

RHSQ

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

80 years of continuous publication
FEBRUARY 2023 No. 881

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

AN EARLY RAAF AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATED WITH QUEENSLAND



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07016.001

Civilians and RAAF personnel standing by S.E.5 fighter A2-1 at Yanakie, Victoria

This Royal Australian Air Force Vickers Ltd S.E. 5A was built in the UK in 1918. It was allocated to Australia in 1919 by the UK government and became part of the RAAF in 1921.

In November 1927 this aircraft, designated A2-1, piloted by Plt Off H. M. Thomas, left Richmond RAAF base with two other aircraft to take part in the inaugural Queensland Aero Club Air Pageant to be held at Eagle Farm on Saturday 12th November. Owing to several mishaps along the way A2-1 arrived at Eagle Farm too late to be part of the Air Pageant.

On returning to Richmond the aircraft sustained major damage whilst landing at Armidale, which resulted in it being transported by rail to Richmond and on 27 November, following a major inspection, it was decided that it was uneconomical to repair and was converted to spares.

President's Report

As we cross the threshold into 2023, The Royal Historical Society of Queensland has an exciting program of conferences, Wednesday lectures and museum exhibitions, the Queensland Day Dinner, Separation Day celebrations, meet and greet occasions, and other events scheduled for the year.

The Separation Day Celebrations held on Saturday 10 December at the Commissariat Store with Dr Katie McConnel as our guest speaker talking about Lady Diamantina Bowen, wife of Queensland's first Governor, was a fascinating address. We thank Katie for her contribution and look forward to her paper being published in the *Queensland History Journal* in the future.

The Annual General Meeting on 17 November saw the election of Matthew Rowe as vice-president of the Society and two new members elected to Council, Sophie West, the former Manager, and Lesley Syngé. Dr Margaret Kowald's Clem Lack Oration on: 'Queensland's struggle against rabbits: How far have we come' was an extraordinary story, the subject of which largely goes under the radar.

All members and non-members are welcome to attend our many events and activities. Events are held at the Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane unless otherwise advised.

All of our Wednesday Lectures are held between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month, except in August.

The first Wednesday lecture for 2023 at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, City is on Wednesday 8 February and will feature Dr John Jell AM on the topic Dorothy Hill 1907-1997. Dr Jell is a lauded geologist and reef scientist who has been researching and teaching at The University of Queensland for six decades. In 1956, Dorothy Hill was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. She spent time serving on the Australian Academy of Science academic committees, becoming vice-president in 1969, and in 1970 she became president. Taringa born Dorothy Hill was the first female professor at an Australian University and first female president of the Australian Academy of Science. Professor Hill made significant contributions to Australian earth science and was a pivotal role model in opening up educational opportunities for women.

This will be followed on Wednesday 8 March by Dr Bill Metcalf on the topic "Brisbane: Utopians Dreams & Dystopian Nightmares". Bill Metcalf is well known to many as the author of some 11 scholarly books and many articles. He is an Honorary Associate Professor at The University of Queensland. The talk will be about communes and utopian visions for Brisbane that are probably not known to many. Between 1880 and 1920s some imagined 'utopian Brisbane' as the centre of the civilised world while others imagined 'dystopian Brisbane' to be utterly destroyed and abandoned.

At 6.00 pm on Friday 17 February 2023 at the Commissariat Store Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke will present a concert 'Dancing in Fetters', which will feature music, songs and dances known to have been enjoyed by early Australian convicts. You are invited to join for an authentic, light hearted musical about convict life and popular culture based on research by Dr Blasdale Clarke. This will be a wine and finger food, including cheese, evening. The entry fee will be \$30 per person.

Our first conference for the year will be entitled 'Turning the Pages: History of Major Libraries in Queensland' to be held on Saturday 11 March 2023 commencing at 9.25 am with registration from 9.00 am at the Commissariat Store Museum. Morning Tea will be between 11.00 am and 11.30 am and the half-day conference will finish by 1.00 pm. Papers will be on the Fryer Library of The University of Queensland, the John Oxley Library of the State Library of Queensland, the Welsby Library of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, and the Queensland Parliamentary Library established in 1860. Again, details of the speakers and program are on the RHSQ website under Events. Our standard entry fee for half-day conferences will apply of \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Libraries have played a major role in keeping people informed from Queensland's earliest days of European settlement.

Bookings for all events is essential on the website under 'Events' through "Eventbrite".

Nominations are called for the John and Ruth Kerr Medal for Distinction in historiography, historical research and writing Australian History. Nominations will close on 31 March 2023. For further information including the nomination form go to The Royal Historical Society of Queensland website and to the drop-down bar 'About Us' and then to "Awards and Medals".

