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MEMOIRS OF THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM – CULTURE

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PO Box 3300, South Brisbane 4101, Qld Australia
Phone 61 7 3840 7555
Fax 61 7 3846 1226
www.qm.qld.gov.au

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Behind the Tin Fence: A history of the Ipswich Railway Workshops

FOREWARD

From the opening of the first railway in Queensland, the Ipswich Railway Workshops have played an important role in the state's history. This history is showcased at The Workshops Rail Museum where the past, present and future of rail in Queensland is presented amongst the heritage listed buildings of the Workshops. The story of the workshops and the people who worked in them recounted in the Museum is complemented by the detail presented in this edition of the *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum*.

The Ipswich Railway Workshops have a long and proud history of continuous operation from 1863 to the present day, continuing the maintenance and restoration of heritage rollingstock and preserving the traditions of the earliest days. Thousands of Queenslanders and their families have been a part of the story of the Ipswich Railway Workshops. This volume brings together for the first time a glimpse into life at the Workshops in Ipswich. While the topic is so vast that a comprehensive history would require a multi-volume publication, I believe that the papers offered here give an insight into the operations of the Workshops "Behind the Tin Fence".

The Ipswich Railway Workshops, as the first railway workshops in Queensland, is the birthplace of rail and plays an important role in the state's history. The hard work, innovation and skills of the workers at the Workshops are an integral part of the story of rail in Queensland.

If it could be made, it could be made at the Workshops. This volume is dedicated to all those who have worked "Behind the Tin Fence".



Andrew Moritz
Director, The Workshops Rail Museum
June 2011



The official opening of the first section of railway, Grandchester 31 July 1865. Image courtesy TWRM/QR.