

COMMISSARIAT STORE 1829

RHSQ

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

THE RHSQ

Bulletin

DECEMBER 2009 No. 737

The newsletter of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland
Patron: Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland
President: Carolyn Nolan
Website: www.queenslandhistory.org.au



Happy 50th Birthday, Royal Historical Society of Queensland!

Members of the Society will be aware that its inaugural meeting was held on 21 August 1913. At that time, according to the Australian Encyclopaedia, the Historical Society of Queensland became only the third state (after NSW - 1901 and Victoria - 1909) to establish an historical society.

The display board on the first floor at the Commissariat wrongly ascribes 13 June 1963 as the date of 'awarding of the Royal Charter ...coinciding with the Society's Golden Jubilee.' The true story is related in *The Royal Historical Society of Queensland Journal*, September 1959, which states, 'A Petition for Royal Assent to the addition of the prefix "Royal" to the title of the "Historical Society of Queensland, Incorporated" was prepared in November 1958, and submitted through The Honourable G.F.R. Nicklin, M.L.A., Premier and Chief Secretary, to His Excellency Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., the Governor of Queensland, with a request that His Excellency might be pleased to forward this Petition for Her Majesty's pleasure. The president, Sir Raphael Cilento, announced at the February [1959] meeting that he had been advised...that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II had graciously given assent to the addition of the prefix "Royal" to the title of the "Historical Society of Queensland, Incorporated". Sir Raphael Cilento, Mr Arthur Laurie, and Commander N.S Pixley later waited upon His Excellency to pay the respects of the Society to Her Majesty, and to thank His Excellency for the interest shown in the Society.'

If you enjoy arcane prose of 50 years ago there is more of the same in this September 1959 Journal.

Text by Marjorie Shackleton, photograph by Graeme Nicholson

President's Report November 2009

We knew the past few weeks would be extremely busy and that has been the case. The Federation of Australian Historical Societies held their Annual General Meeting at the Commissariat Store and this was an opportunity to meet historians from all the States and from the Northern Territory and to hear how the Federation lobbies at a national level on behalf of us all. In the little spare time available our visitors enjoyed seeing old and new Brisbane, including a tour by Katie McConnel of newly-restored Old Government House, and a tour of State Library by Dr Mary Dickenson, while some visited the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), now connected to the Brisbane CBD by the new Kurilpa footbridge. Gradually our various cultural precincts are coming closer together, and closer to the RHSQ.

A substantial grant of \$35,000 plus GST has been received from Jupiter's Casino Gaming Fund for restoration of many of the items in our significant collection of photographic panoramas. These have now been sent away for conservation and mounting by Conservation Services International, Sydney, to ensure their long term welfare and availability. With more money we can do so much that is worthwhile.

The lecture program for the year is now completed and I hope much of the material will appear in due course in the Queensland History Journal. I found it fascinating to hear the talks from the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Baptist churches, while Roby Buchanan had an understandably full house for her talk about Ipswich, as did Manfred Cross on the subject of early shipping in Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River. The program for 2010 will be announced soon.

The Store is a wonderful place for book launches and one Sunday afternoon the Light Railways Research Society Australia launched *Tall Timbers and Tramlines - Queensland*, written by the late John Kerr and edited by Dr Ruth Kerr, and splendidly illustrated. Many members of the Society came up from Melbourne for the occasion. Then Lord Mayor Campbell Newman launched the new work by Professor John Laverty, *The Making of a Metropolis: Brisbane 1823-1925*, published by Boolarong in conjunction with the Brisbane History Group. This significant work marks the sesquicentenary of Brisbane itself, and the occasion saw many historians and friends gathered together yet again. The week before I attended the launch at State Library, by the Premier, of Emeritus Professor Kay Saunders' book with its 150 biographies of Queenslanders..

Queensland State Archives has celebrated its 50-year milestone at the Commissariat Store and talks by Senior Vice President Manfred Cross and by Queensland State Archivist Janet Prowse told us just how this great facility came into being and how it is maintained. I have mentioned in various quarters on behalf of us all that we need better transport to Runcorn so we can get there more easily and use these records to a greater extent.

