

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

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The newsletter of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland
Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC
PSM, Governor of Queensland
President: Dr Denver Beanland AM
Website: www.queenslandhistory.org

TOOWONG TRAM ca. 1905



John Oxley Library Photo Neg. 44042

An open-sided tram loaded with people destined for the Toowong area, ca. 1905.

The Brisbane tramway network served the city of Brisbane between 1885 and 1969. It ran on standard gauge track. The electric system was originally energised to 500 volts, and subsequently increased to 600 volts. All tramcars built in Brisbane up to 1938 had an open design. This "new era" ended in 1969, as Brisbane scrapped its trams in favour of the more economical motor buses. Many look back on Brisbane's tram era with a great deal of nostalgia. State Library of Queensland has some wonderful images documenting the age of Brisbane trams which can be perused on the One Search Catalogue.

President's Report

A big welcome home to Dean Prangle after his time in the England with his family. Dean has returned to continue his great work as Chair of the Museum Committee. The Committee is effectively working through the RHSQ's artefacts checking on their provenance and researching their history for more detail, and then placing them on our recently acquired eHive museum cataloguing system. We thank Elizabeth Nunn for acting in the role in Dean's absence.

With a vacancy on the RHSQ Council, Tracie Dornbusch has been appointed by Council to fill the role. Tracie has also been appointed Chair of the Marketing and Membership Committee. We hope she finds her time involved with the Society rewarding and enjoyable.

Members are reminded that it is membership renewal time. I believe that all members would have received a notice, with many already renewing. The Society, a volunteer not-for-profit volunteer organisation relies on its members to enable the continuation of its many, functions, responsibilities and activities.

The next Wednesday lecture at 12.30 pm on 14 September 2022 is by John Browning on the topic 'Local Government, Private and Industrial Railways in Queensland History' at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane. Those wishing to attend should book through the RHSQ website under 'Events' on 'Eventbrite'. Members and Non-members are asked to book their seats.

The Wednesday Lecture at 12.30 pm on 12 October 2022 is on the topic '120th Anniversary of the State Library of Queensland' by Vicki McDonald and Anna Raunik at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane. Those wishing to attend should book through the RHSQ website under 'Events' on 'Eventbrite'. Members and Non-members are asked to book their seats.

On Thursday 17 November 2022 at 5.30 pm the Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting to be followed by the Clem Lack Oration with our guest speaker Dr Margaret Kowald who is the editor of the Society's *Queensland History Journal*. Those wishing to attend should book through the RHSQ website under 'Events' on 'Eventbrite'. Members and Non-members are asked to book their seats.

The editing of the papers for the *James Cook in Queensland* publication for which the RHSQ has received a number of donations and grants is nearing completion and will soon go to the printers.

The RHSQ is always seeking volunteers to assist in the various activities of the Society. The Society is involved in so many different aspects of history, museum and publications to just mention a few matters.

We currently do not have a full time Ranger at the Dig Tree, 320 kilometres west of Thargomindah, in far western Queensland. If anyone is interested on a full or part-time basis, particularly during the tourist season the cooler months, April to September, could you please contact the RHSQ manager, Katrina. Members are reminded for further information on any RHSQ event or other activities, they should go to the RHSQ, Commissariat Store Museum or thedigtree.com.au websites

I look forward to seeing 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)

Gympie - Two timber carriages awaiting restoration were almost destroyed in a fire in the Mary valley rattler compound in the Gympie railway station yard on 27 July. The fire is being treated as suspicious. (*Noosa Today*, 5 August 2022, p. 6 including photograph)

Injune – The Maranoa Regional Council and the Commonwealth government have provided \$1.8 million for the establishment of a museum in Injune which is expected to open by the end of 2022. The Cultural Heritage Injune Preservation Society has been established with Ms Veronica Pringle as president. Injune has had a timber industry harvesting cypress pine and hardwood for over a century. In the 1970s and 1980s there were five sawmills in the Injune area. The museum will focus on the timber industry and have rotating displays on local history. A book, *Injune: 100 Years of Sawdust and Bulldust*, was compiled by Janice Humphreys and was launched during the centenary celebration's week. (*Maranoa Today*, 29 July 2022, p. 10 including two photographs)

