



RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

78 years of continuous publication

NOVEMBER 2020 No. 857

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

A HERITAGE LISTED BANK BUILDING IN IPSWICH



Old Heritage Photo

The Old Queensland National Bank

This heritage-listed former bank building at 89 Brisbane Street, Ipswich used to house The Queensland National Bank. It was built in 1877 and was modified from time-to-time with a major renovation in 1935. It was also known as The National Bank of Australasia and The Bank of Queensland. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992. See story page 3.

Graeme Nicholson

President's Report

The year is now in its last few months and the end will be on us quicker than we think. It has been a strange year with the Covid restrictions and closures. Despite this there are still a number of significant events still to be held.

At the recent Council meeting, it was resolved that Library and Museum Funds, to the extent of \$3,000, be utilized to pay an honorarium to two young volunteer IT specialists to further assist with the upgrade of our current library catalogue and to provide necessary quality assurance. Quality assurance checking would involve reconciling the library items with their digital entries and addressing missing or errant records. This is an important quality control project.

The volume of work undertaken by the museum volunteers and the committee has been extensive. A special thank you is extended to Dean Prangley, the chair of the committee and all the volunteers. They have been examining and cataloguing the items at the Stafford store, and they even presented a bundle of items to the Council for deaccession. Possibly due to Covid-19 there has been an unusually large number of highly qualified people who have stepped forward to perform volunteer work for the library and the museum. Many have had experience at the Queensland Museum and the State Library. They include Sophie Priebbenow, Megan Beresford, Gabriel Garde and others. We would still like other volunteers to help. We welcome you and thank you.

The Council resolved that the North Stradbroke Island Museum could use the Commissariat Store as a venue for a symposium to mark the 75th anniversary of the closure of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, as well as assist with its promotion and publicity, sometime in mid-2021.

The events that are being planned before Christmas are:

1. On 12 November the launch of the Jeffrey Omara exhibition will be held. Members of his family will be attending from Gympie. The exhibition is completed and is currently open to the public. You are welcome to attend. The late Jeffrey made a significant contribution to the Museum.
2. The papers being presented at the 2020 Annual Conference concern Cook's journey in the *Endeavour* up the east coast in 1770. The presenters will be those engaged to speak at the cancelled conference that was to be held in May at the State Library. The reconvened conference will now be at the Commissariat Store on Saturday 21 November 2020. It will be a full day event with 12 high quality presenters. It will be a hybrid affair with the interstate speakers delivering their papers electronically.
3. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 25 November 2020. You are all encouraged to attend. The Clem Lack lecture will be on the *Commissariat Museum Project: 1998-2000*. The AGM will also be a hybrid affair with many members attending by Zoom.
4. The annual dinner normally held on Queensland Day, will this year be held on Separation Day, Thursday evening 10 December 2020 at the Brisbane Club. Our guest speaker is the distinguished and well-known Professor Roly Sussex OAM. Please attend.

Next year's events are:

1. On 12 February 2021, the launch of the Dig Tree Exhibition at the Commissariat Store will take place.
2. On 20 February, the reconvened Griffith Conference will be held in the Red Chamber. You are all welcome to attend.
3. On 26 March 2021, a social event, given the appropriate name Burke and Wills under the Stars will be held at Thargomindah. The next day, the 27 March 2021, the Reserve Conservation Launch at the Burke and Wills Dig Tree Reserve will be held. We are all planning to fly or drive to Charleville then catch a bus to Thargomindah before heading to the Dig Tree. If you are considering attending please respond quickly as the seats and the hotel rooms available at Thargomindah are limited.

Yours
Stephen Sheaffe AM

Queensland News

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

Esk – A photograph taken by RG Henderson and held by the Workshops Rail Museum was featured in *The Somerset* newspaper of 30 September 2020 on page 2. The photograph shows a passenger train hauled by a C17 locomotive pulling into Esk station with passengers waiting on the platform. The station building has been fully restored in its original position and is a feature on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail.

Ipswich – The *Fassifern Guardian and Tribune* of 30 September 2020 featured on pages 32 and 33 the history of banks in Ipswich since the early 1870s. The eight photographs come from the Ipswich Historical Society, Picture Ipswich (Whitehead Studios Collection) and Lyle Radford. The brief history was compiled by Wendy Creighton.

