



NEWS

The latest from History Queensland Inc.

ISSN 1833-704X

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Vol 12, no 4

December 2025

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WRITTEN REPORTS TO HQ'S 6-MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING, 22 NOV 2025

I want to begin by expressing our appreciation to the Brisbane Tramway Museum for hosting our 6-monthly General Meeting, and in particular to Don Willsher for inviting us to the Brisbane Tramway Museum and making today's event possible. The museum's dedication to preserving Queensland's transport heritage is a wonderful example of the passion and care that keeps our State's history alive. Their work reflects the very values we support across our member organisations.

Summary of HQ activities:

2025 Small Grants program

We have recently wrapped up the 2025 Small Grants program and this year's applications again showed the depth of commitment across our member organisations with so many projects focused on preservation and access. Firstly, a huge thank you to Kerry Beeton who so diligently and adeptly coordinated this round of grants — she did an amazing job. Kerry will take you through the details shortly, but I want to acknowledge the quality of applications and the thoughtful work happening in communities right across the State. On behalf of the committee, I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our esteemed panel of judges — Janice Cooper, Niles Elvery and Stephanie Ryan — for generously contributing their time, expertise and care to the assessment process.

National Archives of Australia (Queensland) Consultative Forum

I would like to thank Claire Rodwell for attending this meeting on my behalf — and with that in mind, this meeting overview is based on the official minutes.

Representatives from National Archives gave an update on the 2025–2030 Strategy rollout, which focuses on improving the management of its collection and strengthening access to it, as well as deepening public engagement — goals that strongly mirror the challenges and aspirations of our own member groups.

Key priorities include: refining access examination processes; building a more consistent digital archiving approach; and learning more about their audiences, how they want to access the archives and what kinds of services or support they need. Again, these are issues we can all relate to and should be thinking about.

A notable development for the Queensland office was the announcement of a new digitisation partnership with Ancestry, beginning with rate books — which is great news for all of us.

Strategy development workshop

Next week I will be facilitating a Strategy development workshop for HQ with the committee. A key focus will be pinpointing our priorities so that, as a volunteer-run organisation, we are directing our time, energy and resources where they have the greatest impact. As outlined in my previous report, this discussion will help us clarify what is essential for our future growth, sector leadership and ongoing success. It will ensure we continue providing meaningful support and advocacy for local and family history organisations across Queensland.

Our aim is to shape a clear, practical strategic direction that genuinely reflects what matters most to societies. If your organisation has ideas, needs or concerns you would like included, I would be very happy to speak with you. Your insights will help ensure the final strategy aligns with the realities and priorities of our members.

As this is our final gathering for the year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the commitment, time and generosity you bring to preserving and supporting Queensland's rich historical landscape. I hope you enjoy a safe and relaxing festive season, and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Sally Romano, President, History Queensland Inc

**SOME PHOTOS TAKEN AT OUR 6-MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING,
HELD AT THE BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM ON 22 NOVEMBER 2025**



Bunnings barbecue Saturday 27 December, and meetings of Special Interest Groups

The time is fast approaching for our sausage sizzle at Bunnings on 27th December 2025.

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to assist on the day. I will send a separate email to each of you to let you know times and dress requirements etc.

We are also having a raffle with over \$4000- in prizes to be won. There are currently 14 prizes (this may further increase) some of which are: -

- Nudgee Golf Voucher – 4 people and 2 carts for 18 holes valued at over \$450-*
- Fishing pack – including rod (valued \$250-), camp chair, tackle box, fishing shirt etc. – valued at over \$400-*
- Fishing pack – including rod (valued \$120-), camp chair, fishing shirt, wading bag etc. – valued at over \$400-*
- Pamper pack valued at over \$250 plus many more exciting prizes.*

Tickets will be \$2- each of 3 for \$5- . If you can't make it to Bunnings on the day, you can purchase tickets until 24th December 2025 by sending your money using the following details: -

- BSB 484-799*
- Account 041217518*
- Account Name Queensland Family History Society Inc.*
- Reference details Your membership Number*

You can also purchase tickets at the Centre until it closes.

The raffle will be drawn on 1st January 2026 – what a way to start the New Year!!!

Coming meetings of the Society's Special Interest Groups:

Central European:	Saturday 6 December 25 – 10am – online
Colonial India & the Far East:	Sunday 14 December 25 – 10am – online
DNA (beginners' questions):	Saturday 22 November 25 – 10am – hybrid
DNA (some experience):	No meeting for December and January.
English West Country:	Thursday 27 November 25 – 12 noon – online
Family History Writing:	Saturday 17 January 26 – 9am – online
Family Historian Software:	Sunday 7 December 25 – 1pm – online
Family Tree Maker:	Friday 5 December 25 – 10am – online
Irish Research Group:	Saturday 13 December 25 – 10.30am –online
QLD Pre-Separation:	Saturday 13 December 25 – 1.30pm – online
Scottish:	No meeting for December and January.
Technical:	Thursday 5 February 26 – 10.00am – online
The Master Genealogist:	Monday 19 January 26 – 7pm – online
Welsh:	Sunday 18 January 26 – 10am – hybrid

Meetings vary between: online; hybrid with some members online and some in person; or in person at our Family History Research Centre, 46 Delaware Street, Chermside. Please check the [QFHS calendar on the website](#) or contact the group convenor to confirm your meeting location.

Australia: Bogus Banknotes

Published on 31 October 2025, a Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteer discovered counterfeit AU\$100 notes deposited in their donation box. Police have recorded more than 80 incidents of counterfeit cash across Australia since December last year, often involving fake \$50 or \$100 notes used to purchase small items and receive change in real money. Local authorities warn especially donation-reliant organisations to remain vigilant. The Reserve Bank advises verifying banknotes by holding them to the light to see a seven-pointed star and the Australian Coat of Arms, tilting to view moving colour effects and clear windows, and using UV light to check fluorescence.

From the Society's Newsletter, December 2025, Issue 275

PEACHESTER HISTORY COMMITTEE INC

A Visit to Maleny Cheese



We had an enjoyable outing this week to Maleny Cheese, where Sara gave us a talk about their history and products, including recent success in the Royal Queensland Awards.

Sara also sent a link to a YouTube video which you can watch at your leisure.



This is the link to the story of Maleny Cheese referred to above: <https://youtu.be/JF39aWR9Y44>

From the committee's Newsletter, the *Peach Trees Gazette*, no 203, Nov/Dec 2025

HISTORY QUEENSLAND INC. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 2025-26

One of the matters dealt with at HQ's Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25 May was the election of a new management committee, see below.

President	Sally Romano	president@historyqueensland.org.au
Secretary	Valerie Thornton	secretary@historyqueensland.org.au thornskv@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Fay Carbis	treasurer@historyqueensland.org.au fay@winshop.com.au
Committee members	Kerry Beeton	15stellascott@gmail.com
	Tara Hart	tara.hart@bigpond.com
(Editor, HQ News)	Clive Porritt	newsletter@historyqueensland.org.au cwporritt@yahoo.com
	Claire Rodwell	assistantsecretary@gsq.org.au
	Char Sale	charsale10@gmail.com
(Insurance officer)	Helen Turner	insurance@historyqueensland.org.au turnerhelen535@gmail.com

2025 HQ SMALL GRANTS APPROVED

The following table sets out the 2025 HQ Grants recently approved. The committee noted its special thanks to the members of the assessment committee, Janice Cooper, Niles Elvery and Stephanie Ryan, and thanked them for their report and recommendations.