Kingston – A Living Museum of Logan has been established at the Kingston Butter Factory cultural precinct. It was opened on 9 July 2022 by the Mayor, Darren Power and the Member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman MP. The development includes the refurbishment of the old Kingston Butter Factory as the Butterbox Theatre, heritage centre, outdoor entertainment space, café and plaza. The total cost was \$22.5

million. A historical society operated at the site for several years after the butter factory closed in 1983. Currently there are displays of First Nations culture, Factory Stories creating an interpretative timeline of the butter factory's history, and on food culture of the city. (*My City Logan*, 12-18 July p. 6)

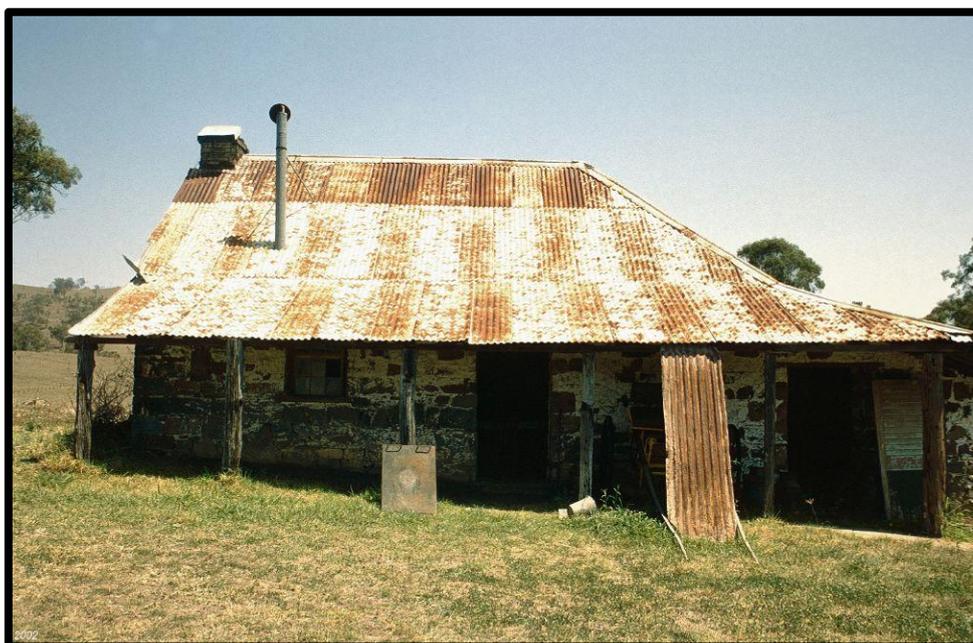


Logan City Council Photo

Living Museum of Logan

This contemporary social history museum is a place to see, hear and experience the stories of the people who have made the City of Logan what it is today.

Moore in Brisbane Valley – Friends of the Stonehouse welcomed 200 people to the 148-year-old Moore Stonehouse on the weekend of 23-24 July. There were markets, musical performances and bush poetry. The weekend was organised by John and Loretta Eastwood along with Friends of Stonehouse volunteers to raise money for maintenance and raise awareness about historical buildings in the area. They hope to hold a major event for the 150th anniversary. (*The Lockyer and Somerset Independent*, 27 July 2022, p. 8 including photograph)



Qld Gov Photo

The Moore Stonehouse

Roma – The Big Rig Tower and Tree Walk attraction opened on 21 May 2022 at the Oil Patch Museum. Visitation at the museum has skyrocketed since then with a 30% increase in paid admissions in June compared with June 2021. Roma Commerce and Tourism General Manager, Debbie Joppich stated that local visitation has been high. The Big Rig Tower and Tree Walk is stage one of a five stage Big Rig Master Plan. (*Maranoa Today*, 29 July 2022, p. 8 including two photographs)



Qld Gov Photo

Entrance to The Big Rig Tower and Tree Walk

Slow Boat by Anna Yen

<https://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/whats-on/2022/slow-boat>

From wartime China to the Bulimba's Dockyards, brotherhood and resilience is tested. To celebrate Victory in the Pacific at the end of World War II, six indentured Chinese workers stage a theatre show at Brisbane's Bulimba Dockyards.

However, differing perspectives of critical events in their story threaten to derail this display of unity to become the one thing that could tear them apart.

