

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

80 years of continuous publication
DECEMBER 2022 No. 880

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

Library and Research Team Volunteers 2022



Katrina Rose Photo

The Team: l. to r. standing; Bo, Dorothy, Graham, Hannah sitting; Kay, Ruth, Helen, Lynda

Thank you to our volunteers who have worked so diligently and enthusiastically throughout the year. Other volunteers who were with us but have now found employment in their chosen fields include Liz who contributed her extensive archival and conservation skills, and Josh, Peter and Tim. These three made important advances in the digitisation program, helped coordinate catalogue and digital items and enabled several water-damaged diaries and letterbooks to be conserved by photographing every page. One of these ran to 350 pages.

Best wishes for a happy festive season to all the researchers, visiting and via email, who used our library and research services this year.

Kay Cohen and Ruth Kerr

President's Report

As we enter the month of December, the Society has a number of important events. At 6.00 pm on Friday 2 December the RHSQ is having its Exhibition Opening and Launch: History Handmade – the Ceramics of Muriel MacDiarmid. The Exhibition features pieces from the RHSQ's outstanding collection of 25 items. The art pottery was inspired by ancient and traditional pottery from across the globe. Working with local pottery teacher LJ Harvey, Muriel developed her own distinctive style and specialised in the reproduction of ancient and traditional vessels. All members of the RHSQ are invited to attend free of charge as usual while non-members will be required to pay \$10. This wine and cheese night will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet like-minded people as well as discuss history, heritage, and our artefacts collection.

On Saturday 10 December the Society has its annual Separation Day Celebrations, celebrating the day that Queensland separated from New South Wales, commencing at 6.00 pm and concluding at 7.30 pm. Our guest speaker on the evening will be Dr Katie McConnel, curator of Old Government House who will be speaking about Lady Diamantina Bowen, wife of Queensland's first Governor who was born into the Ionian Islands aristocracy. Dr McConnel is the curator of Old Government House and has studied Lady Diamantina closely. Working in both the university and museum sectors for 20 years, Katie has established a strong reputation and research background in local heritage and regional history. Tickets \$45 members and \$55 for non-members include nibbles, refreshments, and an enjoyable social occasion.

Bookings on the RHSQ website under 'Events' is essential for this and all our other events. This and our other functions are held at the Society's headquarters, Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane which was built by Convicts in 1828-29.

On Wednesday 14 December between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm Dr Betty Lee will speak about Commander Eric Feldt OBE and the Coast Watchers. Dr Lee is the grandniece of the leader of the Coastwatchers, Commander Eric Feldt. The Coastwatchers played a vital role in defending Allied interests in the Pacific during the Second World War. Betty will speak about her great uncle in what promises to be a captivating talk about his life.

The Society's first Wednesday Lecture next year will be on 8 February 2023 at 12.30 pm with Dr John Jell AM speaking on Dorothy Hill 1907-1997. Our Wednesday Lectures are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except in August and January.

On 11 March 2023 the first half-day conference for the year will be held commencing with a Libraries conference as we celebrate milestones for our various significant libraries.

The RHSQ appreciates the knowledge, contribution and dedicated work of our many volunteers in assisting the Society in a variety of roles across our many and varied activities during another year. Without our many volunteers the RHSQ could not function as all aspects of your Society rely on volunteers, which include those that are members of Council. Also, a special thanks to our Manager Katrina for her work in managing the volunteers and her many other significant duties she undertakes for the Society. Our gratitude goes to our members who give so much support to their Society, the RHSQ, throughout the year.

In conclusion, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

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)

Bethania to Beaudesert Railway Corridor – The Department of Transport and Main Roads has called tenders for the removal of approx. 43 kms of rail infrastructure along the railway route to Beaudesert. The tender includes removal of rails, sleepers, dog spikes, fish plates and bolts, leaving the ballast, culverts, open level crossings and rail bridges in place. (*Weekend Australian*, 15-16 October 2022 p. 7 and RCM@tmr.qld.gov.au).

Eumundi is one of the few towns in Queensland without a monumental-type World War I memorial. Instead, it has a row of heritage listed trees. In October 1917 the Eumundi Women's Recruiting Committee planted six fig trees along memorial Drive and Gidley Streets, Eumundi as a memorial to local men who died in World War I and added another 14 trees over the following two years. Each tree was enclosed by a small fence and details were provided of the soldier's place of death and unit. In the 1970s 15 of the trees were replaced and plaques were mounted at the base. A replica of the original memorials is beside the Eumundi

