

Annual Report :July 2004 to June 2005

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.

QEM was five year old in December 2004! Happy Birthday QEM!

It has been an extremely active year for QEM, which has included a visit to the museum by the Energy Minister the Hon. John Mickel in March, the signing of a Sister Museum Agreement with Longreach Shire Powerhouse Museum in April, new displays, virtual exhibitions, and consultancies. We also welcomed new Memories of Energy Groups. The fruition of our work for the year 2004-2005 culminated in three separate launches in the month of June. Following a brief overview of the three launches a Calendar of Events covering June 2004 to May 2005 is presented.

Queensland Energy Heritage Image Gallery

The launch of the first stage of our *Queensland Energy Heritage Image Gallery* on the QEM website provided images of 37 towns in Queensland. More than 50 photographs were placed in the new gallery, which will enable QEM to extend accessibility to its photographic collection. The list of towns in the first stage are as follows: *Atherton, Augathella, Barron Falls, Beaudesert, Bedourie, Birdsville, Blackall, Bowen, Charleville, Chinchilla, Cloncurry, Dalby, Dirranbandi, Goondiwindi, Hughenden, Ilfracombe, Innisfail, Jericho, Junee, Kowanye, Kingaroy, Longreach, Monto, Morven, Mossman, Mulgoonamboor, Quilpie, Richmond, Rockhampton, Roma, St George, Tara, Taroom and Thargomindah, Wintonah and Wyandah.*

Lighting Up Yarraman Exhibition

The opening of the Yarraman exhibition *Lighting Up Yarraman* took place on Saturday 25 June 2005. The State Member for Parliament, Dorothy Bates cut the ribbon to mark the public opening of the exhibition, which tells the story of the small, privately-owned Yarraman Powerhouse operated by Mr. C. Budgen. Dr. King, QEM's Director undertook the research, interviewed the Budgen family and other Yarraman residents, wrote the text for the exhibition panels and co-ordinated the project, which was commissioned by Tronox Energy. Volunteers from the Yarraman Heritage Centre, including Charlie and Jade Eudgen, the sons of the original powerhouse operator, also contributed a great deal of time to the project. Charlie made a scale model of the powerhouse for the exhibition.

Memories of Energy Trail

The most important event for the development of QEM and its partnerships with local government and regional communities was the launch of the first of QEM's Memories of Energy Trail (MET). It was launched at Kilkivan Shire Museum on Friday 24 June 2005. The trail involves six local communities in the South Burnett. The background to the first energy trail started in late 1999, when our Director began to establish Memories of Energy Groups (MEGs) in regional communities in Queensland. The MEG network locates and identifies objects, documents, photographs and buildings, which were, or are a significant part of Queensland's energy heritage. The long-term objectives of the network include the preservation of

Queensland's energy heritage for future generations and the creation of energy trails based on QEM's research and the MEG network discoveries. The South Burnett Memories of Energy Trail (MET) is the first in Queensland and was developed in partnership with six MEGs in the shires of Kilkivan, Murgon, Wondai, Kingaroy, Nanango and Rosalie. The members of the MEGs are volunteers from the Kilkivan and District Historical Society Inc.; Murgon Dairy Industry Museum; Wondai Heritage Museum; Kingaroy Bicentennial Heritage Museum; the MEG Subcommittee of the Nanango Shire Historical Society and the Yarraman Heritage Centre in Rosalie Shire. The South Burnett MET provides an unusual and interesting insight into the energy heritage of the area. By following the Energy Trail, the visitor can view different displays relating to the South Burnett's industrial, agricultural, medical and domestic technology history. Objects, photographs, film, documents and buildings linked to the theme of energy provides a stimulating *Journey of Discovery*, which is aimed at encouraging discussion on a variety of topics, including past, present and future use of energy in Queensland.

Calendar of Events: July 2004-May 2005

July 2004:

- The Director visited Quilpie and Eromanga in preparation for a project commissioned by the Quilpie Shire Council and the Eromanga Community Development Committee. Interviews with people in the town and on properties, oil fields and the oil refinery were undertaken in the course of the visit. The Director completed a small display for the Ipswich Historical Society, which was commissioned by CS Energy.
- Two new slide shows, or 'Virtual Exhibitions' were added to our website; *Quilpie Powerhouse* and *Switch-On Ceremony in Jundah, 1959*.