Blending vaudeville, musical theatre, circus, Cantonese Opera and martial arts, Slow Boat is a play with-in a play, inspired by the unexpected arrival in Australia of playwright Anna Yen's father, along with 580 other Chinese men, during WWII.



Starring Roles

Two of the RHSQ's former presidents and well-known historians, and the Commissariat Store itself, have starred in the current series of SBS's "Who Do You Think You Are?" At Chillagoe, Dr Ruth Kerr spoke with ex-NRL footballer Justin Hodges about his family's life in the district while Stephen Sheaffe explained to TV presenter, Sandra Sully, the impact of charges of theft against her grandfather when he was a boy in Brisbane. As Sandra gazed out the window, the camera panned around the middle floor of the Store, with soft lighting showing to advantage its architectural features and all the displays.



Captain Woods Photo

From ‘Captain Wood’s Cutting Book’, donated to the RHSQ in 1966 by Mrs JW Wood
The ‘Cooks’ Lines’ show one aspect of Army camp life that is generally overlooked and rarely photographed! Captain JW Wood, formerly of the Queensland Rifles, was promoted to honorary Major and was attached to his old regiment as quartermaster. This was the 8th Infantry (Oxley) Regiment, in camp at Redbank, near Ipswich, in September, 1913.

Library and Research Report

The following research enquiries were received this month: location of 55 Charlotte St., Brisbane in 1902; access to pages of Pettigrew Diary; history of koalas on Queensland islands; letters of John Gibson Lockhart (1794-1854), son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott; history of Earl St. Petrie Tce. House; Thursday Island pioneer history; identification of watercolour of pioneer Queensland kiosk; descendants of Queensland architect G.H.M Addison (1858-1922); specific Winton (Qld) Court Records between 1903 and 1919; information on T.C. Beirne’s department store, Fortitude Valley; and location of Eton Hotel, Brisbane. Donations; articles and research documents relating to Ludwig Leichhardt, and correspondence from Western Queensland cattle stations and societies. Dr Christopher Reynolds has offered to donate a copy of his book, *What a Capital Idea - Australia 1770-1903*. Denzil Scrivens donated three books he has written – *St. John’s Cathedral and the Anzac Legend*; *Stained Glass Treasure: the career and selected works of Queensland artist-in-glass, Warwick Blair*; and *A Queensland Masterpiece: St. John’s Cathedral, Brisbane and architect John Loughborough Pearson RA*. A long-time tour guide at the Cathedral, Denzil has offered a guided tour to any interested RHSQ members. We continue to cull the library’s cutting files where they are no longer relevant or the material can be found on Trove and other such resources. Any culling is subject to the Council’s de-accessioning approval process. Graham has now achieved the milestone of digitising over 500 Family files. It should also be mentioned that available issues of the Society’s Journal from 1913 onwards are all digitised.

Kay Cohen

Annan River Bridge Query

RHSQ member John Huth has queried the identification of the bridge in last month’s *Bulletin*. That photo was taken in 1892 by J D Goss who wrote the caption. The accompanying information was taken from the now-superseded National Heritage Register and the current Queensland Heritage Register. John’s photo, see below, was taken of course many years later. John considers that the 1892 bridge was one of two similar bridges constructed in that period over the Endeavour River, near Cooktown. More comments on this are welcome.



Bill Bale Photo

**Exhibition Launch of Mystery Objects at The Commissariat
By Sophie West**

**Thursday, 1 September, the first day of spring, from 5.30 to 7.00 pm
It will take the form of a wine and cheese and all members of the RHSQ are invited for a Meet and Greet of like-minded members of the Society. Bookings on Eventbrite as usual.**

**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
SEPTEMBER**

Thursday 1 September, Exhibition ‘Mystery Objects’
Thursday 8 September, Council Meeting.
Wednesday 14 September, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30,
 ‘Local Government, Private and Industrial Railways in Queensland History’ by John Browning.
Thursday 15 September, *Bulletin* Deadline

NEW MEMBERS

Mr Robert Constantine, Deception Bay, Qld.
Mr Malcolm Dyall, Quarry Hill, Vic.
Mr Evan Tiernan, Morningside, Qld.

Contact Details	<i>Bulletin</i> Articles Only	Subscriptions
Manager: Katrina Rose	Editor: Dr Graeme Nicholson OAM	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