The Muriel MacDiarmid pottery exhibition entitled: *History Handmade: The Ceramics of Muriel MacDiarmid* is a very professional exhibition which was opened by Cr Kim Marx, Chairperson for City Standards, a member of the Brisbane City Council's Civic Cabinet, who represented the Lord Mayor Cr Adrian Schinnerer. The fantastic exhibition catalogue was funded by the Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Grant and the Brisbane City Council's Historical Organisation Assistance Grant Program. Further funding from this program this

year will go to upgrading the lighting in the display cases in the Commissariat Store Museum. The RHSQ greatly appreciates the support of the Lord Mayor and BCC in funding our Museum Exhibitions. A special thanks goes to all of those who assisted in organising the many facets of the exhibition. We look forward to having several new exhibitions this year from artefacts in our outstandingly significant museum and library collections.

Members are reminded that our Museum Collection is being uploaded onto e-Hive and that they should go to the site to see some of our outstandingly significant artefacts. Type in: 'e-Hive The Royal Historical Society of Queensland' and the site should come up. It will take several years to upload our significant items. However, progress is being made and a special thanks to all those volunteers involved.

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)

Brooweena – During 2022 the Woocoo Historical Society received donations of a corn cracker, a milk separator, books about immigration and Teebar Rifle Club items. Markets are held four times a year on the museum grounds. There were fewer group and individual visitors in the year due to Covid-19. (Woocoo Historical Society *News Bulletin*, December 2022, vol. 36 no. 3, p. 7.)

Eumundi – The museum has been recently reopened. Stage 1 of major renovations has been completed. The museum is located in a former church built in 1911 at 73 Memorial Drive in Eumundi opposite the Eumundi Markets. The museum combines an extensive narrative about the town's history. The current temporary exhibition celebrates 100 years of the QCWA. There are touch screens featuring a timeline, videos, maps, birdsong and the stories of 20 local soldiers who died in World War I. (*Your Local Lifestyle*, October 2022, p. 13 and November 2022, p. 39 and www.eumundimuseum.org)



Queensland Tourism Photo

Eumundi museum built 1911

Fordsdale – The School of Arts celebrated its 90th anniversary in October 2022. It is the only public building in the locality which is situated south east of Toowoomba on the Gatton to Clifton Road. (*The Lockyer and Somerset Independent*, 19 October 2022, p. 6 including three photographs)

Muttaburra has an outdoor gallery of sculptured art on the five km track circling the town. Andrew Whitehead's 'Our Shearer' is crafted wholly from found objects and rural tools and equipment. It was created in 2010-2011. Muttaburra with a population of 100 is the closest town to the geographic centre of Queensland. (*Fassifern Guardian*, Agriculture Rural Review, 21 December 2022, p. 20)

Stanthorpe – The Queensland Fruitgrowers Society Building which closed in 1992 is to be restored for reuse by the Artworks Granite Belt group who manage the site. The first grant of \$5000 has been received from the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal and Nutrien Ag Solutions for the restoration. The funds will be used to restump the building. Queensland Rail who owns the land has approved the restoration. (*Warwick Stanthorpe Today*, 8 December 2022, p. 8 including a photograph)



Mary Rofe Photo

Some members of the Restoration Committee outside the old building

From left: Russell Wantling, Anna Purvis, Jim Barnes, Michelle Conkas, Mary Findlay, Barbara Bowyer. (Missing: Carol Parkinson, Jenny Sherrin, Mary Rofe)

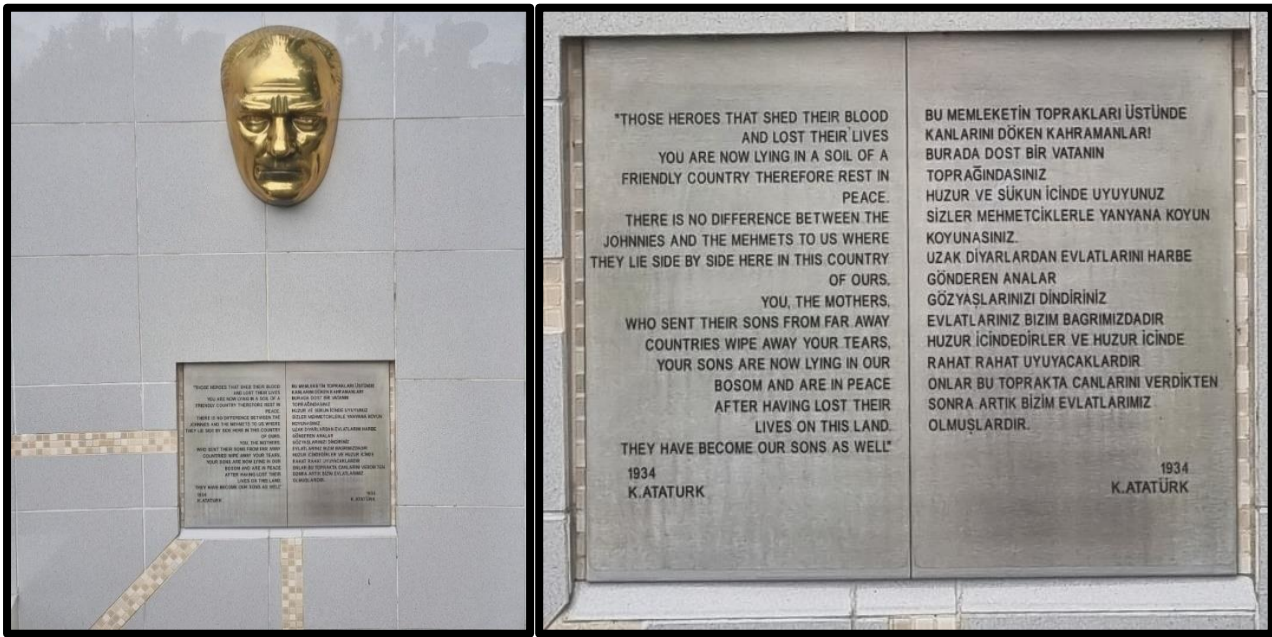
Tarome – The former state school building is now the Vanbery Cottage, a farm stay on a property at Coochin outside of Boonah. (*Fassifern Guardian*, 21 December 2022, p. 8 including two photographs).

