

## Julie Hornibrook Transcript

My project was called building bridges connects Brisbane and my focus was on three iconic bridges; the Hornibrook Highway, the William Jolly Bridge and the Story Bridge, and my grandfather was the builder for each of those bridges. So it was a chance to look into that history and its impact on Brisbane and Queensland.

I think the process was a good social action research style in that you started somewhere and you saw where it took you and I found that I really followed a lot of leads because I knew that I had a lot to discover. Through the process of my work it was like joining the dots or putting together pieces of a puzzle and that doesn't always happen through a linear process.

My grandfather was known as 'MR' his name was Manuel Richard. When he was about 11 his father died so he left school by the age of 13 and took on an apprenticeship as a carpenter to help support the family so he always had a great sense of responsibility and caring for other people and really giving back to community.

He built up the company with his 5 brothers and one sister and together they took on very big projects around Queensland and also the building of the sails of the Opera House in Sydney.

MR was described as a big man a strong man and because he was such a problem solver and inventor he always had the belief that he was right. For some people that would have been quite hard to work with but everyone was swept up in a sense of family and great loyalty to him.

In doing the research I realized that the three bridges were built back to back during the 1930's so during the depression. The company expanded in that time and had the courage to do so and that enabled thousands of people to be employed. That made a difference to families in Queensland and contributed to the loyalty of the workforce and my grandfather, and also building skills in Queensland during that time.

It has been a pleasure to come to the library to find out the wealth of resources that are here. I found that the Hornibrook Company arranged photography for all of the construction projects, for instance the 800 photos taken of the story bridge construction.

During the time of the fellowship the Curavis Foundation has supported the restoration of three beautiful big albums of the Story Bridge.

As a fellow I was able to go along and observe some of the restoration process and that has been a highlight of the fellowship as well.

The Story Bridge is heritage listed as is the William Jolly Bridge, the Hornibrook Highway is still loved by the people of Brisbane and it is loved in its absence which is very touching for me to see. The portals of the highway remain and

there in an art deco style. My grandfather was such a practical and functional person but then there is this lovely art deco work.

There were so many things I found out in looking into the history for each of the bridges and the William Jolly was the first of these iconic bridges. One of the things I noticed was a photo of a 17 year old girl, Karma Eklund. As it turned out this young woman had designed the protective images that we see up here on the William Jolly Bridge and they protect the bridge to this day.

The outcomes of the project have been a narrative story for each of the bridges and a photographic story for each of the bridges.

Being a fellow has enabled a rapid connection with resources and people, it is like an accelerator. Being in the fellowship room and having others who have fellowships, each person is so passionate about their project and it makes it really exciting learning what other people are doing.