



NEWS

The latest from History Queensland Inc

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December 2023

President's report given to HQ's Six-monthly General meeting, held at The Brisbane Tramway Museum on 25 November

Since I became President at the Annual General Meeting in May, members of the management committee have been working hard trying to come up with plans to assist member societies with tackling challenges faced and achieving their goals. With this in mind, in HQ's July newsletter I encouraged members to send in their 'wish list' so that the committee could identify what the most pressing issues are for member societies and develop strategies to assist. Only one was received, but it formed the basis for the committee's call for input from member societies.

In light of this, the committee agreed in August that one of the objects of this general meeting will be to empower member societies by asking two or three societies to talk about how they dealt with a particular task, how they dealt with governance issues such as collection development and management, guidelines for publications, increasing membership, development of a website, or preparing an oral history project. Hopefully, we will hear some interesting and helpful ideas during members' reports. I encourage member societies to communicate any areas of concern for discussion, so that we can work together to find practical solutions and to share our knowledge and expertise.

During the last six months the management committee received the sad news of the closure of The Gap Historical Society on 30 September 2023. This Society was a member of History Queensland since 2000. They undertook wonderful research and towards the end published a Timeline which records the long and fascinating history of The Gap. Luckily, this work has been saved for use by future researchers and generations. I am sure all HQ members join with me and the committee in wishing the remaining members of The Gap Historical Society all the best for their future endeavours. Having said 'goodbye' to a long-time member, we have also welcomed new members, the latest being Headington Hill Heritage Acre. Membership currently stands at 133.

You would have heard the good news from the Office of Fair Trading regarding the changes to reporting rules for not-for-profit groups and charities. Valerie, HQ Secretary, circulated the good news email and I urge everyone to make themselves familiar with the new regime. It will save societies' time and money, so well worth your while. Of course, if you make applications for grants you should check the application conditions as the provision of audited accounts is often required.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Rosemary McKenzie, who may have been known to some of you as the serving president of the Australasian Federation of Family History Societies (AFFHO). Rosemary was also the President of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, having served on that organisation's Council since 2006. History Queensland joined with other genealogical, local and family history societies in expressing condolences to her family by sending a flower memorial.

The 5th History Queensland Conference will be held in conjunction with the 17th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry from 21 to 24 March 2025. The conference name is '*Connections: Past, Present and Future*' and will be held at Brisbane Technology Park at Eight Mile Plains. Planning is well under way and there will be a call for speakers and a Conference website

early in 2024. A number of high-profile people have been approached to be key-note speakers and arrangements are currently being confirmed. History Queensland is exploring ways in which it can assist member societies to have a presence at the conference, and an announcement will be made soon and distributed through the newsletter, website, Facebook page and email.

I attended the National Archives of Australia (NAA) consultative forum on 14 November 2023. Those attended included representatives of Royal Historical Society of Queensland, History Teachers Association, the Harvey Gentle Centre at Griffith University, Fryer Library, Genealogical Society of Queensland, Brisbane History Group, Queensland Family History Society, Professional Historians Association, Queensland State Archives, State Library of Queensland, and Brisbane City Council Archives, as well as NAA officers. Attendance at these forums is very instructive and of benefit to all with a representative from each body giving a report on their activities. Of note is the news that the funding for National Archives of Australia's digitisation of World War II records has finished. NAA has been able to digitise all but 45,000 RAAF records which are still to be completed. It was reported that digitisation of those records would be complete by 30 June 2024. A fuller report on the forum will be included in the next HQ newsletter.

Next year, 2024, marks the bi-centenary of the establishment of the first European settlement at Moreton Bay at Redcliffe, and the following year, 2025, the bi-centenary of the relocation of the settlement from Redcliffe to Brisbane. 2025 will also be the centenary of the formation of the Brisbane City Council. At this stage, neither the State Government nor Brisbane City Council have announced plans for official events to mark these occasions. Valerie recently attended a meeting called jointly by Coopers Plains History Group and Brisbane Southside History Network to discuss what actions may be taken in urging State and local government to commemorate these significant events.

The Annual General Meeting of HQ will be hosted by Genealogical Society of Queensland on Sunday 19 May 2024. We look forward to seeing representatives of member societies there. As always, our member societies will be kept informed of significant events through the usual channels.

Kay Ryan

Clydesdale, 47 Clyde Rd, Herston, built in 1882 for lithographer D McKellar; image from the November Journal of the **Windsor & Districts' Historical Society Inc.**



TWO BLOGS RECENTLY ADDED TO THE STATE LIBRARY WEBSITE

[Early 20th Century Queensland Government support for workers to get an affordable home](#)

In 1909, the Government in Queensland was the first in Australia to enact legislation empowering the government to assist those of small means with loans to obtain cheap, accessible housing. They believed it encouraged a stable family life and workforce as well as sensible money management. It ensured that the housing was not only affordable but also of good quality, adequately maintained and the government investment protected.

[An irony of the 1918 Armistice: a tale of a young soldier](#)

Arthur Rowbotham, born 30 December 1894, had enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Rockhampton on 3 October 1916. The armistice which ended World War I on 11 November 1918 had passed when he sent his Christmas cards so they would not crumple in his pack. But then he was evacuated to hospital with influenza and it appears that he developed pneumonia; he died on 23 November 1918. He was one of the many soldiers in Europe who contracted what became known as the 'Spanish flu', which killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide over the next few years. Some soldiers unwittingly brought it back to Australia.

TOOWOOMBA & DARLING DOWNS FAMILY HISTORY

Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History is requesting stories for its next publication in the series on people buried in the Toowoomba Regional Council area, *Our Backyard and Beyond Volume 8*. The series features stories written by members of our society and friends and family of those buried, interred, ashes scattered etc. If you or your members have done some research (or would like to) and would like to have a story published in Volume 8 of our book, please get in touch.

