



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,

Governor of Queensland

President: Dr Denver Beanland AM

Website: www.queenslandhistory.org

MOORE'S FAMOUS STONEHOUSE



Brisbane Valley Heritage Trail Photo

The main building of Moore's famous Stonehouse has gradually been restored over the past three years by the property's new owners Loretta and John Eastwood

Moore is a rural town 96 kilometres north-west of Brisbane where, between 1874 and 1888, Robert Williams and his family built the Stonehouse complex, which started life as a humble five-room homestead and later went on to serve as a hotel, a local post office, a way station for stage coaches and a working farm that bred horses, cattle and sheep.

His Stonehouse complex was a regular stopping place for the stagecoach that ran twice a week between Esk and Nanango, and it even figured in Saul Mendelsohn's bush ballad "Brisbane Ladies" which was popularised in the 1890s. See story page 4.

President's Report

There is the perfect opportunity for members to pick up some fascinating history books and one-of-a-kind historical texts on Saturday 14 August and the general public on Sunday 15 August when the RHSQ is holding a major Book Fair. This is a chance to obtain presents for various occasions with history books and magazines, many of which are very difficult to obtain publicly. Your Society is undertaking a major Book Fair, between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, City, on Saturday 14 August for Society members. Entry for Members will be free. Then on Sunday 15 August between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 pm for the general public. Entry fee for the general public will be adults \$5, children under 15 years of age \$2.50, and \$10 for a family. This will enable everyone to see first-hand the Commissariat Store, built by convicts in 1828-29, the convict museum, and various other exhibitions and displays as well as attend the Book Fair. The Commissariat Store is Queensland's oldest habitable building. On sale will be books some between 130 and 300 years old. Additionally, in lots of eight for \$5 will be surplus *Queensland History Journals* and its predecessors *Journals* from various years, including the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s and earlier, together with single *Journals*. There will also be hundreds of books dealing with Queensland, Australian and New Zealand history together with periodicals, magazines, and novels for sale, together with a range of second-hand books that the Society has gathered over the years and are surplus to requirements. Furthermore, the Society will have on sale many of its own publications that have been produced on Queensland's history. Members – Saturday 14 August is your day. The Society thanks past president Dean Prangley, chair of the Museum Committee and his team on the great work they are doing to bring all of this to fruition. Those who can assist on the days are asked to contact the Society. Please check the RHSQ website for further details.

Members are reminded that the next one-hour Wednesday lecture commencing at 12.30 pm at the Commissariat Store on 8 September is entitled 'Waterworks Road'. The guest speaker will be Peter Eedy who will take you through the critical importance of Brisbane's water supply in the late 1800s. Residents had relied on the reservoir between what is now George and Roma Streets. Although entry is free for members, you are reminded that because of COVID-19 you are required to book, which can be done online. Non-members will be required to pay an entrance fee of \$10 and those aged over 65 \$8. Members are reminded that as usual there will be no lecture in August because of the Exhibition holiday.

On Saturday 9 October the Society is having its next conference entitled 'Queensland's Earliest Surveyors – who, what and where?' The conference will commence at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street at 9.30 am and conclude at 1.00 pm with registration commencing at 9.00 am. There will be 11 guest speakers, so it will be a busy conference, covering surveyors and issues of early colonial Queensland. As usual the details will be on the RHSQ website and a separate flyer will be distributed to members in due course with more information.

The Cook conference at Cooktown on Saturday 19 June was a great success with 80 in attendance. The conference was launched by the Mayor Peter Scott. The week-end was another successful part the Society's outreach program. Of the 15 papers presented at the conference three were presented by Aboriginal speakers. The RHSQ's Centenary Medal was presented to the Cooktown Historical Society at the end of the conference. The Cook conferences were sponsored by the Queensland Government. Additional funding is being sought for the publication of the papers some of which has already been received but further funding is still required. Thanks to Immediate Past President Stephen Sheaffe and Councillor John Pearn for organising such a successful event.

The RHSQ has a number of opportunities for those that wish to volunteer for a variety of activities in the Society. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the Manager at the Commissariat Store, the Society's office to discuss.

