



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

79 years of continuous publication

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland
Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO,
Governor of Queensland

President: Dr Denver Beanland AM
Website: www.queenslandhistory.org

BUNDABERG RUM DISTILLERY FIRE NOVEMBER 1936



RHSQ Digital Photo P56228

The Ruined Bundaberg Rum Distillery after the fire of 21 November 1936

The fire, said to be caused by a lightning strike, destroyed the distillery's buildings, plant, machinery and stock. According to the manager, there was so much damage that it would be some time before production could be re-started. In the end, this took three years. (*Evening News* (Rockhampton) 16.12.1936, p.3). The photo shows the extent of the destruction viewed from the Burnett River. During the fire, flaming molten molasses flowed into the river, creating a spectacular night-time show.

Rum production came from the idea to make use of the large volume of molasses wastage produced from the sugar refining process. It was introduced by Bundaberg businessman, Fred Buss. His Bundaberg Distilling Company began operations in 1888, with the first Bundaberg Rum being bottled in 1889. The Company was taken over in 1912 by the nearby Millaquin Sugar Refinery which had previously taken over the local Gibson and Howes Bingera plantations and mills. It became part of the Bundaberg Sugar Company in 1975 which in turn was bought in 2000 by the international firm Diageo. Bundaberg Sugar's history notes add that, in 1942, rum and Coca-Cola was produced to meet demand from American forces stationed in Queensland.

President's Report

Congratulations to the Editor of the *Bulletin* newsletter Dr Graeme Nicholson. The most recent edition of the *Bulletin* was his 150th edition as the Editor. I can remember back during my first period as the President of the Society when I asked Graeme if he would take on the role, which he has done with expertise and enthusiasm.

The next Wednesday lecture on 13 October will be presented by Lesley Synge entitled 'The Fickle Fortunes of a Mount Morgan Miner's Family'. Presenter Lesley Synge is best known for her poetry and fiction titles and her biography *Wharfie*. The annual Arts Central Queensland Lorna McDonald Essay Award has inspired her to revisit her Central Queensland origins through the lens of history. She has twice won the Award and received other commendations. Lesley holds an MA from The University of Queensland. All interested in attending must book for the event. For details, please check the RHSQ website under 'Events'.

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting followed by the Clem Lack Oration will be held on Thursday 18 November commencing at 5.30 pm. Guest speaker is Anne Monsour who will speak on 'The Continuous Thread: The Lebanese Presence in South Brisbane, Woolloongabba and West End'. Anne is currently President of the Australian Lebanese Historical Society and editor of the newsletter. She has a PhD from the University of Queensland and has for over two decades been researching, writing and speaking about the Lebanese in Australia, producing many articles and publications. Again, to make a booking and check details, please go to the RHSQ website under 'Events'.

Separation Day Celebrations, celebrating the separation of Queensland from New South Wales in 1859 will again be held at the Commissariat Store between 6.00 pm and 7.30 pm on 10 December 2021. Admission is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members plus booking fee. Dress is smart casual. Booking on the website under 'Events' is essential. Special guest speaker is Fiona Gardiner PSM who has recently retired as the Director of the Heritage Branch of the Queensland Department of Environment. She will speak about her heritage experiences. This promises to be a great relaxing occasion to socialise and enjoy in addition to listening to Fiona.

Congratulations to Dr Ruth Kerr OAM on her recently receiving a Fellowship of the Federation of Australian Historical Society (FAHS). Ruth has served the FAHS over many years.

On Friday 10 September the Society celebrated 40 years since successfully moving from Newstead House to the Commissariat Store, Queensland's oldest habitable building built by convicts in 1828-29. Dr Ruth Kerr addressed the gathering about the history of the move. It was a great occasion for members to relax and meet and greet old and new friends.

I recently visited the Beenleigh and District Historical Society and its Historical Village in Main Street, Beenleigh. It is a great display about the district's past and well worth a visit. In addition, during the last month, I also visited the Woodford and District Historical Society which was holding the Villeneuve/Neurum Reunion for those families who had settled or lived in the district. I had the honour of addressing those present on historical matters. These visits are an important part of the Society's outreach program.

The Society is seeking volunteers to assist with its museum collection, exhibitions and cataloguing. If you are interested and can assist, please contact our Manager, Sophie. Also, your Council has approved the appointment of Sophie who has professional qualifications in Museum curating to work an additional day per fortnight as Exhibition's curator. This is a continuation of the museum work that I mentioned in the last *Bulletin*.

The RHSQ has been advised that Queensland's next Governor will be sworn-in on 1 November. The Society would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding service to Queensland of our Patron and 26th Governor His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO. He will have served as Governor for seven years and three months and prior to that, 16 years as Chief Justice of Queensland. Our sincere appreciation and thanks go to His Excellency for his keen interest and support as our Patron. We would also like to thank Mrs Kaye de Jersey for her encouragement of the Society in all its activities. We wish them well in their next endeavours.

