



# RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# *Bulletin*

*78 years of continuous publication*

SEPTEMBER 2020 No. 855

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)

## THE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS IN IPSWICH ARE 155 YEARS OLD



John Oxley Library, SLQ. Neg 19683

### The Railway Sheds at Ipswich, ca. 1876.

On July 31, 1865, 155 years ago, the first railway line in Queensland was officially opened. The line ran between Ipswich and Bigge's Camp (later named Grandchester). The building of a first railway line outside of a capital city was very unusual, but the Queensland Government justified this by stating that the transport between Brisbane and Ipswich was adequately covered by river steamers and it was more important to build a good transport link to the Darling Downs. To maintain the locomotives and rolling stock the Ipswich Workshops were built. Initially they carried out assembly and maintenance only, as the first locomotives used in Queensland were imported from Britain. In 1865, the North Ipswich Railway Workshops built their first item of rolling stock, an engine truck. Ten wagons were built in 1866. The first locomotive, an A10 class, was built in 1877.

Graeme Nicholson

## President's Report

The wonderful and continuing contribution of the councillors and members of the Society never ceases to amaze me. Former president Dean Prangley and others were interviewed by Channel 7 concerning our artifacts held at the museum and the Stafford archives. The interviews and the tickets for the first crossing of the old Hornibrook and Storey Bridges, and the Qantas ticket and other *objet d'art* were shown on the Channel 7 news.

The August Council meeting was delayed by a month due to DBC wanting to fumigate the neighbouring buildings for termites at the time of our regular meeting night. It was dangerous to be in the building during the fumigation process so it was adjourned for a week. Unfortunately, the fumigation never proceeded and this will occur sometimes in the future.

A special welcome is extended to new councillor Jeff Brunne. Jeff has been a volunteer for some time and he recently wrote the new volunteer handbook. I am sure he will make a significant contribution to the Society.

The Council meeting was held on 20 August 2020. Just prior to the meeting, the Councillors had been invited to attend the casino visitors centre and sales office (at the corner of Alice and George Streets). We received an update of the project, was given a bird's eye view of the building work and the models of the buildings that are being constructed, and we examined the historical artefacts unearthed from the site. At the visit, discussions were again held with Graham Witherspoon concerning our tenure of the Commissariat Store after our lease expires. As I have previously stated in an earlier report we have received a letter signed by David Edwards, the then Government representative overseeing the casino development saying that in accordance with the agreement between the State of Queensland and Star Entertainment, at the end of our current term, the Star (Sub-Lessor) is obliged to offer the Society a new lease on the same terms as our current lease. Graham Witherspoon said he was not aware of this letter. I have sent a copy to him. It is anticipated that interesting discussions on this subject will take place in the years to come.

The Council resolved that our monthly lunch time lectures will recommence in October 2020, the 2020 annual conference will be on the subject of Captain Cook and will be held on Saturday 21 November and our annual Dinner will be held at the Brisbane Club on the 10 December.

A telephone hook-up between representatives of the RHSQ, the owners of *Nappa Merrie*, the Bulloo Shire Council, was held on 11 August to discuss the Dig Tree, especially financial issues. A major issue is the continuing funding of the ranger's wages. It was resolved that the Bulloo Shire Council should maintain a balance of \$20,000 in the account to cover these costs (subject to approval by the Bulloo Shire Council). If there is more than \$20,000 in the account, the Council can withdraw the funds they donated, provided the balance does not drop below \$20,000. The work at the Dig Tree is now completed including the installation of the board walk and replica blazes. Furthermore, prospective visitors can book a visitation and pay on line through the Dig Tree website. The launch of the restored work at the Dig Tree will be held in March next year. A function will be held at Thargomindah on 26 March and the launch will be held at the Dig Tree the next day. An invitation has been extended to his Excellency the Governor to attend and launch the work. Furthermore, the exhibit in the Commissariat Store that displays the blazes is also completed and that launch will also soon take place.

The Brisbane Cook conference will be held on 21 November as our Annual conference. The conference in Cooktown will be held next year. Please keep this space open. Many of the Cook papers have been received.

Yours

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)

**Eidsvold** – The well-established Eidsvold Historical Society operates a museum on Council owned land which the Society leases. The Society has approx. 140 members and the museum is opened every Monday and Friday and other times by appointment. Members, John and Jan Mossman attend at the museum almost every day. The museum is well signposted in the town and highlight the Schaffer Bottle Collection (Australia-wide) and the Mineral Collection. The *Knockbrae* Station stockmen's building is on site. A cold goods railway wagon and passenger carriage are housed in a large shed. The building used for railway crew accommodation



Eidsvold Historical Society Photo

### ***Knockbrea* Homestead, a slab and shingle hut in the grounds of the Eidsvold Historical Complex**

at Riversleigh houses displays of the Eidsvold local history, particularly the cattle and gold mining industries.

The Society is seeking a grant to digitise photographs. Tourist bus visits have ceased in 2020 because of the COVID19 pandemic. The bush fires in the area in November 2019 also disrupted the Society's operations.

The Eidsvold town dates from the 1880s when gold was discovered there. The population at the time was 2,000 but now numbers around 500. The Bancroft family has been involved in Eidsvold since 1910 when Thomas Bancroft came to the town as a medical doctor and naturalist. He scientifically investigated the lungfish (*Neoceratodus forsteri*) in the Burnett River. He set up a rearing-tank at his home in Eidsvold to provide embryological and other material for research workers, fostered the young fish and discovered that the hatchling briefly became amphibious (using lungs on land and in the water).

