest rail trail in Australia, while the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail includes Queensland's longest sealed rail trail of 44km from Kingaroy to Murgon. Some sections even cater for horses.

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail: Distance: 161km

Sections: Wulkuraka to Moore: 112km; Moore to Yarraman: 49km; Moore to Blackbutt: 30km; Moore to Linville: 7km; Linville to Benarkin: 18km; Benarkin to Blackbutt: 5km; Blackbutt to Yarraman: 19km.

The trail takes in the sections from Ipswich to Moore in the Ipswich area, and from Moore to Yarraman in the South Burnett.

Travelling north to south is the easier option, with fewer uphill sections of the Rail Trail.

Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail: Distance: 89km

Sections: Kilkivan to Murgon: 45.5km (unsealed); Murgon to Kingaroy: 44km (sealed); Murgon to Wondai: 12.9km; Wondai to Tingoora: 8.4km; Tingoora to Wooroolin: 6km; Wooroolin to Memerambi: 5km; Memerambi to Crawford: 5.8km; Crawford to Kingaroy: 5.3km. (*News Mail {Bundaberg}*, 23 May 2020, p. 31)

Swanbank near Ipswich - There are 172 volunteers working to keep Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway going at Swanbank. It needs funding to tide it over until after the COVID19 virus emergency. They have lost about \$40,000 worth of income in the last three months their chairman Robert Shearer said. That income is funnelled straight back into the repair of the locomotives, the track and the railway. In 2019 they earned \$180,000. Overheads are usually about \$160,000. That leaves \$20,000 for major restoration projects. The annual re-laying of sleepers costs approx. \$40,000 using volunteer labour. (*Queensland Times*, 26 May 2020, p. 5)

Gympie – A motorised bus, built in 1932, has been restored and taken to the Gympie Museum. At the time there were three such buses in Gympie – two Chevrolets and an International dating from before 1926. The Leyland bus was purchased along with a Bedford by Clarrie Lewis out of lottery winnings. The bus business was founded in 1922 by Charles and Edward Coop. In 1926 it became Lewis and Son when Clarrie Lewis joined the firm. Reg Lewis later joined the firm and it became Lewis Brothers Bus Service. In 1976 they sold to Duncan Polley. Reg Lewis's mother Lucy ran the *Jockey Club Hotel* and her husband Charles ran a traction engine hauling timber to the One Mile gold battery. This Leyland bus was restored by John Hinde who obtained the bus in 1972. The restoration project was a community effort with sponsors providing \$15,000 and the Gympie and District Historical Society (GDHS) providing \$5,000. The sponsors were: McClintock's Transport, McClintock's Fuels, Mitch's Tyres, Gympie Bearings, Triline Upholstery, Cooloola Sandblasting, museum volunteers, Mal Jocumsen and Ralph Richardson. (*Gympie Times*, 16 May 2020, p. 7 including photograph and Letter to the Editor by Ralph Richardson, Hon Secretary, GDHS, *Gympie Times*, 23 May 2020, p. 10.)



The late Reg Lewis and his brother Clarrie are pictured here with their 1932 Leyland Cub KP3 151 omnibus, which operated on the Red Hill-Stewart Terrace run. It is powered by a 4.4 litre, 27 horsepower petrol engine, and was licenced to carry 22 passengers. It was purchased (along with a Bedford bus) in 1932 after Clarrie won the lottery. During the second World War it was run on kerosene, or producer gas from a charcoal burner. The Lewis brothers operated the bus service until 1975.

After this bus retired in the sixties, it served as a mobile office on a pineapple farm near Brisbane and became a weathered shell. In the mid 1970s it was restored by John Hinde, and in 1992 he donated it to the museum . Since then it has had further repairs, and a few years ago it was prepared for a roadworthy certificate and registered. Last year during a rally, it ventured as far south as Cooroy and Pomona .

The bus is on display in the stamper shed, and there are many photos of the Lewis Bros. bus fleet in the house, at the Gold Mining and Historical Museum.