Biggenden Historical Society	2000	Create an archival quality record system of hard copies of resources - lockable bookcase and assoc storage stationery
Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails Inc	1298	Laptop for digital storage of resources
Bundaberg Genealogical Assoc Inc	1407	Compile a history of the Drinan Area (south of GinGin). Expenses for titles, printing, presentation, storage
Friends of Balmoral Cemetery	1705	Engage graphic designer to design and print 100 copies of book to highlight their extensive research
Friends of Pattemore House	940	10 corflute printed panels and metal A frames to uncover the stories of 9 women from the Maleny district (1879-1886)
Jimna Forest Action Group	700	Partial funding for Honour Board
Wynnum Manly Historical Society	2000	Digitisation services by external provider of historical resources

Total grants applied for	\$30,543
Grants available	10,000
Grants approved	10,050

This year HQ offered small grants for a second consecutive year, and 17 applications were received (18 in 2024). All applicants are obviously proud of the societies they represent and want a better functioning society in terms of resources and accessibility, publications, advertising, acknowledgement and purchase of assets, and this was reflected in grant applications. It must be remembered that grants were not available where the expense or expenditure had already been occurred, and the project must be one that could be completed within the specified timeframe.

It was apparent that different societies possess differing levels of experience and competence in submitting grant applications, a fact not lost on the committee. Like so many community groups, many of our societies are struggling with membership numbers and low bank balances, and have little chance of improving either without some assistance.

The items and projects most commonly the subject of grant applications were:

- Computers, printers, scanners, USBs for storage
- Bookcases and display cabinets, upgrade of assets to cater for the physical condition and ability to operate of the volunteers
- Graphic designing, printing
- Honour boards, interpretive signage, banners
- Purchase of BDMs and death records to complete a specific project
- Employment of people with appropriate research and indexing knowledge and experience to organise files and resources, or engaging external providers for digitisation
- Accommodation, venue hire, catering.

Once again, our honorary assessment panel consisted of Janice Cooper, Niles Elvery and Stephanie Ryan and we thank them for the time, dedication and commitment to our grants project. The panel highlighted some areas of interest, and here's a summary of their report.

- "Some successful grants (not those associated with HQ) have resulted in the purchase of new technology not compatible with essential equipment the society already held. Larger sums of money have been involved in these other grants programs and some money potentially wasted as a result."
- **Specifications for technology requests** including memory, appropriate forms of backup, and any hardware should be compatible with existing hardware and software
- **Provision for future storage** – USBs are not considered a reliable and long-term storage medium
- **What and how material is to be digitised for the best long-term result** – depending on what you want to digitise, find the best quality available and this might not be the first option you considered
- **How the project will be achieved** – consider alternative means of delivering workshops and look at other ways of having newsletters searchable
- **The provision of current quotations** – some provision of how the society would fund cost overrun
- **Avoiding conflicts of interest** – Members of an applicant society who are also members of another society must not act as referees supporting the applicant society's application using the name of their other society, without also disclosing their membership of both societies
- **Awareness that funding is for a discrete project** – ie. a specific project to be completed within a defined time.

The Panel also highlighted considerations for future grants, and these will be fully discussed by the committee, along with the aforementioned points, before any future program of HQ Small Grants is announced. This may lead to a major revision of the current documents, but they will form part of the package to be sent to members when notice is given of the next grants program.

Kerry Beeton

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF AFFHO, PRESENTED AT THE 6-MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

I am HQ's representative on the committee of AFFHO (Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations). It has been meeting by Zoom bi-monthly this year but will meet more frequently in 2026.

The 18th Congress on Family History will be held in Wellington, NZ, 11-14 Feb 2027, hosted by the NZ Society of Genealogists. The website is up and running and there is a mailing list to join to receive updates. Expressions of interest from possible speakers, exhibitors and sponsors are invited. This will be an IN PERSON ONLY event.

Submissions for The Nick Vine Hall Award 2026 will be invited in due course; the award, which honours Nick Vine Hall AM, is intended to encourage member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters. There will be two categories: Cat A for societies with less than 200 members, and Cat B for societies with more than 200 members. The 2025 results were: CAT A, 1st – Central Qld Family History; 2nd – Camden Area Family History Society, NSW; CAT B, 1st – GSQ; 2nd – Genealogy SA.

The Constitution Review Committee is working in the background, but the recent ill health of one member has stalled this process temporarily.

The Australian National University was planning cuts to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, but an anonymous donation has rescued this project for the next 2 years, so thank you to whoever that is and for those who wrote letters of support.

AFFHO has appointed a Records Manager for its own files and is looking at backup procedures. It is also seeking a new public officer who must reside in ACT.

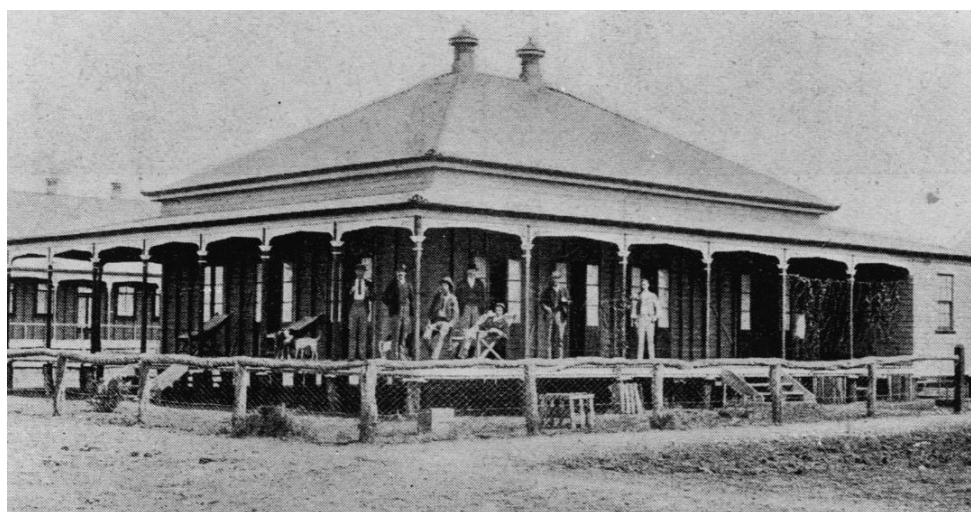
AFFHO is still seeking a Victorian representative and is taking positive steps to fill this vacancy.

Three *Gatherings* are planned for 2026 with the first on 18th Feb (5-7pm Qld time), aimed at convenors of Irish Interest groups. The remaining two may be in May and August and suggested topics are Copyright, and ways and ideas for attracting new members and maintaining current members (probably of great interest to society Presidents). Interest is sought from the committee or a member society for someone to coordinate the *Gatherings*.