I look forward to meeting members at forthcoming events.

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)

Atherton – *Barron Valley* Hotel licensees, Michael and Maree Nasser and staff have won the Queensland Hotels Association outstanding community service and achievement award for 2021. The Nasser family has

run the hotel for almost 91 years, having taken over the hotel on Melbourne Cup Day in 1930. The hotel first opened in the 1880s and was rebuilt in 1907. It won a Centenary of Federation award. (*Mareeba Express*, 16 June 2021, p. 2 including photograph)



Bing.com Photo

The Barron Valley Hotel

Atherton – Herberton Historic Railway Group has received \$1,603 from the Tablelands Regional Council's Regional Arts Development Fund for Operation Full Steam Ahead Training Manuals. (*Mareeba Express*, 16 June 2021, p. 18)

Merryvale near Mount Mort in Scenic Rim Shire – Two photographs of the school building beside Grandchester Mount Mort Road appeared in the local newspaper in June 2021. The first school in the area opened in 1894 in a slab hut with shingle roof on land owned by James Murray. Parents planned a new school on Rosevale – Grandchester Road. It was on James Murray's property, *Merryvale*. This was the name of the 640 acres property resumed out of *Franklyn Vale* station. The new school was opened on 25 April 1897 with 17 children enrolled. In 1904 the teacher became ill and no teacher was sent as a replacement. Franklyn Vale district residents asked for a school in 1905. The Merryvale school building was moved to Spooner's Reserve by *Franklyn Vale* station owner, Arthur Mort. A school was opened in March 1906 as the Franklyn Vale school. When attendance dropped below the required number the school closed in 1915. Merryvale district then had sufficient school age children for a school. The school building was moved back to the site on Mount Walker – Mount Mort Road. The building was reopened as the Merryvale School on 15 May 1922. The school closed again in 1950. The building was moved to land owned by Jack Ahearn near Ahearn's Creek beside the Mount Walker West Road and reopened in August 1951. The school closed in 1961. The building remained there but has recently suffered wind damage. (*Fassifern Guardian & Tribune*, 26 June 2021, p. 15 including two photographs; QSA, ID15372, EDU/Z1747)

Moore – Friends of the Stonehouse and Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails joined to fund the restoration of the headstone of Robert Williams who with his brother, Charles, built the Stonehouse 148 years ago. The restored grave was unveiled at Linville – Moore Cemetery and an afternoon tea was held at the Moore Soldiers memorial Hall. (*The Yarraman Junction*, Issue 37, June 2021, p. 19 including five photographs)



Friends of Stonehouse Photos

Robert Williams' grave before the restoration project



Friends of Stonehouse Photo

Moore Stonehouse owners Loretta and John Eastwood beside the restored headstone. They bought the historic property in 2018 and have been working to restore the buildings ever since.

Atherton Tableland Military Tours – Following consistent requests, John Hardy OAM, military historian, has commenced military tours of the Atherton Tableland. The places visited include the largest ordnance depot in North Queensland and the site of the largest medical field hospital in the southern hemisphere. The tours finish at the Atherton War Cemetery. The tours run in June and July. (*Mareeba Express*, 16 June 2021, p. 19 including photograph)

Jacob's Well – In 1919 Land Commissioner, William Watts, reported on what could be done with the reserves in the Jacob's Well area. He noted that the Shire Council wished to retain the reserve at Jacob's Well for recreation purposes. He recommended that a well be sunk in the reserve. The two Reserves for Public Purposes Nos. 127 and 128 in the Parish of Albert were then thickly infested with lantana. The Shire Council desired that the two reserves be opened to selection. A gravel reserve was to be retained and a road was to be put through the reserves. Watts recommended that the remaining 79 acres be subdivided into two equal portions. They were to be valued and then opened for perpetual lease selection. (Res.89.170, R.8A & 26A; *Sweet Sea News*, Issue 310, May 2021, p. 16)

