



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Ernie Hills on being chosen as Toowoomba's Heritage Building Society Queenslanders of the Year in recognition of his long service to the Toowoomba Historical Society, the Railway Historical Society, the National Senior Citizens and the Anglican Church in Toowoomba.

Activities

Members of the Society met with Councillor Bill Cahill (Environmental & Community Services Portfolio) for about an hour on 8 May. He was briefed on Toowoomba's heritage precincts/conservation areas, the work of the (now-defunct) Heritage Advisory Group, and the desirability of including 'Heritage' in a specific Portfolio responsibility; he was also informed of the formation of the Cultural Heritage Network – Toowoomba Region.

Peter Cullen has conducted the May series of 'Tombstone Tours' (including a special tour for Bunkers Hill Primary School) and been guest speaker at the Fairholme College Gabfest and Senior Citizen's Group as well as his weekly ABC broadcast. Life Member Beris Broderick has conducted a guided tour for the Friends of Newstead House.

Some members attended a seminar, 'Networking in Action', organised

by the Cultural Heritage Network – Toowoomba Region on 24 May at Pittsworth Community & Technology Centre.

Newsletter

The new-look Newsletter has brought (mainly) positive comment. We welcome contributions to the 'Did you Know?' section but reserve the right to verify the facts before publication! Some have complained that the double-column layout requires scrolling up and down. This can be avoided by going to 'View' in the Toolbar, clicking on 'Page Display' and then 'Two Up' or 'Two Up Continuous' (preferably the latter); this will give you two complete pages on the one screen. You should also ensure you do not have 'Blocked Images' set on your computer or you will not be able to open the Newsletter.

Membership

The Society currently has two Life Members (Beris Broderick and Ernie Hills) and about 70 individual/family members. We welcome new members and urge current members to 'persuade' relatives, friends and acquaintances (and institutions or organizations) to join. Annual membership fees are \$20 (individual), \$25 (family), \$10 (students) and \$25 (institutional/corporate).

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FROM THE EDITOR

June Meeting

Monday, 16 June at 7.30pm our guest speaker will be Mrs Joanne Evans who will speak to us on the History of the Jondaryan Shire.

Forthcoming Activities

On **Sunday, 22 June at 10am** the Society is holding 'A Walk for Members' of the Newtown Heritage Area. Our leader will be Eleanor Cullen. The walk will start on the eastern side of Holberton Street opposite the Shelter structure at the eastern end of Newtown Park. We would like you to be there five minutes beforehand, so we can start on time. If you wish to participate, would you please let us know by telephone on **4638 7362** or email: history@icr.com.au Thank you.

Help – Information Wanted

Recently a member of our Society, Mrs Dorice Legge, requested information on the *Grand Royal Black Chapter of Ireland*. This certificate was given to her maternal great-grandfather, Thomas Stockman, after he has fulfilled the requirements of the Rules and Regulations of this Grand Chapter.

He was received and acknowledged as a true Black Knight of the RED CROSS DEGREE. It stated that 'The Grand Registrar has caused the Seal of his Office to be affixed this Seventh day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred & Eighty-Seven.'

(Signed) Grand Master

(Signed) Grand Registrar

Does anyone know when the Palila Clothing Company (10A Neil street) started operations (it closed in 1991) and who its owners were?

If you can help, please let us know by telephoning **(07) 4638 7362** or Email: history@icr.com.au

Carnival of Flowers stall

Approval was given by the TRC to our request for assistance in providing a shaded marquee area, tables, chairs and umbrellas in the vicinity of the Society's premises during the conduct of our Refreshment Stall in Carnival Week.

*Margaret McNally (Vice President/
Newsletter Editor)*

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Exhibitions

A new museum – The Main Roads Heritage Centre – was opened on 17 May; it is located at Mutze Street, Toowoomba – opposite the airport's terminal. Its brief is to create awareness of Main Roads Department's contribution to the rural, economic and social development of Queensland. The museum has three stages: firstly, there is a display of road-making machinery; secondly, there is a short video presentation outlining the History of the Main Roads Dept; and thirdly, there is a walk-through display of road-making techniques, culminating in preliminary work on the Toowoomba Bypass. It is opened Monday-Friday 10am-4pm but it is preferable to ring Deborah or Karen for appointment: (07) 4633 2506. Admission: free.

Management Committee

- I welcome Terry Flanagan to the Committee following his election at the meeting of 19 May.

- Owing to family commitments our Secretary, Pamela Temple, has had to resign as Secretary. At the next meeting (16 June) I will therefore call for nominations to fill the position of Secretary. Duties are not onerous: preparing agenda for monthly Committee meetings; taking minutes of monthly Committee meetings; recording inwards and outwards correspondence (letter and email); but a limited number of letters to write!!

