



NEWSLETTER

The latest from History Queensland Inc
and members

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CENTRAL QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION – MASTER INDEX

Zoom session about online Master Index on Thursday 25 June from 6.30pm

Following on from the Central Queensland FHA report at the recent History Queensland AGM about their success in adding a searchable catalogue, containing thousands of their resources, onto their website, and an internal searchable Master Index at their library, Chris Wright* has kindly offered to give a short presentation on the process they used, share some hints and tips and problems they encountered.

This should be of great interest to any HQ groups also planning to undertake a similar project.

Please book into the session by emailing Chris Wright - tech-coordinator@cqfamilyhistory.org.au so we know who to expect when the meeting opens.

To join the meeting, click on the link, or enter meeting ID and passcode:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272488513?pwd=IdfB9FOU6I2U48LZAkyhv6JOR9uRWK.1>

Meeting ID: 852 7248 8513 Passcode: 120535

The Master Index may be accessed here: <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au/master-index-search>

*Chris Wright is also a member of the HQ committee.



The Central Queensland Family History Association was formed in May 1986 as the Central Queensland Genealogical Association to accommodate the growing demand for genealogical records for family history research. In late 1990 the name was changed to the current one to better represent our coverage.

The association has its own club rooms at 16 Highway St, North Rockhampton and holds many family history records of Central Queensland and other areas.

The Society's website is <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this report to the Annual General Meeting and to reflect on what has been a productive and energising year for History Queensland.

This year we have deepened our connection with member organisations, strengthened our presence in the broader history and archives sector, invested in strategic planning for our future, and — perhaps most visibly — brought History Queensland to the attention of a national audience through media coverage on the vital role local history plays in our communities.

I want to acknowledge the dedication of our Management Committee volunteers, whose commitment makes everything we do possible. Keeping a membership organisation moving forward on goodwill and volunteer time is no small feat, and I am grateful for every contribution. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the retirements of Kerry Beeton and Tara Hart from the Management Committee. Both have given generously of their time and energy, and we are grateful for everything they have contributed to History Queensland.

Member engagement and society visits

Maintaining direct relationships with our member societies has been a priority this year. I have made a deliberate effort to visit societies in person wherever possible — to listen to what they need and to share what History Queensland can offer.

In November, History Queensland visited the Brisbane Tramway Museum, which generously hosted our 6-Monthly General Meeting. Their dedication to preserving Queensland's transport heritage is a wonderful example of the passion that keeps our State's history alive.

In December, I accepted the kind invitation of President David Barnes to visit the Bribie Family History Association and speak about how HQ supports societies across the State. My key message was one I feel strongly about: the work undertaken by members of family and local history groups is not 'just a hobby' but community infrastructure that safeguards stories, records and identity.

Most recently, I accepted another kind invitation, this one from Secretary Jennifer Mott, to visit the Redcliffe Historical Society, where I gave a similar presentation about how HQ supports societies across the State, emphasising that local and family history is part of our preserving our community heritage and not simply a pastime.

During the year HQ assisted Bulimba & District Historical Society, who reached out for guidance regarding their possible closure. I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of our Secretary, Valerie Thornton, on this matter. Her intimate understanding of incorporated associations and her ability to compose a fair, balanced and constructive response was exemplary and has helped save the society.

Membership Initiatives

The 2025 Small Grants Program supported seven member organisations with projects such as archival storage, digitisation, publications and community heritage displays — a wonderful reflection of the breadth of work happening across the State. A huge thank you to Kerry Beeton for coordinating this round so capably, and to our judges Janice Cooper, Niles Elvery and Stephanie Ryan for their time and expertise.

External representation and advocacy

History Queensland continues to maintain its representation on the National Archives of Australia's Queensland Consultative Forum, ensuring our members' interests are reflected in conversations about archives, access and preservation. At the most recent meeting, the NAA provided an update on their

2025–2030 Strategy rollout, which focuses on improving the management and accessibility of their collection and deepening public engagement — goals that strongly mirror the challenges and aspirations of our own member groups.

On 12 February I was interviewed by Charlie McLean of ABC News about engaging younger people in Queensland's history sector. The resulting coverage appeared on both ABC Radio National and the ABC News website. This was a meaningful opportunity to advocate for the sector at a national level and to highlight the vital community role our member organisations play. The links to the coverage have been shared with members previously. In mid-February we distributed a research survey to all members on behalf of Australian National University PhD student Bryan Kalms, who is studying the role and nature of community museums in Australia. Members were invited to complete a short online questionnaire to help build a clearer picture of this largely understudied sector. Contributing to this kind of research supports future advocacy for funding and community backing across the sector.

Strategic direction

One of my priorities as President has been to ensure History Queensland has a clear, shared sense of direction — so that our volunteer time, energy and resources are directed where they will have the greatest impact.

In late November, the Management Committee held a strategic development and horizon-scoping session. The conversation was exploratory in nature, focused on identifying themes and possible directions for 2026 and beyond, rather than making formal commitments.

