

# FoPI Flyer

August 2009

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## Strangle hold released

Sometimes tough decisions need to be made. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff had to cut down the fig which has been growing on the old incinerator at the lazaret. You can tell by looking at the chimney that the fig was exerting a lot of pressure, squeezing the bricks loose.

Not only has the fine brick work now been protected from further damage. The cast iron door to the incinerator was revealed, located at the foot of the chimney.

This find reveals the the incinerator was produced by the aptly named 'Goodrid Incinerator Co', produced by Malleys Ltd, 50 Mountain Street Sydney.

FoPI working bees are also having an impact on the Lazaret. Read more on page 3.



Chimney of incinerator, (above) and door (left).  
Photos courtesy Peter Hubbert

# FoPI book awarded a silver by Governor

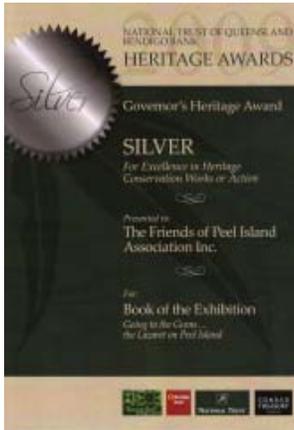
We're thrilled to announce that our book "going to the gums... the lazaret on Peel Island" won a Silver Governor's Award at the recent National Trust Queensland Heritage Awards.

Held annually, these awards are designed to recognise the "wide range of heritage activities throughout our state... it is not just about built heritage, but social, cultural, Indigenous and environmental heritage. These elements are integral to the character of Queensland, our cities and towns, our streets, our homes, our people."

The awards were presented at the newly restored Old Government House in the presence of Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AO.



Accepting the award (shown below left) from Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AO are Gabrielle van Willigen (L) and Rhonda Bryce (R).



It is fitting to acknowledge John

Herbert, after whom the overall winner award is named. Through his assistance the Trust occupied Old Government House in the 1970s. True to its name, by its tenancy the National Trust of Queensland held the building 'in trust' until others could take over that role.

The Heritage Awards are about appreciation - of the dedicated work of a group of volunteers, of the commitment of individuals to a project, and an acknowledgement of professionals at work." (NTQ 2009 Award program).



(L-R) Ruth Venner, Cecily & Rick Thomason, Gabrielle van Willigen, Rhonda Bryce, Glenys Inglis (for Tracy Ryan), Rosaleen Carroll at the award ceremony at Old Government House

# Progress made despite inclement conditions

## by Scott Fowle, working bee coordinator

Dear Members,

Just to bring you all up to date on what has been happening on the working bees since my last report.

Brian and myself attended both the March and April weekends, with the May weekend, being cancelled due to bad weather.

**March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.** Due to inclement weather and the Rangers vehicle having a flat battery, a later start was made on the Saturday, then Sunday we were forced to leave Peel early, around 1030 because of an incoming storm.

As no spraying could be carried out on the weeds etc, we turned our attention to the recently refurbished male washhouse, which has been attacked by termites. A trench was dug all around (see photo below) which will be then filled with a liquid poison, hopefully killing and keeping the termites away for at least five years.

The Doctors residence roof and guttering was cleaned of all leaves and debris. You will remember, this roof is only one year old, so we will need to do this on a more regular basis.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.** The weather was much improved from the previous month. The two piles of weeds that was gathered together during the February working bee, was collected and deposited, into one very large pile at the old quarry site, and finally covered in black plastic.

I had previously decided, that it was time to concentrate on the grape vines, therefore all grass and small shrubs that was choking the vines was cleared away, overhanging branches were pruned back allowing more sunlight through to the vines. There are now two distinct cleared areas of vines.

Star pickets were used to support two rows of wire, allowing us to have something to attach the new growth to. The soil around each vine was teased and fertilized and given a good watering. More mulching and pruning of the vines will need to be carried out over the coming months.

June update. A subsequent working bee saw a few more willing workers, with Adrienne and Ian Shakleton, and Colleen and Peter Hubbert, helping with the vines (photo on next page).



(Left) Restored bath house, with surrounding trench in preparation for termite treatment. Photo Scott Fowle



(Below) Brian removing leaves from Doctor's surgery roof (far left). Photos Scott Fowle



Vines cleared of weeds and grasses, and stakes put in place. Photo Scott Fowle (April 09)



Vines being tended and tied onto wire attached to star pickets marked so they can be easily found, and avoided when mowing being undertaken. Photo Peter Hubbert (June 09)



This bloom is from the heritage rose bush rescued from obscurity in the overgrown garden in front of the Nurses quarters. Who would believe the transformation which has resulted from an expert prune by Colleen Hubbert in August 2008. Photo Colleen Hubbert.

# Old Government House

Governor Bowen was this state's first governor after Queensland achieved separation from New South Wales in 1859. He ordered that a building be provided, which would served as a stately home for the Governor and his family, as well as and official state office. It was located at Garden Point, now part of the Queensland University of Technology campus.