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)

Beaudesert – The rail trail between Logan Village and Yarrabilba on the closed Beaudesert Railway is to be opened in November 2021. The Logan City Council is considering developing another section of the line between Palm Lakes Resorts of Waterford and Bethania as a rail trail. (*My City Logan News*, 17-23 August 2021, p. 8)

Boonah – Boonah has celebrated 120 years of newspaper publication. The town's first newspaper was the *Fassifern Advocate*, published weekly from an office in High Street, Boonah, from 1901. It was commenced by an Ipswich Congregational Minister, Thomas Jones, once described as "a straight, hard-hitting, fearless democrat". In 1904 it became bi-weekly. In May 1904 Arthur Harrison Kirke opened a rival paper, the *Fassifern Guardian*. Kirke was an English journalist who was backed by local businessmen and graziers. The *Guardian* was more conservative than the *Advocate*. Major advertisers favoured the *Guardian* so the business of the *Advocate* faltered in 1906 and Jones died in 1907. The two newspapers merged on 1 December 1912 with the first paper entitled, *Fassifern Guardian, incorporating the Fassifern Advocate* appearing on 6 December. The newly formed Boonah Newspaper Company had its office in the Dover Buildings in Church Street. The employees at that time were Norman Kickbush, Arthur Kirke (manager), Charles AB Millar, Charles AL Fuller, SJ Cossart, Miss Grace Stanley, Miss Vera Farley, Miss Wilda Leonard and Alan Spence. Charles Millar was editor until Sam Cossart took over between 1922 and 1924. Samuel Cossart was also a full partner in the James Cossart & Sons sawmill at Dugandan with his brother DE (Tory) Cossart. Samuel died in April 1946 and Tory Cossart took over management from then until 1958. Grace Stanley was editor during that time. Francis T Dowie and Mrs R Gill, who had connections with the *Dalby Herald*, purchased the *Fassifern Guardian*. Francis Dowie, who became the editor and publisher, died in March 1960. Mrs Gill took full ownership until she sold it to Alan Spence DSO and his wife Dorothy in July 1962. Alan Spence had served in the 2/2nd Cavalry Commando Regiment in Timor in World War II. They sold to Canadians, Murray and Frances Creighton in July 1972. The Creighton family had owned and worked in newspapers for generations. Murray had edited newspapers in Vancouver and New Zealand and he sought to build up the editorial content. In the mid-1980s the Creightons sold to son Michael and his wife, Wendy (née Opperman). They introduced computerised typesetting. In the mid-1990s the newspaper joined Queensland Country Press Association, which Arthur Kirke had helped establish in 1908. Wendy Creighton became an award-winning journalist and editor. Talented journalists, Frank Hampson and Rick Morton, and photographers, Dany Weus and Peter Truer and Lyle Radford, have worked for the newspaper. Drew Creighton, son of Michael and Wendy, became editor in 2020 and rebranded the newspaper, the *Fassifern Guardian and Tribune*, from 2 September and expanded the circulation into Ipswich following the closure of the *Queensland Times* print edition. (*Fassifern Guardian and Tribune*, 17 July 2021, pp. 13-14 including 11 photographs and sketches; *Queensland Times*, 3 December 1912, p. 4; and *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, October 2020, item 109.3.10.)

Grandchester – *Brucedale* property at 6 Grandchester – Mount Mort Road, Grandchester is in the corridor identified for the Inland Rail project. It has been acquired by the Department of Transport and Main Roads in August 2021. The owner of the property being acquired is Mr Brian Desjardins. Henry Simpson who owned the nearby creamery built the *Brucedale* homestead in 1893. In 1909 John Pender bought the two buildings and converted the creamery into a general store. When it closed in 1912 it was used for the local school. The store re-opened in 1917 when Reg Sellers bought the property. The manager of the store Reg Henning bought the property including the store in 1927. Walter and Annie Desjardins from Mount Mort bought the property including the store in 1946. The store operated until 1968. (*The Fassifern Guardian & Tribune*, 4 August 2021, p. 14 including two photographs)

Monuments in Honour of Queensland Women: A special round of the Gambling Community Benefit grants up to \$100,000 will be available encouraging communities and local governments to erect a statue or monument honouring a special female achiever in Queensland. The grant round opens in February 2022. (*The Fassifern Guardian & Tribune*, 7 August 2021, p. 13)

Warra, 37 kms east of Chinchilla – The restored railway station has been relocated to the Richard Best Memorial Park. It houses the Progress and Heritage Society Museum including rail related displays. (*Railway Digest*, July 2021, p. 19 including a photograph). Warra is a rural town on the Warrego Highway, western Darling Downs. It was named after the Warra Warra pastoral run. In 1868 the Western railway line reached Dalby and seven years later the government approved its extension north-westwards. This announcement probably prompted Richard Best to settle at Warra in 1875, and he later opened the first hotel, post office and store. The railway to Warra was opened two years later. The families of railway workers and selectors had enough children for a school to be opened in 1881.



Warra Progress and Heritage Society Photo

The Restored Warra Railway Station

**THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on WEDNESDAY,
18 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 5.30PM
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 2020 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 Mr Stephen Sheaffe be elected as a Fellow of the Society and that Dr Rebecca Ling be awarded a MacGregor Medal.