Photograph and Text: Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum

Tolga – The Tolga Historical Society’s new Museum is ready for opening. The opening ceremony proposed for 22 March 2020 was cancelled because of the COVID19 emergency. Seventy-three signs have been relocated from the Rocky Creek military exhibition. The signs were created in 1989 by the 2nd AIF Memorial Association to mark campsites around the Tablelands used during World War II. These included 2/2 and 2/6 general hospitals, ordinance unit and hospital train. (*Tablelander*, 26 May 2020, p. 7 including photograph)



Tolga Museum Photo

The Entrance to Tolga Museum

Toowoomba – The *Fiveways Hotel* in North Toowoomba is to be re-opened. Originally built and opened early in the 20th century, it was closed in 2019. The licence is being obtained by Mr Michael McDonald who also ran the *Bernborough Hotel* in Oakey. (Toowoomba *Chronicle*, 16 May 2020, p. 3 including photograph)

Recent Nominations to the Queensland Heritage Council

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Facility, Birkdale; Binna Burra Cultural Landscape; Mackay War Memorial Swimming Pool; City Hall (former), Charters Towers; and The Fort, Oxley.

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 RHSQ continues to receive research enquiries and, although still working from home, we have had some success in supplying answers. The enquiries were: (from his great-grandson) that the RHSQ holds a version of the 'Personal Reminiscences' of Darling Downs pastoralist and Queensland MLA John Watts. The Library Archives has a manuscript copy donated by Miss Elizabeth Hannah in 1937; information on an early Brisbane motorcycle designer/builder David Spencer who produced several early motorcycles between 1906-1910 in Torwood, Brisbane, a Greek architect, Constantine A Doxiadis, who migrated to Queensland in the early 1950s and who had a vegetable farm at Wacol, photographer Hal Stevens, a book on Italian migration to Brisbane around 1920-1960, Fells Cottage, Spring Hill, a brass pencil with logo of Perkins & Coy Nurse

Brand Stout, and a small metal plate stamped B.C.C. 48; identification and possible location of a 2-storey, long timber building; copy for a publication of a sketch in Pettigrew's diaries, copy of explorer Allan Cunningham's 1829 map. Jan Heron offered to donate newspaper clippings collected by her grandmother relating to Brisbane from 1960 to 1970; Rod Morrison forwarded copies of the supporting letters for formal submissions to the state and Federal Heritage Registers to have the town site of Somerset Cape York listed as a site of significance. In 2018, he was instrumental in having the Jardine cemetery at Somerset heritage-listed. For another researcher, we were able to confirm that P.S. Hobday's painting, *H.M. Cutter, Mermaid*, was held in the Society's Art Collection. This revived our interest in two very different aspects of Queensland history. The *Mermaid*, launched in 1816, was used by Phillip Parker King to survey the Australian coastline, by John Oxley in 1823 to survey the Queensland coast south of Port Curtis, and by Edmund Lockyer to explore the upper Brisbane River. In 1829, the *Mermaid* was shipwrecked on a reef near the Frankland Islands. The wreck was rediscovered in 2009. (see en.m.wikipedia.org) Percy Stanhope Hobday (1879-1951), the son of Brisbane artist J.M. Hobday, was a painter, caricaturist and graphic designer. His name was long associated with the Queensland Art Society. He served as its President and in other roles from 1918 to 1947 and exhibited with the Society for 50 years. He was also President of the Queensland Authors and Artists Association. He produced numerous landscapes in oil and watercolours and, with his sister Augusta, ran a commercial art studio in Brisbane. The RHSQ Library has an extensive, indexed cuttings file on Hobday.

With an approved Covid-19 regulations plan in place, Library and Research services have now resumed. We welcome visiting researchers although, owing to the restricted space in the library shelves and archival storage, some access routines will have to be modified.

“Correction: The illustrated ad for the MonoCanopy in last month's Bulletin's story on the Springsure ambulance was wrongly attributed. Where it was published is currently not known.”

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>JULY</u>		
Thursday 9 July, Council Meeting Wednesday 15 July, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline	Alan Blackman Brittany Lee Moira Thompson John Simeon Nicholas and Barbara Tate	Kenmore Moorooka Biggenden Kenmore East Brisbane

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