



THE RHSQ

Bulletin

80 years of continuous publication

JUNE 2022 No. 874

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

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

THIS MONTH'S LIBRARY AND RESEARCH REPORT

Pictured below is an issue of the weekly 'broadsheet' newspaper, the *Torres Straits Pilot and New Guinea Gazette*, published between 1888 and 1942. The Library holds the first issue, January 2 1888, and the last issue, January 27 1942, donated by well-known Thursday Island identity Jack McNulty, together with 2 issues of the 4-page, A4-size *The Papuan Village*. They are all printed on silk and are badly in need of conservation. *The Papuan Village* was issued as a single-sided daily from 1914 on, and became renowned as 'the world's smallest daily newspaper.'

The 'Pilot' was first owned by a private company. Frederick Charles Hodel purchased it in 1893 and sold it in June 1896 to Mary Ann Coran. Her husband, Alexander Coran, was the publisher until his death in 1940 (National Library of Australia). The first issue carried a lengthy editorial setting out the philosophy and aims of the paper. "... it is not our intention to indulge in the time-honoured platitudes customary amongst journalists when heralding the first issue of an infant newspaper. Our objects, duties and intentions are easily explained, indeed, to the residents of Thursday Island, such explanations are scarcely necessary. The paper itself is the very outcome of the desire of the local people to take that rank in the world as represented by modern journalism to which the importance of the place entitles it." The editor went on to emphasize Thursday Island's importance in the development of Australia's east coast, as recognised by Queensland Premier, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, in the face of considerable opposition from his southern counterparts. The editorial also expounded on residents' concerns, particularly the excessively high telegraphic rates and the lack of a local hospital. The 'Pilot' ceased publication in January, 1942 when all Thursday Island civilians were evacuated as the threat of invasion intensified.

Research enquiries were as follows: copy (typescript) of a 1916 paper by Thomas Welsby "Recollections of the Natives of Moreton Bay together with some of their names and customs of living"; information re founders of the "Big Pineapple" tourist attraction; background to the establishment of a Gold Coast resort; history of some Coorparoo houses. Following the article in last month's *Bulletin* on the 5th Light Horse Brigade, a reader has offered to supply photos and information regarding the Aboriginal soldiers who served in the 5th and other World War One regiments. We received a request from Cairns Historical Society for a discussion between a Society representative and our Library team on our experiences with cataloguing, on-line systems and other aspects of library and research services.

As is required, specialist Library and Research members are checking the RHSQ's Year 9 Curriculum material. We are currently updating the list of Library items in need of conservation/restoration, with a view to securing the necessary funding. As is evident from the issues we hold of *The Torres Strait Pilot*, now over 130 years old, there is some urgency to getting this project started. Also being updated is the register of donations and donors. The existing, handwritten register, compiled by the late Dr. Drury Clarke, is being digitised. In order for this and other digitised registers, files, etc., to be

215 Queen Street, Brisbane. This is the day on which Queen Victoria signed the *Letters Patent* for Queensland to become a separate colony. It will again be a great night with Anthony ‘Tony’ Morris QC as our guest speaker talking about *The Other Revolution of 17 November 1917: “George Street Incident” and its Aftermath*. As usual this promises to be a great evening with time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Bookings are through the RHSQ website under ‘Events’ on ‘Eventbrite’ by 30 May.

Our next Wednesday Lecture will be on Wednesday 8 June 2022 commencing at 12.30 pm at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane. Colin Hester will talk about the *Mt Crosby Pumping Station* which is an address about significance of Mt Crosby in Brisbane’s water supply system. Water is not only essential for drinking, but also for the sewerage system. Even in more recent decades the lack of adequate water has been a major issue for Brisbane, which promises to become even more important in the future. This will be a fascinating lecture.

Following *Hidden Toils: the contribution of Chinese Australians to the early developments of Queensland* our next conference will be on Saturday 16 July 2022 at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane to mark the *Centenary of the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Queensland*. Queensland was the leader in the abolition of the death penalty. Registration will commence at 8.55 am with the conference to commence at 9.25 am and to conclude at 1.00 pm. This is a half-day conference with the price including our celebrated morning tea.

Your Council has thanked and expressed its appreciation to Glenda Sheaffe for her great work as functions co-ordinator for our various activities. Her fabulous food whether it be morning teas, lunches or meet and greets is enormously appreciated. Glenda also serves as the RHSQ representative on Brisbane Living Heritage. Council also thanked Ruth Kerr for all the work that she does not only as Honorary Secretary, which role she has filled for some decades, but particularly in relation to our membership renewals. Ruth is the only life member of the Society. Ruth also serves on various committees including being chair of the Awards Committee and importantly is an assistant editor of the *Queensland History Journal*. Full details about who serves on which committees and who have received awards is on the RHSQ website.