Sasha Broughton has been appointed to the RHSQ Council. Thank you to those who expressed interest in this position and it is refreshing, and I gather unusual, to see this level of interest. Sasha has been working for some time on the Museum Collection and is on the Futures Committee. As such she will be very involved with the Futures Workshop to be held at the end of February, an important step for the Society as we seek even greater involvement by members and to work out how we can provide greater benefit.

The Welsby exhibition will be mounted soon, with all sorts of treasures on display, including the lovely painting by HS Wilkinson of *Amity*, Welsby's historic home on the river at New Farm. Graeme Nicholson has with great care prepared this work for display, and has generously made a special stand for it. As always keep watching our website for details of just what and when is happening at RHSQ. I was unable to attend the Welcome to new members but I have been delighted to meet many of you at the various happenings. The Commissariat Store is a wonderful place to find out what is going on in the world of Queensland history.

Carolyn Nolan
President

Queensland History News

(Collected by Ruth Kerr from personal Queensland contacts, Affiliated Societies and Newspapers)

Charleville – The Charleville Anglican Church has a railway residence, which was removed about a decade ago from Cheepie, in Quilpie Shire. The church has remodelled it for use as a ministry centre. Queensland Corrective Services work teams provided much of the labour. (Anglican Church *Focus* October 2009 p.8)

Cooktown Museums – The Cooktown Maritime Museum was registered in May 1993 with the then Queensland Consumer Affairs Department. When another museum in Cooktown applied in June 1993 to be registered as the 'Cooktown Museum', that name could not be permitted for the second Cooktown museum. It had to be registered as James Cook Historical Museum on 25 June 1993. (*Cooktown Local News* April 2009 p.11 – '15 Years Ago Column')

Hughenden - The FJ Holden Café in Hughenden has a historical collection of 1950s, 1960s and 1970s memorabilia centred on FJ Holden cars. Francis James Holden started the collection around 20 years ago. The collection is a focal point attracting tourists. (*North Queensland Register* 6 August 2009 p.7 including five photos)

Hughenden – The Flinders Shire Council has allocated \$20,000 to complete the Comet windmill feature in Hughenden. The Flinders Shire Council stated that only 15 Comet windmills were manufactured and a majority are in the Hughenden district. Hughenden's windmill was No.11, which was erected south of Hughenden in 1933. It has been relocated to Hughenden in recent months. Another

has been re-erected in the Lions Park in Prairie. (*North Queensland Register* 6 August 2009 p.23 including photo)

Irvinebank - The Tablelands Regional Shire Council, the trustee of the State Treatment Works, announced in a press release on 4 September 2009 that it desires to relinquish trusteeship as it cannot afford to fund the significant works estimated to cost between \$700,000 and \$1 million to preserve the site. The State government has advised the council that if it takes control of the site again it will secure the site but cannot commit to any repairs to the buildings or infrastructure.

Mareeba - The Mareeba Historical Society submits articles to the *Tablelands Advertiser* newspaper on significant early settlers in the region. A recent article featured Charles Henry William Hampe who established an 'aerated waters' factory at Mareeba when the railway reached there. He was born in 1867 at Merinda near Bowen and learned the trade of soft drink manufacturing in Brisbane. He moved to Cairns at the commencement of the construction of the Cairns to the Tableland railway in 1886. He later moved his business to Clohesy River to the east of Granite Creek (Mareeba). When the railway reached Mareeba in 1894 he relocated his business to the corner of Middlemiss and Walsh Streets in Mareeba. A horse walking around a massive wooden wheel powered the factory. He later took over the *Exchange* Hotel on the corner of Middlemiss and Byrnes Streets. He sold the hotel business later and returned to soft drink manufacture. As a keen sportsman he established a Golf Club in Mareeba on what is now the Mareeba Race Course. He was a keen horse race goer and opened the Mount Garnet racecourse. Hampe was also on the Mareeba Hospital Committee and Show Society. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 11 September 2009 p.9 including photo.)