Building on that foundation, the Management Committee resolved to survey our membership to gain a clearer understanding of the operational priorities of Queensland's history sector. I am pleased to report that, working with Charlotte Sale, the survey is now in its final stages of development. We expect to issue it to members and prospective member organisations in early June, with responses due in early July. The findings will be shared with members in due course and will directly inform our strategic priorities for the future.

Closing remarks

The year ahead holds real promise. With a membership survey imminent, an expanding program of society visits, and a Management Committee that is thinking carefully about how best to serve our members, I am confident that History Queensland is well-placed to grow its impact across the sector.

I look forward to working with you all to continue building an organisation that is useful, connected and valued by every one of its member societies.

Sally Romano.

VALE MARIONNE DIGGLES

Marionne Diggles of Toowoomba Darling Downs Family History Society passed away on 5 January. Marionne's connection with History Queensland began when she joined the HQ Fair Committee in 2007. She became Secretary in 2009 and continued in that role until 2016. She was also a very hard-working member of Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society and was very involved in the many indexing projects they undertook. Sadly missed.

REPORT BY TREASURER, FAY CARBIS

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Income		
Public Liability Insurance Fees	44,485	38,560
Total Income	44,485	38,560
Cost of Sales		
Insurance	43,029	37,355
Total Cost of Sales	43,029	37,355
Gross Surplus	1,456	1,205
Other Income		
Membership Fees	4,792	4,725
Interest Income	3,131	2,613
Other Revenue	690	-
Share of Conference Income	3,323	-
Total Other Income	11,935	7,337
Expenditure		
Computer costs	-	375
Consulting & Accounting	330	605
Fees & charges	-	23
General Expenses	264	264
Gifts	185	125
Grant expenditure - regional travel support	1,500	1,215
Grant expenditure - small grants	10,050	10,053
Insurance - management liability	-	1,110
Meeting expenses	1,236	200
Postage	224	241
Printing & Stationery	66	121
Subscriptions	40	40
Travel, Accommodation & Conference	-	155
Website & hosting costs	901	438
Total Expenditure	14,796	14,966
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	(1,405)	(6,423)
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	(1,405)	(6,423)
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	(1,405)	(6,423)

(Assets and Liabilities Statement is on the next page.)

Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 31 March 2026

	NOTES	31 MAR 2026	31 MAR 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash at bank - BOQ (operating)		1,471	3,003
Cash at bank - BOQ (term deposit)		40,000	50,000
Cash at bank - BOQ (websaver)		58,386	48,259
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents		99,857	101,262
Total Current Assets		99,857	101,262
Total Assets		99,857	101,262
Net Assets		99,857	101,262
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		99,857	101,262
Total Member's Funds		99,857	101,262

REPORT BY INSURANCE OFFICER, HELEN TURNER

It has been another successful year for the History Queensland Inc Insurance Scheme. There are currently 160 organisations insured under the HQ \$20 million blanket cover for Public Risk and Volunteer Worker insurance. Our broker, Christine Reith (AJ Gallagher), has once again done a wonderful job in sourcing the best value for money for our members. I would recommend we use AJ Gallagher again for the next insurance term, 2027-28. The insurance declarations will be mailed out in mid to late January next year so please keep an eye out for the email. The information contained in these declarations will determine what the premiums will be. Some of you may have noticed that the premium this year was slightly cheaper by \$10 to \$12.

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 2026-27

The number of nominations for the Management Committee for the next year did not exceed the number of positions and consequently those nominated were declared elected.

President	Sally Romano	president@historyqueensland.org.au
Secretary	Valerie Thornton	secretary@historyqueensland.org.au
Treasurer	Fay Carbis	treasurer@historyqueensland.org.au
Committee members	Jacqui Brock	jacquirosebrock@gmail.com
	Clive Porritt	newsletter@historyqueensland.org.au
	Claire Rodwell	assistantsecretary@gsq.org.au
	Charlotte Sale	qfhs.mc15@qfhs.org.au
	Helen Turner	insurance@historyqueensland.org.au
	Chris Wright	coolgenealogy@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026-27

Society with up to 50 members	\$27
Society with 51 to 100 members	\$44
Society with more than 100 members	\$60
Associate member	\$27

HQ APPOINTMENTS

Accountant	Balanced Accounting Services, Burleigh Heads
HQ Insurance Officer	Helen Turner
Insurance Broker	Christine Reith, Arthur J Gallagher & Co
Webmaster	Sue McKenzie
Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) representative	Sally Romano

DAYBORO DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Date claimers:

Dayboro Show Saturday and Sunday 4 and 5 July. The theme for the various sections of the show will be Boots.



75s and Over Day Sunday 25 October, about Dayboro history and families.



Mt Pleasant School of Arts, c1917.