The RHSQ is seeking volunteers with the ability and preferably professional qualifications to curate our Exhibitions in the Commissariat Store. This can be as little as one Exhibition a year but we need several people who can fulfil this role. Anyone interested please telephone our manager Katrina on 32214198

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)

Beaudesert – The Beaudesert Historical Society is concerned that the historic railway station will be completely screened off from the main street, Brisbane Street of Beaudesert under the Scenic Rim Regional Council’s town centre revitalisation plan project. (*Fassifern Guardian*, 27 April 2022, pp. 1 and 2 including photograph).

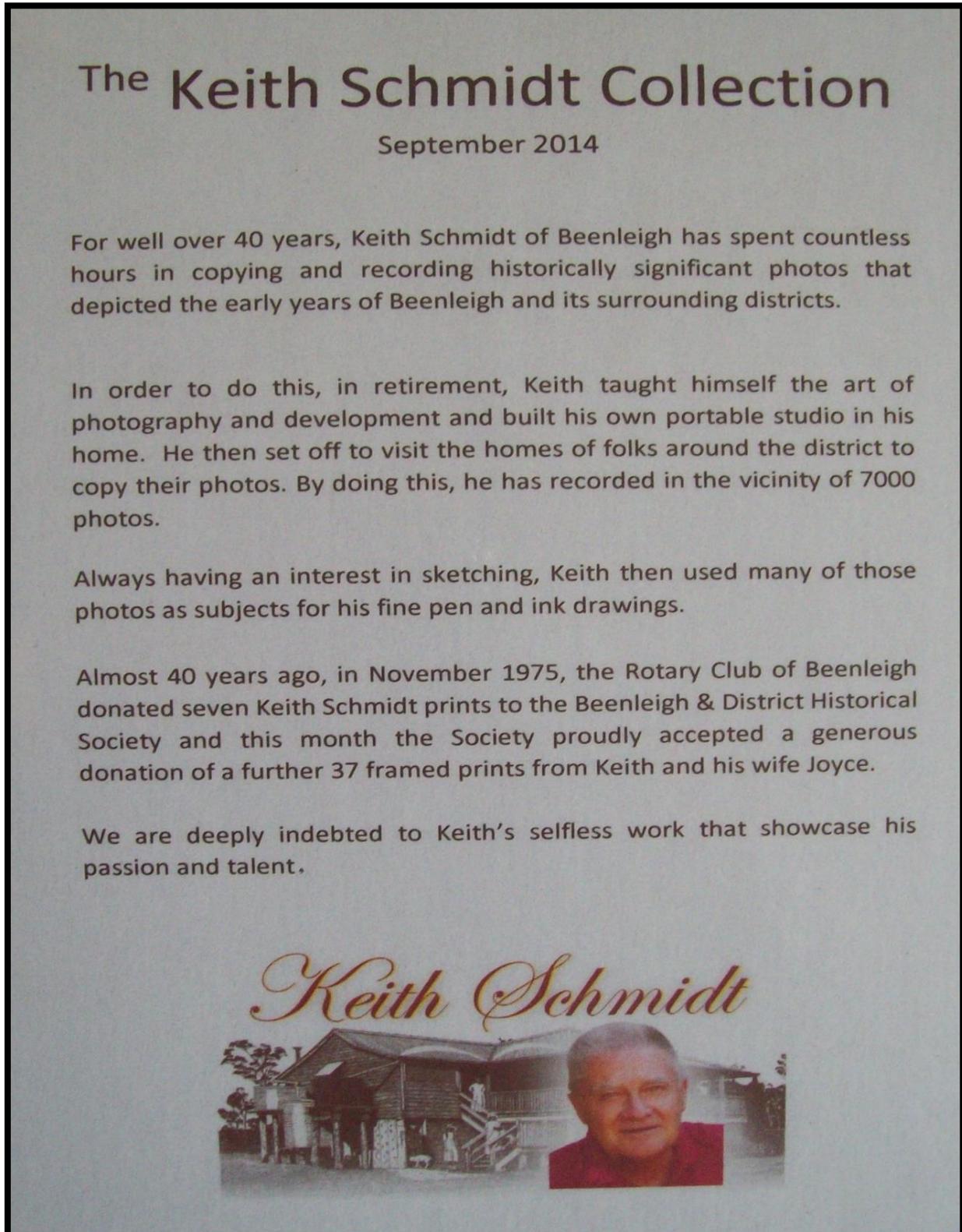
Sandstone Point, east of Caboolture - On 5 April 2022 the Department of Environment and Science received an application proposing entry of Bedwell’s Hydrographic Survey Bench Mark, Bayswater Court, Sandstone Point in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