Mitchell - Booringa Heritage Group Inc has opened a museum in Mitchell to promote the heritage of the Booringa Shire area. The President, Margaret Schmeider, stated that the Group intends that the museum tell the stories of the region rather than just be a museum of artifacts. The Shire Council has supplied three computers and a printer from the Maranoa Regional Council Mitchell office. (*Western Star* 14 July 2009 p.5 including photo)

Richmond - Richmond Shire Council has submitted two tiles demonstrating Richmond's past and future to the Q150 Mosaic Title project. Artist, Paul Stumkat, has created them. One features a Richmond pilosaur surrounded by indigenous and bygone transport. The future tile illustrates the cattle industry, paleo tourism, and a wave of sediment reflecting the effect of water. The tiles will be incorporated in a large mosaic to be hung permanently at the Royal National Association grounds in Brisbane. (*Northern Miner* 9 April 2009 p.2 including photo)

Yungaburra - The butchery owned by Jeff and Tracey Mack is recognised as Queensland's oldest registered butchery. The butchery has been registered for 95 years. The owners did conservation work in

2007 to maintain the original condition of the establishment. (*Tablelands Advertiser* 15 April 2009 p.17 including photo).

November Research Report

Some interesting queries were received this month: James Brunton Stephens; Badger and Brisbane Tramway Co., 1898-1922; Glengallan Station; graves of members of the Burke and Wills expedition; the Kargoolnah Aborigines near Blackall for the family history of Dinah Brodie; Oakey after the Second World War; the occupation of Henry (Harry) Strongitharm Wilkinson, artist; and a photo of and material on James Tyson.

A member of the Charters Towers Historical Society, an affiliated society, sought information on material on Charters Towers held in our collection.

Jean Stewart
Honorary Research Officer

Library Report

The Professional Historians Association (Queensland) donated a copy of the proceedings of their recent conference *Journeys through Queensland history: Landscape, place and society*; Fr Denis Martin donated *Good shepherds 1859-2000: The Catholic Bishops of Brisbane*; John Pearn donated some interesting items that have been added to the appropriate vertical files; Robert Lee has donated his new book *Fruits of Federation: The Grafton-Brisbane uniform gauge railway and Clarence River Bridge*; Jean Stewart donated *She was the "Amity"*, Brig. David Parker donated *Fortitude: Dr Lang's vision for Queensland and the United Evangelical Church*; Mrs Benny Alcorn donated the Sunshine Coast Historical & Genealogical Resource Centre's new publication *People of Maroochy: A tribute to some of the people who helped shape the history of the Maroochy shire*.

John Steele has donated maps, pictures, books and booklets including 3 issues of the Redcliffe Municipal Library's *BOAMA; Cambooya State School centenary 1882-1982; The sum of our yesterdays: A reference to 85 years settlement in the Isis District to 1964; Campbellville and cedar days; Union College: A history; Fretwork pediments in Queensland*; facsimile copy of CD Hays *Remarks upon the proposed establishment of steam communication with the Australian colonies, and the British possessions at the Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, Mauritius, &c., by means of a superior class of vessels fitted with powerful screw-propellers; Acquisitions 1973-1983: University Art Museum; Diamantina, Lady Bowen Queensland's first lady*; various copies of *The Eagle: Magazine of St Johns Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane*; Hodgson sketches and photos.

Manfred Cross has donated *Redland Museum: The first 30 years; Seeking the "Great Southland": Cook and "The Endeavour" in Queensland; Peeps*

into the past of Blackall; What makes Chinchilla T.I.C.: Some historical & factual data of Chinchilla District; Kargoolnah: Early local government on the Upper Barcoo; Early days on Fraser island 1913-1922; Drought or deluge: Man in the Cooper's Creek region.

Added to the catalogue are two CDs of *Brisbane buildings, statues and plaques*. They were taken by Lucas Jahne. He obtained a BCC grant to do this. Volunteer Don Murray went through the digital images identifying them and naming each one.

Old journals stored next door are being culled for useful information that is added to the vertical files. Magazines such as *Mimag, Harrisville & District Historical Society Bulletin*, which are not indexed, are not easily searched and much useful information is lost, but if relevant information is added to the vertical files and the analytical data is added to the Text box, then the material is available to researchers.