Cemeteries in the Toowoomba Regional Council area include: Aubigny, Back Plains, Cabarlah, Cecil Plains, Cecil Plains Historical Cemetery, Clifton, Cooyar, Crows Nest, Douglas, Djuan/Bergen, Drayton & Toowoomba, Emu Creek, Evergreen, Glencoe, Glencoe Bethlehem Lutheran, Goombungee-Haden, Greenmount, Greenwood, Headington Hill – St Peters Lutheran Churchyard, Highfields Baptist, Jondaryan, Kooroongarra, Meringandan, Millmerran, Nobby, Oakey, Pittsworth, Ravensbourne, Silverleigh, Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance, Western Creek Homestead, Yandilla All Saints Church, and Yarraman.

But your person may be buried or scattered somewhere else, for example on a private property in the Council area. Their stories are also welcome.

A story can be a family history, a full biography or just a short factual story about an event that occurred in the life of 'your' person or people. For more information on what is required regarding number of words, style of writing, photos, etc please contact Marianne Diggles on tddfhs452@gmail.com. Deadline for stories is 31 March 2024.

THANK YOU TO THE BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM SOCIETY

Many thanks to The Brisbane Tramway Museum Society, Tramway St, Ferny Grove www.brisbanetramwaymuseum.org for hosting so splendidly HQ's Six-Monthly General Meeting on Saturday 25 November, and for their hospitality on the day, including guided tours of their site. It was very interesting – and perhaps inspirational? – to see what a group of volunteers can do by way of restoring and maintaining aged and complex rolling-stock, and creating a site where that part of our history may be shared by the community. Thank you!

STATE LIBRARY'S PROPOSED WEBSITE FOR COLONIAL SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

For over 120 years, State Library has preserved the heritage and culture of our State and made it available to everyone. Among our treasured collections is the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence [Collection](#), specifically the microfilm copies of the original letters relating to Moreton Bay and Queensland from 1822 to 1860.

The correspondence served as the vital communication channel between the NSW Governor, government offices, and private settlers. The collection of 16,000 letters offers a profound insight into Queensland's colonial past. It includes correspondence from notable figures such as John Dunmore Lang, Commandants Miller, Logan, Clunie, Fyans, Cotton, Gravatt, and Gorman, and the Governors' secretaries, and official reports such as reports from Surveyor Generals Oxley and Mitchell. The collection includes official circulars, despatches, convict petitions, applications by early settlers, and land sales listings, and forms an invaluable historical treasure trove.

On behalf of the [Queensland Library Foundation](#) State Library is reaching out to the community seeking help in raising funds to propel this collection into the digital era by enabling the creation of an innovative and user-friendly website. The proposed website aims not only to unlock this wealth of historical information, but also to support researchers, people exploring their family history, First Nations language revitalisation, truth-telling, and curriculum requirements of teachers and students.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA - LEGAL DEPOSIT



Since the 19th century, the published works of Australia have been collected and kept for future generations. In this article, I want to highlight the National Library of Australia's most comprehensive method of collecting, legal deposit, as well as its history, and why it should matter to you.

As a member of History Queensland, you have almost certainly discovered the wealth of the National Library's collections through our reading rooms or through Trove, or have explored the collections of the State Library of Queensland. You may be less aware that legal deposit is the way in which the heart of these collections has been built.

Legal deposit, under the *Copyright Act*, provides for the creation of a living collection of all published books, newspapers, magazines, community newsletters, self-published works, government publications, maps, sheet music, and more, that have been made available to the public for free or for sale in Australia. It means that one copy of everything published electronically or in print is to be given to the National Library and to the library of the State or Territory in which it was published. Australia's publishers and authors have been active participants in building these collections.

Legal deposit ensures that local histories are preserved for generations to come and continue to be accessible to future researchers. From our earliest holdings of local historical publications, such as [The history of the Woodford Green United Free Church by R.L. Galey](#), published in association with the Woodford Historical Society in 1968, through to the most recent electronically deposited works

such as [Bingil Bay Botanist : The Story of Norm Byrnes & His Arboretum](#), published by Mission Beach Historical Society in 2023, the National Library ensures that these stories are not lost to time. As researchers you may have written or be writing a history or family story that you are considering publishing and making available beyond your immediate family in the form of a book. A work made available to the public for sale or for free, such as through your society library, is considered to be published. You can ensure your research will be preserved and kept accessible over time by depositing it with the national and State or Territory collection, helping to build and preserve Australia's published history.

You don't need to have an ISBN, and your work can be available in print or electronically. You can deposit electronic publications through the [National edeposit service \(NED\)](#) which is quick, easy, and free, and the preferred format of the National Library. If you are making your publication available to the public for free or for sale it should be given to the National Library and the State Library of Queensland through legal deposit.

Write yourself into history. We're looking forward to receiving and caring for your work. Find out more on our website [here](#).

Lynda Carmody, Project Officer, Legal Deposit Publisher Communications
02 6262 1111, legaldeposit@nla.gov.au, National Library of Australia

DATE CLAIMER – 21-24 MARCH 2025
CONNECTIONS PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE: 5TH HISTORY QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE
and 17TH AUSTRALASIAN CONGRESS ON GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY

Connections Past - Present – Future: 5th History Queensland Conference, which will be run in conjunction with the 17th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, is to be held in Brisbane on 21 – 24 March 2025.

- Two International Speakers (UK & USA) have been contracted to appear in person.
- The venue has been booked.
- The website is under development and will be launched in February 2024 with further details.
- Excitement is in the air.

For further information contact:

David Barnes, GSQ Conference Convenor, gsqconferenceconvenor@gsq.org.au

History Queensland will provide further details as they come to hand.



Christmas tree on cart,
Cribb Island, early 1900's.

Image from Nundah &
Districts Historical
Society Inc.