Stanthorpe – The newspaper, *Warwick Today* of 21 April 2022 (page 11), featured historical photographs in 1872 of Pioneer Bakery (Daniel Groom), Hilinger & Co butchers, John Kennedy’s hotel, the Bank of New South Wales, *Border Post and Stannum Miner*, and Elleysen’s family home in 1895. *Warwick Today* quoted an excerpt from *They Came to a Plateau* by Jean Harslett and Meryn Royle on the establishment of the *Border Post and Stannum Miner* newspaper. Harslett and Royle stated that the newspaper was established by Henry Beauchamp Unwin and the printer was Joseph William Pillar. The office was a bark and slab building at the corner of Folkestone and Maryland Streets. The first issue appeared on 20 July 1872. JV Williams was appointed manager in March 1873. Pillar became a partner and became the owner on Unwin’s death in August 1874. Herbert Farley had the paper in 1885. In 1890 JV Scully (1870-1950) began 45 years as editor. He became the owner in 1894 and ownership remained in the family until 1957. In 1935 he asked son, John Shelford Scully to discontinue his medical studies (he had completed about three years at university) to return to run the paper. Between 1935 and 1957, John and sister Eva, who married Alfred Richmond Barlow in 1954, shared the editorship (John, 1935-40 and 1950-3 and Eva, 1940-50 and 1953-7). The Stanthorpe Historical Society uses

the title, *Stannum Miner*, for its bulletin. See also, Rod Kirkpatrick, *Purposely Parochial: 100 years of the Country Press in Queensland*, Newmarket, Qld, Queensland Country Press Association, pages 119-120.