Theodore – Queensland Rail has announced that it will not demolish the Castle Creek historic railway bridge in Theodore. There were local concerns that the Department of Main Roads planned to remove the almost 100-year-old structure without community consultation. Queensland Rail Regional Head, Jim Benstead, has stated that only specific rail components such as rail fasteners and spikes will be removed as part of ongoing works. (WIN News Rockhampton 8 October 2020, 6.12pm, *Courier-Mail*, 9 October 2020)



Queensland News Photo

The Castle Creek Bridge

Warwick – The Southern Downs Steam Railway Association (SDSR) has received a \$5,000 grant from the Member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP to assist with operating SDSR during the COVID19 restrictions. The SDSR hopes to obtain another steam engine. (*The Allora Advertiser*, 2 September 2020, p. 4)

Yandina – A time capsule containing photographs, trinkets and official documents from Yandina's past was sealed and interred in a time capsule in the centre of Yandina on 22 September 2020. The time capsule organised by Yandina Street Fair Committee commemorates the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Yandina. Yandina Street Fair Committee is formed by a group of volunteers and is a sub-committee of the Yandina Chamber of Commerce Inc. promoting the businesses and community of Yandina & Districts. (*Eumundi Voice*, Issue 3, 10 September 2020, p. 27 and <https://yandinastreetfair.org.au/>)

Biggenden – The Biggenden Wall of Fame and Pioneer Walk in Brier’s Park in Edwards Street, Biggenden was opened by the Federal Member for Flynn, Mr Ken O’Dowd MP, on 10 October 2020 with over 100 people attending. There are a series of story boards in the park including a photograph and brief history of the family. Funding for the project was obtained from the Commonwealth Government Drought Communities Grants Scheme. The Biggenden Historical Society was the auspicing organisation for the grant. The co-ordinator of the project was Moira Thomson of Biggenden and member of RHSQ. The region covered by the stories is the triangle between Dallarnil, Ban Ban Springs and Boompa with Biggenden in the centre.



Biggenden Historical Society Photo

At the Opening

L to R: Gail Gauld, Hon Secretary, Woocoo Historical Society, Brooweena and recent winner of a Centenary Medal awarded by RHSQ, Dr Ruth Kerr, Hon Secretary RHSQ, and Moira Thomson, co-ordinator of the project and member of RHSQ.

HERITAGE

On 15 September 2020 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of **Reconciliation Rocks, corner Sherrin Esplanade and Adelaide Street at Cooktown** in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place. It has already been nominated for inclusion on the National Heritage Register under the *Environment, Protection, Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 5.30 PM AT THE COMMISSARIAT STORE, 115 WILLIAM STREET, BRISBANE
With social distancing and by ZOOM (registered with the Society’s Office)

AGENDA

1. Opening, Attendance and Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
3. Consideration of the Annual Report of the President

4. Consideration of Audited Annual Financial Statement
5. Election of the President, one Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and 10 Councillors
6. Appointment of Patron of the Society
7. Appointment of an Honorary Auditor
8. Consideration of the recommendation by the Society’s Council that Dr Rod Kirkpatrick be elected as a Fellow of the Society and that Mr Dean Prangley be awarded a MacGregor Medal.

Fellowship:

The Society’s Council recommends that Dr Rod Kirkpatrick be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 (d) of the Constitution, for his significant scholarly achievements in Australian newspaper history and the community. Rod Kirkpatrick holds a PhD in History (1995) from The University of Queensland. He is the author of 10 books on the history of Australian newspapers including *Sworn to No Master: A History of the Provincial Press in Queensland to 1930* (1984), *Country Conscience: A History of the New South Wales Provincial Press, 1841-1995* (2000), *The Life and Times of Thadeus O’Kane* (2003), *Purposely Parochial: 100 Years of the Country Press in Queensland.* (2008), *The Bold Type: A History of Victoria’s Country Newspapers. 1840-2010* (2010), *A Short History of the Australian Country Press* (2013), and *Dailies in the Colonial Capitals: A Short History* (2016). He is also the author of published articles in History Journals including for the *RHSQ Journal* vol.12 no.1 pp.83-102, contributed chapters to books and has been a member of historical societies throughout Australia. He has been a member of this Society since 1979.

