

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

79 years of continuous publication

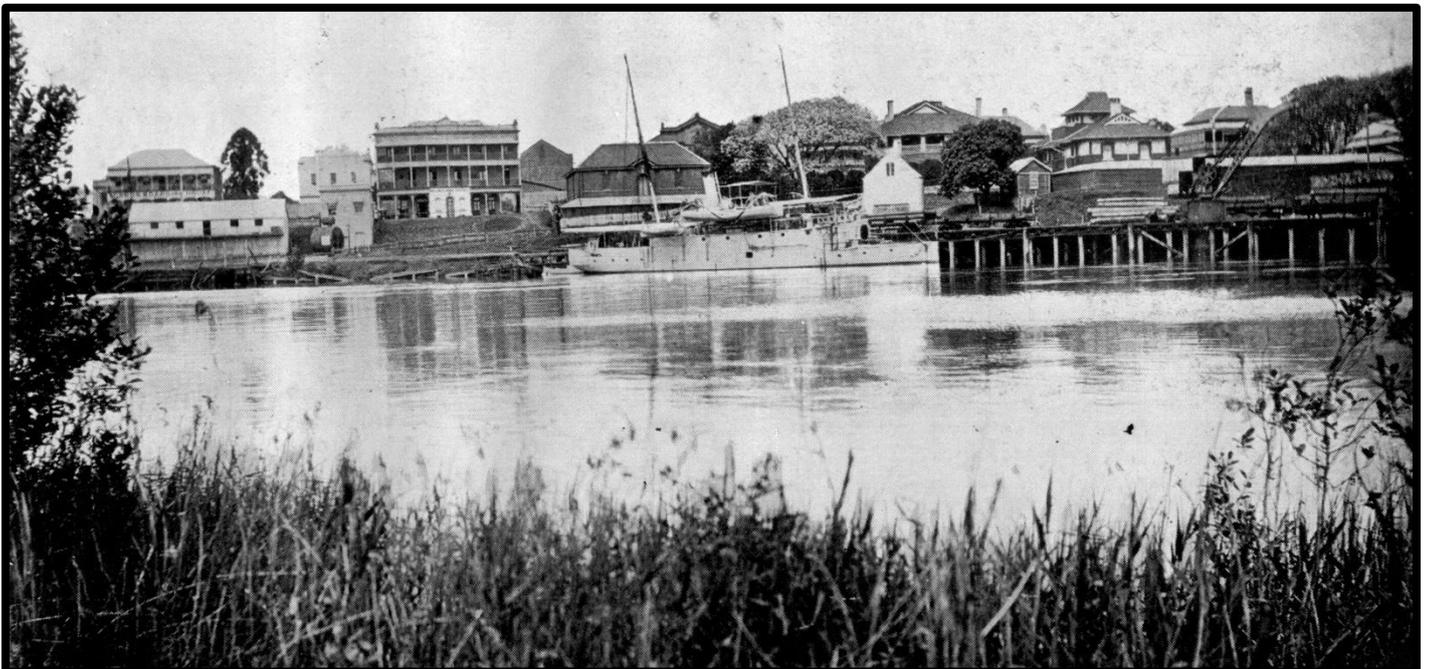
NOVEMBER 2021 No. 868

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

HMQS *PALUMA*

FIRST OF SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SHIPS WITH THIS NAME



RHSQ Digital Photo P52922

HMQS *Paluma*, moored in the Mary River, Maryborough, 1908

Paluma and her sister ship *Gayundah* were the first vessels ordered by the Queensland government for the Queensland Maritime Defence Force. Their names are aboriginal words for 'thunder' and 'lightning' respectively. Built at a cost of £35,000 each, the vessels were of a 'flat-iron' design and mounted a formidable armament for their size. Both ships carried out trials on 26 September 1884 and reached a speed slightly over 10.5 knots in full power trials over a ten mile course.

