



Management Committee

President: Paul Meyers
Secretary: Leigh Chamberlain
Minutes Secretary:
Jeanette Lippiatt (ex-officio)
Treasurer: Roger Harding
Committee members:
Bruce Sinclair
Denis Maher
Ruth Sapsford (ex-officio)
Guest Speaker Programme:
Bruce Sinclair
Editor of Call of the Koel:
Leigh Chamberlain
Processing Committee:
Judith Marks; Elaine Machin;
Leigh Chamberlain; Paul
Meyers; Ruth Sapsford

Web Master: Cathie Sherwood

MEETING TIMES

Monthly meetings featuring a guest speaker are held each month on the 4th Friday

Where: In the meeting room at the Toowong BCC Library located on the third floor of Toowong Village

Time: commencing at 9.30am till 11.30am.

Morning tea to follow.

CONTACT DETAILS:
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From the President...

The Toowong and District Historical Society (TDHS) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, 23rd August. As member support is vital to ensure that the TDHS continues to have a future, I urge all members who are able to do so to attend.

TDHS's 10th birthday!

The Society formed as a result of the interest in Toowong's history that was generated by the Toowong Festival, held in 2003. The Society will celebrate its 10th birthday at the AGM! Guest speaker Judy Magub will cut the cake on behalf of the Society.

Come along and help celebrate!

Book launch

Deb Drummond's book, *The Cocks Family Tree*, was launched by our society on 4th May at the Toowong BCC Library. The book includes the story of Mrs Cocks Tree, the heritage-listed tree planted by Mrs Mary Anne Cocks, in Sherwood Road, ca. 1909. The book also tells the stories of the Cocks family, and that of Mary Anne's parents, the Winterfords, of the Regatta Hotel.

Former Toowong Ward councillor Judy Magub launched the book. Some members of the Cocks family travelled from as far as western Queensland and New South Wales to attend, and our members enjoyed meeting these family members.

The table fashioned by local wood turner Chris Andrews from wood collected from the tree after it was cut down and presented to the Toowong Library is now positioned in the front corner of the library.



Author Deb Drummond speaking at the launch of her book *The Cocks Family Tree*.

The Society has since reprinted *The Cocks Family Tree*, and copies will be available at the Society's AGM. Please contact the secretary if you wish to obtain a copy. (See contact details in column to left.)

Mt Coot-tha Volunteer Awards

In May, Jeanette Lippiatt and I represented the TDHS at the Mt Coot-tha Volunteer Awards presentation and morning tea hosted by the Member for Mt Coot-tha, Saxon Rice, at the Red Hill Sports Club. Society member Leigh Chamberlain received an award in appreciation for her efforts on behalf of the Society. The function was attended by Award recipients and their guests from about 33 community organizations.

Web Page



Saxon Rice MP (left); Leigh Chamberlain (centre); and Hon. Tracy Davis, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services who presented the Awards to recipients.

New member Cathie Sherwood has been appointed as Webmaster, and she is busily revamping the Society's webpage.

Read the first article posted: 'The Ferris Family of 102-104 Sylvan Road' at www.toowonghistory.org.au

We invite you to follow our progress as articles are progressively added to the webpage.

Welcome to Ruth!

Earlier in the year, when treasurer Roger Harding sought leave of absence due to illness, Ruth Sapsford agreed to serve on the management committee during Roger's absence. Thank you to Ruth for this assistance which was most appreciated.

Toowong Festival

How time flies! It has been 10 years since Toowong enjoyed the excitement of the Toowong Festival. This was held to celebrate the centenary of the proclamation of Toowong as a town on 19 August 1903.

The Toowong Festival was co-ordinated by Judy Magub, former Councillor for Toowong Ward in 2003. The events started on Thurs 14 Aug and continued through to the end of the month. Events included an official launch, historic tours and walks, displays and exhibitions, musical events, church services, talks, open days, time capsules, parties.

TOOWONG CENTENARY

*It's just one hundred years now,
Since Toowong became a town,
With two hotels established there,
And the mill creating sound.*

*The local State School on the hill
Catered for the young
Of the families of the district
And had its praises sung.*

*The 'ladies of the night' were there,
Ever present on the street,
Just looking for a client
From whoever they did meet.*

*If you wished to go to Brisbane town,
The railway was the best.
This was a pleasant journey,
Patronised by the well dressed.*

*But it's now one hundred years on,
And many changes there have been
To the suburb of Toowong,
Creating many a new scene.*

*So, if you have not been there
We'll welcome you with open arms
And show to you our suburb
With many of its charms.*

Paul Meyers, August 2003

Being declared a 'Toowong' was a logical outcome of the passage of The Local Authorities Act 1902 through state parliament on 1 April 1903. The Act was very significant as it consolidated and extended all preceding legislation dealing with local government powers to create a comprehensive administrative system. Under its provisions existing shires and municipalities could become towns, and thus these elected members could then be addressed as Aldermen.

