

Barcaldine Water Tower Engineering Heritage Marker

On Saturday 23 June 2012, some thirty people – including EHA(Q) Panel Member Bill Oliver - attended the ceremony on the site of the 1914 Water Tower in Barcaldine to mark its award of an Engineering Heritage Marker. Bill provided this summary report of the proceedings.

Organised by the EA Queensland Division Central Western Group, the ceremony ran smoothly, starting at 11.30 am with EHA(Q) Chair Andrew Barnes performing the function of master of ceremonies and delivering the opening address.

As has become customary in Queensland, the Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AM, attended accompanied by her husband Mr Stuart McCosker, and delivered an address both entertaining and strong in promotion of Engineering Heritage “in her State”.

The Mayor of the Barcaldine Regional Council, Councillor Rob Chandler, also addressed the gathering, briefly and to the point. Councillor Andrew Cowper also attended the ceremony.

Formalities concluded at 12.10 pm followed by photographs and very enjoyable refreshments. The weather was fine, chilly and windy, but not enough to interfere with an excellent photographic exhibition, and the soup was particularly welcome in the conditions.

EA Division President Steven Goh attended the ceremony, as did Division Executive Director Ian McEwan. Among the guests was EA Queensland Engineer of the Year 1987, Kevin Kerr, formerly a partner in the Barcaldine consultancy George Bourne Associates (GBA). Stuart Bourne of GBA played a major part in researching the tower, liaising with the Council and then preparing the site for the ceremony.

The marker was cleverly fixed to the structure at eye level, and the interpretation panel has been located close inside the security fence so as to be readable from the Yew Street footpath. The tower, no longer used for water-supply purposes, continues to serve the community as a communications tower.