

Books Received

Neville Buch and Beryl Roberts, *A Quest for a Fair Go – A History of the Knights of the Southern Cross (Queensland) 1921–2015*, Knights of the Southern Cross, Brisbane 2016 ISBN 9780959052022 (hardcover) 9780959052015 (paperback).

The book outlines the history of the Order in Queensland within the political and social context of the times. It tells the story of a group of men who had continually experienced discrimination and bigotry and were determined to ensure that such activity should cease, thus achieving a ‘fair go for all’.

From the first meeting at St Stephen’s School in Brisbane on 29 October 1921 the organisation soon spread to both metropolitan and regional centres of Queensland. From the outset the Knights were firmly committed to ending discrimination in employment and sought to advance the Christian way of life, promote the welfare of its members and their families and encourage spiritual, social and intellectual activities.

The Order was strongly supported by the Catholic bishops and worked closely with them. Its sphere of influence over the next ninety-five years ranged across areas such as combating discrimination, obtaining employment, achieving equity in governmental support in education, advocating on economic and social justice issues, campaigning on life issues and providing support for a myriad of charitable works both in Queensland and overseas. Two of their more well-known achievements were the establishment and continuation of the Parents & Friends Association and facilities for aged care through Southern Cross Care (Queensland).

The fight to achieve a ‘fair go for all’ was not without its setbacks and the financial collapse of the organisation’s

national and state based finance company was a major setback to such endeavours. Yet, in spite of these setbacks the Order responded positively to these challenges and also sought to implement the decisions of Vatican II. It has remained committed to such ideals and is currently seeking to respond to the challenge of Pope Francis to 'help rebuild the church by seeking to go out to the peripheries and serve the marginalised'.

This is a story of deeply held faith and a commitment to live out the Christian way of life in the twenty-first century, while continuing the Order's commitment to the quest to achieve a 'fair go for all'.

Dr. Neville Buch is a graduate in history from the University of Queensland. He is an ANZAC 100 Fellow 2014-2015, State Library of Queensland. He is a member of the Professional Historians Association and has written extensively on local history. Beryl Roberts works as Dr. Buch's Research Associate.

Details of purchase may be obtained by contacting the office of the Knights of the Southern Cross (Queensland) on (07) 3357 5544 or admin@kscq.org.au The book is available in both hard cover and paperback forms.

Jennifer Harrison, *Shackled: Female Convicts at Moreton Bay 1826-1839*, Anchor Books Australia, Melbourne, ISBN:9780992467159.

Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, was first known as Moreton Bay, a place of secondary punishment. Who were the women convicts who were sent there? Were they part of a distinct criminal class? Could they control their own destinies in any way or were they victims of an uncompromising penal system? Were they irretrievably tied to their criminal past or did they develop new lives?

This book identifies the women sent to Moreton Bay and brings to light their stories. Here they are evaluated to enable an understanding of the procedures which ordered their lives. As the new settlement developed, the social conditions proved as much a shackle as their criminality.

Dr. Jennifer Harrison is an Honorary Research Fellow in history at the University of Queensland, a fellow of the Federation of Historical Societies of Australia and of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland as well as a life member of the Brisbane History Group.