Provisions became operable after 31 March 1903, but the Toowong Shire Council did not take action until its meeting on 31 April 1903 when the councillors resolved to initiate procedures to have Toowong proclaimed as a town. The Queensland Government's response was slow, but on 20 August 1903 Toowong was finally declared a town under the Local Authorities Act. The election notice was posted the next day. However, there were no other nominations received by the Returning Officer Mr W. Edmund Irving other than from those who had served on the former shire council. This meant that as no election needed to be held. The Toowong voters were spared the necessity of attending a polling booth, and Mr W. Edmund Irving declared the nominated names as duly elected.

The story of the Toowong Shire and Town Council has been written by TDHS member Melva Welch OAM. Titled *Cradle to Grave-Toowong Council* this informative publication was launched on 4 February 2013, and commemorated 110 years since the event happened. The book is a vital source to those interested in family and local community history of the Toowong area. As well as fascinating snippets about local government 1880-1925, the book includes cameo biographies of all those who served in the local government during this period.

If you wish to purchase a copy of *Cradle to Grave-Toowong Council*, please contact the Secretary. Copies can also be purchased at the monthly meetings.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

August 23	Members' Day:	AGM, followed by various presentations
September 27	To be announced	<i>Fort Lytton</i>
October 25	Kaye Nardella	Research resources held by The Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying
November 22	Linda Bracken	<i>Louis Stamm & Honora Coonan and Related Indooroopilly Historic Families</i>

The November meeting is also the Christmas break-up party for the TDHS

Planning for 2014

Bruce Sinclair, co-ordinator of the Guest Speaker Programme, will be booking speakers for next year from late September.

Members are invited to submit their area of interests.

If you know of someone who would be interested in giving a talk for 2014, please let either Bruce or the management committee know.

(Please refer to the TDHS's contact details on the front page.)

REPORT—GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAMME

The guest speakers who have visited our meetings this year have presented talks from a wide variety of subjects, and have been of an exceptional quality. Our members have been treated to talks which have been of great interest. Thank you to our guest speakers for generously sharing their expertise with our members. Following is a synopsis of the presentations:

22nd March: Stephen Sheaff:

National Trust of Queensland (NTQ), ‘Heritage Buildings of SE Queensland’:

Firstly, Stephen briefly explained the purpose and objectives of the Trust, and then he gave a brief overview of equivalent Trust operations operating elsewhere in Britain and in Victoria.

He next outlined the story of various NTQ-held properties in North Queensland, such as the former Catholic convent now known as The James Cook Museum in Cooktown, and The

Joss House in Atherton. He explained that there were other Trust-owned properties in Townsville, Mt Isa and Maryborough, noted the historical significance of Charters Towers.

Stephen finished his presentation with accounts of properties in S.E. Qld such as that of Land Commissioner Stephen Simpson’s former residence Wolston House; the Royal Bulls Head Inn, Drayton; and finally the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, which was gifted to the Trust by former owner Alan Griffith.



Mallalieu House, now located at Rathdowney

26th April: Professor Peter Roennfeldt:

Conservatorium of Music, ‘Whatever happened to Mallalieu House?’:

Prof. Roennfeldt’s interest in this building, located at 45 Brisbane Street, Toowong revolved around those elements of social history which were represented in it. From ca. 1902 the house, then known as ‘Rubato’, was owned by renowned Brisbane musician Mrs Henrietta Mallalieu, who had the house built.

After her death, her daughter, Beatrice, lived here until 1955, when the house was given to the QCWA as a bequest. The house was renamed as Mallalieu House, converted into a hostel for female music students attending the Conservatorium of Music, and opened in 1958 as a hostel.

Later, it became a hostel for university students of both sexes, particularly those who attended The University of Queensland.

After a lengthy period of operation the hostel closed. When the building was sold for removal, Faye and Peter Johnstone purchased it and relocated it to Rathdowney.

Faye, who attended the meeting with her husband Peter, showed photos documenting the house’s removal to Rathdowney and its subsequent restoration to its former glory.