AFFHO will send out a *NewsFlash* prior to Xmas to member societies. The AGM will be held in May 2026. So, keep your eye on the AFFHO Website to keep up to date with events etc

Kerry Beeton

LONGREACH CLUB BUILDING, c1894



Source: State Library of Qld, neg no 8620

STATE LIBRARY OF QLD – ‘DRIVEN’ EXHIBITION

About the exhibition

Take a drive down memory lane, celebrating the milestones we’ve shared with our cars, the adventures across bitumen, sand and dirt, and the enduring passion driven by our love for them.

You never forget your first car. The thrill of turning the key for the first time, the radio crackling to life, and the exhilarating sense that the open road is suddenly yours to claim.

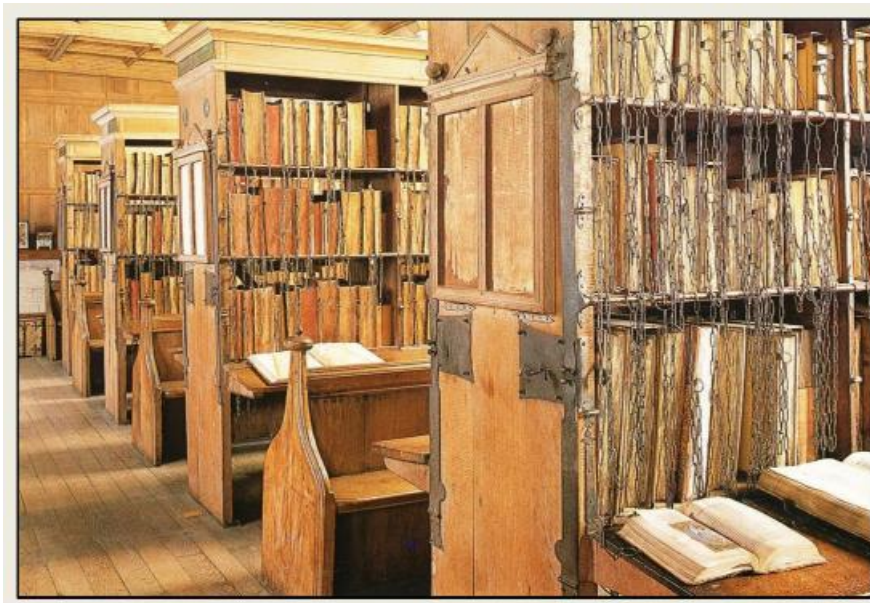
Cars are part of life’s most unforgettable moments. From a baby’s first trip home, to the flashy ride for your school formal, the vintage wedding car, and even that final farewell in a hearse, our rites of passage often unfold behind the wheel, in the backseat, or right there in the driveway.

Experience State Library’s remarkable collections dating from the early 1900s through to the gas-guzzling muscle cars and off-roading 4WDs of the late 1970s. Watch rare home movies of people and their cars as well as a huge array of motoring memorabilia and historic photographs. Embrace car culture through an eye-catching display of artworks loaned from across the State, including an inflatable car by renowned Queensland artist Robert Moore, and a large display of historic and contemporary licence plates. Don’t stall – cruise into *Driven*, our free summer exhibition, fuelled by nostalgia.

6 December 2025 to 8 February 2026, SLQ Gallery, Level 2.

COOROY-NOOSA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP INC

The Hereford Cathedral Chained Library is the largest in the world, and contains 1500 books, 229 medieval manuscripts and maps. The library has existed since the 11th century. The Chained Library dates from 1611 and was maintained until 1841. The chains allow the books to be read on the desk and then returned to the shelves, preventing theft. The majority of books in the Hereford Cathedral library were produced before the invention of the printing press in the mid-15th Century.



Hereford Cathedral Chained Library

From the Group’s Journal, *Missing Link*, No 57

Two items about WW2 Coastwatchers

Australian coastwatcher **Lt Arthur “Reg” Evans** (pictured right; born in Sydney, May 14, 1905-January 31, 1989, and therefore most definitely an Australian and not a New Zealander), working with Solomon Islander scouts, coordinated the rescue of the young future president, John F Kennedy, and ten members of his crew. This rescue took place in the Blackett Strait, in the Solomon Islands, after Kennedy’s US torpedo boat, PT-109, was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer. The two valiant Solomon Islander scouts sent to search for the survivors were Biuku Gasa and Eroni Kumana.

Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for his “bravery and enterprise in reconnaissance operations” (Australian War Memorial), Evans’ quiet courage and service as a coastwatcher (as an intelligence officer-cum-spy in a jungle hideaway, he became what he called a ‘spider, right in the web of the enemy’) only became public in 1961.



The Coastwatchers Connection

Sprightly nonagenarian and near-centenarian Society member, Penny Tait, had a special reason for attending the October meeting. Penny is the niece of Commander Eric Feldt, who led the Australian Coastwatchers and about whom a book was written by his great-niece, Dr Betty Lee, titled *Right Man, Right Place, Worst Time*.

This was the subject of a presentation by Dr Lee at our October 2022 meeting, and the report can be accessed in the November 2022 newsletter.

The Coastwatchers Plaque recently installed on the Newstead boardwalk is a direct result of the petition organised by another member, John Gates (see report in our October 2023 newsletter which also includes a link to a podcast of the Coastwatchers event of July 27, 2023 featuring the speech by Ambassador Caroline Kennedy).

Editor’s note: Eric Feldt’s book, The Coast Watchers, was published in 1946. He died in New Farm.



Commander Eric Augustus Feldt,
(1899-1968) c1940s

Image from Wikipedia

Two edited excerpts from the Society’s November 2025 Newsletter, Vol XXX1 no 10.

The Fig Tree in Lutwyche Road



October 2001

Fig is a link to the past

WHENEVER Eleanor Holloway sees the magnificent weeping fig tree in Windsor, she thinks of her father.

And on Arbor Day, Tuesday October 9, it was no different.

The tree, which stands in the divided section of Lutwyche Rd and Truro Rd, is a familiar landmark to passing motorists and is affectionately known to Mrs Holloway's family as Pop's fig, after Harold Nelson, the man who planted it.

Mrs Holloway said whenever she, her siblings and their children drove past the tree they remembered why the tree was planted.

"My father was a street sweeper with Brisbane City Council in (the) Windsor and Lutwyche area during the 1920s (and) he used to sweep the streets by hand, then load the rubbish onto his horse-drawn dray and take it to the tip," Mrs Holloway said.

"How he came by the tree, I don't know, but he told us that he was given the tree and told to take it to the dump. He couldn't bear to throw it away so he planted it because it was living and it was a lovely tree. In those days you didn't like to waste anything."

The fig tree is now a Brisbane icon and there are thousands in the city.

Some are remnants from pre-European settlement, while others were planted during the colonial era, and more recently by council.

Deputy Mayor Tim Quinn said Arbor Day was a time to acknowledge how much the fig tree contributed to the city's unique character.

"They're as much a part of our architectural heritage and a reminder of our past as are our tin and timber buildings," Cr Quinn said.

● Lutwyche Rd's fig tree is a Brisbane icon.

