



Queensland Manx Society
Serving the Manx Community since 1914

Edition 4 – March – 2024

Hello to All!

<p>Items of Interest</p> <p>Message from the President and Members of the Committee</p> <p>Photos of our Annual Picnic at Scarborough</p> <p>Changes to proposed QMS outings</p> <p>Celtic Corner</p> <p>A local Manx Story</p> <p>A Mylchreest Reunion</p> <p>Snippets from the Isle of Man</p> <p>BBC News - Re link for Isle of Man Public Records</p> <p>Historical Conference - Brisbane</p>	<p>Our first QMS outing of the year was a huge success, with 17 members, relatives and Celtic friends attending. The day, although initially overcast turned out to be a wonderful summer day, with Blue sky, lots of sunshine and a gentle breeze - just right for a picnic by the beach. Some of us brought our own food but most elected to cross the road and buy fish and chips from a local fish shop, which has become a sort of tradition with us. Fish and Chips always seem to taste much better near the beach, somehow.</p> <p>Max and Robyn Cain brought along their granddaughter Sophie and her friend, Jack Sim. We had a visit from Joy and Colin Tretheway, our Cornish friends who lived close by, and it was lovely to have them there. A young couple by the name of Rhule, popped in, and asked to join our Society. They stayed to talk a while and it turned out that while Linda was of Manx heritage, Mark was of Cornish heritage, much to the delight of our Cornish friends.</p> <p>We were visited by another young couple, Phil and Sue Honour, who also enquired about joining our Society.</p> <p>This year, we did not have any music or singing, but somehow we did not even miss it. We just seemed to enjoy our first get together for the year, just chatting, eating and enjoying our surroundings. A good start to 2024.</p> <p>Also, please note there is a change of venue for the 7th April. Read on for further details. I look forward to meeting up with some of you at these Outings. Don't forget to contact our Secretary, to let us know if you wish to attend.</p> <p>Apologies to our younger members. Because of time restrictions [my own] I have neglected to attach a children's page but will endeavour to have one printed just for you in our next Newsletter.</p> <p>Val Ashworth PRESIDENT QUEENSLAND MANX SOCIETY</p>
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QMS ANNUAL PICNIC:

Robyn Cain with Granddaughter
Sophie



Colin & Joy Tretheway , with new QMS
member, Mark Rhule who also has Cornish heritage



Margaret Witherington and
Helen Saxby



George Cowin and Edna Davis chatting
with Linda Rhule – new QMS member



Treasurer, Jan Blackburn, with
Neil Griffith, Robyn Cain and
Richard Blackburn – Telling us
how much profit we made
last year?



Tony Ashworth and the
Secretary, Nigel Jeffares, in
deep discussion about
QMS affairs

PROPOSED OUTING FOR 2024

The planned outing to the Tramway Museum at Ferny Grove, on the 7th April, has had to be cancelled, as the Management is having problems with the 100 year old electrical system and the trams are not now running. The President has told me that this problem could take about 6 weeks to fix using “old school” knowledgeable volunteers, so we have set another date, 19th May, to visit and take the tour. The plans are the same. The Museum is open from 12.30 to 4.00 p.m. We will meet at the Tramway Museum at 12 p.m. on **Sunday, 19th May, and after the tour have afternoon tea at the Ferny Grove Bowls Club next door. The entry fee for the museum is \$12.**

HOWEVER, KEEP THE 7TH APRIL FREE. We have kept the 7th April date to visit the MacArthur War and Military Museum in the City, as they are open on Sundays from 10 to 3 p.m. The War Museum is in the MacArthur Building, [the old AMP building] corner Queen and Edward Streets, Brisbane. Entrance is in Edward Street. We will meet at 9.30 outside the entrance and take the lift to level 8. Cost for groups and seniors \$5.00.

If you wish to attend, please contact the Secretary, Nigel Jeffares, on 0423 324 995, as we have to know the numbers before we enter either museum.

QMS EMBROIDERY WOVEN QMS BADGES AND MEMBERS NAME TAGS:

If you require a Member's Name Tag, please contact Mrs Janis Blackburn on 0414 764 848. Also if you need a garment printed with the QMS logo, please contact Mrs Val Ashworth on 0403 564 217.

CELTIC CORNER

MARCH:

Sunday 24th – CCAQ PAN CELTIC AWARDS FUNCTION: West's Rugby Leagues Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong at 12 noon.

APRIL:

Sunday 7th - Qld Manx Society Outing to TRAMWAYS MUSEUM, 20 Tramway Street, Ferny Grove, 4055, has been cancelled. We have now planned a visit to the MACARTHUR WAR & MILITARY MUSEUM, MacArthur Building, Queen and Edward Streets, Brisbane. **ON THE SAME DATE - 7th April, 10 to 3 p.m.** Meet at 9.30 a.m. outside entrance at Edward Street. Please ring Secretary, Mr Nigel Jeffares, 0423 324 995 if you wish to attend, as we need to know numbers.