August:

- The Director completed an exhibition, *Power for the Darling Downs* for the Jondaryan Shire Council, which was displayed at the Heritage Festival at Jondaryan Historic Wool Shed Museum for ten days in August.
- The Illuminating Engineers Society (IES) met at the museum. Jim Simmers, an industry volunteer provided a tour of the museum and discussed some of the exhibits.
- The Professional Historians Association (PHA, Queensland) also visited this month. Both the Director and Jim gave talks on aspects of the museum and its collection. The Director also presented a paper at the Inaugural Queensland Local Government Heritage Conference in Rockhampton on 13 August 2004.

September:

- The *Powering On! Experience the Power of Eromanga: A Report on the Eromanga Project*, which was commissioned by the Quilpie Shire Council, was completed. QEM hold copies of the report in its archive.
- The Director was appointed as one of the external advisers for the Outback at Isa Advisory Group.
- QEM provided Information Packs and copies of historical photographs to the Townsville Ergon Energy 25-year Social Club and the equivalent Energy group.

October:

- Jondaryan Shire Council agreed to display the new exhibition *Power for the Darling Downs* with QEM's exhibition *Lights On!* when possible. The exhibition partnership will

ensure that the relationship between the council and QEM will be maintained and strengthened.

- Meetings were attended by the Director, David Payne, Allgas/Energex representative and Charles Guesdon, Associate Director of the Ranbury Management Group regarding the fate of the equipment left at the South Brisbane Allgas site, which was the former South Brisbane Gas Company.

November:

- The President of QEM, Jurij Petriwskyj, the Director, Richard Raymond, QEM Management Committee member for Energex, Richard Coulson from Cox and Rayner and Nancy Young from Young and Associates met with Councillor Maureen Hayes at her ward office. The meeting outlined QEM's plans for the development of the Windsor archives and the Dalby site.
- More Memories of Energy Groups stories were added to the website.

December:

- The Director conducted a community meeting in Yarraman for the *Lighting Up Yarraman* project, which is due for completion in May 2005. The objects QEM are able to receive at a later date for future display were removed from the Allgas site and placed in temporary storage in a building on the corner of Montague Street.
- A new virtual exhibition was put online – *Lights On! Tin Can Bay*.
- A group of engineers, who were seconded to Energex in the Electricity Network Design Office, visited the museum with Mr Robert Bray, Energex Planning and Design Officer. The visitors came from other parts of Australia, India and Scotland and there were some new graduate engineers from the University of Queensland. A letter of appreciation was received from Mr Bray on behalf of the group. All agreed that the visit provided 'a treasured snapshot into our past history'.

January 2005:

- Brisbane City Council ordered 20 of the book, *Brisbane's Mechanical Heritage: 1880s to 1950s* for placement in its libraries in and around Brisbane.
- Certificates of Appreciation were sent to all volunteers in the museum and those engaged in the MEGs throughout the state to mark the start of a new year.
- Noosa Shire Council applied for membership to QEM as a Community Member.
- QEM received images of the original construction of the crossing of the Tin Can Bay Inlet in 1965, copies of articles related to the original work, a DVD and video of recent upgrading work undertaken by Energex and a contact for oral history from Mr David Kirkegard, Project Manager for Energex. The donation was directly due to the Tin Can Bay virtual exhibition, which QEM added to its website in December.

February:

- The exhibitions *Lights On!* and *Power for the Darling Downs* were on display at the Pine Rivers Heritage Museum for the month of February. This was the first joint display between QEM and a local authority - in this case Jonkaryan Shire Council.
- Postcards have been printed illustrating some of the black and white images from the exhibition *Powerful Images* and some from the *New Farm Powerhouse Memories* exhibition. QEM also produced a five-postcard pack called *Bully's Collection*, which

shows the commitment of a blue heeler dog, Bully to his master, a linesman. The postcards and the pack are for sale from the museum and will accompany all exhibitions.