MacGregor Medal:

The Society’s Council recommends that Mr Dean Prangley be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (f) of the Constitution, for his role in the Society as President, Immediate Past President and Councillor, Chair of the Museum Committee and service on the Marketing and Program Committees. His advocacy on behalf of the Society in a variety of forums and with other community groups has advanced the study of history in the Queensland community significantly.

9. Presentation of Award of Centenary Medals to Mr Mick Davis, Mrs Gail Gauld, Mrs Merle Heiner and Mr Michael Strong who have all had significant roles in community history groups and museums in Queensland.
10. Close
11. The Clem Lack Oration will follow the AGM. It will be presented by Mr Stephen Sheaffe AM.

Dr Ruth S. Kerr
Hon Secretary

**THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
NOMINATION FORM**

For the election of the President, Vice President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, and 10 Councillors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 5.30pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane with social distancing and by zoom (by registering with the Society’s Office).

Nominations are required to be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before close of business on 11 November 2020.

Nominations must be signed by 2 (two) financial members of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who must be a financial member.

We nominate.....for the office of.....

Signed.....Signed.....

If elected I agree to act in the position of.....Signature

Received by Hon Secretary Signed:.....Date:.....

Queensland Day Dinner

In April, the RHSQ advised members that the 2020 Queensland Day Dinner was postponed due to the Coronavirus. We are pleased to announce that the dinner will now be held on Separation Day, Thursday 10 December at The Brisbane Club. Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM, FQA, Chevalier des Palmes Académiques will be the guest speaker. More details are to be found in the attached invitation.

I hope that you will be able to attend.

Maryanne Pender, Councillor

Library and Research Report

The following research enquiries were received during the past month: re aspects of life in Brisbane during World War Two; 3 cricket pitches in Yeronga Memorial Park Brisbane c. 1880 -1945; reproduction of numerous images from RHSQ collection; history of Camp Hill house; Brisbane during the Spanish 'flu; history of the Capricornian Credit Union; Ludwig Leichhardt's 1848 expedition; public memorials relating to the 1930s Great Depression; QANTAS passenger ticket No.1; the Blair Athol Coal and Timber Company and John Hetherington, Company Director and Mayor of Brisbane; the whereabouts of a c.1849 letter from Gregory Blaxland Jnr of *Gin Gin* station to Gregory Blaxland Snr.; a whalebone arch in the 'botanical gardens' in Brisbane in the 19th century; photographs of Sir Samuel Griffiths and his New Farm home *Merthyr*.

Our thanks for the following donations received for the Library: - Lesley Syngé for *Tales of the Capricorn Coast, Book One*; Stephen Sheaffe for *A History of Annerley and Surrounding Suburbs during war times, Queensland bar news, Queensland Barristers during World War II, and Grammar News, Brisbane Grammar School BGS150 Special Edition*; author Anastasia Dulova for *To Preserve and Protect: Policing Colonial Brisbane*; and Bill Metcalf for *The Leichhardt Diaries: Early Travels in Australia during 1842 – 1844*. A collection of transparencies of Brisbane in the 1950s and 1960s has also been offered to the Library.

This month we welcomed a new volunteer to the research team, history graduate Meghan Beresford. She is currently working on converting digitised original documents to an accessible PDF format. Work continues digitising photographs for the collection. The extensive material currently on CDs, including photographs, documents and cutting book indexes, has now been fully digitised and catalogued. It has been decided to identify in the Library catalogue books and other publications left to the Library by our late member and former opal miner, Ian Simmons, as the Ian Simmons Collection.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS NOVEMBER

Wednesday 11 November, Talk
Thursday 12 November, Council Meeting and
Thursday 12 November, launch of the Jeffrey Omara exhibition
Sunday 15 November, Bulletin deadline
Saturday 21 November, Conference
Wednesday 25 November, AGM

NEW MEMBERS

No new members this month

Contact Details

Bulletin 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	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.	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