Mallalieu House is now the Johnstone family home.



Professor Peter Roennfeldt, Conservatorium of Music

24th May: Gregory Cope, the Director, Queensland State Office, National Archives of Australia:

‘The Collection of the National Archives of Australia’:

Among the records Greg showed were those specific to the Toowong area, such as files on Toowong’s Chinese market gardeners, and the symbol registered by Ada Mary Laugher to claim copyright on her photographs.

Most fascinating is that many of the files on our Chinese market gardeners had accompanying photographs.

A selection of documents and maps pertaining to WWI was also shown.

28th June: John Enderry, The Queensland Maritime Museum: ‘The Story of the Qld Maritime Museum’:

John explained that the Queensland Maritime Museum was founded in 1971 and is run by a self-funded voluntary association.

Today, it is housed in the building previously used by Expo’s

‘Pavilion of Promise’, and is situated on the banks of the Brisbane River at the southern end of the South Bank Parklands.

The Museum includes a two-level exhibition building presenting historic sailing ship models together with merchant shipping from early cargo ships to modern container ships, tankers and cruise liners. It contains extensive collections of historical maritime artifacts, books, documents and photographs.

John traced the story of how the museum came to be established, and discussed various ships it held, such as the 121 feet (37m) steam tug *Forceful*, the only remaining working coal-fired steam tug in Queensland, and the *Diamantina*.

Also discussed was the story of the South Brisbane Dry Dock from when it was first proposed and opened in 1881 until it closed in 1972. In 1981, the caisson failed and the dock flooded, lifting *Diamantina* clear of its keel blocks. The Queensland Government undertook a project to replace the caisson with a river wall in July 2005.



TDHS member Ruth Sapsford (left) listens to John Enderry’s presentation on the Queensland Maritime Museum.

Centre: Bruce Sinclair presents a TDHS publication to John Enderry.

Far right: Members Elaine Machim and Keith Randall listen to Dianna Parker’s talk on St Paul’s Presbyterian Church

26 July: Diana Parker: Archivist St Pauls’ Presbyterian Church: Celebrating 150 years:

Diana told the story of efforts to establish Protestantism in Queensland ca. 1848 through the vehicles of the Baptist, Congregational and Presbyterian religions. Central to this theme was the arrival of Dr John Dunmore Lang’s three immigrant ships, ‘The Fortitude’, ‘Chaseley’ and ‘Lima’, and his vision to provide Christian witness for those Protestants living in the colony through an United Evangelical Church (UEC).

Lang encouraged the thought that these denominations might meet on common ground without attempting to form rival communities for each—a practical response to the fact that the small size of Brisbane’s population precluded viability for separate congregations.

Diana outlined the story of how each denomination eventually peeled off from the foundation church to form its own congregation. The church was originally sited in William Street, but later moved to its present site in St Pauls Terrace. She concluded with biographies of the successive ministers of St Paul’s Church.



Left: Bruce Sinclair makes a presentation to Dianna Parker.

Right: Julia Bigge examines a book from those on display available for sale from the Baptist and Presbyterian Archives.





Research Inquiries

The management committee has been very busy with various requests for assistance received by our society. Many people are researching their family history and seeking to reconnect with the community in which their family had lived.

At the July meeting I showed the members a photograph sent to me by the Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc. who had asked for help with identifying the location at which the photo to the left was taken.

It is believed to be taken at Yungaba, the Immigration Centre at Kangaroo Point on the Brisbane River. It was given to the Chermside & Districts secretary Pat O'Shea by his friend, Ken, who walks the bike tracks in the Chermside parks. In the Chermside & Districts Historical Society July newsletter Pat reports:

Ken asked to try and find where it was taken and if it could be kept by a history society for posterity. It is an excellent photo of 119 soldiers and nurses all lined up military fashion and still looking at the photographer after a hundred years. The word 'Toowong' was written in pen and ink in the bottom right corner beneath the photo. So I turned to the Towong History Society and the Secretary, Leigh Chamberlain, but there was no record of a military hospital at Toowong in the Great War.

Leigh thought it might be 'Yungaba', but could not be certain so she put me in touch with Claire Wilson from the Centenary Suburbs Historical Society who agreed with Leigh and provided me with an excellent photo of Yungaba taken in 1950. There is hardly any background to the portrait photo, but there was enough to compare the structural details on Ken's photo with those on the Yungaba photo to identify the original location of Ken's photo.