'The residents of Mt Pleasant, Upper North Pine, have during the past three months collected money to erect a School of Arts and hall, and the builders have just handed over the new building (writes a correspondent). To celebrate the occasion the Building Committee held a sports meeting and ball, to which the whole of the school children for miles around were invited.'

Brisbane Courier, 24 May 1910

Extracts from the Society's *Newsletter*, April/May 2026.



Raspberry Creek Homestead, Byfield, is on the Queensland Heritage Register

(Byfield is described as being about 30 minutes north of Yeppoon. Ed.)

James Hutton and Mary Hutton nee Cameron, pioneers of the Shoalwater Bay area in central Queensland, took up the Raspberry Creek run in 1863, moving up from the New England District. Originally, a slab hut was constructed and in ensuing years as the family grew the homestead was extended. Family lore has it that James Hutton had previously visited the area with Robert Ross and his sons, James and John, who were also from the New England district. James Hutton and James Ross formed a partnership to acquire the Raspberry Creek Run.

By 1868, the partnership between Ross and Hutton had dissolved and the Huttons became the sole owners of Raspberry Creek. From 1869, following resumption and opening of the resumed land to selection, the Huttons took up further selections at Shoalwater and Banksia. When the family grew larger, weather boards for extensions were brought in by boat along Shoalwater Creek: most stores were brought in by boat as it was easier than overlanding.

In 1894, the Huttons moved to Sydney where they stayed until Mary's death in 1896. James returned to Raspberry Creek and continued to run the station with his eldest son William until his death in 1898. William Hutton resided at Raspberry Creek Homestead until his retirement in 1911. Raspberry Creek was sold to William Naughton in 1914 and passed out of the ownership of the Hutton Family.

Raspberry Creek homestead became part of the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area on 1 July 1965. The homestead was not in permanent use, though it was utilised as a base camp for reconnaissance parties and by the Federal Department of Construction employees working in the training area. From mid-1987, Raspberry Creek homestead was not utilised as a base camp.

The homestead was relocated from the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in 1988 with the aid of a Bicentennial grant. It is located on a reserve for Cultural & Historical Purposes under the trusteeship of Livingstone Shire Council and leased by Byfield & District Historical Society Inc. The Society operates a museum and library in the former homestead.

Adapted from the Queensland Heritage Register, <https://qhr.detsi.qld.gov.au>

VALE MARG DOHERTY



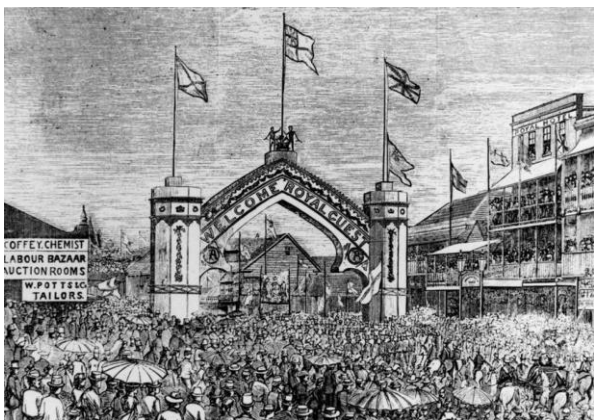
It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of our former President and long-serving History Queensland Committee member, **Marg Doherty**, on 30 March 2026. Marg and her husband Geoff were enjoying a well-earned Pacific cruise when she tragically passed away.

Marg joined the History Queensland Committee in November 2009 to fill a casual vacancy. She was elected Treasurer at the 2010 AGM and went on to succeed Les McFadzen as President at the 2011 AGM. She served with dedication and distinction in that role for the next twelve years, retiring at the 2023 AGM.

Beyond her leadership at History Queensland, Marg contributed significantly to the QFHS Committee over many years and, most recently, was an active member of the GSQ Education Committee, helping to organise guest speakers and educational programs.

History Queensland extends its deepest condolences to her husband Geoff, and to the many friends and colleagues whose lives were enriched by Marg's warmth, commitment, and service.

SLQ – VISIT OF PRINCE ALFRED TO BRISBANE, 1868



John Oxley Library, SLQ, neg 88356

In 1868 the Australian colonies were visited for the first time by a member of the Royal Family. Prince Alfred, second son of Queen Victoria, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, was engaged in a voyage around the world as Captain of HMS Galatea. He began his naval career as a midshipman aged 14 in 1858 and was promoted to Captain in 1866; he took command of the Galatea in 1867. His arrival in Brisbane on the morning of 25 February was greeted with all the expected pomp and ceremony that he was no doubt, by now, used to (perhaps wearied by?).

Adapted from SLQ blog *Prince Alfred and the train to nowhere*

DEDICATION OF YPRES GLASS MEMORIAL

On Sunday 7 June I represented History Queensland at the dedication of the Ypres glass memorial, in the Darnell Room of St Martin's House. About 30 people were present to witness the dedication by The Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt, Dean of St John's Cathedral.