(Personal visit on 27 July 2020; EN Marks, 'Bancroft, Thomas Lane (1860–1933)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bancroft-thomas-lane-5120/text8559>.)

**Mundubbera** – The Mundubbera Museum is open four days a week (Saturday – Tuesday) from 8.30am to 10.30am or by appointment.

The Museum and Historical Society has a Greenhouse where plants donated by members and the public are collected and cared for. Mrs Loris Doessel is the Hon Secretary and manages the greenhouse. The Mundubbera Museum and Historical Society is situated on freehold land donated to it by the property developer of the rural subdivision in the area. The Society was established in 1971. The first historic building on the land was officially opened on 29 November 1980.

The Museum and Historical Society has a number of buildings on site – Cattle Creek Valley School, Mundubbera Hospital Burses Quarters, Riversleigh Railway Station building, the building from the Mundubbera pig and calf yards and a dairy shed. A new shed has been erected to contain citrus industry exhibits. The first Mundubbera Shire Council traction engine has been loaned by its owner as an exhibit. (*North Burnett News*, 23 July 2020, p. 6 including photograph, and personal visit on 28 July 2020.)



Mundubbera Museum Photo

### **A Steam Traction Engine at the Mundubbera Museum**

A traction engine is a steam-powered tractor used to move heavy loads on roads, plough ground or to provide power at a chosen location. The name derives from the Latin *tractus*, meaning 'drawn', since the prime function of any traction engine is to draw a load behind it.

**Nanango** – *Ringsfield* House was built as a private residence in 1908. The architect was Robin Dodds who made a feature of wide verandahs and bay windows in the house. It was a four-ward maternity hospital from 1942 to 1970. It operated as a Lifeline Women's Refuge for 20 years. The Nanango Historical Society began restoring the house in 1994 and turned it into a museum and historical centre. In recent years it has been operating as a café. Nanango's school building and a church are situated in the grounds. Several other buildings have been constructed in the grounds from recycled timber. (*Burnett Today*, 23 July 2020, p. 14 including photograph).

*Ringsfield* Historic House has an extensive collection of historical photographs and the surrounding historic precinct includes "a replica coach house (built from materials rescued from the demolished 100 year old Nanango Show grandstand), a cream shed, a slab shepherd's hut, the town's original Presbyterian Church and Nanango's oldest surviving building - the State School built in 1866."

The extensive and impressive gardens were designed in 1993 by landscape architect, Jeremy Ferrier. It is now the headquarters of the Nanango Historical Society. It is open from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm Monday to Saturday.

### **Now 107 Years Old**

In August 1913 the inaugural meeting of the Historical Society of Queensland, chaired by the Governor, Sir William MacGregor, was held at the Albert Hall. The constitution was adopted and officers and committee elected.



Nanango Historical Society Photo

### *Ringsfield House, Nanango*

#### HERITAGE

A number of applications have been made in recent months for the removal of places (or part thereof) from the Queensland Heritage Register:

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ipswich on 19 March 2020; *Inverness* House in Toogoolawah on 23 March 2020; and Cairns Railway, Section from Redlynch to Crooked Creek Bridge on 8 April 2020.

On 2 March 2020 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of The Fort at Oxley and on 23 July 2020 the Beaudesert Pig & Calf Saleyard in the Queensland Heritage Register as State Heritage Places.

### Library and Research Report

This month, we were delighted to welcome a new volunteer, Helen Best. Research enquiries were as follows: an article on William Lane by JB Henderson and information on Henderson; biography of Arthur Laurie, long-term RHSQ vice-president and AWU stalwart; follow-up research on John Melton Black for a descendant based in the UK; a further search for an 1888 will; photos of Hamilton Town Hall interiors and of Hamilton division/shire councillors; Burketown in the 1870s; origin of quote describing meteorologist Clement Wragge; copy of 1889 Geological Report on Stanthorpe/Warwick areas; There were requests to view the Pettigrew Diaries for certain years, to comment on proposed renewal of Coochiemudlo Island Signs, for copies of two Queensland History Journal articles by Jean Stewart and where to purchase her book *Kenmore Park*. A request to view the *Collins Letters 1861 Onwards* was referred to the John Oxley Library.

Thanks were received for the assistance we gave with the Richard Daintree article recently published in the *History of Photography* journal. The article can be downloaded for free at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03087298.2020.1788233>.

Researchers have been working on a project for the Queen's Wharf development, commissioned by DBC. It encompasses the use of the Wharf for the import and export of goods and as a landing stage during the Penal Colony era, and for the waves of free settlers who arrived at Moreton Bay from the early 1840s.

Researchers are also looking for images of goods and produce, and of the belongings of convicts, the military and free settlers from those years.



News Limited Photo

**The Beautiful *Kenmore Park* Homestead**

**Jean Stewart can trace the history of her former home back to 1880 when it was a dairy and cattle farm surrounded by corn fields.**

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<p><b>Thursday 10 September, Council Meeting</b>  <b>Tuesday 15 September, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline</b></p>	<p>Matthew Rowe                      Hannah Larrescy                      Shayne Hunter                      Linden George</p>	<p>Annerley                      Taringa                      Woody Point                      The Gap</p>

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
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email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 55.00
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