

# RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

# Bulletin

*79 years of continuous publication*

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland  
Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM,  
Governor of Queensland

President: Dr Denver Beanland AM  
Website: [www.queenslandhistory.org](http://www.queenslandhistory.org)

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## AWAITING REPAIRS AT LONGREACH



RHSQ Digital Photo P50015

Ross Smith's plane G-EA-O-U on the ground at Charleville airport, December 1919

Ross Macpherson Smith and his brother Keith, with two mechanics, landed this Vickers Vimy plane G-EAOU at Darwin airport on 10 December, 1919. In flying from England to Australia in 28 days, they claimed the \$10,000 the Australian government had offered for the first pilots to complete a flight on this route in under 30 days. Both were immediately knighted on landing at Darwin. En route to Melbourne to receive the prize, they landed at Charleville airport to arrange repairs to a damaged engine and a broken propeller. They flew the plane to Ipswich on 2 January 1920. The Toowoomba Foundry completed repairs to the engine, while a new propeller was fabricated at the North Ipswich Railway Workshops.

They returned to Charleville a few days later. Meanwhile, Queensland State Cabinet members had travelled by train to Charleville to host a celebration dinner for the aviators. A week later, after

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test flights confirmed the repairs had stood up well, Ross and Keith Smith continued on their flight to Melbourne. They made stops at Bourke and Narromine, and non-stop from Sydney, landing in Melbourne on 26 February.

Ross Macpherson Smith(1892-1922) and his older brother Keith (1890-1955) were born and educated in Adelaide, South Australia, spending a further two years at school in Moffat, Scotland, their father's birthplace. Ross Smith enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (A.I.F.) in 1914, saw action at Gallipoli and in Egypt before joining the Australian Flying Corps in 1917. Keith Smith enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps in England in July 1917 but, although posted to France, did not see active service. With their experience, they were much sought-after for experimental long-distance flights after the war, culminating in the successful 1919 England-Australia flight.

Ross Smith died in April 1922 near London, testing a Vickers Viking amphibian before a proposed round-the-world experimental flight. Keith Smith died in 1955, having been Vickers agent in Australia since the 1920s and a leading figure, not only with Vickers but also with other major airline companies operating in Australia.

The crew joked that the Vimy's registration letters G-EAOU stood for "God 'Elp All Of Us". The power plants were twin 360-horsepower Rolls-Royce Eagle Mark VIII engines, the Vimy was largely made of spruce pine covered by Irish linen. The Eagle engine was progressively developed but retained a capacity of 20.32 litres. The Eagle VIII was the most widely used version being installed in aeroplanes including the Airco DH4, the Handley Page 0/100, O/400 and V/1500 series and the Vickers Vimy bomber which was used in 1919-20 to complete the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by J. Alcock & A.W Brown, the first flight from England to Australia by Ross and Keith Smith, Bennett and Shiers in Vimy G-EAOU and the first England to South Africa flight by Van Ryneveld and Brand. In Australia, the Eagle VIII was fitted to the Fairey IID seaplane used by the RAAF in the 1920s. A Fairey IID flown by Goble and McIntyre completed the first circumnavigation of Australia in 1924.

For more information on Ross Smith's war service, see <http://www.awm.gov.au> and for further biographical information on the Smith brothers, see <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/smith-sir-ross-macpherson-8529/text14911>

## President's Report

Your Society has another year of exciting and interesting events. The Royal Historical Society of Queensland's (RHSQ's) second Wednesday lunchtime lecture for the year is on 9 March when Harvey Greenfield will speak on *Early Maritime History*.

Wednesday Lectures are between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. All RHSQ events must be booked through Eventbrite which is on the RHSQ website under 'events' where there is further information on all forthcoming activities.

On 19 March the Queensland Parliament and your Society is holding a joint seminar in the Upper House Chamber of the Queensland Parliament to commemorate the *Centenary of the Abolition of the Legislative Council*. This will be followed by an optional lunch. At the time of writing there were still a handful of seats remaining. This is an opportunity to hear about further aspects of the event that left Queensland as the only state in Australia with a unicameral system. This will be a half-day morning seminar. The Governor Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM, Patron of the RHSQ has accepted the invitation to open the seminar

This will be followed on Wednesday 13 April by Dr Michael (Mick) Davis speaking on *An Historical Overview of the Queensland Ambulance*. Mick has had 50 years of service in the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Wednesday Lecture on 11 May will be *Lady Cilento – a Pioneer in Child Maternal Health* presented by barrister Stephen Sheaffe AM. Stephen is the immediate past president of the RHSQ and is well known to many of you.

Your RHSQ Council is going to nominate the Commissariat Store for listing on the National Heritage List. This will take a year or more to complete as nominations are required to be submitted at a particular time. As members would be aware the Commissariat Store is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. Furthermore, the Society is looking forward to launching a number of new exhibitions during the year to which members will be invited.