Thursday 25th – Feast Day of St Ender [Cornish]

Saturday 27th – Trevithick Day [Cornish]

MAY:

Wednesday 1st – Degol Me [May Day] and Padstow Obby Oss'. Helston Furry [Cornish]

Thursday – Sunday 2-5th May, Glen Innes Festival, N.S.W.

Saturday 18th – Inaugural St Andrews Gathering: 10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. South Brisbane District Cricket Club, 269 Venner Road, Fairfield 4103.

May 19th – QMS Manx Society visit to TRAMWAYS MUSEUM, Ferny Grove, 12.30 to 4.00 p.m. Meet at 12 p.m. After, Afternoon Tea at the Ferny Grove Bowls Club. Please ring Nigel Jeffares, on 0423 324 995, as we need to know numbers. Cost \$12 per person.

JUNE:

Saturday 15th - State Championship, Pipe Bands Queensland – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Brisbane Boy's College, Toowong, Brisbane

Friday, 21st June - Winter Solstice AEST [Darkest And Shortest Day Of The Year In The Southern Hemisphere]

JULY:

Saturday 6th – Qld Manx Society – TYNWALD DAY, Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra, 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 27th CCAQ AGM: Coorparoo RSL and Community Club, Holdsworthy St, commencing 10.30 a.m. for morning tea and AGM meeting commencing at 11 A.M

AUGUST:

Sunday, 17th - Qld Manx Society AGM – Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra. starting 10.30 A.M. unless otherwise notified.

DECEMBER:

Saturday 7th- Qld Manx Society Christmas function – Arana Leagues Club, Dawson Parade, Keperra

Saturday 21st – Summer Solstice AEST [Longest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere]

A LOCAL MANX STORY – MORETON BAY LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER:

A young migrant from the Isle of Man, **James Brayden** [1827 – 1890] received his first lighthouse keeper post in Victoria and soon after in 1856 was appointed Superintendent of the Cape Moreton Lighthouse which was just being built. He was to hold the position for 31 years. His wife Mary [Callaghan] accompanied him and many of their children were born in the adjoining caretaker's cottage.

In a letter to the Brisbane Courier in April 1863, Brayden refuted charges that “during the extreme fury of the hurricane, the light-keepers refused to remain in the lantern being fearful the building would be overturned.”



He replied that the keepers had indeed stayed at their post, adding : *“The tower did oscillate a good deal, but it will take a harder blow than the gale of the 20th March to overturn it, although it was a most furious gale, indeed, the most severe I ever experienced; the sea, when we could see it, was literally one sheet of foam, with a tremendous sea rolling in.”*

It was also a Superintendent's task to report debris and wrecks. In 1883, he explained that the poop deck of a small vessel had come ashore on the rocks south of the lighthouse. *“It is 16 ft long and 16 ft wide.....The wreck has been several months in the water, as there are barnacles six inches long on it.”*

Had Brayden possessed a poetic nature, such baffling marine debris may have inspired lines such as ***“A wind-born shred of that mysterious scroll/Wherein the secrets of the deep are writ”***. This verse was penned by his contemporary, James Brunton Stephens [1835-1902] on hearing of a small boat cast up on a deserted Queensland beach.

The Lighthouse Superintendent's great interest in the indigenous people of Moreton Island would have particularly intrigued Thomas Welsby, a likely visitor to the Brayden home. Welsby, who later lived at Amity on the river near the CSR Refinery, loved everything connected with the Bay and its islands, especially the lore of the original inhabitants. Brayden possibly told Welsby about the cavern near the top of Cape Moreton where there was a large collection of skulls and human bones which he had carefully preserved, including one complete skeleton of a man 7 foot 6 inches or more in height [2.28 m].

In his book, ***“Memories of Amity”*** [1922], Welsby explained that the white man is claimed as the *“jumped-up soul”* of some long-since departed black warrior, and went on to illustrate that this led to some charming consequences. In Brayden's case, an original inhabitant named **Toompani** claimed Mr Brayden as his dead brother who was *“jump-up white fellow”*. On that account, Toompani assumed a certain air of authority over Mr Brayden's children. Welsby continues: Regarding this self-appointed man of authority, one of the Braydens uses the following words in speaking of him: *“He was one of Nature's noblemen: honest, thoughtful, and kindly. He sets an example to many whites”*.

Brayden's cottage, “Mona”, built in 1887, was situated between Moreton and Langshaw Streets, its neighbours on each side being Fingal and Mascotte. Just three years later, Mr Brayden died, leaving a widow and nine grown-up children. The newspaper lamented the passing of “another old identity.”

In 1982, the house was replaced by Leda Court, a block of nine flats, and in 2023, a redevelopment of the site had commenced.

MANXMAN - “AT LARGE”:

An American Manxman recently visited Brisbane and met up with his Australian Mylchreest family. His name is Russ Cherry, from Ashburn, Virginia, USA and appears in the attached photo with two members of the Queensland Manx Society, cousins Val Ashworth and Joyce Holliss, both part of the Mylchreest clan. Another cousin, Ross Petfield, also a QMS member [and a Mylchreest] was not with us at our reunion. Unfortunately it was a fleeting visit, but we were very happy to reunite with Russ and his wife Barbara, and catch up with all the family news.