Museum. There is a plaque for Private Walter Gridley. The deceased volunteer soldiers were: Private Abraham, a surveyor's assistant; Private Carroll, a labourer; Privates Christian, Clifton and Culpin were farmers; Private McIntyre a fitter and turner; and Private Donnelly a carpenter. Private Cooke died of wounds received at Gallipoli and Private Rubenach died onboard ship returning to Australia in 1919. (*Eumundi Voice*, Issue 57, 10 November 2022, pp. 1,3 including six photographs)



Old Heritage Photo

Plaque dedicated to Private T J Rubenach

Morningside - There is a Code Assessable (ie no public notification or submissions) application A006123190 with Brisbane City Council to fill in the Cairncross Graving Dock at Morningside. The dock was previously on Council's and the Queensland Heritage Register but removed by the Federal Government. The dock was sold and has not been reinstated to the Register. The Graving Dock was purpose-built to service warships and merchant vessels in World War Two. (See Engineering Heritage Queensland <https://portal.engineersaustralia.org.au/heritage/cairncross-graving-dock-1944-1987-1995>.)

Toowoomba - DownsSteam association has announced that they are working with Mackay Heritage Railway association to transfer steam locomotives BB18 ¼ No. 1037 and No.1086 to the DownsSteam fleet. This is a significant milestone in heritage organisations working collaboratively. The initial focus will be on No. 1037, continuing the significant amount of work already completed, which will then be followed by No. 1086 as a long-term project. The Boiler of No. 1037 is already on its way to Toowoomba, with other items to follow soon. A workshop has been constructed for the purpose. ([DownsSteam Tourist Railway & Museum | Toowoomba QLD | Facebook](#))



Anthony Winstone Photo

A fine view of 1037 at Caboolture on 4 October 1970

Library and Research Report

Research enquiries to date are as follows: help in finding a descendant of American Civil War veteran Allen Alexander Baker who died in 1924; unique images of the Herberton district from 1875 – 1930s; information on stories about tunnels in the Brisbane CBD, particularly involving the GPO block; access to a June 1937 RHSQ Journal article; correct citation of a 1964 RHSQ Journal article; and a copy of a report on the WW2 construction of the Mount Isa-Camooweal road.

Donations: offer of a copy of the first birth certificate registered in Queensland in 1856 under the New South Wales Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act of the same year; various documents and papers relating to Queensland history; background documents relating to the Queensland agriculture industry in the 1970s; a 25-Vol. set of “The Historians’ History of the World”, 1908; copy of the Sheridan family tree dating back to Ireland in the 1800s.

The team has also assisted with research for the Museum’s upcoming Explorers’ Exhibition and for the QANTAS Centenary celebrations at Brisbane airport on 2 November. There, the QANTAS ticket No.1. was the centre of intense media interest and, with Ruth Kerr guarding it closely, was photographed with numerous VIPs at their request. The ticket was sold to Alexander Kennedy as the first paying passenger. He was an early member of the RHSQ and later donated it to the Society. This month we have welcomed two new volunteers. Hannah has started posting items of interest from the RHSQ collections on various social media.

The QANTAS event was the first in what is proposed to be an on-going ‘feed’ of similar content. We have been assisting by identifying possible items and providing relevant background research. Lynda, a former journalist and media consultant, is writing stories for the ‘from the Archives’ segment on the RHSQ website, and is looking to place similar material in print media. Council has approved the digitisation of five microfilms of original documents such as letters written by mining legend John Moffat. Both microfilm readers no longer work and they are too old (over 30 years) for replacement parts to be found.

Apologies: in last month’s *Bulletin*, Christina Ealing-Goldbold should have been Christina Ealing-Godbold.

More Annan River Bridge Information

Following is a letter received from Gordon Grimwade:

I notice some recent information has been included in the *RHSQ Bulletin* regarding the Annan River Bridge that might need clarifying. Prof. Geoff Ginn and I produced the heritage assessment when a new bridge was under consideration in 1998. This included a comprehensive history and documentation of the structure. Points relevant to recent *Bulletin* articles are:

1. There was a girder bridge over the Endeavour River built around 1886 and this one over the Annan River (both near Cooktown).
2. The Annan was supposed to use screw piles but the geotechnical work was poorly done (the local hotel was more attractive for the tech officer concerned according to some sources). The fins were apparently trimmed off and the piles sunk in a more orthodox manner.
3. The bridge is now popular as a ‘fishing wharf’ but is becoming quite dangerous to walk on easily as several beams have rotted away.
4. In the August *Bulletin* it was suggested the ‘bridge’s future’ was in doubt because of high maintenance costs (correct) and ‘negligible through traffic’ (incorrect). The bridge is now and has been for some years critical infrastructure on the main road for Cooktown to southern centres. The decision to build a new high-level concrete two lane bridge was because of *increased* traffic to Cooktown and load limits on the single lane original bridge were causing issues. The work was integrated into the bituminising of the Mareeba to Cooktown Road completed around 2002 from memory.
5. It is sometimes incorrectly claimed the bridge was originally built to access the Palmer Goldfield. Its purpose was to service the tin fields around Rossville and Bloomfield. The Palmer route in those days was quite a distance away.
6. Divers were used to inspect the piles after construction and were used in the original construction. There is an unconfirmed story that an old barge moored on the Cooktown foreshore and known in the 1980s as the ‘flowerpot’ was the barge used as a platform for the construction team and divers. The diving process gradually changed over the years but aqualung divers were used up to the late 1990s to check bolts etc as part of the structural inspections. Cages were used at times as the river is also patrolled by saltwater crocodiles more interested in food than structural integrity of bridges.