GUNNEDAH MUSEUM'S RELOCATION – IN A DISUSED WATER TOWER

Gunnedah's water tower was constructed in 1908 to serve the growing Gunnedah community and it remained in service until the late 1950s when it was replaced by a new steel reservoir erected nearby. The plan to convert the old water tower into a museum began in 1967 when the Gunnedah and District Historical Society was searching for a place to house its growing collection. The Historical Society had been formed in 1963. The society had launched a successful public appeal for financial assistance and with the proceeds set about the massive task of construction which started on Saturday 3 August 1968 when the tower was broken into to find out whether it could withstand the necessary structural alterations.

The Society's foundation president was part of the initial construction team that hacked away at the wall of the tower with a chisel and sledgehammer. He and two helpers chiselled through 10 inches of solid concrete reinforced with 1 inch steel bars spaced every three inches. When they eventually gained access, they found the tower was in excellent condition and the task of conversion could go on. The job of conversion and preparation of the three-storey museum inside the tower was a long one: the dream was finally realised on Saturday 3 May 1980 when the water tower museum was officially opened.

On 5 April 2019, artist Jenny McCracken was commissioned to paint one or more murals on the water tower. She chose two scenes from the Vietnam War to honour Australian soldiers who courageously participated in the action. Jenny completed the work in nineteen days. The mural on the left depicts soldiers from 7RAR paying their respect to fallen mates beside the Long Tan Cross. The mural on the right features a group of soldiers waiting to be picked up by a Huey helicopter.



Information adapted from an article in issue no 53, November 2023, of *'Missing Link,'* the Journal of the Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group Inc.

RED TAPE CUT FOR MORE THAN 20,000 QUEENSLAND CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

By way of reminder, this is an email that Valerie Thornton, HQ Secretary, sent to member societies on 29 October:

On 14 Sept. 2023, we forwarded to you information from the Office of Fair Trading about the cutting of red tape for Queensland organisations by simplifying the financial reporting requirements. For many of our small societies the requirement for official audits has changed and Office of Fair Trading only requires a verification signed by the society's executive.

Many not-for-profit associations will continue to have their financial records audited either by an external auditor or an honorary auditor, and that will be a decision for the members of the association.

It has been pointed out by one of our member groups that when applying for grants, there is often the requirement to attach audited financial statements to the application.

Member societies need to make their own decision on what form of audit/review they undertake. And if applying for grants it would be wise to double-check what form of financial statements need to be provided for the grants; this would need to be checked well in advance of any grant application. So, if for example, your society regularly applies for a grant from your local council, it would be worth having a chat to the Grants Team to find out the type of financial statements they will accept. The same would apply if your society applies for grants from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund or another funding organisation.

For further details click on this link: [Reporting requirements for charities and fundraising](#) .

NEW ACNC REQUIREMENT – REPORTING OF RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

This may be important for your society. If your society is a registered charity then you need to be aware that a new question has been included in the 2023 Annual Information Statement (AIS) which will require your charity to report related party transactions.

To help your charity meet this new reporting requirement, the Australian Charities & Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) has developed a free downloadable template in which to record the society's related party transactions so you have a record to refer to when completing your AIS.

More information about Related Party Transactions and a copy of the Template are available from the ACNC website and can be located by clicking on the following link:
[Related Party Transactions.](#)



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA – DIGITISING WORLD WAR II SERVICE RECORDS

(This item contains links to pages in the NAA website.)

NAA reported during the year that it had in its collection over 1 million records documenting the service of Australian men and women during World War II. These include service records for the Army, the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Australian Navy.

Over the last 4 years, as part of the large-scale World War II Digitisation Project, NAA had digitised the vast majority of World War II service records. These included:

- all Royal Australian Navy service cards from Service Cards for Navy Officers (series A6769) and Service Cards for Petty Officers and Men (series A6770)
- all Army service records from Citizen Military Forces personnel service records (series B884) and Second Australian Imperial Force personnel dossiers (series B883)
- all Royal Australian Air Force Officers personnel files (series A9300)
- a significant portion of Royal Australian Air Force Non-Commissioned Officers and other ranks personnel files (series A9301).

Thank you to the Peachester History Committee Inc for drawing this to our attention through their latest newsletter.

DAYBORO DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church – 125th Anniversary

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church was opened on 11 September 1898 on land donated by Rody Cruice. The builder was John Bond. The Brisbane Courier of 13 September 1898 records:

'the opening of a new Roman Catholic Church at Upper North Pine, about fourteen miles from the railway station. In spite of the wet weather, the opening ceremony was performed on Sunday morning by the Rev. Father Ryan and other priests. Mr. M. Battersby, M.L.A., the member for the district, was also present. A goodly number assembled from all parts of the district. The building is quite clear of debt, a consummation due chiefly to the amount subscribed at the opening. The building is of the best timber, and is about 30ft. long by about 20ft. wide, with a vestry at the back. The cost of the church was about £150. After the opening ceremony a most enjoyable dinner, provided by Mrs. Clune, was partaken of by those present.'

Bertram Sheehan Bond, son of the builder John Bond, was baptised on 16 October 1898, the first baby baptised in the new church. The church was extended in 1903. The early priests came from the Caboolture Parish. The church is still located on its original site.



NEW MEMBER – MOUNT BEPPO PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE INC

Mount Beppo is a rural locality in the Somerset Region. In the 2016 census Mount Beppo had a population of 216. A public hall was opened at Mount Beppo on 15 March 1930 by Henry Plantagenet Somerset, former Member of the Legislative Assembly for the district, with the then current Member, Ernest Grimstone, in attendance. The friends of the hall work towards its preservation: it has played an important role in the community for almost 100 years, being the venue for numerous family and community events, and an assembly place in times of peace, disaster and war. It is one of the last surviving buildings in what was once a thriving community. In its early years the Mt Beppo Hall group organised social events for the community; in the present day its focus is on preserving this significant building and its history. The hall is a community hall available for hire for weddings, parties or other gatherings; it is located at 916 Mt Beppo Rd, Toogoolawah; contact 0429 956 577, or mtbeppohall@gmail.com.