An agreement had previously been reached between the British Admiralty and the Queensland government for the Admiralty to fit out and employ *Paluma* for survey work in northern Australian waters. This was announced by the Admiralty on 28 July 1884. Consequently, following *Paluma's* trials, her main deck armament was removed and replaced by facilities for the surveyors, a deckhouse on the quarterdeck replacing the 6-inch gun and a work room forward replacing the 8-inch gun.

Paluma commissioned in the Royal Navy on 28 October 1884 under the command of Lieutenant George E Richards, RN. She reached Brisbane on 7 May 1885. For the next ten years, *Paluma* was engaged charting the waters of northern Australia, primarily within the Great Barrier Reef.

In 1893, *Paluma*, then under the command of Captain Pirie, RN, and undergoing refit between surveys was left high and dry in the Botanical Gardens by the great floods of that year. She was eventually refloated when a second flood enabled the government steamer *Advance* to haul her into the water. Fortunately *Paluma* had sustained no significant damage.

In March 1895, *Paluma*, having completed her term of survey duty with the Royal Navy, finally passed to the control of the Queensland government. She was immediately paid off, leaving only a care and maintenance party on board, but did provide training as required for Queensland Naval Brigade. The ship continued in her training role as a unit of the Australian Navy following Federation in 1901 and remained serving, mainly on harbour duties, until 1916.

Paluma was sold to the Victorian Ports and Harbours Department in 1916 and renamed *Rip*. She served until 1949, employed as a lighthouse tender and on carrying out a continuous program of blasting operations at the entrance to Port Phillip. She was finally broken up at Melbourne in 1950-51. Her place was taken by another *Rip*, the former HMAS *Whyalla* (I)

President's Report

Congratulations to Dean Prangle and his Museum Committee together with their many helpers, all volunteers, who assisted with the most successful Book Fair which your Society held on 25 and 26 September. Your support was greatly appreciated. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank those who made purchases because, at the end of the day, it was the buyers that made the occasion such a success.

Thanks to our Manager Sophie, your Society has increased its presence substantially on social media, reaching out to more people about the RHSQ, our activities and events. The RHSQ regularly places various artefacts, mystery objects and historical facts from our collections on Flickr, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It is a “go to” space.

Unfortunately, your Society had to postpone the Conference on 9 October entitled “Queensland's Earliest Surveyors – who, what and where” because of Covid-19 restrictions. However, the conference will now be held on a new date Saturday 12 February 2022. We apologise to those who were planning to attend and trust that you will be able to be present on 12 February. Apart from the change of date all other arrangements will remain the same. Registrations will commence at 9.00 am for a 9.30 am start. Again, details are on the RHSQ website under ‘Events’

The Wednesday Lecture on 10 November is to be presented by Queensland historian Jan Richardson entitled “Making a Fresh Start: Tasmanian Female Ex-Convicts in Free Settlement Queensland”. Jan will explore the stories of those emancipated Tasmanian convicts who were women, who along with their husbands and children, travelled north to Queensland from the 1850s right through to the first decade of the 1900s. These families sought to make a fresh start as ‘free settlers’ in the colony of Queensland. This history is sure to surprise many people. It is essential that bookings be made online on the RHSQ website under ‘Events’.

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland will hold its Annual General Meeting at 5.30 pm on Thursday 18 November 2021 at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane. As part of the evening the Clem Lack Oration is held immediately following the Annual General Meeting. Dr Anne Monsour is our guest speaker on this occasion and her topic is: “A Continuous Thread: the Lebanese Presence in South Brisbane, Woolloongabba and West End”. For over two decades, she has been researching, writing and speaking, in academic and community forums in Australia and overseas, about the history of Lebanese in Australia. Anne is currently the National President of the Australian Lebanese Historical Society (ALHS) and the Editor of the ALHS newsletter. Again, members are urged to attend with the evening's details elsewhere in the *Bulletin*. 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 Museum 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, meet and greet in addition to listening to Fiona.