● Harold Nelson

In 1942, during WW2, the tram stop shelter next to the tree was converted into an air raid shelter by the Brisbane City Council. This shelter is currently listed on the Q'ld Heritage register.



In December 1958 the local Windsor Alderman Arthur Kruger, requested to council that the triangular area containing the fig tree and the Shelter be named "**Wallace Place**" in honour of local identity Tom Wallace who conducted his bicycle business in Lutwyche for many years. A letter was sent 19 December 1958 to Tom advising the name had been accepted.



Today, many thousands pass this place, But do they know the history?

Excerpts from the Society's Journal, Vol 34 no 7, November 2025

EXPLORING THE HQ WEBSITE, <https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/>

You probably know that History Queensland has a website, but it pays to explore it. For instance, under the Resources tab there are numerous links to internet resources dealing with issues such as:

- Legal deposit requirements for the Commonwealth and Queensland
- Guidelines on tax matters and registration of community organisations as charities
- Commonwealth and Queensland Archives
- Brisbane City Archives
- National Library of Australia including Trove
- Queensland Birth, Death and Marriages Registry
- Links to a number of grant providers
- Association/Incorporation, including notes about incorporating and running a community organisation, and 'Getting started'
- Website assistance

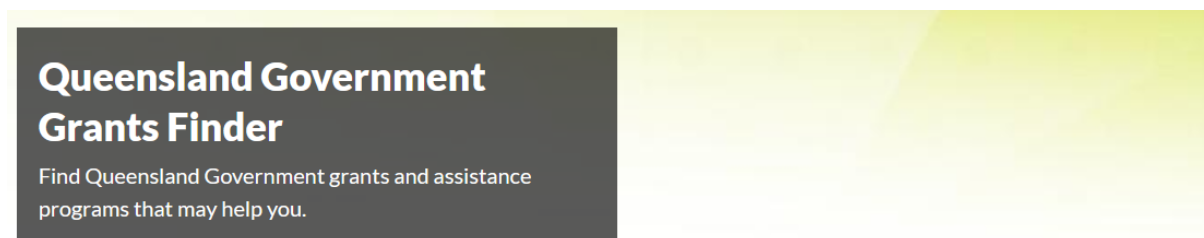
This link takes you to the HQ website: [History Queensland](https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/)

Start exploring as soon as you can!

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT GRANTS FINDER

This is a link to the website [Qld Govt Grants Finder](#)

An extract from the homepage:



Which of the following best describes you?

Please select all that apply

☐

Business, start-up or entrepreneur

☐

Community group/not for profit

☐

Government

☐

Individual seeking grant or assistance

☐

Local government

☐

Researcher/research institute

FREE HISTORY QUEENSLAND ZOOM SERVICE

Extract from HQ's website:

History Queensland now has a Zoom account for use by member societies, completely free of charge, with no fixed time limits.

HQ has purchased an annual subscription to Zoom. This is now available to member societies who wish to use Zoom to run meetings, hold events, or keep in touch with members.

There will be no cost to member societies and no limit on use. For Zoom details [click here](#) or contact the Secretary/Zoom Coordinator on hqzoom21@gmail.com to book.

- Groups will be able to book a time and receive a link to share for their meeting.
- You could hold a meeting, do a presentation, or just have a discussion group.
- Each meeting can have up to 100 people attending.
-

Zoom Meeting time slot

We have a calendar of meetings so we can manage meeting dates and times and, if there's any conflict, we will liaise with you about possible changes.

Any society wishing to take advantage of this offer should email hqzoom21@gmail.com

GYMPIE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

Memories of Christmas Past

I was born in 1950 and have always, then and now, loved Christmas. I believe this stems from the magical Christmas experiences created by my parents, especially my father. My mother explained that when he was a boy his family were very poor and so he wanted to give his family the best he could. I should say here that this did not only apply to Christmas but also to New Year's Day, Easter, Guy Fawkes Night, St Patrick's Day and any other celebration he could invent. Life was very different in the 1950s. Not better, I don't think, but different. First of all, there were no suburban shopping centres. The only large department stores were in the city of Brisbane. I remember these were Finneys and Allan and Stark. Before supermarkets, my mother shopped at the corner store owned by Mr Fong and his family, purchased meat from a local butcher who was Mr Curtis. Our bread was delivered by a horse and cart and later a truck, another truck sold fruit and vegetables door to door and ice was delivered to those who still used ice boxes.

The extract above is from reminiscences by Denise Duler, December 2024, published on the Society's website, <https://www.gfhs.com.au/>. The image on the right also came from the website.