It was unexpectedly moving to view the small, delicate pieces of glass, carefully mounted in a stressed wooden cross of French oak. The pieces of glass were collected from the ruins of St Martin's Catholic Cathedral in Ypres in 1917 by Sergeant James Garven of the Australian Imperial Force, and kept in a small leather satchel which forms part of the memorial. The glass was sent to Sgt Garven's wife after he was killed, not long after he collected it, and it was found later in the belongings of his daughter after her death. The glass was donated to St John's Cathedral by Sgt Garven's granddaughter with the consent of the Belgian cathedral.

Speakers at the dedication included Sgt Garven's granddaughter, Mrs Janice Stevens, and James Donaldson, a historian from the University of Queensland. James Donaldson is co-author of a project to locate, research, and publish information about antiquities brought back as souvenirs by Queensland service personnel during WW1, and to tell the stories of those service men and women.

More information about the glass and its history can be found here:

<https://anglicanfocus.org.au/2026/05/28/st-martins-catholic-cathedral-ypres-glass-medieval-origins-world-war-i-history-and-st-johns-anglican-cathedral-memorial/>

The Ypres glass memorial will be located in St Martin's House on the Cathedral precinct, where the Cathedral offices are based. St Martin's House was formerly St. Martin's War Memorial Hospital — erected in memory of WW1 servicemen and nurses; returning soldiers and nurses were treated there free of charge. St Martin's House shares the same namesake as Ypres' Cathedral — St Martin of Tours.

I chatted with several people from various organisations, many of whom also had personal connections with soldiers who fought on the Western Front. One was Chris Seymour of the Wynnum Manly Historical Society which is a member of HQ. He asked to be remembered to the management committee. He is also involved in the Royal Queensland Art Society and very keen for a project to catalogue and professionally describe the art works of St John's Cathedral.



Text and images from the report by HQ committee member Char Sale, Queensland Family History Society, and the link above to an article in <https://anglicanfocus.org.au/>.



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Te Rangapu Kahikohiko
o Aotearoa

Information about flight discounts through Qantas and (via a link) Air New Zealand is available from <https://affhocongress.org/discounts/> .

The same page refers to deals made with Wellington hotels:



There are many different places to stay in Wellington. You will find one to suit your budget and required facilities.

We have arranged deals with the following hotels:

[Ryldges Hotel Deal](#)

[Accor Hotels Deal](#) – Accor have the IBIS, Sofitel and Novotel Hotels. If you require extra days, book the deal days and then then [contact the hotel](#) to arrange more [James Cook Grand Chancellor Deal](#)

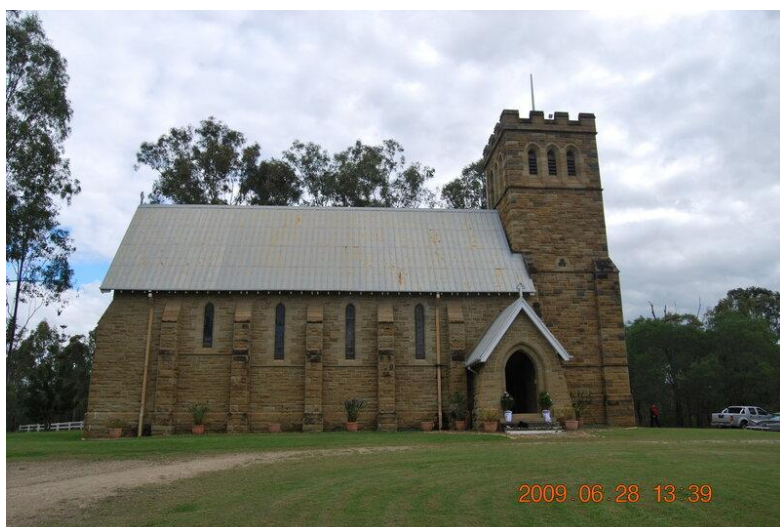
FRIENDS OF MUNDOOLUN CHURCH

The group was incorporated on 13 June 2025. Its objects include furthering knowledge of the history of the heritage-listed St Johns Church, Mundoolun (near Beaudesert) and to enable the receipt of donations for use in attending to physical matters of the church building and surrounds and, in conjunction with the Anglican Church Jimboomba, engage appropriate services to undertake any necessary works on their behalf.

Title to 'St Johns Mundoolun' and the surrounds was transferred to the Church of England (now the Anglican Church) in 1905. The Collins Family through the generations have continued to undertake the maintenance of the Church building and its surrounds. To facilitate the receipt of financial contributions an ANZ bank account was established in about 1984.

For the Collins Family to continue to undertake maintenance on the church building and surrounds and to meet current banking regulations, descendants and friends of the family formed an unincorporated association 'Collins Family Descendants and Friends' in May 2025 in order to apply for the status of incorporated association with the name Friends of Mundoolun Church Inc.