Fellowship

The Society's Council recommends that Mr Stephen Sheaffe AM be awarded a Fellowship under Rule 35 (d) of the Constitution, for his significant scholarly achievements in Queensland history and the community including this Society.

Mr Stephen Sheaffe is a barrister who has been a member of the Society's Council since 1992. He has brought organisational skills and research and publication abilities to the Society and has been President of the Society twice. He has published nine books on family history with several being highly commended by family history

organisations. Stephen presented his first historical paper to the Society at the 1991 conference and has since published several articles in *Queensland History Journal*. He has analysed the criminal trials of Dundalli and the Kenniff brothers, studied in detail the case of Patrick Mayne (of the Mayne Inheritance) and also the death of the surveyor, Stapleton who died when surveying in the McPherson Ranges, and has had historical papers published on these topics. Stephen has promoted and organised conferences for the Annerley-Stephens Historical Society, presented historical papers there and edited and published the conference papers.

MacGregor Medal:

The Society’s Council recommends that Dr Rebecca Ling be awarded a MacGregor Medal under Rule 35 (f) of the Constitution, for her role in the Society as Grants Co-ordinator and member of Council. Dr Rebecca Ling was appointed a Special Project Officer in 2008 and has been a member of Council since 2012. Rebecca has been Grants Co-ordinator for the whole period. This involves diligent research and preparation of grant applications to grant authorities to support the exhibition and conservation of the Society’s collections and improvements in the Society’s administrative operations. The role also includes the oversight and acquittal of all the grants. Rebecca’s wise counsel in meetings has been of the highest standard.

9. Presentation of Award of Centenary Medals to Dr Anne Monsour, Vince Little (Ambulance history) and Ian Bonacorso (Stanthorpe history).

10. Close:

11. The Clem Lack Oration will follow the AGM. It will be presented by Dr Anne Monsour on ‘A Continuous Thread: The Lebanese Presence in South Brisbane, Woolloongabba and West End’.

Dr Ruth S. Kerr
Honorary 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, 18 November 2021 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 4 November 2021.

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:

Library and Research Report

We are starting with the good news this month. The RHSQ Council has now approved the purchase of new hardware and updated software applicable to all the Society’s online operations. This will be particularly important in relation to both the Museum and Library catalogues, ensuring the safeguarding of their content and enhancing their usage. It will also allow much of the material digitised and stored on external hard drives to become available on the central computers. A grant application has been lodged for funds for the long-

overdue purchase of new desktop and laptop computers. Work continues on preparing a range of vertical file and archive box contents for digitisation after the new system is bedded down. Since the microfilm/microfiche reader no longer works, quotes have been obtained for digitising the Library's films and fiches and a grant application to fund this is in train. Shelf space is gradually becoming available for the transfer of the numerous volumes of the *Queensland Parliamentary Papers* now at the Stafford storage facility. The QPP have proved invaluable research sources. Although they are available on microfilm at the State Library, the hard copies have been found to be more easily accessible and searchable. They contain detailed statistics of Queensland, and departmental reports, maps, plans and photographs. Helen Best has initiated a trial of posting some photos from the RHSQ Collection on the website Flickr to encourage interest in the collection. Photos posted on Flickr cannot be replicated in a high-resolution format.

The following research enquiries were processed this month: photos of the Broadway Hotel, Woolloongabba, for a restoration project; access to RAHS article on explorer Nicholas Baudin; aspects of the Brisbane Normal School and its successors; identifying the donor of the hallstand at the entry to the Commissariat Store; history of *Waldheim*, Annerley; information about cottage in Annerley; information about Greek family and father who was an 'alien worker' cane cutter at Babinda during World War 1; seeking appropriate professional for building assessment to obtain a heritage exemption certificate; information on photo of the Diamantina Orphanage and Diamantina Hospital cited in RHSQ Journal article; photos of the poppet heads once used at the Dobbyn copper mine; information re RHSQ post-World War 2 photo of Moggill pineapple plantation; request from Paisley (Scotland) Museum for permission to use RHSQ photo in an upcoming exhibition, and a request for several QHJ articles. Donations offered to the Library: a collection of 40-50 year old North Queensland postcards and a *History of Queensland, Vol.3*, printed in 1923.

Kay Cohen,
Library and Research Co-Ordinator

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Saturday 09 October, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm Conference: 'Queensland's Earliest Surveyors: Who, What and Where.'</p> <p>Wednesday 13 October, 12.30 pm, Talk 'The Fickle Fortunes of a Mount Morgan Miner and His Family.'</p> <p>Thursday 14 October, Council Meeting</p> <p>Friday 15 October, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.</p>	<p>Ann Scott, Saint Lucia Ben Wilson, West End Peter Eedy, Ashgrove Robert Turner, Alexandra Hills Michael Freemantle, Sherwood Ebony Faulkner, Fortitude Valley David and Betty Thorpe, The Gap</p>

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
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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