Normanton – Croydon Railway – Queensland Rail's Gulflander train which is a tourist attraction will soon be overhauled with multimillion dollar 21st century technology and safety improvements. Restored interiors, improved storage space, updated lighting, new flooring, sanitising stations and USB charging points will be installed on the Gulflander train at the end of 2021. The Gulflander travels on the Normanton – Croydon heritage listed railway. (Hon Mark Bailey MP, Ministerial Statement, *Queensland Parliamentary Debates*, 15 Jun 2021, p. 1,780)



Qld Rail Photo

The Gulflander

Rockhampton – In November 2020 Sister Joanne Molloy, archivist of the Sisters of Mercy in Rockhampton donated to the Rockhampton Historical Society a collection of local histories and scrap books compiled by Sister Ambrose Gillespie and Sister Cecilia Ludgate. The books include eisteddfod programs and results. (Rockhampton Historical Society Annual Report 2020-2021)

Library and Research Report

Research enquiries for the past month were as follows: history of Brisbane's Story Bridge; information on a house in Renwick St., Albion, Brisbane, on the Victoria Building(s), South Brisbane demolished in 1969 as depicted in a Margaret Olley painting, on places in Queensland named "Hope" / "Hopeless" / "Disappointment", on a 'lost' relative last recorded in Queensland; links to information on Queensland's indigenous history; copy of a photo of Kerwali Sandy (King Sandy) copyrighted to the RHSQ and permission to display it for a Paisley (Scotland) Museum exhibition; photographs and information re the Aboriginal XI Cricket team which toured England in 1868; participation in formulating a plan to restore the Glasshouse Mountains Flinders Memorial. The RHSQ assisted with the original memorial erected in 1963. Our thanks for the following donations: from Elisabeth Wheeler, *A Clear Vision: Mrs Janet O'Connor and the Duporth*

School for Young Women, Oxley Queensland; from RHSQ Fellow and noted journalist Rod Kirkpatrick, *More to Come, A Journalist's Memoir*; from Dr. Bill Metcalf, RHSQ member and recipient of the John & Ruth Kerr Medal of Distinction, issues of *Queensland Review*, *Queensland History Journal* and *Utopian Studies*, together with two unpublished theses on Women's Suffrage in Queensland, and German Settlers on Queensland's Logan and Maroochy Rivers. One of our research team members, Josh, has recently secured a full-time position in his chosen field. His work in assisting with the digitising of archival material has been much appreciated. We will miss him and wish him well in his new job. Elizabeth Nunne has now listed all the copies the Society holds of the *Queensland History Journal* and its predecessors, and arranged for two copies of each issue to be held in the library. Helen Best is finalising her assessment of the books held both in the library and at the Stafford storage facility. Duplicates and books not relevant to Queensland and Pacific Islands history have been tagged for inclusion in the Society's August Book Sale. All books donated by Thomas Welsby to form the Thomas Welsby Library have been retained.

Kay Cohen,
Library and Research Co-Ordinator

Remember the Book Fair

Please remember that our Book Fair will be held in August at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street. On Saturday 14 August, between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, the Fair will be free entry for Society members. Then on Sunday 15 August, also between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 pm the Fair will be open for the general public. Entry fee for the general public will be adults \$5, children under 15 years of age \$2.50, and \$10 for a family.

There will be hundreds of books dealing with Queensland and Australian history together with periodicals, magazines, and novels for sale, together with a range of second-hand books that the Society has gathered over the years. In addition, at reduced prices will be many of the publications the Society has produced on Queensland's history. Rare convict made bricks will also be for sale.

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>AUGUST</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
Thursday 12 August, Council Meeting	Adelle Walsh	Curra
Saturday 14 August, Book Fair for members	Queensland State Archives	Runcorn
Sunday 15 August, Book Fair for public	Donella Lister	Moorooka
Sunday 15 August, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.	Debbie McNeil	Inverell
	Lisa Bell	Burpengary East
	Allan Tonks	Taringa
	Nigel Page	Graceville
	Elizabeth Wilkinson	Gordon Park
	Jessica Harrington	Kenmore
	Joan Kneebone	Sherwood
	David and Ki Douglas	Brisbane City

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