Over the years, contributions to undertake the family's maintenance objectives have typically come from within the Collins Family. There has never been **public** fundraising to undertake these objectives. Any contributions made to 'Friends of Mundoolun Church Inc.' are only to be used for the maintenance of the church building and surrounds and for administration expenses of the association. Friends of Mundoolun Church Inc. is a 'Not-For-Profit' association.



St. John's Church, Mundoolun is important in demonstrating the pattern of development of South-East Queensland, in particular the evolution of the pastoral district around Beaudesert.

As a substantial masonry private family chapel, St John's Church, Mundoolun is a rare and uncommon type of building in Queensland.

Church built in 1901, tower in 1915. Architect John Hingeston Buckeridge

Adapted from the Queensland Heritage Register

Jacqui Brock, a member of the HQ committee, contributed the following in her assessment of the association's application for HQ membership. It is unclear whether it influenced the committee.

"I've always been a bit of rough diamond/tomboy/car and bike fanatic. When I was a teenager, a big group of us would go out to Mundoolun Church, occasionally late at night, in our hotted-up cars, to see who was brave enough to walk all the way up to the Church as we'd all been told it was haunted.

We weren't vandals or hoons but we all knew it was private property which I guess added to the 'excitement.' Of course, there was always a chorus of people groaning and moaning to add to the eeriness of it all.

To get there, you had to cross the train tracks at Jimboomba, and there was an urban myth too, that on a full-moon night your car would stall as you crossed the tracks and a ghost train would come out of nowhere and disappear just as it was about to run into you, and then miraculously your engine would start again."

FREDERICK WILLIAM THIEL

Frederick William Thiel (1896–1960) was more than just a photographer; he was a visual historian of Brisbane's coming of age. Born in the city on March 3, 1896, Thiel began his career with a sense of civic duty and a sharp eye for the momentous.

At just 18, Thiel documented the departure of the *SS Omrah*, the first troopship to leave Brisbane in 1914. Demonstrating early philanthropic roots, he donated an enlargement of the image to the Wounded Soldiers Fund.



THE FIRST TROOPSHIP TO LEAVE BRISBANE.
Departure of S.S. Omrah from Brisbane with the original 100 British (and Allied) on Sep. 14, 1914.



By 1916, he opened his first studio in Edward Street. Following the war, he curated the city's collective memory through publications like *Brisbane's War Pictorial 1914–1918* and *Brisbane Illustrated*.



Fred was a Pioneer of Aerial Photography: In 1920, Thiel took his craft to the skies. Flying as a passenger in a single-engine biplane, he captured the city from a bird's-eye view, later publishing these rare perspectives in *Brisbane from the Air*.



No. 1 The Pilot, Captain F. R. Smith, M.C., D.F.C.
No. 2 The Passenger, Mr. J. B. Smith.
No. 3 The Photographer, F. W. Thiel.



Kedron Park Racecourse 6 December 1919

Extract from the Society's *Journal*, Vol 38 no 2, May 2026.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS TO REGISTER AS CHARITIES

Member organisations which are not registered as incorporated not-for-profit groups and have an ABN are required by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to undertake an annual self-review for the ATO.

In late 2024 Valerie, the HQ Secretary, co-ordinated bulk registration as charities for some members which did not already have charity status, thereby eliminating the requirement that they undertake the self-review required by the ATO.

HQ proposes to provide a similar service this year to assist members which are not already registered as incorporated not-for-profit groups. We already have one member society which has indicated that they are interested in being part of this exercise.

If your society is interested in registering as a charity and wishes to avail themselves of the assistance HQ is offering this year, please advise Valerie at secretary@historyqueensland.org.au. The deadline for indicating your interest in joining this exercise is 15 July 2026.

FRIENDS OF NUNDAH HISTORIC CEMETERY – ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS

At our monthly clean-up last Sunday, we had the privilege of placing poppies on the graves of our servicemen and women, a small gesture of remembrance but one filled with meaning.

A very special thank you to Avon, Daphne, Leanne and Cathy, whose time, care, and talent went into knitting these beautiful poppies. Each one was made with love, and it truly showed.



Members of our group were proud to attend the official ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the cemetery and lay a wreath on behalf of our group. Standing alongside the community in the early morning light, we paid our respects to the servicemen and women.



From the Friends' newsletter *Echoes of Nundah's Past*, Issue 15 April 2026

PEACHESTER HISTORY COMMITTEE INC – HISTORY OF COOCHIN CREEK CO-OP (CONTINUED)

After the Second World War the introduction of mechanical land clearing quickly increased areas of production. New weedcides were to play a big part in the easier management of pineapple growing. Production of pineapples and citrus with some bananas were the main crops. As the district grew, plantings of fruit and vegetables diversified with avocados, macadamia nuts and strawberries becoming prominent, being approximately 50% of business today.

Privately owned pineapple crates were taken into the Beerwah Crate Pool in 1956 and later converted to the Bulk Bin Pool in 1961. In April 1961, growers were requested to give notice, by May 3rd, if they intended to participate in the use of Bulk Bins. On 9 May 1961 a forklift (Coventry Climax) was purchased for £500 from the Northgate Cannery. A charge of one shilling per bin loading fee was levied on all bulk bins loaded from the inception of the scheme 1-3-61. Today the Co-op has 1000 bins being used for factory deliveries of pines and citrus.