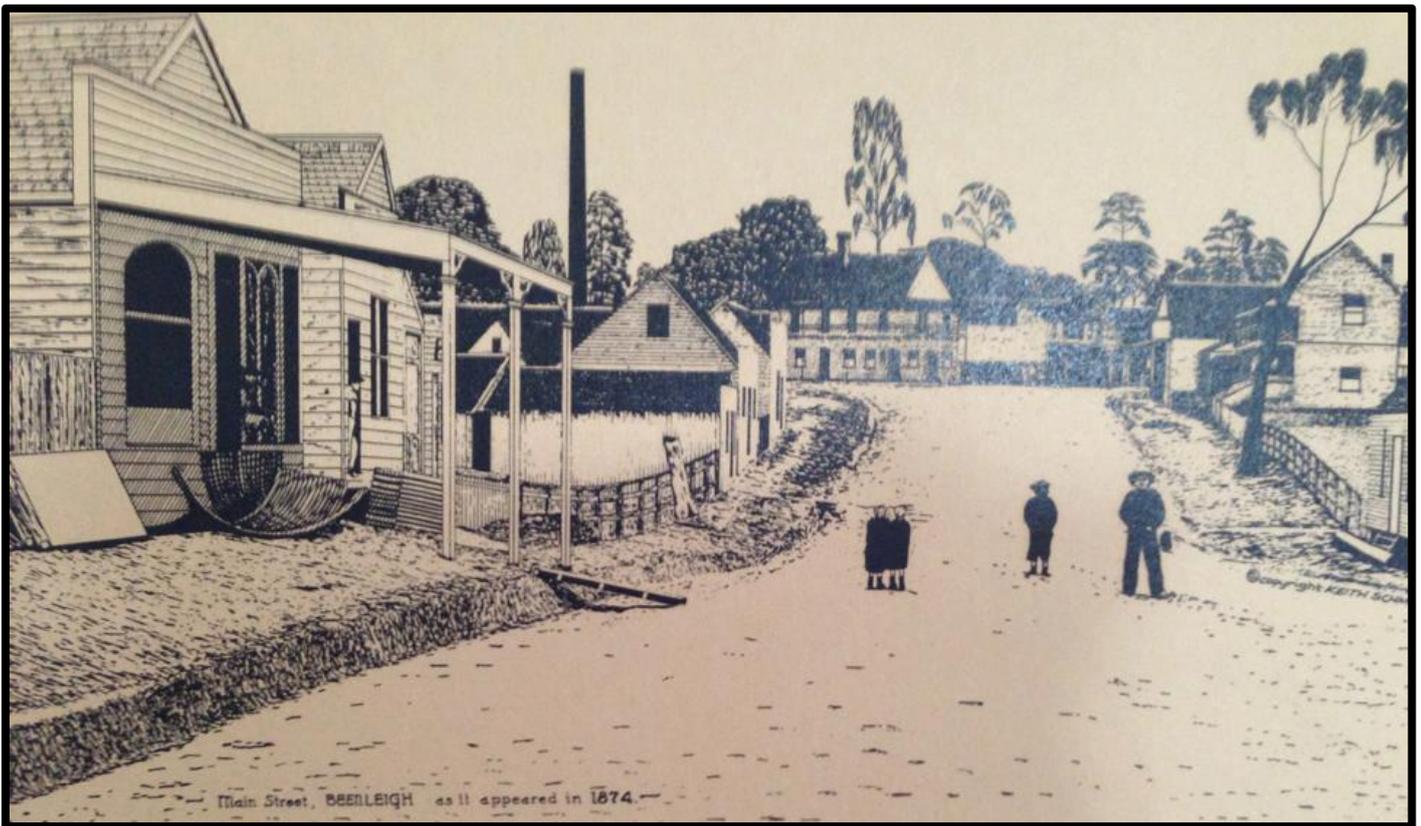
The Keith Schmidt Art Collection

The Keith Schmidt art collection consisting of 44 superbly drawn prints has been repositioned in the George Harch Museum at The Beenleigh Historical Village. They are now featured all together. Unfortunately, Keith passed away in 2015, but this collection remains as a reminder of his prestigious talent.



Beenleigh and District Historical Society Sign

Sign placed with the Keith Schmidt Collection.



BDHS Drawing

**An example of Keith's drawings. This one is entitled:
'Main Street Beenleigh as it appeared in 1874'.**

The Beenleigh Hotel is shown in the centre background, the Planters' Rest Hotel on the right.

Beenleigh Historical Village & Museum located at 205 Main Street Beenleigh QLD 4207, takes you on a journey of years gone by. This collection of our Early Australian heritage is organised as a village and dedicated to preserving the cultural legacy of the old Beenleigh region for current and future generations. The Village is open from 9.00 am until 3.00 pm at 205 Main Street, Beenleigh. Please telephone (07)3382 0608.

What's on at the Queensland State Archives

Find out more about Queensland State Archives' exciting events, including workshops, tours and talks.



The toads are taking over!

Cane toads have become a common sight throughout Queensland, but how did the great hope to combat the devastating impact cane beetles and cane grubs become an invasive pest?

Toad vs Beetle: Clash in the Cane 1935 explores the innovative solutions to deal with the cane beetle (including flame throwers, chickens and dynamite), the debate around introducing toads and how the excitement turned to

horror as their population exploded across Queensland.

This exhibition tells the story of the cane toad's introduction. It also incorporates augmented reality to bring the story to life using your mobile device.

As part of the exhibition we also have *Place Invaders* on display, an 80s-inspired game that uses visitor's contributions to populate the screen with invasive species you can wipe out.

How to play:

1. Contribute your own photos of invasive species at placeinvaders.com.au.
2. Use your mobile device to activate the game while visiting QSA.

3. Use your mobile to eradicate invasive plants and animals from taking over the game screen.
 4. See your own and other community contributions while you play.
- The exhibition will be on display Monday to Friday from 9.00am–4.30pm, at QSA, 435 Compton Road, Runcorn until Saturday 13 August 2022.

Caboolture Historical Village



Caboolture Historical Village Photo

There are over 70 buildings, and more than 110,000 museum pieces in the Village. Visitors enter the Visitor Reception Area and step out into a Village of yesteryear. The street with the old post office, barber, butcher, and general store will bring back memories for many. There is an exhibition from the Queensland Prison’s Museum and the old Caboolture Hospital. The Village features several cottages, that were moved from various sites around Caboolture, the old Caboolture Railway Station, and a popular exhibit in the Maritime Museum of models of ships from the First Fleet to arrive in Sydney in 1788.

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	
<u>JUNE</u>		
Monday 6 June, 6.30 for 7.00 pm, Queensland Day Dinner	Deborah Jordan	Nathan
Wednesday 8 June, Talk 12.30-1.30, Colin Hester will talk about the <i>Mt Crosby Pumping Station</i>	Peter Denham	Bellbowrie
Thursday 9 June, Council Meeting.	Chloe Trask	Fortitude Valley
Wednesday 15 June, <i>Bulletin</i> deadline.	Margaret Gordon	

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Katrina Rose	Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson	Ordinary Member: \$ 75.00
ABN: 34 217 251 028	A/Editor: Gloria Nicholson	Partner of Member: \$ 25.00
Phone: 07 3221 4198	Phone: 07 3221 4198	Junior Member (U18): \$ 13.00
Fax: 07 3221 4698	Fax: 07 3221 4698	Full-time Student (U25):\$ 38.00
email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	email: info@queenslandhistory.org.au	Affiliated Society: \$ 63.00
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.	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