CLEMENT WRAGGE'S ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE 1902 DROUGHT

(This item has been adapted from <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/NAVhNzztFA8uOA>.)

Early in the 20th century, Queensland was experiencing a terrible drought and the government's meteorologist, Clement Wragge, believed he had a solution. He had researched the use throughout Europe of the Steiger Vortex gun to break up hail in clouds, preventing damage to crops. He surmised that the same technique could be employed to make rain fall on drought-stricken Queensland.

Six cannons were commissioned, and Wragge oversaw their installation at Charleville in mid-1902. A cloudy day was necessary to test the guns, so Wragge left the operating instruction with the Mayor, to be carried out when the conditions were right. The morning of 26 September 1902 proved sufficiently overcast to test the Steiger guns. They were fired at midday: ten quick shots from each of the six guns, directly into the clouds. A small shower of rain fell, suggesting that the guns had had some effect. That afternoon a second firing was tried, with no resultant rain. After this failure no further tests were conducted.

Wragge was interviewed a few days later by The Brisbane Courier. He blamed the failures of the experiment and the explosion on the townsfolk, arguing that the guns had been overcharged and his instructions had not been followed. *'They only fired ten shots, whereas they should have continued firing for ten minutes at the rate of two shots a minute from each gun.'*

Today, remnants of the Steiger Vortex guns can still be found in Queensland, including one in Charleville, a reminder of the question: If the experiment had been carried out following Wragge's instructions, would it have worked?

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

There are more than a thousand historical societies, family history groups, keeping places, and community heritage groups across Australia. The Federation's website (follow this link: [Federation of Australian Historical Societies](#)) includes an interactive map which captures some of these, with their contact details; it is also possible to search by group name or location.

It offers various modules of online training with links to papers and reports, on subjects including:

- Starting out – Orientation and how to start an historical society (including committee member responsibilities)
- Running a society – Organising your Society and planning for the future
- Managing the collection – Collecting, digitising and making collections available (including a guide presenting '*a simplified approach to making collections accessible digitally*')
- Publications – Guides for Australian Historical Societies and community heritage groups
- Bequests – Build a flyer to attract bequests to your Society
- Disaster planning and recovery – Resources to help protect your collections and reduce the risk of damage
- Local Government partnership – Maximising the value of local history through Council partnership.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

The Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition

The Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition recognizes the contribution of Joan Reese in the significant provision of access to NSW Colonial records and her support of GSQ and its members over many years. The winning stories appear in subsequent issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Generation*.

The topic for the Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition in 2024 is 'A short story from your family history research'.

We discover many interesting stories when researching our family history. These stories may relate to an individual ancestor, an event which impacted on our ancestors' lives or how we solved a mystery or overcome a brickwall. Share your story with the readers of *Generation*. What was its significance to your family and your research? This should be clearly explained.

The prize for the winning entry is \$200 and GSQ looks forward to reading your stories. See the GSQ website for the conditions of entry. www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/writing-competition.

Closing date for receipt of entries: 3 June 2024

Anyone requiring further information should address enquiries to Pauline Williams at info@gsq.org.au.





15 FEB
9:00 AM
AEST
In person @ GSQ
&
via ZOOM



Irish Mini Seminar with Ulster Historical Foundation



Program

- *Using landed estate records: tracing families in the 18th & 19th century.*
- *Using the Registry of Deeds: an important source for 18th century research.*
- *Newspapers as a source for Irish research.*
- *The Ulster Plantation and sources for finding 17th century families in Ireland (not just Ulster).*
- *All sessions will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.*

About the UHF

Ulster Historical Foundation has been helping people to trace their Irish and Ulster ancestors for 65+ years, and is one of the most experienced, long established and highly reputable organisations in Ireland in the field of Irish family history.

Staff from the Ulster Historical Foundation – Fintan Mullen and Gillian Hunt will present a seminar on Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy for beginners and active family historians.

Bookings & payment

Early Bird Price if booked by
11 December 2023:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$40

Non-members \$50

Price from 12 December 2023:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$50

Non-members \$60

Book online at: www.gsq.org.au/events/

Payment may be made by:

Credit card (online, by phoning GSQ)

07 3349 6072 or at GSQ

Cash (at GSQ)

Bank transfer (note details at time of
ordering) OR

Cheque by post: GSQ, PO Box 1467,
Carindale, QLD 4152

Genealogical Society
of Queensland



education@gsq.org.au
www.gsq.org.au/events



Saturday
20 January 2024
3 February
10 February
@ 1:00 PM AEST



Family History Fundamentals

An online course from the Genealogical Society of Queensland

About the course

Start your family history research on a solid foundation. Presenters are experienced GSQ researchers. All sessions to be recorded and available until 10 March.

What does it cost?

Earlybird rate until 30 December

GSQ/QFHS members \$70

Non-members \$85

After 30 December

GSQ/QFHS members \$80

Non-members \$95

Course program

Virtual event via Zoom

Payment

Earlybird until 30 December:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$70

Non-members \$85

After 30 December:

GSQ/QFHS members \$80

Non-members \$95

Book & pay online:

www.gsq.org.au/events/

- 20 Jan Where to start, basics of family history research. What is the research process; First basic records in Australia, UK & Ireland. Basic overseas records.
- 3 Feb Basic records in Australia & UK. Practicalities of research and recording the results. Q & A
- 10 Feb Finding aids, primary & secondary records; other sources of information ie newspapers, wills, connecting with others and online and physical resources; citations. Q & A.

+61 7 3349 6072
education@gsq.org.au



Genealogical Society
 Of Queensland

REDCLIFFE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC – WATCH THIS SPACE IN 2024!