Factory loadings this year were 14,500 bins of pines and 5000 bins of citrus.

The Co-op now has several buildings and a fuel station, a big change from the little weatherboard shed from the Beerburrum War Settlement. Plans are under way for new buildings to handle the increased business and allow for future expansion.

Total Sales	1937	£164/19/8
	1986	\$2,265,800



Images are from PHC's collection and date from the late 1960s or early 1970s. Top, Beerwah Railway Station; Middle, Loading bulk bins with the forklift; Bottom, Pineapple farm.

Text from the 50th anniversary booklet produced in 1986 by former Chairman, W Fullerton, this final section by the then Chairman, Col Stokes.

From the Committee's *Newsletter*, no 206 May-June 2026.

Jane Gillis (formerly Bridgeman) née Eyles, by Member Leonne Willis

Jane was born in 1825 in Lasham, Hampshire, England. Her parents were Daniel and Jane (née Primmer) Eyles. Jane was the sixth child in a family of ten children. From records, we know that, prior to moving to Lasham, her family's line had been living in the area surrounding East Meon, Hampshire for about 200 years. Also, in centuries past, her forebears had been very wealthy, possessing titles and property in divers English counties.



East Meon, Hampshire, with its 11th Century Norman Church



This is the only known photo of Jane Gillis, my great-great-grandmother. Jane was born at Lasham, Hampshire, England and died at Gowrie Little Plain, Queensland.

As a rural farm worker (wood cutter) Daniel struggled to find work. In fact, Daniel and his family were listed in the *1832 Schedule of Poor People in Lasham Parish*. To be eligible for this assistance, they must have been extremely poor. Around 1840, the New Zealand Company had been circulating information in rural villages about opportunities to work and live in New Zealand. Along with free passage, a minimum wage of 28 shillings per week was guaranteed which was much more than was offered in England.

Company documents exist that show that Daniel Eyles and his family chose to leave England. They preferred hardships and uncertainties in a new land rather than continuing in dire poverty in England. The strenuous journey to the settlement of Nelson on New Zealand's South Island on the sailing ship *Mary Ann* took almost five months (Sep 1841 to Feb 1842). On board were 174 emigrants and the families had to provide their own baggage, tools, clothing and for their own means of living after landing in Nelson.

The Company provided good provisions and a surgeon, Doctor Cook. He earned a bonus for every passenger who disembarked. In addition, he received one pound for every live birth but every death cost him one pound.

Extract from an article in the Group's Journal, *The First Settlement City Gazette*, March 2026

BUNDABERG GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC

From the *Bundaberg Daily News Mail* 20 March 1930.

From 'Kiddies' Korner

These are newsy extracts from some of Aunt Bundy's letters in the Kiddies Korner this week:

DRINAN* DOINGS (by Ellen Beyer)

Mr and Mrs Kuhn and son, Lenny, are spending a holiday at the Burnett heads.

Mrs Harry Sondergeld is an inmate in the Gin Gin Hospital.

Mr F Kieck is spending the weekend in town.

There was a swimming contest on Sunday, at Wallaville.

Church services were held in the hall last Thursday; the Minister was the Rev Mr Hewsen.

A shower of rain is needed again for the gardens and the farms.

The sawmill is kept busy. Horse and bullock teams are bringing logs in every day.

Whooping cough has visited us again, several children being kept home from school.

Bundaberg News Mail 9 February 1950

SCHOOL REOPENS WALLAVILLE*

The Wallaville State School re-opened last Tuesday with a few new faces. The children welcomed a new assistant mistress, Miss B Stockwell, who took the place of Miss M Pashley, transferred to Byrnestown.

Four of the candidates from the school recently sat for the scholarship and were successful. They were Lois Stengord, Carla Brand, John Dammash and Eddy Salloom.

Extracts from the Association's Journal, *Family Ties*, Vol 29 no 4, June 2026.

(* Drinan and Wallaville are rural localities in the Bundaberg region. Ed.)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC



*'The Journey Home'
memorial plaque
Sherwood Arboretum,
Sherwood Qld. For the
Stolen Generations.*

'The Journey Home' memorial plaques in Brisbane.

In 1997, Council, churches and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities began a series of events to recognise the Stolen Generations. In 1998, commemorative plaques were installed by Council in Brisbane parks as a mark of respect, apology, remembrance and recognition of the children and families of the Stolen Generations. Each plaque site was chosen due to cultural and historical significance, including proximity to properties involved in the policy of Separation. The sites are also the Lord Mayor of Brisbane's response to the 'Bringing Them Home' report, the final report of the 'National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families.' A practice that heavily impacted Queensland between 1908 and 1971. Community events are held on or near National Sorry Day, 26 May.