It would have been great to have had that photograph from the Brian Stewart collection when we wrote the report, which incidentally includes a photogrammetric plan of the bridge. Field work was affected with two people in a boat and one on shore as crocodile spotter!
 Photo below was taken in June 2022 and shows the unfortunate deterioration of a highly significant element of Queensland's industrial heritage.

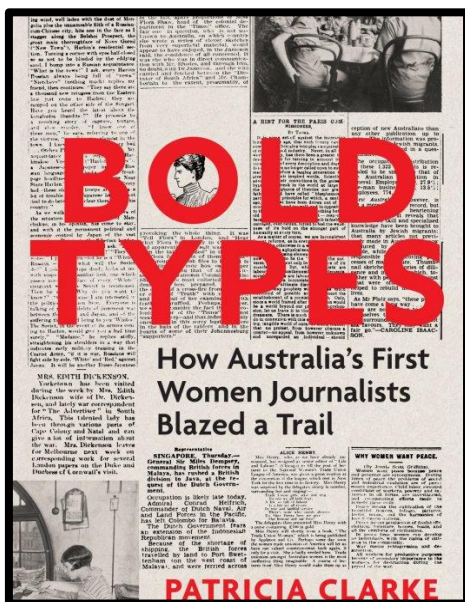


Gordon Grimwade Photo

Bold Types by Patricia Clarke, with an introduction by Amy Remeikis

1 Nov 2022

In *Bold Types*, Patricia Clarke recounts the chequered journey of women journalists in the fight for gender equality from 1860 to the end of World War II. These were independent, adventurous women who ventured far and wide in search of news, relevance and equality.



Together, stories of women from Anna Blackwell and Flora Shaw to Janet Mitchell and Caroline Isaacson, illustrate the gains and setbacks of women journalists over nearly a century. In each successive story, the tenacious determination of these women stands clear against the background of the prevailing patriarchy.

Patricia Clarke was a trailblazer herself as the only woman on the Melbourne staff at the Australian News and Information Bureau in the early 1950s. In a detailed epilogue, Patricia shares stories of her own life and career in the days of crowded newsrooms, clattering typewriters, and overflowing cigarette trays.

The book also features an introduction by Amy Remeikis, political reporter at Guardian Australia, who reflects on the struggles and achievements of her early counterparts as well as the current working environment for women journalists.

Bold Types is a book that will resound with and inspire today's audience, in a world where women are still fighting for equal rights and often, respect in the workplace.

About the author

Dr Patricia Clarke is a writer, historian, editor and former journalist, who has written extensively on women in Australian history and the history of journalism. In 2001, she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to Australian history, and she is an honorary fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities. *Bold Types* is her fifteenth book.

Congratulations to Lesley Synge, author, friend of the Fryer Library, and winner of the Lorna McDonald Essay Prize for 2022 supported by Arts Central Queensland Inc.

Read Lesley’s winning essay [The Earth and Sea Furnishes Them](#) online about the Keppel Island Group on the Tropic of Capricorn. The title is also a quote from James Cook's HMB Endeavor Journal.



Arts Central Qld Photo

Lesley Synge (left), Roger McDonald (middle) and Art Central Queensland Inc. President Jodie van de Watering (right).

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Friday 2 December, 6.00 pm, Exhibition Opening and Launch: History Handmade – the Ceramics of Muriel MacDiarmid.</p> <p>Thursday 8 December, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Saturday 10 December, Separation Day Celebrations</p> <p>Wednesday 14 December, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30, Talk, Dr Betty Lee will speak about Commander Eric Feldt OBE and the Coast Watchers.</p> <p>Tuesday 15 December, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</p>	<p>Julie Bennett (Fig Tree Pocket)</p> <p>Carol Williamson (Mackay)</p> <p>Susan Buckley (Ascot)</p> <p>Thomas Davison (Maleny)</p> <p>Gail Field (Upper Brookfield)</p>

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