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)

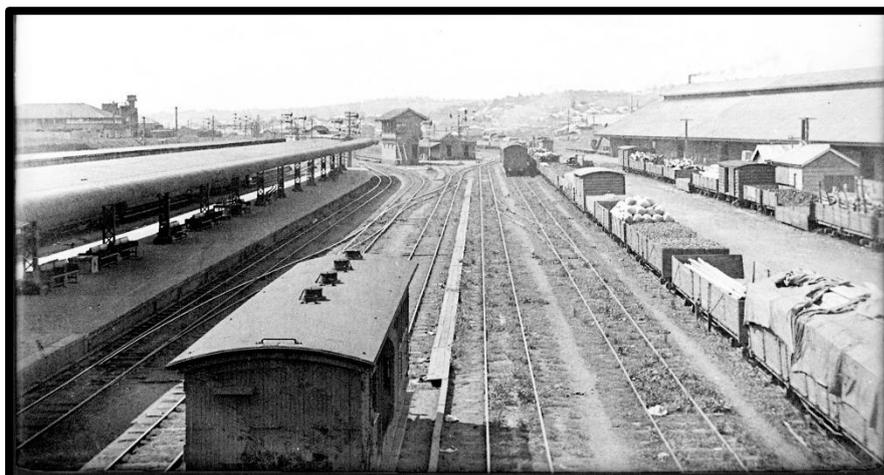
Ayr – On 3 September 2021 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of the Lower Burdekin Masonic Temple, 118-120 Macmillan Street, Ayr in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

Cooroy – A detailed description of the operation of the Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Association butter factory at Cooroy from 1915 to 1975 and a brief history is provided in the *Cooroy Rag* of 6 October 2021. The first factory, a timber building, opened in 1915 and the current brick building dates from 1930. Buttermilk was supplied to a farmer in Jarrah Street via a two-inch pipe. A wood fired steam boiler powered the factory until electricity was installed in the 1960s. The butter was labelled ‘Golden Bush’. It was transported by train in a cold wagon to the Butter Board in Brisbane for export. The factory had its own water supply from a well. Other wells in Cooroy were at Wimmers’ Soft Drink Factory, Cooroy Motors Garage (for cleaning the building and supplying the Harry Spring’s nearby pharmacy) and Oak Bonnell’s house (used in the dry months to supply the town with water). (*Cooroy Rag*, 6 October 2021, pp. 10-11, p. 31)

Eumundi – The heritage listed *Joe’s Waterhole* Hotel has been purchased by Western Australian brewing company, Matsos for \$5.3 million. It received its current name in 1987, named after Joe Whiting. Joe and Lucy Whiting sold a cane farm to purchase the hotel in 1962. Joe Whiting suffered an accident rendering him quadriplegic in the early 1980s. His son, Ray managed the hotel until the sale in 2005 to Brett Lewis. Matsos plan to retain the front bar but to establish an outside beer garden and a small brewery at the rear. (*Your Local Lifestyle* {Sunshine Coast}, October 2021, p. 19)

Rochedale South - In the 1950s this area was featured in the suburban newspaper, *My City Logan*, on 14 September 2021. The area comprised many small farms – small crops, fruit trees, pineapples, cattle, pigs and sheep. Families built their own homes including utilising old army huts. Logan City Council through its RADF program published an e-book on the area. (*My City Logan*, 28 September – 4 October 2021, p. 10)

Toowoomba – The Toowoomba Regional Council is advocating a \$65 million Toowoomba Railway Parklands project in the list of projects in the upcoming Southeast Queensland City Deal being negotiated between the local, state and federal governments. Toowoomba’s 8.6 hectare historic railway yards will be the centrepiece of the development which was first suggested by the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce in the 1990s. (*Toowoomba Chronicle*, 29 September 2021, pp. 1-2)



Australian Railway Historical Society, New South Wales Division Photo

Toowoomba Railway Yard and Signal Box

Ration Shed Museum, Cherbourg by Lesley Synge

In October I visited the Barambah/Cherbourg Historical Precinct to take a guided tour with respected Waka Waka Elder Uncle Eric Law. Our starting place was the former ration shed, a memorial to the Aboriginal inmates who’d experienced removal from locations throughout Queensland from 1905. Unable to continue a traditional hunting and gathering lifestyle, they were provided with rations. Other buildings such as the Boys Dormitory and the Superintendent’s Office also housed eye-opening exhibitions. Our tour group found

ourselves moved as we witnessed the heartbreak that came with removal, and gobsmacked as we learnt of stunning achievements in sport, war service and art.