There are six key memorial sites in the Brisbane area: CBD, King George Square (City Hall); Orleigh Park (West End/Hill End); Pandanus Point, Wynnum Foreshore (Breakwater Park); Teralba Park (Pullen Rd, Everton Park); Sherwood Arboretum, Sherwood; Kalinga Park (Nundah)
<https://yoursay.brisbane.qld.gov.au/98201/widgets/453587/documents/300785>

From *Generation*, the Society's Quarterly Journal, Vol 49 no 3, March 2026.

BLUEWATER FESTIVAL

Good Friday, 3 April



Start of the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, Sandgate Pier, 1950 (John Oxley Library)

Once again, the museum will be running the festival train along the waterfront between the former Baptist Church and Shorncliffe Pier from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Volunteers are required to collect donations from train users. If you could offer an hour or two between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm please contact the museum. Any help would be much appreciated.



We are also hosting Devonshire Tea at the museum from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm for only \$10.00.



While enjoying tea and scones, take the time to admire our 'Century of Love - Weddings, Fashions and Traditions' display where you will step into a century of "I do" and take a nostalgic look at wedding styles and stories through the years.

From the Society's *Newsletter*, March 2026.

MARITIME LANTERNS

The lanterns shown are maritime lanterns, or clipper ship lanterns, where a red lantern was used to mark the port (left) side of a ship and green to mark the starboard (right) side, to help navigate around other ships at night.



WAR MEMORIAL OPENING - 1924

A large crowd gathered for the official opening of the War Memorial at Sandgate on 24 February 1924 by the Governor Sir Matthew Nathan, to commemorate those men who had been killed in the recent World War 1 1914 - 1918.

The inscription on the memorial stone (on the reverse side to that containing the names of the "Fallen") was taken from the poem *Anzac's Dead* written by W H Lister.

"They died, and yet in memory shall they live
That we may know the worth of sacrifice;
Know that their death in freedom's cause
Stands as a beacon light, to point the way
To paths of peace."



Photograph from estate of Mitchell/Barbour – donated 2007

In the background can be seen Vic Stone's General Store, Isaac Best's Butcher, Eric Decker's Auction Mart and Lewis Furniture Mart.

The Agnew Clothing Factory 1945-1983: a snapshot of a part of our Commercial Heritage

by Margaret Harding

A tenacious and adventurous couple, David and Marion Agnew came to Redcliffe to establish a manufacturing plant at Maine Road Clontarf just as World War II ended. The site was a disused poultry farm which Grace Primary School currently occupies.

Over the years hundreds of young ladies gained employment and grew up learning various sewing skills as well as making life-long friendships – a credit to Mrs Agnew, an excellent teacher who created a unique family atmosphere. A recruitment advertisement from the Redcliffe Herald in the 1960s mentioned that

“ 400,000 garments go from Redcliffe every year!

Girls 15 to 18 years are invited to be part of the success story.

Merle Ricardo, one of the ‘book’ committee graciously undertook to weave the story from hand sewing to operating imported machines and adapting to new market demands including when Agnew’s largest customers (Woolworths/Coles) turned to importing from Asian countries. Elder son Drummond and later

daughter Juliann and her husband John ensured that Agnews diversified to meet the new trends and technology from the 1970s.



Norma Kennedy, Daphne Holmes, Merle Ricardo and Heather Bradford at a morning tea in preparation for the Agnew Legacy book on 17 November 2010.

The Agnew Legacy book was printed in 2012 and is sold through History Redcliffe and the Museum at the reduced price of \$12 each.

There is currently a display of Agnew Clothing Factory garments in the Redcliffe Museum. There was also a reunion of former employees of the Agnew Clothing Factory at the Redcliffe Museum on 18th February 2026.



The Agnew employees.



A candid moment of conversation.