At the February Council meeting your Council has been required to confront both a substantial

reduction in the number of visitors to the Commissariat Store and increasing costs over more than a decade. Covid has substantially reduced the number of visitors to the Commissariat Store as costs continue to increase. It is over a decade since fees were last increased. From 1 March the new fee structure will apply to the 2022-23 financial year. The new fees for an ordinary individual member will increase from \$66 to \$75 while the fee to include the partner will increase from \$88 to \$100. All new membership fees which apply from 1 March will be on the website. (There is a full list on page 6).

I look forward to meeting members and visitors 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)

**Eumundi Museum** received an extensive photographic collection donated by the late Bob Etheridge. It is now part of Sunshine Coast Council's Picture Sunshine Coast. The Etheridge family had a sawmill and garage in Eumundi. *Eumundi Voice* of 3 February 2022 featured one of the photographs in the Etheridge collection – bullock teams unloading logs at Etheridge & Son's sawmill in Memorial Drive at Eumundi. The Imperial Hotel is in the background.



Bob Etheridge Photo from Sunshine Coast Council's Sunshine Coast Collection

**Nipperess's bullock team hauling a wagon load of log timber along Currie Street, Nambour, 1955.**

**Picture taken in the year that team owner Russell Nipperess retired after twenty-five years of bullock driving in Nambour. He then took up work in Jefferies Sawmill at Kulangor and sold his remaining bullocks at the end of 1955 when he found it impossible to get feeding paddocks for them.**

**Fassifern District Historical Society and Tamborine Historical Society** have received \$1,473 and \$1,324 respectively from the Scenic Rim Regional Council for insurance, utilities and maintenance costs under their Covid19 Community Grants Scheme. (*The Fassifern Guardian*, 19 January 2022, p. 6)

**Herberton** – A National Library of Australia Community Heritage Fund grant to the Herberton Mining Museum enabled Society member, Dr Jan Wegner and Dr David Phoenix to undertake a significance assessment of the Mining Museum collection. They identified two items of international significance – the James Baines oil painting of the Irvinebank Hotel and the Risley Sculpture in the Gordon Gardens. The Roger Taylor tin collection is being investigated further for its significance status. Thirty-eight items were recognised for their national significance. In 2016 Dr Gladys Warren proposed a Time Walk, a linear correlated history of the earth. There are two in Australia – one at Ulladulla on the south coast of New South Wales and one at Geoscience Australia in Canberra. A less costly geological Time Wall was constructed at Herberton by the museum’s volunteers and it represents 4.6 billion years of the earth’s history. It was opened by Cr Rod Marti, Mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council on 15 December 2021. A website funded by Mount Emerald Wind Farm was also created for the project. Society members, Mr Geoff Wharton and Dr Jan Wegner attended the opening event.

**Landsborough** – National Parks Queensland has developed a historic 3.2 km walk in Dularcha National Park and which includes a path through the old railway tunnel. The first kilometre runs parallel to the current railway. The start point is the carpark at the corner of Beech Road and Cunningham Avenue at Landsborough. The railway tunnel was constructed in 1890 - 1891 by T Jesser & Company as part of the north coast railway. (*Eumundi Voice*, issue 36, 20 January, p. 12; [www.bit.ly/34Q6H2J](http://www.bit.ly/34Q6H2J))

**Meringa** - On **5 January 2022** the Department of Environment and Science (the Department) received an application proposing removal of part of the **Meringa Sugar Experiment Station** from the Queensland Heritage Register

## Library and Research Report

The Society’s thanks for the following donations: from Bill Lavarack, *Pathways to the North Coast and History of Sport in Buderim*, two of his many interesting and thoroughly researched publications on the Sunshine Coast and hinterland area; from the Menzies family, Trinity College of Music certificates awarded to Emily Crewe for passing piano exams in Maryborough in the 1920s, a ticket certifying Musician’s Union membership and other family and music-related ephemera; the Horner family for 1950s photos in and around Brisbane; Linda Clarke for boxes of documents belonging to RHSQ Past President, the late Dr. Drury Clarke.

A record number of queries were received and responded to in this past month, a great effort on the part of our very reduced number of volunteers: information about the route/s, conditions etc. on a walk from the QLD/NSW border to Cairns in 1913; a Maltese migrant Paul Zammit; planning for local Museum by Mt Mee District Historical Society; re Southern Sugar Saga Book citing acquisition of locomotive (Loco A10 No.6) by Bingera sugar plantation in the late 1890s; location of certain William Pettigrew Diary material; Cobb & Co. request to use RHSQ photo of omnibus which belonged to Leah Morton and operated between Rosalie and Milton. It is recognised as one of the most prized artefacts in the Cobb & Co. Museum collection; history of Saint Mary and Joseph’s Church, Coopers Plain; family history associated with Mt Mee district; research re lease agreement, business details, photographs etc. to do with Queen St. hairdresser John C. Wheeler; identification of undated coloured lithographs advertising for a butcher and his products; passenger list for ship *Emigrant* which docked in Brisbane in 1850; information on 1940s Brisbane wedding reception venue, *Princes.*; request for researcher to compile life history of George Wilkie Gray (1844-1924), philanthropist and longest serving member of Queensland Parliament’s Legislative Assembly. Among other achievements, he installed the first telephone in Brisbane and sank the first artisan bore in North Queensland; research the background story of three generations of a family who lived in Lutwyche and South Brisbane from the 1880s to the 1950s and the activities of Druids in this area in the late 1900s; search for a photo of Yeronga home of former Queensland Premier William Forgan Smith; history of Goodna project, with special emphasis on the area’s indigenous history; location of house with ballroom associated with Governor George Bowen; location of the records of the Qld Bush Nurses Association, and any diaries/manuscripts relating to a local notable figure, William Leworthy Goode Drew and his wife, Gertrude Jane Hely Drew.

