



THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*78 years of continuous publication*

MARCH 2021 No. 860

The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,  
Governor of Queensland

President: Dr Denver Beanland AM

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

## MARCH 31, 2021: 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE



RAAF Museum Photo

### An Avro 504 trainer

On 31 March 1921 the RAAF became a separate service. Aircraft flown at that time mainly consisted of aircraft received as part of the Imperial Gift. The Avro 504K, 20 of which were ordered in 1918 and another 35 received as part of the Imperial Gift, became an important part of the newly-formed RAAF's operational capability throughout the 1920s. The Imperial Gift was Britain's donation of aeroplanes and equipment to the Dominions in 1919 to establish air forces. The only original surviving Imperial Gift aircraft in Australia are Avro 504K A3-4/H2174, stored at the Treloar Technology Centre (Canberra) and S.E.5a A2-4/C1916, exhibited in the ANZAC Hall of the main Australian War Memorial displays in the Australian War Memorial.

*PER ARDUA AD ASTRA*

## President's Report

Your Society held its first function of the year on Friday 12 February with the successful launch of the Dig Tree Blazes Exhibition by the Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General Senator the Honourable Amanda Stoker. The social occasion took the form of a wine and cheese with orange juice for those that prefer something lighter. I urge all members to visit the Commissariat Store and view the Blazes Exhibition if you have not already done so.

The Society's Council have programmed a very busy year ahead with several conferences, a 'Book Fair', exhibition launches together with our Wednesday lunch time lectures. We look forward to all the events being not only history occasions but social events to allow members of the Society to meet and greet.

Our first conference is entitled 'Sir Samuel Griffith: A political life', our second will be a Burke and Wills conference to be held at the Commissariat Store on 29 May to be followed by the Cook conference in Cooktown on 19 June and then a Surveyor's conference on 18 September at the Commissariat Store. Also, 6 May this year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert O'Hara Burke.

Our Wednesday lunch time lectures have as usual a list of fascinating speakers. Each month the speakers are listed on the website and in the *Bulletin*.

A Book Fair, with surplus publications and second-hand books from the Society for sale, will be held on 14 August for members and 15 August for the general public on the ground floor of the Commissariat Store.

The Queensland Day Dinner this year will be held on Saturday 5 June, owing to the 6 June being a Sunday, and the Separation Day event on Friday 10 December.

The Clem Lack Oration will be held as usual after the Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on 18 November.

Details of these events will become available closer to the occasion and will appear on the RHSQ website under 'Events'.

In addition, members of the Society have booked at their own expense to travel to Thargomindah and the Dig Tree Reserve to celebrate the completion of the Conservation Project on the Reserve, 320 kilometres west of Thargomindah. For those members who are not aware the Society is the Trustee for the Burke and Wills Dig Tree Reserve and has just completed a major conservation upgrade on the Reserve. Anyone making their own arrangements are reminded that there will be a *Burke and Wills back under the Stars* function at Thargomindah on the Friday night 26 March before the launch at the Dig Tree Reserve the next day, Saturday 27 March 2021. You may book for both occasions through the Bulloo Shire Council website on Eventbrite. As the Friday night function is catered there is a charge involved. With COVID precautions in place it is essential that bookings are made for both events.

I remind members that nominations are called for the John and Ruth Kerr Medal for Distinction in Queensland or Australian history as set out in the nomination form. Nomination forms are on the RHSQ website under 'About Us' in the box 'Awards and Medals'. Nominations close on 31 March 2021.

Furthermore, elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, your Society is making a call for expressions of interest for history speakers, papers and topics.

Denver Beanland  
President

## Queensland Report

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

**Ceratodus** – Society member, David Feez, has written a book published in August 1997, *Ceratodus: the Long Journey*. The book outlines the history of the Ceratodus area with oral histories and reminiscences and biographies of local residents. It was instrumental in a small team effort to move the Ceratodus railway station building from its position on the unused Mungar to Monto to Gladstone railway to a Rest Area beside the Burnett Highway crossing of the Burnett River.

It took 4,000 hours of voluntary work and support of the Eidsvold Shire Council to achieve the relocation of the station building. The section of the railway from Mundubbera to Ceratodus took 10 years for construction after the Parliamentary approval. The work was done under the government's day labour policy. The railway was opened to Ceratodus on 26 April 1924 and Queensland Railways' use of the line ceased in 1999.