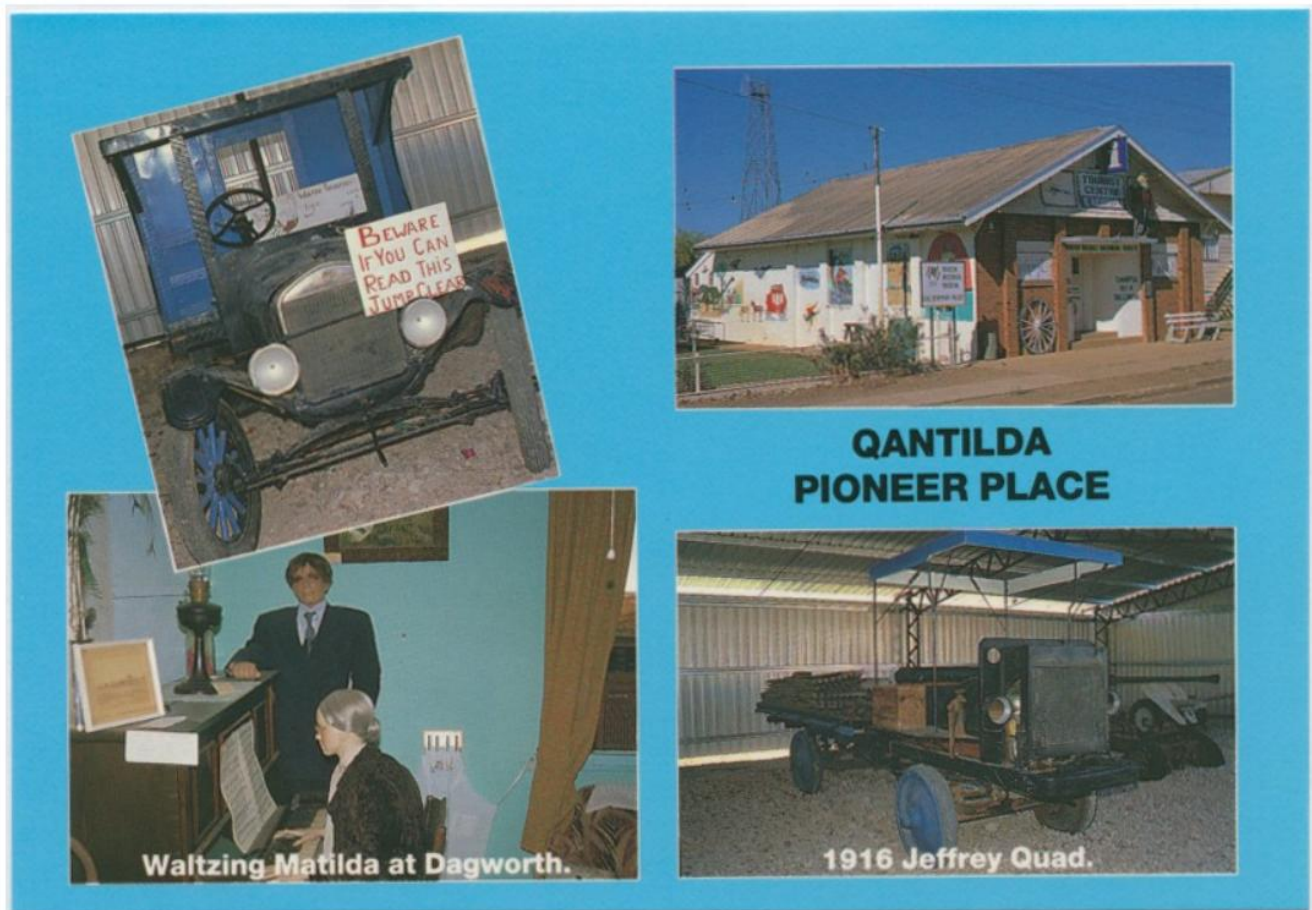


WINTON DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

The Winton District Historical Society and Museum has been operating since 1972. It aims to collect, conserve and display Winton's local history. The Society is run by a small dedicated group of volunteers who come from many walks of life (and ages), but are all brought together by the same common interest – preserving Winton's history.

Over the last few years, the Historical Society has undertaken several projects; these include:

- After the 2015 fire which destroyed the first Waltzing Matilda Centre, the Society opened the Qantilda Museum displays to the public in 2016 and 2017, with volunteers welcoming over 13,500 visitors from across Australia
- Revamping displays through modern interpretive signage
- Installing air-conditioning for a better visitor experience
- Scanning, digitising, and cataloguing old photographs in the collection
- Assisting research enquiries, especially related to family history
- Researching and curating exhibitions- 'More than a Name' and 'Poet, Horseman, Soldier.'



The above text is edited from <https://www.facebook.com/WintonBTA/posts/winton-district-historical-society-and-museum-who-are-we-did-you-know-the-winton-d/2900088586893282>

The image is from <https://www.queenslandplaces.com.au/node/13842>

Shadows From The Past

"Shadow from the Past" is a dramatised evening walk through the heritage listed McLeod Street Pioneer Cemetery. Local actors, under the direction of a professional artistic director, tell the stories of the early residents of Cairns who are buried in this cemetery.

Please be aware that this event is not suitable for people with limited mobility or who use wheelchairs as the ground is uneven and there are trip hazards.
Water and toilets are not available on site.

Dates: July/August 2026

Time: TBA

Where: McLeod Street Pioneer Cemetery,
127-145 McLeod Street, Cairns Queensland 4870

Cost: TBA

Direct booking link with TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAWNW>



BIGGENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

The Biggenden museum houses a large collection of local artefacts, machinery, photos, family history records and items of historical interest. The museum also holds a collection of rocks and items from the Biggenden Mines.



Some information about the Biggenden Mines from <https://www.mindat.org/loc-42920.html> :

The Mount Biggenden deposit was discovered in 1888 because of its large ironstone outcrop. Gold and bismuth were extracted intermittently by shallow underground mining from 1890 to 1912, with gold the primary product from 1890 to 1901 and bismuth thereafter to 1912.

The mine reopened as the Mt Biggenden Bismuth Mine in 1934 and was worked through to 1938. Over 186 kg of gold and 203 t of bismuth (1901-1938) and 330,000 t of magnetite (1966-1980) are known to have been produced, but these figures are probably understated.

In 1966 Commercial Minerals Pty Ltd began open cut mining of the magnetite lenses for crushing and use in coal washing, with bismuth the main flotation by-product of the non-magnetic fraction. The mine extended underground by decline access down to the 10 Level, before finally being officially closed in July 1999. The underground stopes collapsed soon afterwards and propagated up to a 'glory hole' at the surface, which soon filled with groundwater. Since that time the mine passed into private ownership and has been operated as a successful quarry providing crushed gravel for road surfacing and construction etc., initially accessing material from the large old mullock waste dumps and more recently by blasting fresh material.



Bismuth mine, North Queensland, 1908

WYNNUM MANLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society's written report to HQ's 6-monthly General meeting on 22 November included a brief account of restoration work carried out on an old Baptist church and a vandalised statue of a WW1 soldier, both in the grounds of Iona College. (Their full report is among the group reports at the end of this Newsletter.) Thanks to the Society for providing these 'before and after' images of the statue:



BLACKBUTT AND DISTRICT TOURISM AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC



We are very close to having enough funds to relocate a building from Jimna forestry for our Timber Heritage Centre. We do appreciate all that your committee does and we wish you all the best for your meeting and for the festive season.

BRIBIE ISLAND FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC



Our small but active group is growing. Our current membership stands at 43, an increase of 43% since we last reported. In addition, our Facebook group membership has climbed to 80, an increase of 19%. Our meetings are held in the Anzac Room, thanks to the ongoing support of the RSL Club Bongaree. We have welcomed speakers with a variety of topics in the last 6 months, with topics including "Scottish Research", "Early Pioneer Ancestry in the Caboolture Region & Nundah", "Telling Family History through Blogs" and "Mining the Archives". We conducted a successful Scottish Workshop in September with an excellent response and attendance from the general public.

We were successful in applying for Grant funding from a local organization, enabling us to acquire computer and display equipment. A further application has been made to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for additional equipment. Our 2026 Speaking program has been scheduled and will be announced at our AGM in February. In addition, the Association has launched its own website at <https://www.bririefha.org.au/home> and full details of membership and activities can be found there.

BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM



Our September event was not as productive as expected due to a certain rugby league match being changed from a Saturday night to the afternoon of our event! Our next event will be the *Evolution of Brisbane Public Transport* on 7 December, commemorating 100 years since the Brisbane City Council took over the running of Brisbane's trams. As mentioned in the previous report, visitors will be able to experience 4 different modes of transport – from horse-drawn trams through electric trams to diesel buses to electric buses, and there will also be a Metro on site for inspection.

On 1 October the museum was represented by a photo display in the City Hall commemorating 100 years of the Brisbane City Council. Meanwhile, in the background, our Marketing Plan is slowly progressing. All brochures etc. and signage have been updated, and our website is currently being given a new lease of life.

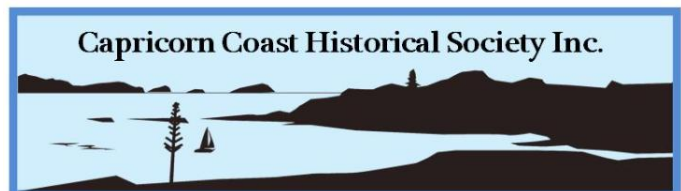
CABOONBAH UNDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH INC



2025 was a successful year for the Association. Our focus was on raising our profile and trying to increase awareness and use by the community. We held our annual Bunyip Picnic in April in conjunction with the Brisbane Valley Churches Together, with over 400 attendees. This is a nod to our history whereby a picnic or shared lunch was traditionally held after church services. We enjoyed a picnic, with a coffee cart, and live music in the beautiful grounds of the church.

