

QGSY Lucinda Smoking Room

The replica Smoking Room of the Queensland Government Steam Yacht Lucinda was officially opened in March 2001, as part of the Centenary of Federation celebration in Queensland.

Construction work was undertaken by E Chapman & Sons Pty Ltd, who also built the Supreme Court Library's Rare Books Room. The replica Lucinda was constructed according to the original plans and in the exact dimensions of the original steamer. Features on permanent display include an extensive collection of silverware from the vessel and a full-sized reproduction of the Tom Roberts painting depicting the opening of the first Australian Parliament.



The original Lucinda was commissioned by the Queensland Government in 1884 and took its name from Lady Jeanie Lucinda Musgrave, the wife of the Queensland Governor, Sir Anthony Musgrave. The 172 feet vessel was luxuriously fitted with two dining rooms, a social hall, a lengthy promenade, and the famous Smoking Room. Its purpose was to host government ministerial voyages and Cabinet meetings on Moreton Bay and was also extensively used for entertaining. Unfortunately, the cost of maintenance eventually became too great, and the Lucinda was sold by the government in 1923.

One of its most important functions was during the 1891 Constitutional Convention in Sydney, when it was at the disposal of the Queensland Premier, Sir Samuel Walker Griffith. Griffith was the Vice-President of the Convention and Chairman to the Constitutional Committee. Over the Easter weekend, the Lucinda sailed the Hawkesbury River and moored at Refuge Bay, while work on the newly commenced Constitution Bill continued on board. Griffith was joined by a number of prominent figures in the Federation movement, including Sir Edmund Barton (later first Prime Minister of Australia and Justice of the High Court of Australia) and Attorneys-General from various states. It is generally agreed that the version of the Constitution produced aboard the Lucinda is substantially the same as that presented to Australia at Federation in 1901.

In honour of the two Queenslanders aboard, the replica Smoking Room includes life-size figures reproduced in the image of Griffith, as well as of Queensland lawyer Andrew Thynne. Griffith was an expert legal draftsman and Thynne made an important contribution in arguing to protect the rights of the states. The Lucinda illustrates the significant role of Queensland and Queenslanders in Federation.