Val Ashworth, Russ Cherry and Joyce Holliss – The Mylchreest Clan

SNIPPETS FROM ISLE OF MAN:

FREEZING FUN

The early birds went in a couple of hours after low tide at ten in the morning from Chapel Beach in Port St. Mary, some rushing into the icy sea, others dipping a toe to test the temperature. Forty-five minutes another group followed suit at the inner harbour, then, as the hours passed, the scene was reset at the shore in Gansey Bay, Port Erin, Ramsey, Castletown, Peel, Laxey and, finally at one in the afternoon, in Douglas Bay.

Hundreds joined the New Year's Dips around the island's coast to welcome in the new year as friends and families plunge in to the Irish Sea. Some came in groups: Castletown Ale Drinkers Society, organisers of the island's longest running New Year's dip, had a good turnout as the event celebrated its 60th anniversary; the Southern Dippers ran into the sea around Port St Mary and Port Erin. They have been running the dips for more than 20 years, and in that time have raised more than £72,000 for primarily island charities. This year they helped Anaphylaxis UK, with all the money raised staying in the island. Ramsey supported Ramsey RNLI and the Friends of Bunscoill Rhumsaa. Peel had a huge turnout and made a splash for MS Society Isle of Man, Peel RNLI, and Manx Breast Cancer Support Group. Laxey and Douglas also had large crowds, with the latter being started by Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer and Lady Lorimer.

DBH – London Manx Newsletter

Sources: Manx Radio and iomtoday

SHIPWRECKS

Shipwrecks are always fascinating. For an island whose history is so much bound up with the sea, problems with shipping affect a large number of people.

It would be impossible to include all the ships wrecked around the Manx coast so *Strandings & Sinkings: shipwrecks in Manx waters* approaches the subject from a slightly different angle. It concentrates on the photographs. Unsurprisingly, pictures of wrecks are not particularly common. If your vessel is sinking beneath you, you have better things to do than pose for a selfie, and the weather is unlikely to be bright and sunny. However, the book gathers together a remarkable collection. There are drone pictures of wrecks hidden in secluded coves, underwater photographs of boats lying on the seabed and several of rescues in progress. These ships were mute witnesses to great heroism (and occasionally great idiocy), and their stories provide an insight into the lives of those who crewed them. And not all the boats featured were truly wrecked. There was no saving some, but many of the boats were raised, repaired and refloated.

Strandings & Sinkings covers nearly 200 years of shipwrecks, including that of Racehorse, the wreck which prompted William Hillary to found what became the RNLI. As the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI approaches on 4 March this year, *Strandings & Sinkings* shows why an organisation devoted to saving lives at sea is so important.

Strandings & Sinkings: shipwrecks in Manx waters

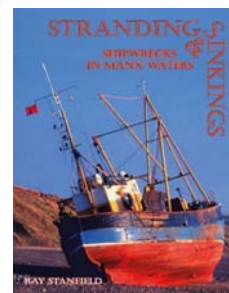
ISBN: 978-1-908060-41-9

Retail price: £19.95

Sara Goodwins

Fourth Manx Bard

Loaghtan Books, 01624 818292



Source: *London Manx Newsletter*

BBC NEWS:

PUBLIC RECORDS NOW HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FROM ISLE OF MAN ONLINE - SEE LINK FOR DETAILS OF FAMILY AND EVENTS:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-68170840>

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FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HISTORY:

HISTORY DAY CONFERENCE – THE ENOGGERA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

THIS IS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 26TH MAY, 2024, at the Memorial Hall, 36 Trundle Street, Enoggera. Welcome at 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. \$20, including lunch.

PROGRAMME INCLUDES TOPICS OF INTEREST - such as *The Americans at Mt Coot-tha during WWII* - *the Samford District Historical Museum Society 1984-2024* - *Toponymy, the science of Street names* - *Charlie Broughton's Trunk* - *William Pettigrew's Davenport, Qld Furniture of significance.* **LUCKY DOOR PRIZE.**

The Society asks that you inform your members and friends of this event. Parking can be difficult most times and we suggest the Enoggera Rail Car Park [very empty at the weekend] and just a 2-3 minute walk to the Hall.

Alternatively – Car Pool - BCC Bus route 390, Stop 30 - Enoggera Rail Station, on Ferny Grove line.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

For those Members who have not yet paid their Membership fees: These have not changed - Single Membership is \$15.00 and Family Membership is \$20.00. Fees can be deposited in any Westpac Bank using the BSB 034080 and A/C 183032. **Any enquiries regarding your membership fees can be directed to our new Treasurer, Janis Blackburn, phone 0414 764 848 or via her email address below:**

APOLOGY FROM THE EDITOR:

Because of time restrictions [my own], I have neglected to insert a Children's page, but will endeavour to make up for this in the next newsletter.

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