Toogoolawah – Seventy trees were planted in Yimbun Park north of Toogoolawah on 15 October 2022 to launch the Greening the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail project in honour of Queen Elizabeth II. The Governor of Queensland HE the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM attended the tree planting along with the Toogoolawah and District Historical Society, event organisers the Brisbane Valley – Kilcoy Landcare Association, conservation groups, Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Users Group and local state and federal members of parliament. A further 700 trees will be planted in the area in March 2023 and will provide koala habitat. (*The Lockyer and Somerset Independent*, 19 October 2022, p. 3 including two photographs)

Library and Research Report

Our ex-journalist volunteer Lynda wrote an article, based on the RHSQ Library resources, about the special link between Kemal Ataturk, “the father of modern Turkey” and commander of Turkish forces on the

Gallipoli peninsula and ANZACs fighting in that campaign. It was for the free publication *Your Time*. A fountain, subsequently re-installed in the Roma Street Parklands, was erected, with Ataturk’s message inscribed in stone below:



Lynda Scott Photo

Message enlarged

The article prompted a touching response from RHSQ member Dr Gary Bacon. “The January edition of *Your Time* carried Lynda Scott’s poignant piece on the words of comfort to the mothers of killed ANZACs attributed to Kemel Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey. I first read those uplift words *in situ* at Gallipoli on a private visit. The memorial was sited just above what the local guide referred to as Queensland Beach. My grandfather, Pte Harold (Sam) Bacon #1043 9th Batt, stormed that beach in the first wave at 4.30am Sunday 25 April 1915. He survived the carnage of WWI to take up a soldier settlement block at Cedar Pocket, Gympie. On that moving visit I dipped his ANZAC medallion into the clear tranquil waters of the Aegean Sea, a baptism of renewal.”



Gary Bacon Photo

Dr Gary Bacon at ANZAC Cove

The following is a list of research enquiries received since mid-December. Images relating to the early indigenous people of Moreton Bay and Stradbroke Island; information on Australians of Irish descent in the 1930s and 1940s, cultural organisations and social clubs, and IRA affiliations; seeking copy of 1907 “Fertile Queensland” book, containing information on Robert Carse Bishop and the Clifton district; access to 1948 RHSQ Journal article available only in hard copy; information on history of Wondoan cattle station; history of Brisbane’s Breakfast Creek Hotel; information on location of historic ships’ models; copyright status of the Pettigrew Diaries held in RHSQ Library; imports of yachts into Australia for refit or repairs; copy of “Brief History of the Life of W M Boyce, Brisbane 1st Town Clerk”; monuments and commemorative places in Brisbane; Wyora pastoral station near Winton in the 1960s; correcting information re ownership of Arnott’s Biscuits in Brisbane; Aratula cemetery headstones; access to Clem Lack manuscript “Australia’s Merchant Navy 1860-1953”, and information on the history of Elizabeth St., Brisbane building.

Donations: offer from Royal Historical Society, Victoria, of 19th Century items, mainly maps; rainfall records from early 1900s maintained at Mary Valley farm; slides of trips around North Queensland 1930s – 1960s; photos of Brisbane on 31st December 1999.

We have received a request from Professor Robert Crawford, Monash University, asking for members to participate in an oral history project. The project’s focus is on stories and memories of department stores in Queensland. You can learn more about the project and how to participate at the website <https://www.departmentstorehistory.org.au/>. Professor Crawford points out that the RHSQ Library does not have any material relating to this particular area of Queensland history.

Kay Cohen

<u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS</u> <u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>
<p>Wednesday 8 February, Talk, 12.30 – 1.30, Dr John Jell AM on the topic Dorothy Hill 1907-1997</p> <p>Thursday 9 February, Council Meeting.</p> <p>Tuesday 15 February, <i>Bulletin</i> Deadline</p> <p>Friday 17 February, 6.00 pm at the Commissariat Store Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke will present a concert ‘Dancing in Fetters’</p>	<p>Anthony Millroy (Mapleton, QLD) Woodford Historical Society (Donna Grigor)</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