Redcliffe Historical Society Inc. is in the early stages of planning a series of events to acknowledge the bicentennial in September 2024 of the first European settlement and penal colony in Redcliffe, Queensland. The Society and the Royal Historical Society of Qld and Bribie Island Historical Society are organising a Conference *The Moreton Bay Bicentennial Commemoration*, to be held on 7 September 2024 at The Komo Conference Centre, Redcliffe.

A series of smaller events will be held during the following week culminating in our Main Event in Corscadden Park, adjacent to the Redcliffe Museum, on Saturday 14 September 2024. 'Watch This Space' by logging into our website <https://historyredcliffe.com.au.2023-200>.



BLI BLI AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER BOARDWALK PROJECT

(This item has been adapted from <https://www.quassic.org.au/community-projects/project-three-ys3hm> .)

The Bli Bli boardwalk was a joint project between DASSI Inc and SSC Regional Council and cost \$475,000. Walkers can explore Bli Bli's significant Australian South Sea Islander history. Set along the old cane rail track in the stunning Maroochy River wetlands, the elevated boardwalk links to the significantly, culturally and spiritually leased land by the Descendants of the Australian South Sea Islanders Inc (DASSI). DASSI President Michael Fewquandie said Australian South Sea Islanders came to the area more than 150 years ago.

Mr Fewquandie thanked former Sunshine Coast Council Division 9 Councillor Steve Robinson for supporting the project. He said DASSI now hoped to work with the Council to create educational signage along the boardwalk.

Sunshine Coast Council Division 9 Councillor Maria Suarez said she was proud the design and location paid tribute to the region's South Sea Islander heritage. *'Since the late 1800s Australian South Sea Islanders have had a strong physical and spiritual connection to this land,'* she said. *'Council has worked closely with DASSI to bring this project to life and I would like to thank Steve Robinson for his work in this space. The boardwalk will provide an opportunity to learn more about the great contributions this community has made to the Sunshine Coast and for people to experience the precious wetlands.'* Cr Suarez said the project contributed to the region's aspiration of being Australia's most sustainable region – healthy, smart and creative.

The boardwalk is accessible from Whistler Street, Bli Bli, via the existing footpath between Whistler St and the Bli Bli Village shops on David Low Way. Bli Bli boardwalk fast facts:

- It is approximately 215 metres long.
- The boardwalk was built in full compliance with all required environmental protections and relevant State Government approvals.
- It was constructed out of fibre reinforced polymer, a composite material that will not rust or rot.
- The mesh decking is designed to allow 40 per cent of natural light to penetrate, allowing marine plants to continue to grow around and under the walkway.
- The opportunity for a public boardwalk in this location was identified by Sunshine Coast Council in close consultation with DASSI.
- The ecological and heritage aspects of the site created a unique setting to provide access and educational opportunities.

2023-2024 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President – Kay Ryan president@historyqueensland.org.au AFFHO HQ

Representative (Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS Inc)

Secretary – Valerie Thornton secretary@historyqueensland.org.au (Caloundra Family History Research Inc)

Treasurer – Fay Carbis treasurer@historyqueensland.org.au AFFHO Qld Representative (Gold Coast Family History Society Inc)

Insurance Liaison Officer – Helen Turner insurance@historyqueensland.org.au (Logan City Historical Museum Society Inc, Oral History Queensland Inc, phone 0412 708 401)

Facebook Admin – Ann Metcher secretary@historyqueensland.org.au (Gold Coast Family History Society Inc)

Newsletter Volunteer – Clive Porritt newsletter@historyqueensland.org.au (Nundah & Districts Historical Society Inc)

Committee members –

Kerry Beeton (Bribie Family History Association Inc)

Barry Lander (Laidley District Historical Society Inc)

Claire Rodwell (Genealogical Society of Queensland)

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE, INCLUDING FROM SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

Redcliffe Numismatic Society Inc



Keep an eye out for the historical new One Dollar coins with the new King Charles III effigy, which is due to hit circulation over the next month. These coins are reported to have a high mintage (about 11 million), but they will be an important addition to any Australian coin collection.



<http://www.rns.org.au/>



Redcliffe and District Family History Group Inc

‘Death of first Redcliffe butcher

Redcliffe: One of the first men to commence business in Redcliffe, Mr Roderick Barron, died yesterday at the age of 84. About 60 years ago he opened the first butcher’s shop in Redcliffe. Started in a small place built of bush timber and saplings, the business increased as the town developed, and later Mr Barron erected a shop on the corner of the Brisbane Road and John Street. Mr Barron, who was for many years a member of the Redcliffe Shire Council, retired from business in 1906, but retained his interest in the town, where he spent much of his time.’

[The Telegraph \(Brisbane\), 7 December 1945, p2](#)

Coopers Plains History Group



Members of the Coopers Plains History Group produce, preserve, and celebrate the histories that form the local identity of the Coopers Plains region.

The general history of Coopers Plains takes up a large part of the south-central area of the Brisbane metropolis. The early convict outstation & rural community was one of the first European settlements in the Moreton Bay province, along with Redcliffe, Edenglassie (the town of Brisbane as it became), and Nundah.

The Group gathers and archives historical information, photographs, maps and plans, and newspaper articles.

Peachester History Committee Inc

Beerwah Charity Sports 1971- 2023.

This iconic community event brought the Glasshouse Country district together, and raised a huge amount for Cancer Council Qld over almost 50 years. As reported in an earlier Gazette, after a break during the Covid years, it became necessary this year to call time. Many local families and community groups, including PHC members, were involved throughout the life of the Charity Sports, as Committee members, volunteers, sponsors and participants. For the Committee's October meeting they planned to have a display of photos and memorabilia, and to share memories of this significant piece of local history.



Sandgate and District Historical Society and Museum



US Researchers visited Sandgate recently in an attempt to unearth the secrets of the second Airacobra plane to crash at Bramble Bay in 1942. In a captivating quest to uncover the mysteries of the past, a team of researchers from the United States embarked on a remarkable journey to Australia, and specifically Sandgate's Bramble Bay, in search of information about two Airacobra plane crashes that occurred in the Bay in 1942.