Ruth Kerr Photo

### The Ceratodus railway station building on 2 January 2021

. The opening ceremony was performed by the Minister for Railways, James Larcombe MLA, and was well supported by a number of politicians in attendance, Frank Forde MHR and Bernard Corser MLA for Burnett. Two excursion trains from Gayndah and Mundubbera carried locals to Ceratodus. Ceratodus railway station was named after the *Neoceratodus forsteri* lungfish. It had a station building, telegraph, loading bank, ballast pit siding, fork line, and goods shed (removed in 1964). Trucking yards were provided in 1948 and removed in 1981. The railway had been a lynch pin in the commencement of the North Burnett Land Settlement Scheme. The Committee to save the Ceratodus station building and move it was formed in 1995. Funds for the purpose were raised locally. (John Kerr, *Triumph of Narrow Gauge: a history of Queensland Railways*, Brisbane, Boolarong, 1998, p. 142; *Queensland Railways Weekly Notice* 47/24, 46/27, 27/48, 10/64, 10/81; General Appendices; David Feez, *Ceratodus: the Long Journey*, 1997)

**Childers** – The Isis District Historical Society (IDHS) has obtained a Bundaberg Regional Council Community Grant for funding new promotional signage for the Childers Historical Complex in Taylor Street and The Pharmacy Museum in Churchill Street, Childers. IDHS members, Noelene Naughton and Bev Santacaterina oversaw the project. (*Childers – Woodgate Chit Chat*, December 2020 – January 2021, p. 21 including two photographs).

**Mareeba** – The Far North Queensland Aviation Museum acquired in November 2020 a Military Issue Douglas DC3 transport plane. The plane operated near the end of World War II. The plane was deregistered in Townsville before being brought up to Mareeba by Syd Beck for inclusion in the former Beck War Museum. Aircraft of this type flew missions out of Mareeba during World War II. The Kennedy Highway between the Beck War Museum and the Mareeba Airport had to be closed on 14 November 2020 for the plane to be safely escorted to its new home. (*Mareeba Express* 25 November 2020, p. 17 including photograph)

### DC3s in the RAAF

DC3s were widely used by the RAAF during and after WWII. RAAF DC3 Dakotas began operating

in February 1943 and included nine Dakota Is (A65-1/9), 50 Dakota IIIs (A65-10/59) and 65 Dakota IVs (A65-60/124): actually A65-123/124 were C-47Ds which were revamped versions of the C-47B. In addition, No 36 Squadron operated 23 C-53s and one C-49 (impressed DC-3) on loan from the US Army Air Force during 1943-44. Wartime Dakota units included Nos 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 Squadrons and No 1 Communication Unit.

Post-war, the Dakota served wherever the RAAF has operated – New Guinea, Japan, Malaya, Korea, and Thailand. RAAF aircrews also flew RAF-serialled Dakotas in the 1948-49 Berlin Airlift. Other Dakota activities include spraying experiments, glider-towing, rain-making, VIP transport and Antarctic research. Your editor flew them in Malaya and Vietnam in the early 1960s.



RAAF Photo

### An RAAF C47B

Alongside transport operations, Dakotas also served as training aircraft, serving with No 1 Flying Training School, the Central Flying School and the School of Air Navigation. The final role for the Dakota in RAAF service was with the Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU) at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, where the aircraft were used in support of flight test activities, and were themselves fitted with many items of special equipment during flight tests.

In March 1999, these activities also came to an end, closing the book on the 56-year career of the Dakota in RAAF service.

## Library and Research Report

Donations: our thanks to the many people who have donated items to the Library. They are as follows: Emeritus Professor Luecke for documents relating to the Dart, Brimblecombe and Logan families; Gerard Brennan for his book on the Monk family history; Anna Stafford for a 1920s Queensland Tourist Bureau brochure on a Montville and Blackall Range Tour; Elizabeth Nunne for a copy of Edwin Barnard's *Spinning Tops and Gumdrops*; Ruth Kerr for the *Journal of Australasian Mining History*, Vol. 18, Oct.20, and Gwen Price's *From There to Here: The Development of Atherton Shire*; John Ehm for *Papa John's Brisbane Town*, an illustrated book of memories; Redland Museum for the programme from the 11 June 1911 Citizens United Service at Brisbane's Exhibition Grounds commemorating King George V's coronation; Dermot Wiley for invitations of events in Brisbane and other matters dating back to approximately 1901, including royal visits and the official opening of Brisbane City Hall; Kerrie Sugars for the two volumes of the *Aldine History of Queensland, Illustrated, 1888*; and Professor John Pearn for copies of papers presented to Kelvin Grove State College students and to the Australian Numismatic Society.

Recent work done by volunteers: Peter Calos has finished the mammoth task of photographing around 3500 pages of the 4 Lake Nash Letterbooks handwritten by pastoralist John Nash. They were too fragile and badly damaged in the recent flooding of the Library shelves for scanning. Josh Dugan has completed correcting errors detected in the Library catalogue. Hardcopy and digital photo holdings have been reconciled, with the relevant adjustments made to Catalogue entries. They have also compiled a list of books not relevant to