We hosted several weddings, at least one Christening and one funeral. One wedding was of the descendant of H P Somerset, after whom Somerset Dam was named. The celebration of the 120th anniversary of the church was in November with around 70 members and community members attending. It was a happy day with the celebratory cake cut by Joy McDougall, the Association secretary for over 30 years and descendant of a significant pioneering family who supported the construction of the church. We are proud that many committee members have a family connection such as this. The Caboonbah Undenominational Church is a facility available for hire for those interested in a unique, country experience. We thank History Qld for promoting our events.

CAPRICORN COAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



We have continued business as usual. Our calendars for 2026 are selling well. Our stalls in our local farmers' market and Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre for the festive season should stimulate our book sales. A Remembrance Ceremony for an air crash north of Rockhampton during WW2 and a ceremony in St Christopher's Chapel remembering the American involvement locally in WW2 have been held. Our book sales at each were rewarding. We continue with monthly general meetings, weekly working bees, and openings for members of the public to visit. Recently we staged an Open Day resulting in five new members. Best wishes for Christmas.

FRIENDS OF TOOWONG CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC



Our Association's membership remains fairly constant at about 15 to 20 financial members. We run a monthly differently-themed walking tour of the cemetery on the First Sunday between February and December. Donations are welcome. We also help the general public with finding their family's graves and give advice and help on maintenance of headstones.

We also conduct a yearly archaeology dig in the cemetery (weather permitting) in late May to locate buried headstones from the old Paddington cemeteries (now Lang Park) that were disposed of in the 1930's from the collection of headstones that were saved and stored at the Milton Christ Church, and also from the 1974 cull of headstones in Toowong Cemetery commissioned by the then Lord Mayor, Clem Jones.

We are currently working on two long-term projects: compiling a list of people buried or commemorated in the cemetery who served their respective countries, so that their names can be recorded on an Honour Wall. (approx. 5000 to date); and working with members of the Australian Remembrance Army in getting plaques put on WW1 service members' unmarked graves. We also operate a website and Facebook page and new members are always welcomed.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC



At our recent AGM on 18 October, long-serving President Helen Veivers stepped down and a new Management Committee was installed. Our new President is Alistair Henderson and our new Secretary is Wendy McLaren.

We held our annual seminar, *Rogues, Rebels and Respectables*, in early October with attendees on ZOOM from all over the country. Then, in early November, our DNA Group hosted DNA expert Angie Bush from the USA for another packed day of interactive lectures to a large hybrid audience.

Our annual writing competition, the Joan Reese Memorial Competition, is now open to entries until 22 May 2026. Entries may be up to 2500 words and from any member or non-member of GSQ; the prize is \$200. Details are available on our website.

GSQ has completed the first stage of its scanning project with FamilySearch to scan and digitise 40 boxes of our paper records. The records have now been taken to the scanning facility for digitisation, and the indexed records are expected back in early 2026.

GSQ is continuing its volunteer work indexing the 18th century Scottish *Register of Deeds* records from the National Records of Scotland archives. The records from the previously unindexed 1769 set are almost complete, and we are now finishing the cross-checking of this first set. We would welcome cooperation with other societies for this project as there are around 500,000 completely unindexed names in this important record.

GLASSHOUSE HISTORY GROUP INC



AGM Sep 2025. It had been several years since we'd taken a photograph of the Management Committee but 2025 was special as it included long-term supporter Bill Morgan, who kindly accepted the role of Vice-President. Apart from being a good bloke with a wealth of knowledge, Bill is a member of the Irvin 'Caterpillar Club' (having his life saved in the 1940s by a silk parachute). The AGM was originally scheduled for June 2025 but unplanned health issues (not Bill) caused a postponement until September. Committee members were gratefully thanked for their maintaining interest in the preservation of local history and giving their time to the maintenance of essential corporate governance.

Monthly Community Meetings – Glass House Neighbourhood Centre. These broader community engagements have continued monthly through 2025 and we are fortunate to have a core group of regulars who share their objects, photos and memories. Meeting themes in the past 6 months have been 'Parlour Games', 'Old Motoring Maps', 'Personal Collections & Curiosities', 'Collectables, Curios & Comforts', and 'Childhood Fun & Games.' The theme 'Old Timepieces & Wrist Watches' is proposed for November.

Beerwah Library Display. A Museum Display Box within the Beerwah Library is made available to volunteer groups for periods of a month. For the month of October the Glasshouse History Group had on display items to commemorate the first settlement in the 'Glass Mountains' district in October 1868 by the Grigor family.

ATO and NFP Return. Successive emails were received from the Tax Office indicating that our organisation had not submitted an NFP Return for several years. As we had not held an ABN number for several years we assumed the return was not required. Attempts to contact the ATO by post, email, telephone and on-line to explain the situation were unsuccessful. However, with perseverance, an alternative phone contact number was found and the request for the return was cancelled. Any direct communication with Government departments and agencies is becoming more difficult when all such traffic is directed to 'on-line.'

Local History Books. The Group has significant stocks of local history books still available and they may be obtained directly from the Glasshouse History Group or from the Peachester Heritage Centre or the Glasshouse Visitor Information Centre.

GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



The AGM in September saw a full committee elected and with Fay Carbis again nominating for President unopposed. The speaker, Lindsay Close, a history lecturer, presented a fascinating account of early Government House, Governor Musgrave's summer residence in Southport in the 1880s. It is now The Southport School on the Nerang River.

Our final Mini-Seminar for the year was presented by Jan Richardson and it was very well received. Her topics included the Australian Dictionary of Biography and more specifically the Harry Gentle Dictionary of Biography pertaining to Queensland, as well as Australian Colonial Records and how to access them at State Archives. It was preceded by an ABC Gold Coast radio interview with a Committee member on the functions of the Society and details of the Seminar.

Our submission of a grant application in the Gold Coast Division 5 Discretionary Grants Program was successful and resulted in a grant of \$1870 which will enable replacement of our photocopier.

The future of the location of our Society at the Bicentennial Centre in Nerang remains unclear. Community consultation in 2023 helped shape the early vision for a Hub. The City of Gold Coast is planning the Hinterland Gateway Community Hub, a modern, high-quality, multi-purpose facility that will bring together recreation, arts and community services in one vibrant, connected location. Our Society members have been invited to hear an update on 26 November on the proposal to upgrade community facilities in Nerang. Our Patron and member, Peter Young, is the Division 5 councillor and we feel sure that he will consider an appropriate and amazing space for our Society to relocate to and see us into the future.

We have now digitised and made searchable our collection of over 320 family history books, many of which contain hundreds of names with genealogical information. The scanning of extra notes from our Sommerville Funerals collection is complete and we hope to make them available next year. Our next project is to digitise all our exchange journals which will make their content more easily accessible and free up space in our library.

Society membership is slightly increased this year at 195. Publicity and advertising of Seminars, Introduction classes, the local Over 50s publication and 4 local library presentations in September are all strategies which help to raise awareness of the existence of our Society in the community.