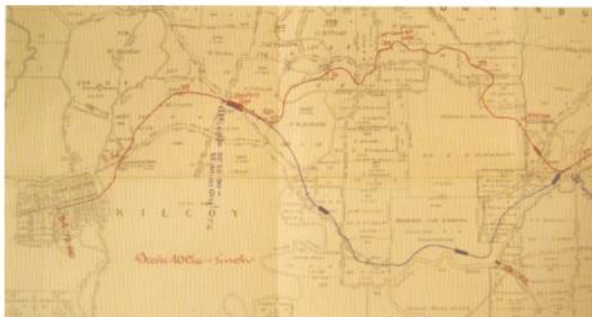
The ill-fated flights were part of a training exercise conducted by the United States military during the early stages of World War II. The crashes claimed the lives of a pilot and co-pilot, casting a sombre shadow on the already tumultuous period. It is believed that weather conditions and mechanical failure were factors which may have contributed to the tragic events.



An Airacobra similar to those that crashed

Kilcoy District Historical Society Inc

In December 1910 the QR Commissioner's report in relation to the proposed Woodford to Kilcoy extension was tabled in the State parliament. Construction was authorised shortly afterwards, on 22 December. Beyond Woodford were 29 bridges and several overbridges.



This map shows the original survey line in red; it was later altered to the blue line shown further to the south.

Caboolture Family History Research Group Inc



Caboolture Family History Research Group Inc moved to its present location at the Caboolture Historical Village in November 2010, exactly thirty years after its inception as the Caboolture Branch of the Genealogical Society of Queensland.

It was founded in November 1980 by half a dozen women at the home of Gloria McEwan and two of this original group have maintained continuous membership to this day. The Library and office lived in a blue suitcase for a number of years and was expanded to include four apple boxes of books. The Society survived at the homes of several members as well as the Caboolture State School and Caboolture Kindergarten,

then moving to the Old Fire Station in King Street, Caboolture in 1996 until relocating to its current home at The Caboolture Historical Village. This last move required in excess of two removal vans to move our fixtures and resources.

The aims and objectives of the Group are to assist and encourage members in their study of genealogy, heraldry, family and local history.

Caboolture Historical Village



Mon - Sun, 9am - 4pm*
280 Beerburum Rd, Caboolture 4510
(*Christmas closure: from 4pm Thursday 21 December to 9am Tuesday 2 January)

The Caboolture Historical Village occupies about 12 acres of land just north of the Caboolture town centre. The dream of preserving our local heritage started with the formation of the Caboolture Historical Society Inc. in 1957. The first building arrived 20 years later when the old Caboolture Shire Council Chambers was moved to the site. Since then, the Village has grown to be a popular destination for tourists and locals to explore local history.

It is listed as one of the top tourist destinations in the Moreton Bay Region by TripAdvisor. 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. There are virtual tours on the website:
Caboolture Historical Village .

Some highlights from member society reports to HQ's Six-monthly meeting, held on 25 November

Blackbutt District Tourism & Tourist Assoc

- Two Rail Signal poles donated back to the Assoc have been brilliantly restored and will be placed at Benarkin and Blackbutt rail heads.
- Council has given the Assoc extra land beside the Assoc's Nukku Siding. When funding is available the Jimna Storeroom will be purchased and relocated from Jimna Forestry (now HQ Plantations) to the site; it will be used to tell the area's unique timber stories and celebrate young local world Champion woodchoppers; local artist Janet Skinner is creating and donating special displays.

Bribie Family History Assoc Inc

- The Assoc has been incorporated for almost one year. It has 46 members.
- On 18 November it hosted two DNA workshops presented by Helen Smith, a DNA expert.
- The Assoc's Facebook page is used to promote activities and some of the events of organisations nearby.
- The Assoc is grateful to the Bribie Island RSL for free use of their Anzac Room for monthly meetings.

The Brisbane Tramway Museum Society

- Extension of the track to the Aqua Park is no longer an option. The Society is declaring an interest in re-development of the Mt Coot-tha quarry when it ceases operation with a view to relocating to the site.
- 2025 will be an important year for the Society: it will be the centenary of the amalgamation of a number of local municipalities to create the Brisbane City Council, and the year that the Brisbane City Council took control of the tramway system, and the year that Tram 231, the first of the Drop Centre class trams, was built. The Society has Tram 231 in one of its sheds and will be restoring it over the next year.
- The Society is hoping to engage a student intern from Griffith Uni to create a marketing plan for the museum's development.
- Development of the 1950's Streetscape – intended to give visitors a feel for Brisbane when trams were running – is ongoing.

Caloundra Family History Assoc

- Guest speakers since May included: Associate Professor Jon Prangnell, whose topic was 'Excavations at the Ayr Pioneer Sugar Mill', part of the UQ South Sea Islander Project; Judi Waller, a Bribie Island resident who published her first book aged 87, *'The Tales End'*; Moya Sharp, whose topic was 'Ripping yarns and tragic tales of the Western Australian goldfields'; Pauleen Cass, who spoke informatively about 'Copyright, privacy and ethics'; and John Blow, whose father survived the Sandakan Death March in Borneo.
- The Society's Training Officer, Trisha Hyde, has started a writing course, and also begun a project in which a number of members are writing an ancestor's 'war story'; the Society intends to compile the stories into a book, hopefully by Remembrance Day, 2024.
- In August, National Family History Month, the Society conducted a Convict Seminar. They hope to conduct a DNA Seminar next year.
- The Society has received a grant from the Council which will allow it to buy two new split-system air conditioners.

Capricorn Coast Historical Society

- Destinations for excursions have included the Crocodile Farm, Rockhampton Historical Centre, and Rockhampton Military Museum; under consideration for future excursions are the Salt Works, Joskeleigh South Sea Islander Museum, and Calliope Historical Centre.
- Cataloguing of framed photos, paintings and tapestry received over the years is almost finished and will include thumbnail photos linked to the catalogue making the collection more meaningful.
- The Society has over 900 maps of their area which are scanned and catalogued.