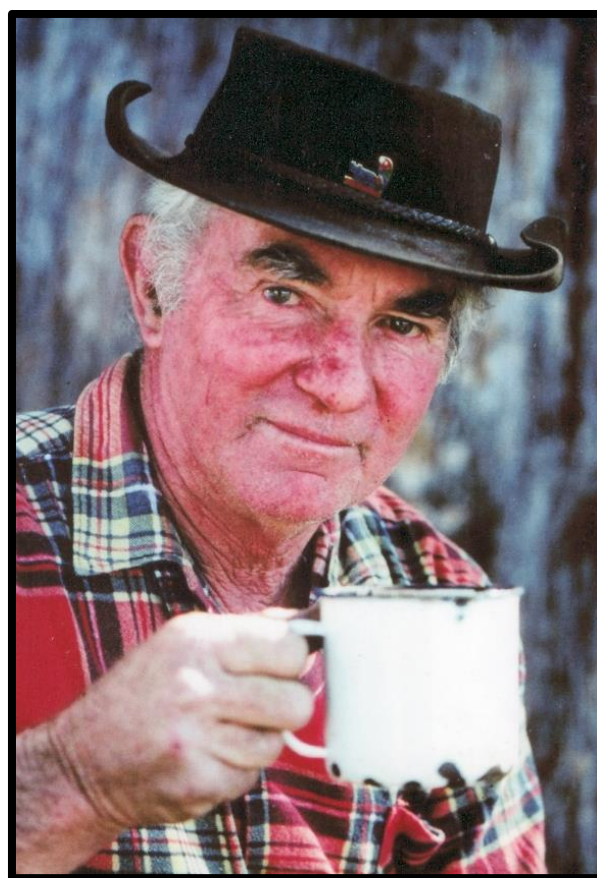
Queensland history for possible de-accessioning. Helen Best has continued digitising hardcopy photos. She is progressing with plans for moving appropriate books from storage back to the Library and for the de-accessioning of holdings, such as Journals, given that most are now available online.

Similarly, an assessment of the Library's dozens of books of newspaper cuttings is underway. We welcome new volunteer Cheryl Willis who has a public administration background and considerable experience in history research.

Research requests were as follows: origin of the name 'Reeves cowpea'; photos of 2-and 4-bedroom Queensland homes, 1860-1900; opportunity to view Thomas Welsby's unpublished autobiography; permission to include an extract from RHSQ's *Lost Brisbane* on a blog/website; arrangements for family of Kalboori Youngi/Norah Nathan to view her sculptures possibly to make a video of their history; locating Eliza Fraser's own account of her time on Fraser Island; photos and information on early history of Norman Pde. Clayfield house; photos and further information on architect George Addison's first home 'Felton House'.

Kay Cohen  
Library & Research Co-ordinator

## The Eric Marggraf Photograph Collection



Olive Marggraf Photo

### Eric Marggraf

In January 2021 Mrs Olive Marggraf, the widow of renowned railway photographer, Eric Marggraf, donated his photographic collection to the Society's Library with the assistance of a railway colleague. The collection comprises six albums, nine boxes of prints and three boxes of negatives. The Society is very pleased to receive the substantial donation as Eric Marggraf was a railway photographer in Queensland over six decades. Eric was a builder and a railway enthusiast. In his spare time he travelled throughout the state photographing trains, railway stations and associated railway activities. The collection covers the whole state including branch lines. There are also photographs of Brisbane trams and south east Queensland tramways e.g. Laheys and Beaudesert, along with Australian Railway Historical Society trips (1964-1974). There are a small number of photographs of railways in southern states.

Kay Cohen

## Talk for March

**Speakers: Rodney and Robin Sullivan**

**Topic: *Writing Women into the history of the Queensland Irish Association, 1898-2020: Challenges, Culture and Contributors.***

**Booking is essential – please book your free ticket on Eventbrite.**

## Call for Papers and Speakers

During the coming year the Society is embarking upon and undertaking a comprehensive and interesting lecture program in order to further enhance the objects of the Society in the dissemination and appreciation of Queensland history to members and the public, and to greater involve members in the camaraderie of the Society by conducting such activities in a convivial social atmosphere.

In order to assist in such an undertaking, it is necessary for the Society to increase its ready pool of suitable and willing speakers, and hence this call for the nomination of speakers and topics that you as a member would appreciate being discussed.

Should you be willing to personally present a paper or talk or if you would like to nominate a prospective speaker, please email [info@queenslandhistory.org.au](mailto:info@queenslandhistory.org.au) with the following information:

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone no.:**

**Suggested speaker:**

**Email:**

**Phone no.:**

**Suggested topic:**

Michael Halliday  
Program Committee Chair

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<u>MARCH</u>	
<b>Wednesday 10 March, Talk 12.30 pm, <i>Writing Women into the History of the Queensland Irish Association.</i></b> <b>Thursday 11 March, Council Meeting.</b> <b>Monday 15 March, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.</b> <b>Wednesday 31 March, RAAF's 100th birthday.</b>	Callum Hogg                      Coorparoo Sheree Clancy                      Jamboree Heights David Stent                      Broadbeach Waters Heather Clarke                      Cedar Creek Charles Martin                      Brisbane Bernadette Muggeridge                      Grange Jeffrey Zayer                      Birkdale David Huggonson                      Lota

### 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: <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 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