Vale

It is with regret that the Society notes the passing of Mr Les Noll on 19 May 2008. Les was one of the first members to join the Historical Society and was very knowledgeable about the 'southern' side of Toowoomba – Middle Ridge, Kearney's Spring etc – and, of course, machinery. Our sympathies have been extended to his family.

Maurice French (President) **2**

Lights Out: An account of a crime of passion

By Ernie Hills

As the railway line was being extended westward, men of various nationalities who did not mind hard work were employed in the construction gangs, camping in tents and doing their own cooking and washing. By 1883 the line had been completed as far as Dulbydilla, between Amby and Mitchell, and there was a large rail camp there at the time of our story. One policeman, Constable Michael O'Sullivan (later Deputy Commissioner of Police) was stationed there to keep law and order.

Hng Kee had a bakery to provide fresh bread for the gang. Tim Tee was a part-Chinese and part-Portuguese, and he was trying to 'do a line' for the wife of navy at the camp. He was not having much success, and conceived the idea, quite unfounded, that Hing Kee was a rival in love-making. At last jealousy prevailed.

After work one afternoon Tim Tee went to the well drillers' camp nearby and took a single barrelled muzzle loading shotgun loaded with No.4 and No.10 shot. The No.4 shot was for kangaroos and other large game, the No.10 for pigeons, ducks, quail and small animals.

Tim Tee approached the bakery, and as Hing Ke emerged carrying a bucket of yeast, he fired, and the poor baker fell wounded to the ground. Hearing the shot, Constable O'Sullivan joined the group gathered around him, and made him as comfortable as possible. He immediately placed Tim Tee under arrest.

There was a train to Roma that evening, and Constable O'Sullivan had Hing Kee placed in the carriage along with a handcuffed Tim Tee. The train set off, and five minutes before it reached

[After reading the book The Roma Triangle which was donated to our library, Ernie Hills recalled a story written in Cameos of Crime (O'Sullivan: 1935) which gave a good account of a crime committed out from Roma. – Ed]

Mitchell Hing Kee died. As his soul left his body, all the kerosene lights in the carriage and guard's van went out.

On arrival at Roma, Hing Kee's body was removed to the Government Medical Officer's rooms for an autopsy, at which Constable O'Sullivan had to be present. The doctor removed fifteen shotgun pellets from the body, and all of them were No.4 and No.10 shot. This was conclusive evidence of the cause of death.

Constable O'Sullivan returned to Dulbydilla by train the next day, and on arrival at Mitchell he had the station master remove the lamps from his safe. A match was applied to the wick of the first one and it lit immediately. All the lamps lit likewise, and on arrival at Dulybdilla they were all alight.

At the inquest on Hing Kee in Roma, the coroner had no hesitation in upholding a charge of murder on Tim Tee and he was committed for trial in Brisbane. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

On the eve of his execution, Tim Tee was asked whether he had any last wish, and he requested the company of a woman in his cell for the night.

We may well echo the presiding judge's words after sentencing, 'May the Lord have mercy on your soul.' We may hope that Hing Kee's gods were merciful to him.

REFERENCE: O'Sullivan, M (Michael), Cameos of Crime, Jackson & O'Sullivan, Sydney, 1935

Volunteers Wanted

The Management Committee invites members to participate actively in the affairs of the Society by volunteering in several areas:

- Rostered attendance at the Society's Rooms for a half-day a week (or alternate weeks) to deal with queries from the public etc
- Assisting in the clipping of the newspapers and updating our clippings files to facilitate research
- Conducting research in response to queries from members and the public

- Writing reviews of books (on Toowoomba, Darling Downs or Queensland history) or on new museum displays/exhibitions for inclusion in our Newsletter (about 200 words)
- Contributing short articles (about 250-300 words) for publication in the Newsletter.
- A person with some knowledge of library cataloguing is needed to process new acquisitions to our Library – perhaps 1-2 hours a week or fortnight would suffice
- Anyone with ability to design and develop a website.

History of Cambooya Shire outlined

The Guest Speaker for our May General Meeting was Mr John Savage from Cambooya, who for nineteen years was a Councillor of the Cambooya Shire, four of them as Mayor (2000-04).

Mr Savage spoke on the origins of the Cambooya Shire by taking us on a journey from the early days of the 1840s, when a substantial part of it belonged to the Eton Vale run, to the recent past.

