

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

ANOTHER ADVENTUROUS YEAR: NOT WITHOUT PROBLEMS!

OUR VISION

We are a group of people enabling the community to experience past, present and future energy technologies and their impact on people's lives.

The year has been a difficult one for the Director, with her hospitalisation, the diagnosis of her husband's chronic medical condition and her daughter's sudden death. However, she has powered on (excuse the pun) and has forged ahead to generate income for QEM through consultancy commissions, created a new website and published another book. Plans for next year are well under way and the future is bright for QEM, with more members joining us as our name and services become known. We will continue to ensure the preservation of Queensland's energy heritage and that our vision is apparent through the services we offer to the people of Queensland. The following provides a brief overview of QEM's highlights during the past year.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- September 2002: Completion of QEM's consultancy project for Tarong Energy. More than 2,000 photographs were scanned, registered and catalogued.
- November 2002: The Director gave a presentation in Quilpie for the South West Queensland Local Government Association.
- December 2002: The Director was engaged as the consultant for the proposed Eromanga Museum.
- December 2002: Documents and photographs were relocated to the Windsor archives from the Mary Street site, allowing QEM to have one main site for its document and photographic archive.
- December 2002: Quilpie Shire Council joined QEM as Community Members.
- January 2003: Assessment and digitisation of the relocated collection began.
- January 2003: Waggamba Shire Council and Roma Town Council joined QEM.
- February 2003: Launch of the *Shocking Stories!* exhibition at Redlands Museum.
- February 2003: Warroo and Bulloo Shire Councils joined QEM.
- March 2003: Launch of QEM's Memories of Energy Group at Redlands Museum.
- April 2003: The first part of the new QEM website was completed. The web address remains the same – www.energymuseum.com.au.
- April 2003: Launch of two Virtual Exhibitions on the QEM website, *Ann Street Power House* and *Swanbank Memories*.

- April 2003: The Director set out a QEM information table at the Family and Local History Fair at Caboolture Historical Village. Information on QEM was also displayed at the Museums Australia (Queensland) Conference at Mooloolaba.
- May 2003: Visit from the Office of Energy, Queensland Government Department. The Minister for Mines and Energy will be visiting the museum site and the Windsor Archives in September 2003.
- June 2003: Publication: *Power for the People: Brisbane's Electrical Heritage*. ISBN 0-9579367-1-0
- June 2003: The Director met with the Queensland Movie Makers to discuss the making of a QEM promotional film in August. Additional plans for filming in the next financial year include oral history documentaries and highlights of QEM's most significant objects.

MEMORIES OF ENERGY GROUPS (MEGs)

During the year new groups were established at Redlands, Pine Rivers, Charters Towers and Gympie. In addition, Dalrymple Library, Warwick Historical Society, Pomona Museum and Emu Park Historical Society provided QEM with some information related to energy history. Apart from the above-mentioned groups, we have MEGs in Winton, Longreach, Yarraman, Highfields, Toowoomba, Landsborough, Kingaroy, Kilkivan, Caboolture and Caloundra.

THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE PREMISES

The issue of the lease for the current building that QEM occupies has been resolved for the present. The current lease has been extended to February 2006. However, it has not solved the main problem faced by QEM, that is, the inaccessibility and unsuitability of the present site for a museum, which is intended to be available for the public.

During the year, the Director and members of the Management Committee met with the Director of the Ipswich Railways Workshop. The reason was to discuss the possibility of QEM co-existing with Queensland Museum (QM) in the Workshops Powerhouse, which is an impressive building comprising part of the main Railway Workshops site. A number of meetings were held. However, to date there has been no satisfactory response from QM as to the future plans for the Powerhouse site and QEM can progress no further with the matter. The Director and the Management Committee will continue to search for alternative permanent premises for QEM's operation and displays within easy reach of Brisbane.

An exciting project, the Dalby Powerhouse, mentioned in last year's Annual Report, remains on schedule with an environmental survey currently being undertaken by consultants. Dalby Town Council and QEM will be able to work closely together to ensure the successful outcome of the proposed regional energy museum project. Although the site is not large enough to store and display all QEM's collection, the old Dalby Powerhouse will provide QEM with a reasonable area to display touring exhibitions and some of the historical objects relevant to Dalby and regional Queensland. In this way, the proposed museum will benefit Dalby by encouraging visitors and school parties to the town and the surrounding regions.

**Dr. J. King, Director, Queensland Energy Museum Inc.
June 2003.**