We have recently been in discussion with the curator and Museum team re collaborating on future exhibitions in the Commissariat Store, showcasing both museum items and original documents from the Library’s archival collection. There is the possibility of digitising the Society’s Monthly Council Meetings Minutes. Thanks to the research carried out by Council member, Tim Roberts, certain items uniquely held by the RHSQ Library have been identified. They are copies of six Allies Evening Gazettes from World War Two. In keeping with plans to expand online access to the Society’s archival material, digitising these Gazettes and

uploading them to the National Library's Trove website is being considered. Work continues on streamlining the Library's holdings, in particular finding and de-accessioning duplicates of photo collections and books. The latter are being listed for a possible future book sale or for a special offer to Society members. Library volunteer Graham continues the slow task of digitising the Family Files in the Cuttings etc. Files section.

Congratulations to volunteer Tim Bennet. His 2021 Master's Thesis was recently awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours. Best wishes to Robert Nofke on his retirement after a career spanning 52 years as a noted photographer in Queensland. For many years he worked on bringing the Brisbane City Council Archives Photographic Collection to a high professional and accessible standard. In this role, he was of significant and always helpful assistance to researchers and authors producing material for the Society.

Kay Cohen

### MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH



RHSQ Digital Photo P55431

The above photo from the Society's photo collection, displaying only the caption "AMBULANCE FOR LIFTING INJURED MINERS" remains a mystery. Our researchers have not been able to uncover any further information, such as date, location and occasion, and whether this method was ever used in mining accidents. Perhaps one of our readers has some information?

Kay Cohen

### Australasian Mining History Association

The Australasian Mining History Association publishes an annual *Journal* and invites historians with an interest in Australian mining history to submit papers for publication. If you would like to see the results of your mining history research published in the *Australasian Mining History Journal* please access the Association's website, <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/> and the section on the *Journal* specifically including the Style Guide. Contact *Journal* Editor Jason Nitz at email: [amhjournaleditor@gmail.com](mailto:amhjournaleditor@gmail.com).

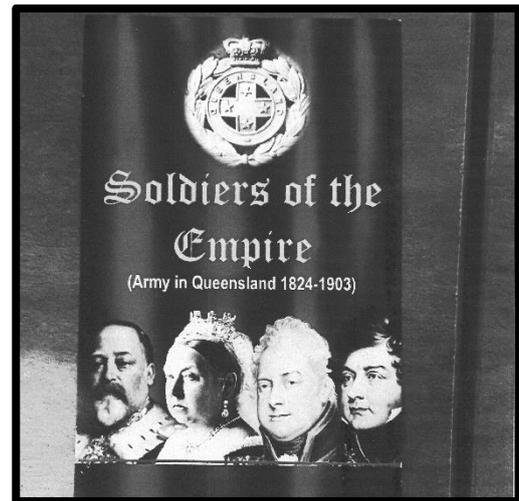
**Soldiers of the Empire Exhibition**  
**(Army of Queensland 1824 - 1903)**  
**25 February - 7 December 2022**  
**At Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane**

**Highlighting: Original uniforms, artefacts, photographs and figures; evolution of the Army serving in Queensland from 1824 to 1903.**

**View the Exhibition and Tour the Barracks.**

**Bookings essential:**  
**Full tour \$15 with Devonshire tea**  
**Contact:**

- [armymuseumssouthqueensland.com.au](http://armymuseumssouthqueensland.com.au)
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<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>MARCH</u>		
<p><b>Wednesday 9 March, Talk 12.30-1.30</b> Harvey Greenfield will speak on <i>Early Maritime History</i>.</p> <p><b>Thursday 10 March, Council Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 15 March, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 19 March, Seminar, <i>Centenary of the Abolition of the Legislative Council</i>.</b></p>	<p>Annette Bycroft                      Russell Pearce                      Trish and Lindsey Alford                      Rosie Sheehan                      Anthony Beauchamp                      Andrea Ballesteros                      Josh Willes                      Treacy Beswick                      Kim Sever                      Scott Prasser                      Barbra Wagner                      Ipswich City Council</p>	<p>Mermaid Waters                      Paddington                      Auchenflower                      Chelmer                      Clayfield                      Paddington                      Narangba                      Wynnum                      Knightdale NC                      Ashgrove                      Fairfield East                      Ipswich</p>

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website: <a href="http://www.queenslandhistory.org">www.queenslandhistory.org</a>	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.	Library member: \$ 75.00
Address: 115 William Street, Brisbane Postal: The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, PO Box 12057, Brisbane, George Street, 4003		Corporate member: \$ 315.00
		Life Membership - Purchased after 10 Years as a Member: \$ 5,500.00