Mr Savage mentioned the squatters of Hodgson and Elliott, originally partners in Eton Vale, the storekeeper Thomas Alford who settled at Cambooya initially in 1842 then to The Springs (Drayton), which was located on the boundaries of Eton Vale, Gowrie and Westbrook runs and some of the workers at Eton Vale, who were farmers, wheelwrights and saddlers. One such employee was Edward Luck, one of two overseers of Eton Vale. Ted Luck was a cattle and farming overseer who, like many of the workers employed there, came from an English village near where Arthur Hodgson lived. Mr Luck kept an Accounts Diary to which Mr Savage referred; for example, 1879 Ted Luck's Gun A/c recorded shot, powder, caps and cartridge loader. Scalps sold for £40.4.6d, costs £22.14.4d with a profit of £17.10.2d.

In the early periods of the squatter runs access to Moreton Bay was difficult, the bullock teams carrying wool and other goods found the slopes of the Main Range dangerous in both ascending and descending, and efforts were made to find more suitable routes. It was not until 1854 that the Toll Bar route at The Swamp provided a more suitable access to Moreton Bay; the other routes which were superseded were Cunningham's Gap, Gorman's Gap and Hodgson's Gap.

It was fortuitous when the rail line was extended south from Toowoomba to Cambooya and Clifton in 1868; it gave better access to goods being railed in either direction of Ipswich. Also in 1868 land was resumed from the Eton Vale, Clifton and Westbrook runs for homestead selections as result of The Land Act of 1868 which enabled land to be acquired with little capital for mixed pastoral and agricultural farming.

In 1874 the government acted to resume pastoral leaseholds; substantial acreage was resumed from Eton Vale. This process enabled settlers to move to areas now known as Ramsay and Emu Creek (East

Greenmount), as well as nearby areas. Mr Savage's great-grandfather was a selector in the Ramsay area, taking up land in the 1880s.

The Savage family served local government over four generations from the time of the Clifton Divisional Board, which was the administration instrument of the Clifton Division, to the recent past of the Cambooya Shire Council.

In 1879 the Divisional Boards Act of 1879 was passed which allowed for areas outside municipalities a form of local government. The area which eventually became the Cambooya Shire was incorporated then into the Clifton Divisional Board in December, 1879 with selectors from the Emu Creek, Greenmount areas which had formed part of Eton Vale run.

However in 1902, another Act was passed, The Local Authorities Act of 1902, which brought about the term Shire for rural authorities. This year coincided with the death of Sir Arthur Hodgson, the longest living owner of Eton Vale. His property was subsequently sold for sub-division, enabling more people to take up land on the original run.

Mr Savage concluded that the homestead block of Eton Vale passed into Christian Barth's hands in 1908 and on to Mrs Savage (Rowbotham) in 1928 and is still in their hands today.

Division 1 of the Clifton Divisional Board had agitated for a number of years to have a separate entity for it held a belief that their area was neglected by the Clifton administration.

Summary of Address by Margaret McNally

Recent Donations

- Graham Richardson of Lower Templestowe, Victoria has donated a 'mint' copy of *Toowoomba* (a Toowoomba Tourist Bureau Guide 1937) to the Society. It contains information on scenic tours and advertisements for guest houses and hotels.
- Alex Stewart has donated a three-foot wooden ruler inscribed 'H F Kleimeyer Quality Furniture Toowoomba' to the Society. It was used by his late wife's father, a plumber. It will be a companion to a similar ruler already held.

Book Review

On *the Banks of the Barcoo* by Peter and Sheila Forrest is a recent addition to our Library. This History of the Isisford District of Western Queensland was published this year by the Isisford Shire Council to mark the Council's Centenary. It also marks the end of the Shire as a separate entity as it is now amalgamated with Longreach.

The history is traced from the geological foundations of the area to the present, noting the impacts of the Aborigines, explorers, squatters and others who came to the district.

Timelines that are included at the end of most chapters are an interesting and effective way to summarise particular aspects of the story.

In addition to the explorers Mitchell and Kennedy, there is mention of Augustus Gregory who passed through on his search for Leichhardt and William Landsborough who came in search of Burke and Wills.

There are Downs connections in the pastoral interests of James Taylor and his son-in-law Gilbert Gostwick Cory and the ownership of Ruthven

Station by John Stevenson who lived for a time in 'Fernberg', now Queensland's Government House.

There is a link here too for, in her introduction, Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce recalls as a child seeing wool from Ruthven Station coming to the wool scour at Ilfracombe which was managed by her father.

There are many such reminiscences in this book which is greatly enhanced by the personal anecdotes of a number of residents.

It is most attractively presented and well illustrated with photographs, diagrams and maps, many in colour. There are details of the many social organizations associated with the towns including

lists of office bearers of the main community groups, honour rolls and school rolls complete with the names and occupations of the parents.