Central Qld Family History Assoc

- The Assoc has been working on indexing local school admission records published by State Archives. The indexing of Central Qld Anglican births, deaths and marriages has just been completed, and an MOU with Anglican Administration is pending.
- Grants were received this year for chairs for computer stations, an air conditioner in the kitchen, and a back-up system for the computer network. A previous grant funded the installation of solar panels, reducing electricity bills.

- A new digital catalogue system has been developed for the library.

Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group Inc

- The Group is 21 years old.
- Tingalpa Pioneers Chapel and Cemetery were first established in 1868, 155 years ago. The cemetery is one of the oldest Church cemetery grounds in Brisbane.
- The cemetery has ongoing connections with many pioneer families, local community groups, patrons, businesses and the Friends of Bisham Church (UK).
- The Group and Anglican Church SQ have recently agreed to another five years 'Licence to occupy' agreement allowing the Group to continue its role of maintaining the Chapel and grounds.

Genealogical Society of Qld Inc

- GSQ is convening a Family History Conference incorporating the 5th History Queensland Conference, 21-24 March 2025. A venue has been booked, keynote speakers arranged, and a platinum sponsor obtained. A website will 'go live' in February 2024.
- The Society used its new Hybrid system for its recent AGM and it resulted in far more attendees than have been obtained in face-to-face AGM's.
- The Hybrid system will be used when the Society hosts two members from the Ulster History Foundation on 15 February. Bookings are open to everybody: full details are on the GSQ website vis this link: [Genealogical Society of Qld](#) .

Genealogy Sunshine Coast

- The committee is revising the Strategic Plan to enable better focused planning and budgets.
- Opening hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm.
- On 17 February the Society will host a full one day Irish and Scots-Irish Family History seminar with Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Foundation, Ireland. They will share their knowledge of Irish research including new resources and methods not previously available.

Glasshouse History Group Inc

- Two displays were contributed to Beerwah Library's Museum Box this year: in May a display of cameras, the oldest a 1907 Kodak 'Brownie', and in October a display of mobile phones, the oldest a 1981 Telecom Field telephone. (A display in March 2024 will feature a series of hand-painted plates by a local artist depicting birds and animals of the Glasshouse Mountains.)
- Items featured in the Group's Facebook posts have included Landsborough Railway Station's WWII air raid shelter, Steve Ralph's Leviathan Coach Project (construction of a replica of the 75-passenger horse drawn coach which ran from 1860 to 1876), and the Scottish origins of Bankfoot House heritage-listed homestead.

Gold Coast Family History Society

- The Society rents part of the Council Bicentennial Building, but has been informed that the building and surrounding areas are to be re-developed into a Nerang Community Hub Precinct. It is possible that the Society will be required to vacate the building and rent alternative premises when the building is to be demolished.
- The Society delivered three Gold Coast library presentations during August Family History month, and also delivered talks to Probus groups and had an exhibition at Pimpama Sports Hub.

History Redcliffe

- 12 September 2024 will be the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the brig *Amity* just off Redcliffe. A series of events, starting on Saturday 7 September, is planned to acknowledge the presence of First Nations Peoples who inhabited the area, and to mark the significance of the arrival of the first European settlers to this part of the colony of NSW.
- A one-day conference at Redcliffe on 7 September is being planned by the Royal Historical Society of Qld in conjunction with History Redcliffe.
- Other events during the week will include two history walks, a breakfast function with a guest speaker on 12 September (the anniversary date), and a 'Picnic in the park' – the final event – on Saturday 14 September.
- Interested groups are welcome to participate: the contact point is Rae Frawley, secretary@historyredcliffe.com.au .

Innisfail & District Historical Society Inc

- The Society runs Innisfail's Local History Museum, which is kept open by volunteers for two hours daily from Monday to Saturday.
- The theme of the Society's display at the Innisfail Annual Show was '150 Years', commemorating 150 years of European settlement at Innisfail; the display featured artefacts and photographs.
- The Society recently produced a booklet, *'Johnstone River, The Junction, Geraldton, Innisfail: A timeline of history, 150 years of settlement.'* (Geraldton was the name of the town until 1910.)
- The Society's calendar for 2024 is entitled *'100 years of trains: last link connecting Brisbane to Cairns, Northern Queensland line.'*
- The Society obtained Community-Economic Development and RADF Quick Response grants from Cassowary Coast Regional Council which enabled one of its members, with other community groups, to organise this year's Tropical Art Deco Festival, held in September.

Ipswich Genealogical Society

- In place of a Christmas get-together this year, the Society will hold an event around Easter next year – Easter Bunny instead of Santa!

Laidley District Historical Society Inc

- The Society hosts tour groups of school children who are given practical demonstrations. The Society also hosts retirement-living groups who can share recollections and stories while enjoying morning tea or lunch.
- A team is busy accessioning and digitising exhibits and records to assist researchers.
- Gardening volunteers led by Katrina won second prize for the Society's gardens in the recent Laidley Spring Festival, and the float organised by Carl came first in class in the street parade.

Leyburn and District Historical Society Inc

- The Society helped facilitate the placing of a memorial to the now-discontinued 23 Squadron in Liberator Park, recognising the Squadron's contribution to covert wartime operations carried out from the secret Leyburn aerodrome.

- The Leyburn Heritage Trail continues to attract interest. A grant received a few years ago enabled the Society to erect plaques at historic landmarks enabling visitors to follow the Trail at their own speed.