The Light Railway Research Society of Australia donated the recently published John Kerr book *Tall timber and tramlines Queensland*; Bill Metcalf donated a copy of his article 'The fall and rise of an antipodean Utopia: Brisbane, Australia' in *Utopian studies* vol. 19 no. 2.

The Queensland State Archives indexes to the *Chronological Register of Prisoners 1824-1839* in Adobe reader format are available on the Administrator's computer in the folder Convicts Moreton Bay. The QSA web page explaining the three files has been added to the Subject file Convicts Moreton Bay, file number 7639. The registers are a chronological and alphabetical record of Moreton Bay convicts and include the convicts' personal details, what they were convicted for, and their departure to Sydney or Norfolk Island, discharge or date of death.

Judy Gale Rechner
Honorary Librarian

Book Review

Fruits of Federation THE GRAFTON-BRISBANE UNIFORM GAUGE RAILWAY AND CLARENCE RIVER BRIDGE Robert Lee, 192 pages, hard cover, numerous images, ISBN 978-0-9579265-1-6 [RRP, about \$60]

One of the benefits perceived for a federated Australia was the introduction of uniformity across the continent between the colonies/states after decades of competition. As each colony had introduced railways, they had all chosen, sometimes for good reason, different track gauges. By the time of Federation much transport was still by sea, but the railways were offering a faster alternative and the impediment of the break of gauge at most borders was seen to be both an economic nuisance and also a real negative if Australia should find itself being attacked.

For standardisation to become a reality, it required the Federal Government to contribute and encourage the states to invest their funds in projects that were in the common good but which didn't necessarily benefit the finances of either state. This book tells the story

of one project - the rail connection between the New South Wales Railways terminus at Kyogle and Brisbane opened in 1930. It details firstly the governmental story of how the railway came to be built and secondly the story of the construction and then working of the railway. The railway between Kyogle and Brisbane was amongst the last railways built in either state for several decades as the Depression took hold and after World War 2, motor vehicles became a practical and personal alternative transport option. It features the two-level road-over-rail bridge with opening span over the Clarence River at Grafton and the spiral just south of the Border Tunnel.

The author has previously published several other books including four with an Australian railway theme. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Western Sydney where he has taught history for three decades. He was well credentialed to write this book.

For RHSQ members, this is probably a book that you would be happy to receive as a gift rather than a book you would purchase for yourself. Either way, it is an impressive looking book that is an interesting read and which would look good on your bookshelf.

Brian Webber

Book Launch in Toowoomba

The Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society will launch its new book, *Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery: Our Backyard*, as its contribution to celebrating Queensland's 150th birthday.

The book will be launched at the society's premises, 452 South Street, Toowoomba, at 10 am on Wednesday 9 December 2009. The book contains vignettes of 139 people buried in the cemetery and will retail for \$30 plus \$10 p&p. All of these people have contributed to the local area, as well as the whole of Queensland, over the last 150 years. The list of people included can be found on the society's website www.tddfhs.org.

New Queensland History Book

Society member, Rod Kirpatrick has written a very extensive history, *Purposely Parochial: 100 years of the Country press in Queensland, 1908 - 2008*.

BUY A PEN!

The Commissariat store has obtained some blue coloured pens engraved in white with:

COMMISSARIAT STORE
Brisbane's Convict Museum

For sale at the Commissariat Store for \$2.00

Thomas Welsby Exhibition

MORNING TEA

There will be a special morning tea to celebrate the opening of the new exhibition 'Thomas Welsby – Recognition at last'. The exhibition covers many areas of his life including his early childhood, as an athlete, businessman, fisherman, starting the Brisbane Gymnasium, Commodore of the Royal Queensland Yacht Club, President of the Historical Society of Queensland, involvement with Rugby Union Queensland, his passion for St Helena Island, Author and Historian for the Moreton Bay area.

Thomas Welsby bequeathed his magnificent library to the Historical Society of Queensland and some of his scrapbooks, photos, letters and books will be on display. A special feature of the exhibition is a watercolour by H Strongitharm-Wilkinson (1906) showing Thomas Welsby's home *Amity* at New Farm. Graeme Nicholson has beautifully restored this painting for the exhibition. Megan Hess has designed the poster for the exhibition.

