

## *Foreword*

Government House,  
Brisbane

Someone has described an historian as a prophet with his eyes turned on the past. The meaning of this, presumably is that historians not only chronicle the past but also deduce from it practical lessons for the guidance of humanity.

Experience does not, I think, warrant such faith in historians, who seem to be content to record events without attempting to formulate a philosophy of history as an aid to interpretation and application, or prophecy.

Should, however, a prophet-historian arise some day amongst us he will surely have reason to be profoundly grateful to the Historical Society of Queensland for the valuable records it is accumulating for the benefit of this and future generations.

The chronicler-historian type will probably have still more cause to be grateful to the Society, since, in the normal course of events, there will usually be more in this class. It is to be hoped that, from time to time, the available records will be sorted out by historical writers and integrated into a consecutive narrative.

But the people of Queensland, generally should also be concerned in the work of the Society, which places at their disposal, in the form both of records and of prepared articles in its monthly bulletins, interesting information about the past of their State and of its pioneers.

I cannot stress too strongly the importance of the work being done by the Society, and feel that it should be given good publicity so that not only natives of Queensland, but also new settlers and visitors to the State, may be tempted to avail themselves of the opportunity to pay a visit to Newstead House.

I wish the Society all success in 1949 and future years.

JOHN LAVARACK,  
Governor.