This is a valuable reference source and we are grateful to Mr R.H. Rennick of Cheepie for his generous donation.

By Peter Cullen

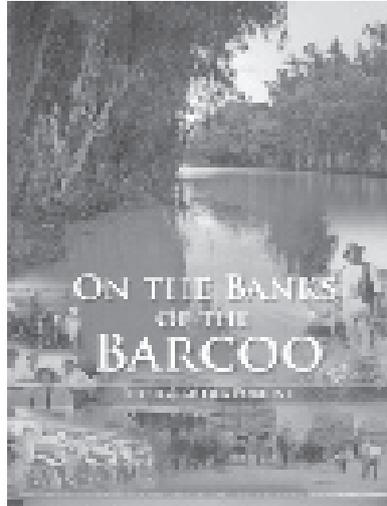
NEW BOOKS

Toowoomba's Heritage Treasures 2008, published by the Toowoomba Regional Council, was launched at Platform 9 on Mother's Day. Inspired by former TCC Councillor Sue Englart and compiled with assistance of members of the public, editorial material was contributed by Society members Eleanor and Peter Cullen. Copies of the booklet are available (free) from the Society's Rooms; any member not able to collect a copy should contact the Society to request a copy by post.

Barry Donnelly has donated a copy of his latest book to us: *Go Your Hardest: The Story of G J Stanley – the Moongool Cattle Duffer*.

The *Story of the Swamp: a children's history of Toowoomba* was launched at the City Library on 5 June 2008. Written by Jane Smith (Martin Luther Primary School) and edited by Jayne Fitzpatrick (Special Collections Librarian, Toowoomba City Library) from material supplied by Society member Peter Cullen, it is intended as a classroom text. RRP \$6.

Not exactly a book but *The Chronicle* published its special feature *Toowoomba and Surrounds: aerial views* during May; it should prove both a collector's item and a valuable future research tool.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS UPDATE

Monday, 21 July 2008 at 1.30pm: Mrs Joan Webster will speak on the *History of The Helidon Spa Water and Park*; there will also be a bottle display.

Monday, 18 August 2008 at 7.30pm: Grant Uebergang is the Guest Speaker and his address is on the *History of the Millmerran Shire*.

Monday, 15 September 2008 at 7.30pm: Ross Stirling is the Guest Speaker and his address will be on the *History of the Pittsworth Shire*.

Friday, 19 to 27 September 2008: *Carnival of Flowers Refreshment Stall* on Society's site.

Monday, 20 October at 7.30pm: Mrs Leona Murphy will speak on the *History of the Clifton Shire*.

Monday, 17 November at 7.30pm: Maurice French on the *History of Toowoomba City Council*.

Monday, 1 December 2008: AGM.

Friday, 12 December 2008 at 4pm: Closure of Society's facilities for one month.

DID YOU KNOW?

- That the Society holds (on microfiche) the Queensland Hotels and Publicans Index 1843-1900?
- That there have been two pubs at the corner of James and Ruthven Streets? They were: the 'Rising Sun' from 1866 to 1878 when the licence was transferred to the 'Gowrie Road'; and the 'Rose Shamrock and Thistle' from 1865 to 1867 when it was renamed 'Free Selectors' and, later still, the 'Oriental'. (It is now the Settlers' Inn.)
- Leichney Street was named after George Alexander Leichney and Duncraggan Street after his home at 112 Perth Street? British-born Leichney (died 1941) initially sailed around the world as a 2nd mate on windjammers before settling in Toowoomba about 1901; he worked as Secretary to the Royal Agricultural Society, Gun Club and Turf Club and was an expert chess player. He also filled a casual vacancy on the City Council in the mid-1920s.
- That the numbering of houses and businesses in Toowoomba's streets began in 1930-1931? Before that many houses were identified by names.
- That the Eldorado Clothing Company, which manufactured military uniforms at 58 Russell Street (upstairs) from 1944 to 1946, moved to 170 Herries Street in 1947?

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

LONGVIEW 1950: This house was initially built by Charles Cocks in the mid-1860s near his flour mill in Ruthven Street (near the Foundry). It was relocated to North Street (Tick Hill or Mt Lofty) in 1908-1909 and renamed Longview; it was painted in bright colours and had lots of stained glass. Following his death in June 1916, it became the residence of his reclusive daughter Eleanor Sophia (Polly) Cocks. A year before Polly's death in July 1956, with the house greatly deteriorated, subject to vandalism and regarded by local children as the 'haunted house', the City Council ordered its demolition to make way for the Mt Lofty reservoir and park land. This photo was taken by Fred Crook King.

The 'Haunted House'