Time: 10.00am

Date: Tuesday 12 January 2010

Where: Commissariat Store Museum
115 William Street, Brisbane

Cost: Gold Coin Donation

If you can come please ring the museum on (07) 3221 4198 for catering purposes.

Hope to see you there,

Janice Hess
Hon. Exhibitions Curator
Robyn Stephensen
Hon. Assist. Exhibitions Curator

New Members

Dianne Nicol	Redland Bay
Yaw-Hsien (Shen) Chow	Brisbane
Helen Brackin	Indooroopilly

LIMITED EDITION DRAWING OF THE COMMISSARIAT STORE

on a card with envelope
by Queensland artist Dennis Hope
For sale at the Commissariat for \$4.50

THE FUTURE for our SOCIETY

Living in a constantly changing world offers challenges the RHSQ must face in order to grow as a society.

A task force led by Councillor Dr John Mills will facilitate a Strategy Planning Workshop to define what our Society should look like in the future and to workshop answers to questions like:

What should we be doing? Who should do it?
How will we pay for it? Where will the money come from?

The workshop will take place from 9.00-5.00 at the Commissariat Store on

SATURDAY 27 and SUNDAY 28
FEBRUARY 2010

All members, volunteers and councillors are invited to attend and contribute to the future of our society.

**IF YOU WISH TO TAKE PART PLEASE
MAIL OR EMAIL KATY LAW AT THE
COMMISSARIAT STORE MUSEUM
BY 22 JANUARY 2010. WRITTEN
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST THAT
COULD BE USEFUL TO THE
WORKSHOP SHOULD BE SUBMITTED
BY THE SAME DATE.**

If you would like more information, phone

John Mills on (07) 3882 0963
or Sasha Broughton on (07) 3403 9704

LIMITED EDITION **ORIGINAL ARTWORKS** by **QUEENSLAND ARTIST** **DENNIS HOPE**

Available for purchase at the Commissariat Store for \$250.00 each, framed

Scenes featured include:

St Stephen's Catholic Church, Brisbane

The Story bridge and Brisbane river

Customs House, Brisbane

The Commissariat Store, Brisbane

Cleveland Wooden Lighthouse, Cleveland

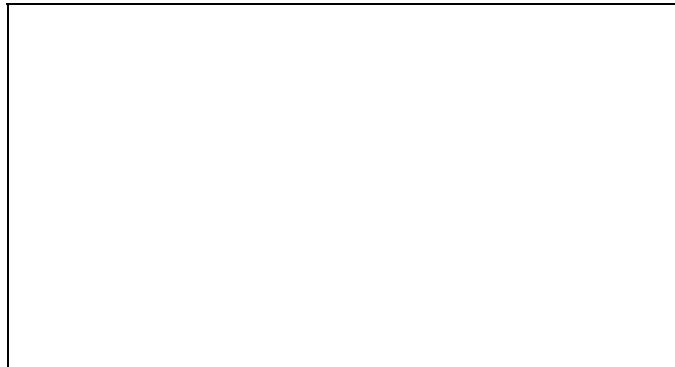
The Windmill, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane

Please place your order at reception

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 RHSQ Journal: PP424022/00020
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**Important Events and functions
 Calendar**

December 2009

Monday 7 December 12.00 midday
 Volunteers Lunch at the Public Service Club

Thursday 10 December
 Separation day, various public activities

January 2010

Tuesday 12 January 10.00 am
 Thomas Welsby Exhibition opening

Friday 15 January
 Bulletin Deadline

Friday 22 January
 Futures Workshop expressions of interest deadline

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
 and a
 HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



from
The President, Council and Volunteers

Contact details:

Location:	Historical Museum and Welsby Library at the Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, Brisbane
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Open:	Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Closed Saturday Sunday Monday as well as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter

Bulletin articles only:

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Subscriptions (with GST):

Ordinary Member	\$60.00
Partner of Member	\$20.00
Junior Member (18)	\$10.00
Full-time Student (25)	\$25.00
Affiliated Society	\$45.00
Libraries Subscription	\$60.00
Corporate/Institutions	\$75.00
Life membership – purchased after 10 years	\$1,000.00