MT GRAVATT & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION INC



The Mt Gravatt District Historical Association Inc has been running since the early-mid 1990's, so we have been going strong for around 35 years. But many of our original hard-working members have since passed and our numbers are dwindling to around 11 or 12 this year.

We continue to meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month from February to November (but we meet on the 3rd Sunday of May due to Mother's Day). Our meetings are held in the big hall at the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds (building closest to Logan Rd). We are always recruiting for new members.

We are actively in the process of applying for grants to enable us to 1) update the Association by designing a website and an online presence; and 2) edit and reprint our 3 Volumes that contain extensive history from settlement to more recent times of the Mt Gravatt and Districts area. Our updated edit will ensure that the local Indigenous history of the Yuggera and Turrbal people is included.

We also maintain an information display at the Mt Gravatt Plaza (formally named Mountain View Shopping Centre) on which historical photos, information and other materials are rotated on a regular basis.

Keen members who dress up in colonial costumes have also attended a stall with displays for the association at the annual Mt Gravatt Agricultural and Industrial show at the showgrounds, attended by thousands of people each year.

We may be small in numbers, but we are still passionate about the local history of the Mt Gravatt Districts area.

NORTH PINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



With our little group becoming smaller and older, we find ourselves trying to organise more outings to local sites of interest (Museums, Cemeteries, Memorials etc) to create interest and talk about historical times, matters and objects of interest. We are still answering requests from the Council and other contacts on local history matters, but are now looking at digitising our own records as we have found when members of the committee pass, important records can be easily lost.

I wish you all the best with your upcoming meeting and would also like on behalf of the North Pine Historical Society to wish you all the very best wishes for the Christmas Season and all the very best for the New Year of 2026.

ORAL HISTORY QUEENSLAND INC



Oral History Training. OHQ delivered training in June and July in Beaudesert. The two consecutive workshops were attended by local history societies keen to capture the memories of senior volunteers in their organisations. Ten participants engaged in practising listening and interviewing techniques as well as gaining knowledge of contemporary ethical practice and use of digital recording equipment. A further workshop explored ways to use oral histories in museum displays.

OHQ AGM. Our 2025 AGM was held on 30 August and returned the 2024 committee for the 2025-26 financial year. The AGM was followed by a presentation by our 2022 grant recipient whose oral history project on Jewish settlement on the Gold Coast was in its final stages of completion.

Brisbane 100. OHQ Participated in the Brisbane 100 celebration of amalgamation of many smaller municipalities into the city of Brisbane. Three members offered their services on the day:

- Elena Volkova hosted a sound booth offering to record visitors' memories of Brisbane. The booth was continuously busy all day with many visitors keen to share their memories of Brisbane and to register their interest in a fuller oral history at a later date.
- Anne Monsour and the Australian Lebanese Historical Association hosted a display featuring a series of pull-up banners showcasing the early Lebanese settlers and hawkers in South Brisbane. The banners act like a story board and always attract great interest.
- Suzanne Mulligan produced an audio-visual recording of prominent Brisbane women speaking about their lives and careers during and after WW2. The recording was played on a continuous loop throughout the day.

QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



We hosted a successful Open day in late August. The day was friendly, enquiring and informative. We had an Open day opening ceremony marking our first major public event at Delaware St, Chermside. Our local BCC ward Councillor, Danita Parry, performed the opening function. Our members and special interest groups contributed to the success of the day and included guided tours of our services and facilities which were popular. We had good support from the public.

We are currently redrafting our constitution.

QFHS is addressing our aging IT hardware. We are currently installing a new server. We plan to upgrade all of our hardware in early 2026. Our online resources increase at a significant rate. Our IT team is replacing our aging library catalogue with KOHA software.

Settling into our research centre continues with a new entrance door and awning and external street sign being installed.

Our special interest groups are active with good member support. With year's end around the corner, several of our special interest groups have feature events in November. Our annual Volunteers' recognition function is in early December.

Our monthly speaker events are well supported. We continue to service a steady stream of visitors.

Our annual book award for 2025 attracted 4 entrants with a number of topics being centred around the Qld sugar industry. Our 2026 book award project is open. We have received two entries to date.

In the first quarter of 2026 we expect to have a 6-drawer map cabinet excess to our requirements. If your society might be interested in it, please register your interest with secretary@qfhs.org.au , Graeme Drew.

QUEENSLAND MANX SOCIETY INC



The committee has been focused on searching for a permanent base where we can involve the local like-minded community in our activities. This is likely to be in the Moreton Bay/Sandgate area. We also plan to expand our range of activities in 2026.

The Queensland Manx Society participated in the recent Warwick Celtic Festival. It was well-organised and well-attended, especially by a number of Viking groups. The finale on Sunday evening was impressive and involved the Vikings and Manx contingents forming a semi-circle of flaming torches in the arena. We have applied for funds from Gambling Community Benefit Fund for office equipment. We are also making arrangements for some of our older records to be deposited with State Library of Queensland.

REDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC



The Redland Genealogical Society is continuing to flourish, with membership on the rise again after a small decrease in membership numbers earlier in the year. Members of the Society enjoyed a day with the Caloundra Family History Research Group in July. We've begun rationalising our extensive Archives due to space restrictions, with digitising one of the strategies being employed. Members have enjoyed presentations from some marvellous Guest Speakers including Jan Richardson, Col Sutcliffe, Helen Smith, Karen Thurecht and Eve Terry. During Family History month the group operated a Display at the Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre for 6 hours per day for a week, "spreading the word" about what the Society does. At our most recent meeting it was announced that one of our members had solved a Family History riddle that another member had worked on for 20 years – through extensive DNA research. The announcement was met with great excitement and applause!

REDCLIFFE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY INC



Coin collecting has seen a massive increase in popularity in recent years with historic changes to our currency, increased media hype, limited releases of coins and changes in technology that have made people crave something physical and tangible to collect.

The Redcliffe Numismatic Society allows its members to learn about a diverse range of topics, including:

- Australian coins and banknotes
- Modern banknotes, coins & tokens from around the world, and
- Historical coins such as Ancient Roman coins and Medieval hammered coins.

The club produces a monthly newsletter for members with news about anything coin- or banknote-related throughout the world, and we also have an amazing library with books, periodicals and resources available to members.

The focus of the club is to keep members informed about the ever-changing landscape of world numismatics, while making friends with people with common interests, and also having a laugh.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January). They provide a great opportunity to swap coins and banknotes, learn about the latest collectibles, and share collecting strategies. New members are always welcome.

TOOWOOMBA & DARLING DOWNS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Things keep milling along at the library. We, of course, are suffering the same problems other organisations are experiencing such as the lack of volunteers coming on who will eventually take our place.

In saying that though, we just keep on keeping on. Our new u-beaut scanner is now in operation and constantly in use. We are presently digitizing the old Toowoomba Chronicles starting with 1966. We try to keep ahead of TROVE so far as digitizing of newspapers is concerned. I have discovered though that while the digitized newspaper is a bonus to search, it is still in most cases necessary to scan the article from the film, because you can manipulate the zoom, cropping etc. to get a better copy, especially if it takes several crops to scan the article properly.