Logan River Family History

- Two of our members are published authors. Marion Rosevear has written a young persons' book about Greenbank school, *'The Adventures of Jake Jones and Grandpa's Peculiar Time Machine: Back to Greenbank in 1883.'* Karen Rosser's family has lived at Mount Tamborine (called by locals 'The Mountain') for many years; she has published the first volume of a work about The Mountain, taking the story up to 1860, *'Wangalpong to Mount Tamborine, the Moreton Bay Story, Volume 1.'*

New Farm and Districts Historical Society

- The Society often has an attendance of 100 or more at meetings; having strong speakers on topics of local interest helps attract interest. The website, monthly e-newsletters, and the recording of meetings and making them available by uploading them to Vimeo all help inform and interest members.
- The Society conducts several guided history walks; subjects include The heart of New Farm, Streets less travelled, Fortitude Valley's hotels, and Woolloongabba's Princess Theatre.
- Historian Gerard Benjamin's has published another work, *'New Farm: 50 stories.'*
- The Society is working on how best to digitise and catalogue its resources to facilitate access.
- The Society's 30th birthday is in mid-2024.

Oral History Queensland

- In July, OHQ member Mary-Ellen Ryan gave a presentation on her Master's project about the Joh Bjelke-Petersen government's response to the AIDS crisis. (She rehearsed by giving the presentation by Zoom to a number of members, which gave her an opportunity to fine-tune her presentation.)
- OHQ gave grants to two members: Mary Surtees is interviewing women from the Old Girls Association at St Margaret's School, and Shaina Rother is interviewing members of the Jewish community at the Gold Coast. OHQ will offer two grants for members in 2024.

- Christopher Emzin, another OHQ member, invited Suzanne Mulligan to give a presentation at QUT's Winter School for post-graduate students to show the value of oral history for research purposes.

Peachester History Committee

- Members recently enjoyed an outing, a bus trip to Brisbane visiting the Masonic Memorial Centre (Grand Lodge) in Ann Street, and Miegunyah House Museum.
- Grants from Sunshine Coast Council have allowed the Committee to buy three new laptops and two dehumidifiers, obtain window tinting, and revitalise the 'Axemen in Competition' display.
- In 2005 the Committee initiated a project resulting in plaques being placed on a memorial wall to honour local servicemen who have been buried elsewhere. The Committee hosts a Remembrance Day service at the cemetery, but this year it was discovered that vandals had stolen 10 of the plaques. The alleged perpetrators have been identified and charged, and the Council has undertaken to assist with the cost of replacing the stolen plaques.

Queensland Family History Society Inc

- In 2022 the Society relocated to a new Brisbane City Council community facility. A competitive tender process for the premises was announced in August and may affect the Society's tenancy.
- The relocation last year led to discovery of donated family history research paper collections. As a result the Society is reviewing its Collection Development Policy, and the review will include considering the circumstances affecting whether family history papers can be accepted.
- QFHS is one of three Qld family history/genealogy societies hosting a lecture tour by members of the Ulster Historical Foundation in February 2024. The societies have devised complementary programs. (The other two societies involved are Genealogical Society of Qld Inc and Genealogy Sunshine Coast.) QFHS's website has the Society's program, and links to those of the other two societies: [Qld Family History Society Inc](#).
- The Society intends to replace its website, using WordPress, in the next 12-18 months. This will be a major project as the Society has more than 60 searchable databases containing nearly 15 million records, the

result of decades of volunteer effort, and continued access for members must be a major consideration.

Redcliffe Numismatic Society Inc

- The Society has about 20 members and meets monthly. Discussion revolves around new coin and banknote releases in Australia and elsewhere.
- Tender sales – usually involving about 100 items provided by members – are held thrice yearly.
- A monthly newsletter is produced and sent to members and other interested parties by email.

Redland Genealogical Society Inc

- Membership is now about 117 (seven more than in May). Since COVID, membership has increased by 25%. The Society has worked to attract new members by conducting displays in the community to raise awareness.
- The Society meets monthly in the Donald Simpson Centre, and staffs the Genie Room in the Cleveland Library three days per week.
- The Society uses History Qld's Zoom subscription – made available by HQ to its members – to present a monthly Zoom session to help members increase their knowledge of family history.

Smocking Guild of Queensland Inc

- There was a Quilt and Craft Fair over four days in October. The public showed considerable interest in the art of smocking. Money earned from the sale of items is used to buy fabric and accessories to make garments which are donated to parents of pre-term and non-surviving infants.
- New members are shown traditional stitches and how they are applied.
- The Guild's newsletter, '*The Cable*', is produced 11 times per year and is supplied to members and interested parties: it includes articles covering topics such as past smocking techniques, and traditional stitches to try.
- The Guild is in the process of digitising newsletters from the Guild's early years to make them available for members.

Toowong and District Historical Society Inc

- The Society has over 40 members.
- Stalls were held at local events in August and September.
- The Society assisted the West Toowong Bowls Club by researching the history of the former West Toowong Progress Assoc, which led to the establishment of the Bowls Club on the former Progress Assoc's property.
- The society also assisted the Bowls Club by providing a display about the Club's own history, with photographs, a PowerPoint display, and maps, at the West Toowong Bowls Club's Community Day in September.
- The Society was invited by the Toowong RSL Sub-branch to attend a ceremony to commemorate the provision of a headstone on the grave of Corporal William Piggott Darby at Toowong Cemetery on Remembrance Day. Corporal Darby is significant because in 1926 he was asked by Sir Bertram MacKenna (Melbourne-born sculptor and medallist, knighted in 1921, the first Australian artist to be knighted) to travel to Sydney to be the study for the bronze statue of a soldier on the cenotaph in Martin Place.

Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society Inc

- The Society continues to print and bind its publications, which sell well. Most recently the Society published '*An annotated transcription of the journal kept by Domville Taylor.*' It is available as a download, printed book, or digital file on a USB.
- To facilitate access to some of the Society's books, it is starting to scan some of them, for instance the many school books the Society has, and the folders relating to the particular school, which often include a history of people in the district. It is believed that researchers who are comfortable with computer-based research are more likely to access digitised resources.

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