March:

- The Hon. John Mickel, Energy Minister, visited the archives at Windsor and the Herston museum site on 1 March 2005. Following a tour of the archives and museum, morning tea and informal talks concluded the visit. The Minister was verbally supportive of preserving the energy heritage of Queensland for future generations and the work of QEM.
- A new MEG was established at the Murgon Dairy Industry Museum.
- The launch of a new MEG at the Redcliffe Museum on March 15 coincided with the exhibitions *New Farm Powerhouse Memories* and *Powerful Images*, which were on display from QEM for the month of March and for a few weeks in April. The launch was celebrated with an Open Day for the Redcliffe community to bring along any items that were associated to Redcliffe's electrical heritage. The Mayor of Redcliffe welcomed all visitors and talked about his experiences in the industry.
- To celebrate the National Women's History Month in March, which is an initiative of the National Women's History Association (NWHA), the Director spoke to women in Yarraman and Blackbutt in preparation for the Yarraman project *Lighting Up Yarraman*. It is planned that a copy of the collected research related to women and electricity will be deposited in the Yarraman Heritage Centre to extend the local knowledge of energy history in the community. QEM visited the sources and started the research in the QEM archive for future use.

April:

- A Sister Museum Agreement between QEM and the Longreach Shire Powerhouse Museum was signed on 28 April 2005. The day was celebrated with morning tea at the Herston museum site. Attendees included the Mayor of Longreach, Councillor Pat Tanks, the Longreach Powerhouse Museum's Administration Officer Mr. Gary Deakin, QEM's Director, Dr. J. King, members of the Management Committee and volunteers including QEM's President Jurij Petriwskyj, Vice-President Mr. Peter Brennan, Treasurer George Nicol-Smith and Secretary Ms Elizabeth Collins. The Mayor of Longreach was impressed with the significance of the partnership agreement.

May 2005:

- A small group from Energex Retail visited the museum at Herston to strengthen links with the industry.
- On May 27 we had a visitor from New Zealand, Mr. Tony Sinks, who manages the historical object and document collection for Transpower in New Zealand with a group of volunteers. The corporation recently established a technical museum called GridHeritage. A Sister Museum Agreement was discussed and following appraisal by the GridHeritage committee, the agreement is planned to be signed later in 2005.
- A meeting was held between QEM and Brisbane City Lord Mayor to further our discussions for the Windsor Archive development plans.

The Search for Alternative Premises

QEM has been given an extension on the lease for the old railway building at Herston, which has been our temporary home for seven years, until February 2009. However, we are conscious of the need to relocate and are committed to collection accessibility for the general public. The

Management Committee is continuing to pursue the concept of the development of the Windsor site and the refurbishment of the old Dalby Powerhouse site.

Additionally, there is a possibility that QEM will be able to place displays at a site owned by the Nanango Shire Council in the near future. Discussions are in their infancy. However, if successful, it will offer QEM the opportunity to have exhibitions alongside the Nanango Shire Historical Society, which already has a MEG and enable QEM to strengthen its current partnership with the shire council.

Volunteers and Technical Support Committee

Unfortunately, we have not been able to attract additional volunteers this year. Eric Andrews and Jim Simmers remained throughout the year. Jim, Eric and Roy Hood are the members of QEM's Technical Support Committee. Jim gave a lecture, *Some Early Brisbane Lighting*, to the Queensland Heritage Panel of Engineers Australia in September 2004. In the role of technical advisor, Jim also undertook research from QEM's archive for Robyn Buchanan of Buchanan Heritage Services in June 2005. Ms Buchanan is a member of the Workshops Advisory Board and was conducting a consultancy for the Ipswich Railway Workshops on the history of the Workshops Powerhouse. The report was due for completion in early 2005. To date, QEM has not received a copy of the report.

Kevin Jesse and Roy made welcome appearances during the year and both offered substantial industry experience. Steven Woolstenholme added his work experience and Greg Grant works in full time employment as a carpenter, helped out when he could with more practical matters. The total volunteer hours account for the equivalent of just over eleven weeks work within the year.

NAME	VOLUNTEERING HOURS
Eric Andrews	173
Jim Simmers	252
Kevin Jesse	14
Steven Woolstenholme	14
Greg Grant	8
John Hutt	5

In conclusion, the President and the Director take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our members and volunteers for their continued support. Without their help, QEM would not be able to operate to uphold our Vision. We will continue to ensure that Queensland's energy heritage is preserved for future generations and are committed to improving access to our collection.