Ken told me that his grandmother had been a nurse during the First World War and had worked in military hospitals. If you look carefully at the left side (bottom) you will see an X on the nurse second from the extreme left. That is Ken's grandmother, Molly, when she would have been in her early twenties.

Molly went on to marry one of her patients and have Ken's mother, but her husband, who had been gassed, died. She remarried, had two more children, continued nursing and became a hospital matron. Molly outlived her second husband and died at 96 in 1991.

Pat O'Shea.

It has been a great pleasure to assist Pat O'Shea and his friend, Ken, with this inquiry. I would like to also acknowledge the input of Dianna and Don Hacker and Murray Spinaze of the Queensland Women's Historical Association (QWHA). When approached by me for assistance they initially suggested the location as being Yungaba, and I passed this suggestion on to Pat O'Shea.

The QWHA team conducted further research and independently reached the same conclusion as Claire Wilson—the location of the photograph was indeed that of Yungaba! Pat O'Shea has subsequently arranged for a copy of the photograph to be given to the Queensland Women's Historical Association.

It has not been possible to explain the reason the word 'Toowong' was included on the margin to the side of the photograph. Perhaps Ken's mother lived in Toowong at the time?

Leigh Chamberlain

Can you help?

The Brisbane City Council's Graffiti prevention program has advised that it has decided to paint a community mural on the wall on Milton Rd (opposite the old tennis centre).

The mural will reflect the community story, its history and aspirations. Well-respected Brisbane artists will be painting the mural. Project officers have requested a meeting with the TDHS and its members to obtain necessary supporting historical resources.

If you would like to assist with this project, please let the secretary know.

TDHS NEWS

Queensland Plan

In July, the management committee meet with Andrew Bennison, a representative from the panel appointed to work with the community to explain the purpose and themes of the Queensland Plan.

Following this, Saxon Rice MP held a community forum at the Ithaca Creek State School on Sunday 04 August. Geoff Garrett (Queensland's Chief Scientist and former CEO of CSIRO) was the guest speaker. Bruce Sinclair attended as the delegate of the TDHS.

Bruce reports that after Geoff Garrett's address, the forum formed discussion groups to consider 3 or 4 of the six questions that flowed from the Mackay summit. (These questions were explained to the members at the July Members' Meeting, and the TDHS has an information package which was handed around that meeting.) Outcomes of these discussion were then collected to be included in part of the Mt Coot-tha feedback.

Congratulations Ray White, Toowong!

Our management committee has been working with Dolor and Jenny from Ray White, Toowong to prepare a presentation of historic photos of Toowong to be screened at the Gala Opening of Ray White's new Toowong premises in Sherwood Road on 22nd August. Ray White Toowong is also celebrating their 45th birthday of opening their first premises in Toowong.

In appreciation of this assistance our society has received a copy of *Ray White His Name His Values*, an account of Ray White's life and the story of how the business Ray White established in Crows Nest has grown into the international enterprise it is today. This publication has been added to the TDHS collection which is housed at Josling Street.

Our Society wishes Ray White Toowong all the best for their gala night.

BCC International Students Project

Paul Meyers, Bruce Sinclair, and Leigh Chamberlain have joined a community working group formed by the BCC's Brisbane Lifestyle Division to explore ways to assist international students to interact with the local community. They have attended a series of meetings with Brisbane City Council project officers, and one idea accepted was to hold an intercultural festival on Saturday 12th October. There are other ideas yet to be further explored, and further weekly meetings are scheduled. More details will be announced.

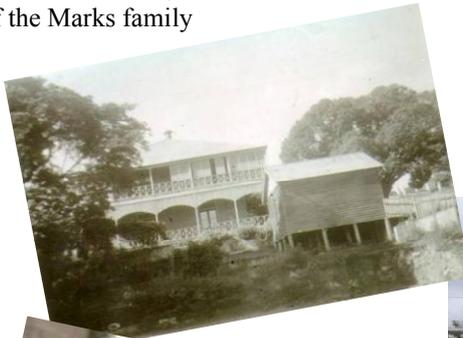


Dolor and Jenny, of Ray White Toowong, confer with Bruce Sinclair to select photographs from TDHS's collection

The former BP Service Station, Benson St, Toowong

Going, going, gone!...

1950s: Cooreelah, residence of the Marks family



View of construction site from Glenny St, Toowong



2013: The BP service station being demolished

2007: BP Service Station



Billboard showing intended building design