Ration Shed Museum is professionally curated and very informative. Managed by the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, it is an easy 90 km drive west from Gympie. Check Opening Hours and Fees before visiting. <http://cherbourgmemory.org/>

On the topic of Aboriginal community history, the ‘Getting Equal’ exhibition in North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum on Minjerribah is another worthwhile excursion. <https://stradbrokemuseum.com.au/>



Lesley Synge Photo

A Mural at the Ration Shed Museum, Cherbourg

**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**

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 Bonaccorso (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.

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

The Library and Research team is delighted to see the new server and upgraded software for all our online services now installed. Apart from stabilizing the library catalogue and ensuring access to all the individual items it lists, this means that all digitized documents and photos, previously stored on external devices, are now on the main drive and thus easily accessed. We are also benefitting from a much faster operating system, a new desktop computer and laptop. Welcome to new volunteer Graham and welcome back to Dorothy. Graham has started listing and digitizing the contents of the Family Files, one section of the nearly 10,000 Subject, Family and District Files held in the Library. Dorothy continues to assess the numerous Files created by member David Brownsey dealing largely with recent Kelvin Grove history. Tim is in the process

of digitizing the loose pages collected from the Townsville-based Cummins & Campbell magazine, while Peter is photographing selected photos from *The Week*, prior to the hard copies of this newspaper being moved to storage. Liz has been exploring conservation options for the library's badly-degraded hard copies of Pugh's Almanac 1859- 1926.

Research queries received to date were: Queensland factory making Wallaby steel plates for quad skates; sandstone quarries around Brisbane; creeks near the Burdekin River as source of fresh water for sailing ships; Australian Joint Stock Bank Brisbane branch history and photo; Governor George Bowen and the Queensland Legislative Council; the Petrie Tableau sculpture in King George Square, Brisbane; Journal articles on French explorer Nicholas Baudin; photo of Newstead House exterior.

The library has been offered historical papers relating to Virginia State School, as well as items relating to railway and signaling equipment manufactured by Northgate firm, McKenzie & Holland. Arising from a research request, we contacted the Community and Personal History Unit at the Queensland State Archives to discuss their services. The unit has a comprehensive coverage of government, community and personal records relating mainly to indigenous peoples of Queensland. Now these records can be available to non-indigenous researchers on a case-by-case basis. As a matter of course, the Library refers all enquiries relating to Indigenous history to the QSA service. There is also a smaller but just as helpful service located at the State Library of Queensland.

Finally, the Library and Research team is engaged in a revue of the overall library policy and, given the uncertain nature of our volunteer base, is devising an operational plan to cover the foreseeable future.

Kay Cohen,
Library and Research Co-Ordinator

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Wednesday 10 November, 12.30 pm To be presented by Queensland historian Jan Richardson entitled "Making a Fresh Start: Tasmanian Female Ex-Convicts in Free Settlement Queensland".</p> <p>Thursday 11 November, Council Meeting</p> <p>Monday 15 November, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.</p>	<p>Andrew McCormack, Brisbane City</p> <p>Jorn Harbeck, Carina</p> <p>Klaus Martin Beckmann, Ascot</p> <p>Joanna Phillips, Kangaroo Point</p> <p>John Grimes, Paddington</p> <p>Michelle Smith, Ashgrove</p> <p>Olive Banks, Runaway Bay</p> <p>Chris Griffiths, Highgate Hill</p> <p>Denis and Pauline Peel, Fairfield</p> <p>William and Lindsay Watts, St Lucia South</p> <p>Maree and Rob Hutchinson, New Farm</p> <p>Janice Wellard, MacKenzie</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
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