It was designed by newly appointed Government Architect Charles Tiffin in 1860, built by Joshua Jeays and completed in 1862 at a total cost of £17,000.

"Its grand design and location high on the promontory at Gardens Point made it an impressive sight for visitors and immigrants arriving by ship: as they circled the point, it came into view as a stately palace against the backdrop of Brisbane's ramshackle wooden huts scattered throughout the bush. It was a bold exemplar of the colony's potential prosperity. " (from [www.ogh.qut.edu.au/about/brief-history.jsp](http://www.ogh.qut.edu.au/about/brief-history.jsp) You can imagine that this is a sight many of those immigrants who were quarantined on Peel Island would have enjoyed once allowed to complete their journey to the town of Brisbane.

The current Governor's House, located in Bardon came into use in 1909. The old building then had various uses which lead to its decline and ultimate decay in the 1970s.

Without the involvement of the National Trust, this important building would probably have gone the way of many heritage buildings in Brisbane.

It was restored to its former glory and is now



Old Government House, made from sandstone quarried at Goodna and barged down Brisbane River, was completed in 1862 (photo courtesy John Oxley Library)



The newly restored building is located on the main walkway into QUT's Gardens Point campus, bordering the City Botanic Gardens. Both are worth a visit (photo courtesy QUT)

open to the public. There are interactive displays as well as the recently dedicated William Robinson Art Gallery on the first floor.

## Memberships due

- A reminder that membership fees are now due for everyone who joined BEFORE 1 March 2009.
- Those who joined after 1 March will carry on till 30 June 2010. Payments can be made by cheque / money order or direct debit.

**Full Membership - \$16.00 | Pensioner  
Student & Junior Membership - \$12.00  
Organisation Membership - \$40.00**

- **Direct deposit to:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia, BSB 064-000; Account 10649391.
- Reference: 'Mship' + your name. Let the Treasurer know you've made a deposit - email [rosaleencarroll@bigpond.com](mailto:rosaleencarroll@bigpond.com)

**Send cheques or money orders to:**  
The Treasurer  
Friends of Peel Island  
PO Box 1015  
Slacks Creek Qld 4127

## Just published

Hugo Ree, one of our members and an expert on Hansen's Disease, has just published another book - "The Last Veteran".

Available through for \$26 from Zeus Publications ([www.zeus-publications.com.au](http://www.zeus-publications.com.au)) the on-line review reads:

*The Last Veteran tells the story of the centenary celebrations of the end of the Second World War in 2045, and the discovery that a veteran of that war is still alive.*

*This work of futuristic fiction is an original and humourous read from start to finish. It centres around the life of Michael O'Sullivan, a 121-year-old Second World War veteran.*

*The story is narrated by his son Stephen, a retired doctor of doubtful morals. With flashbacks to his time during the war we understand Michael's hatred of all things military.*

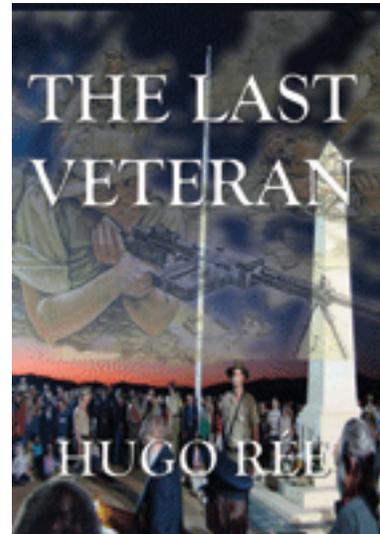
*Being the oldest and last veteran he is coerced into leading military parades until he finds out he has been used for political reasons. There is murder, lies and political intrigue in a story that captures the Anzac spirit while exposing the deceit of those in power.*

*This is a quirky easy read that would appeal to the older generations.*

Hugo, we wish you well in your sales.

Also, we've been advised by Boolarong Press, that there is a very special historical publication - "Boosting Brisbane: Imprinting the Colonial Capital of Queensland" by Dr Rod Fisher - recently made available to collectors. "Time travellers can journey through a unique treasure-trove of line-drawings from overseas to colonial Brisbane and surrounds in a fascinating new publication to mark eht 150th birthday of Queensland". Secure a limited edition (signed and numbered hard cover) direct from Boolarong Press ([www.boolarongpress.com.au](http://www.boolarongpress.com.au)).

Boolarong Press distribute our own book "going to the gums".



## Framed

Fort Lytton National Park is now housing a collection of recently framed paintings and drawings by the late Rosemary Opala.

Our thanks to Roland Dowling and his team for their involvement with the framing of these beautiful pictures.

The hope is that some time in the near future FoPI's exhibition "going to the gums" will be rehung on a long-term basis. Rosemary's pictures will become part of this exhibition.