Also, I still find that sometimes I can locate an article on Trove that won't come up using its search function by using our Toowoomba Chronicle index and then Trove's browse function to go straight to the date and page.

Our members are continuing to index school records and we now have two volunteers helping with this project. The Government Gazettes from 1919 to 1964 are also still being indexed and are proving a valuable asset.

Our twice-a-month discussion groups are still proving popular, but sadly we lost Jan Ward, the other half of the team consisting of Judy Meibusch and Jan. Judy will continue with this activity.

Our secretary Marianne Diggles is presently on the sick list and that has naturally meant some of us having to take over some of her tasks. We will all breathe a sigh of relief when she comes back, but that won't be for some months. Merry Christmas everyone and all the best to all the members of History Queensland for 2026.

WINDSOR & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

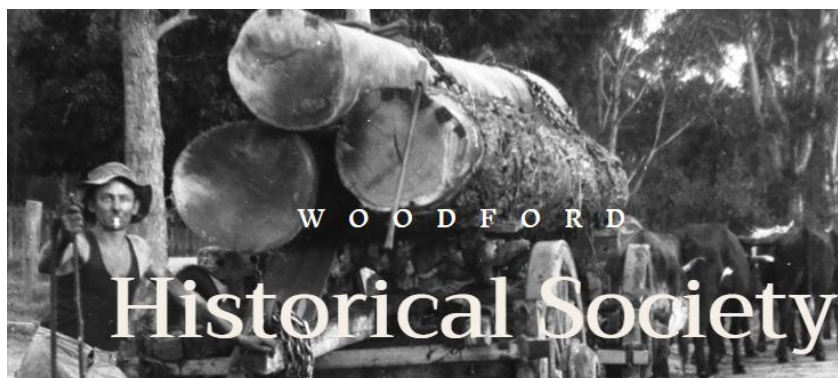


To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Greater Brisbane City Council, a committee was formed to plan an event for the special occasion. Our society's Treasurer was a member of this committee. The committee held many meetings over fifteen months. Most of these meetings were held at our Society's home, the Old Windsor Council Chambers. Many obstacles were encountered but it all came together when, on 1 October, the Brisbane 100 "One City Together" event was held at City Hall. It was a great success. Also, for the Brisbane 100 anniversary, a History Conference was held by the RHSQ at City Hall on 11 October. Twenty-five papers were prepared by local historians, and those stories will be published in a book. Eleven of the papers were read out at the event. Our society had prepared two papers, "The story of William Jolly" and "The history of the Town of Windsor." William Jolly had been Mayor of the Town of Windsor 5 times and we had a large collection of his history. His story was presented on the day by the society's President.

The Windsor State School celebrated its 160th anniversary in October and the Society was invited to attend and to provide an outline of the school's history for attendees.

It has been a busy year for us and it will culminate with the AGM at the end of November. With a few younger members coming on board, the Society looks forward to new ideas with social media and the planning for more events as well as a membership drive, for the coming year.

WOODFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



The term 'going down a rabbit hole' seems to have been the go for us over the last few months. Google AI tells me the term means becoming deeply engrossed in something, often leading to a confusing, complex, or time-consuming experience, and is a metaphor for being distracted or lost in a topic. I can confirm this has applied to us.

A property that was bought by the Mason family in 1913 from Durundur Station and then purchased by C T Williams is now owned by his daughter Karen. We were contacted by the Mason family to see if we had any information about the property. We were able to help and in return received photos and information we didn't have; we will also receive a copy of their publication when completed. This is always a great outcome for us as we can add to our collection with limited effort on our behalf. I visited the property to take photos of what remains there from the time of the Mason family's ownership. The original homestead fireplace still stands, the workers' cottage is under restoration, and there are a few other bits and pieces.

The biggest mystery is a book found by C T Williams when he was inspecting the property in 1961. He found the book up a hollow log. Inside the front cover it says the book was awarded to Emma Turner for 'Proficiency Class V3, 9.12.09' from the Monkland School. A Facebook post regarding the mystery received a lot of attention; the Gympie Family History Society had some information about Emma and said a Williams family was living in the area around that time. They also said that Emma married William Currant in 1918, but she passed away in 1923. I relayed this information to Karen and she said her dad bought a farm at Morayfield from a Mr Currant. But how did the book end up at Stanmore decades later when neither family knew each other at this time? There are some connections but no answers to how the book ended up in the hollow log. The investigation continues.

Another phone call was from Victoria from a family that was closing down their family business. Their surname is well known in Woodford, but they had no knowledge of this and said their family originated from Quilpie. Hanging on their office wall for 80 years were two prints, two Boomerangs and two Nulla Nullas. The only clue of their origins was written on the back of one of the prints, 'Aboriginals. Durundur Q'land 1890-91.'

Doing the right thing, the family wanted the items to be returned to where they came from. We should receive the items in early 2026. We have talked to the Jinibara People and when the items arrive, we hope there are some identifying marks to show if they are from our area. What we found about these two families contacting us is to have an active Facebook page and a website so when people search for information they are directed to us; apparently it's all about the algorithms.

WYNNUM MANLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



WMHS has had a good year with ten monthly meetings. Each meeting included a presentation with subjects including the history of the local Aboriginal people by the Chair of Wynnham ATSIC, Auntie Becky, the history of the Wynnum Choral Society, restoration work on the Wynnum Masonic Hall, the 1936 Mail Train Murders, and re-creation of a holiday trip to Manly in 1938. Our membership now stands at 74.

During the year the restoration of the old Baptist Church (built 1912) was completed at Iona College, and we were fortunate to have HQ President Sally Romano attend our June meeting in the newly restored church.

Another restoration project involved a 1921 marble sculpture of a WW1 soldier, which had been vandalized. The restored sculpture is also at Iona College alongside the church and is open to the public.

One of our committee members, Chiharu Tsurutani, was also on the Brisbane Centenary Committee. We provided posters and a slide presentation for the display held on 1 October. After all the hard work it was truly a disappointment that the wonderful exhibition by various historical societies was open at City Hall for only one day.

Society members visited St Johns Anglican Cathedral in the city. On the Cathedral site is the first Government House, from where, on 10 December 1859, Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Bowen, announced the formation of the new colony of Queensland. The house is now the dean's residence. The Cathedral, which was built between 1906 and final completion in 2007, has many historical items on display. These include the last flag removed from the beach at Gallipoli, and a Roman denarius dated AD29 from Jerusalem, which could have been the very coin mentioned in Matthew 22. Prior to the visit a monthly meeting presentation about the Cathedral included video footage of Queen Elizabeth II's attendance at the Cathedral in 1954.

The Society is grateful to HQ for our success in winning a grant. We will use the funds to digitize our extensive records. We plan to make most of the records available on our website (excluding only those where the privacy of a living person is involved). The grant will greatly speed up the process. We are very conscious of the need to make records easily available. Our website (www.wmhs.org.au) currently includes 232 of our newsletters, stretching back to 2002. An index of about a thousand articles was compiled manually. We hope to find suitable software to index the newly digitised material.

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