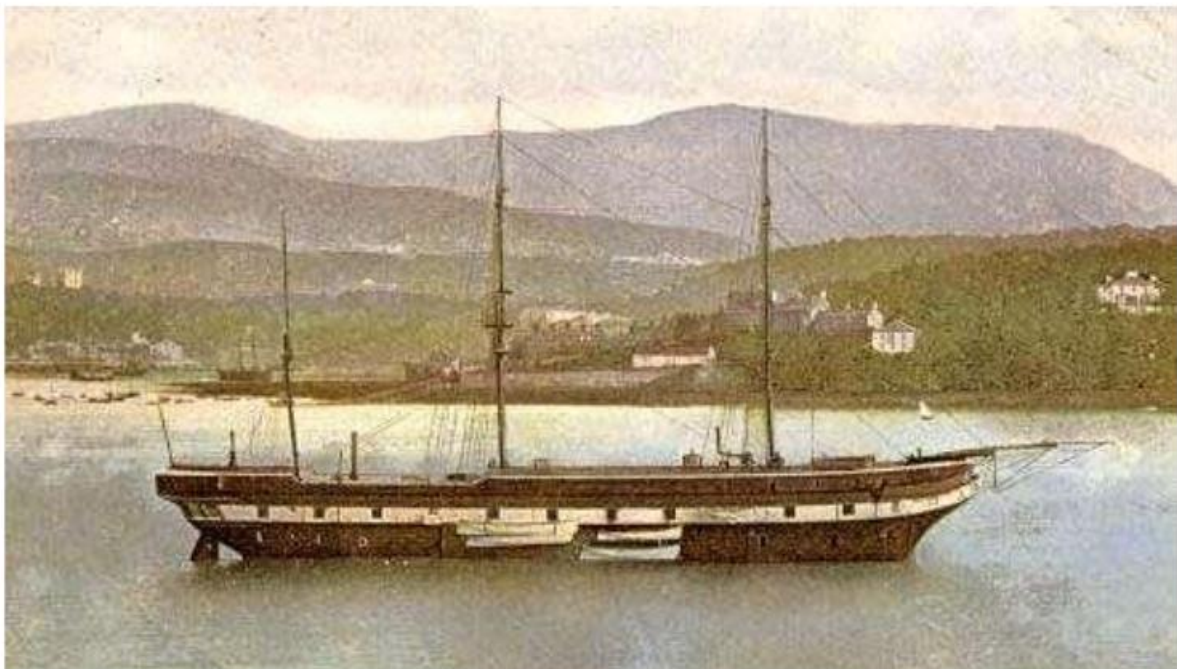
From *Humpybong and after*, Vol 41 Issue 1, March 2026

Life aboard *Clio*, a Welsh training ship

A recent holiday in Wales rekindled my curiosity about James John, my Great Grandfather. 'John' is a common surname in Wales which makes research that more challenging. James was born on 8 October 1860 in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, Wales. His parents were Margaret Davies and Dan John, who worked as an agricultural labourer. Dan was born in Nevern, Pembrokeshire, Wales in 1824 and Margaret about the same year at Puncteston, which is under eight miles away. They married on 16 March 1847 in the parish church, Puncteston, before having seven children spread over 15 years.

James trained to become a sailor on *HMS Clio* and served as an Able Seaman on merchant ships which travelled between England and Australia. Enquiries with *Pembrokeshire Heritage Centre in Wales and the Training Ship Society (Clio Fund)*, revealed that 2,500 boys trained on this ship during its operation life. The Fund was initially known as the 'North Wales, City of Chester and Border Counties Training Ship Society,' which managed the ship until it was scrapped in 1920. It continued to support young people in North Wales until 1994, at which point it transformed into the heritage preservation organisation.

'A typical day aboard the Clio began at 5 am. After washing themselves, the boys had to scrub the decks before a breakfast of oatmeal and milk. After breakfast there would be "worship and Bible reading" followed by lessons in "reading, spelling, ciphering, vocal music, history, geography, drawing and religious instruction". Dinner was served at noon – usually meat and potatoes – and then after a recreation period there were lessons in seamanship. One very important lesson in seamanship – learning to swim – was catered for on the Clio by the installation in 1879 of a "swimming bath."



Clio Training ship. Photo courtesy of Gwynedd Records Office Caernarfon

Edited excerpt from 'From sailing the seas to selling peas – from sailor to greengrocer,' story by Judy Matulick, from *Caloundra Clipper*, the Society's Quarterly Journal, no 132 March 2026.

DO YOU WANT TO HOST HISTORY QUEENSLAND'S 6-MONTHLY MEETING?

We are looking for a host society for this year's History Queensland 6-monthly meeting, to be held in November, preferably on a Saturday. These meetings are usually attended by 20 or so society members in person, with other members attending via Zoom. Meetings usually start at 9.30 or 10am, with tea and coffee available beforehand. Those attending in person are usually required to pay a contribution towards morning tea and lunch: the hosting society is not expected to be out-of-pocket as a result of hosting the meeting. A guest speaker may wish to use projection equipment for a PowerPoint file. The meeting will probably finish by 2pm.

Of course, if your society has innovative ideas for our 6-monthly meeting, we would love to hear them.

If your society may be interested in hosting the 6-monthly meeting, please contact the Secretary, secretary@historyqueensland.org.au.

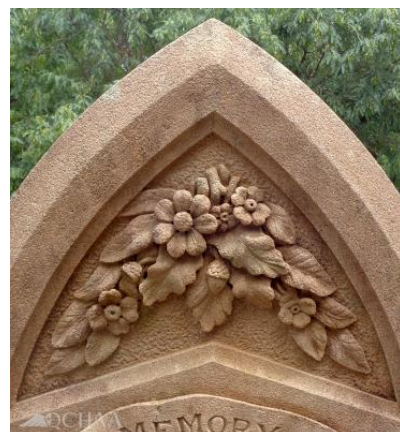


QUEENSLAND CEMETERY HERITAGE & ARTS ASSOCIATION INC

The Association brings together researchers, artists, and community members passionate about Queensland's historic cemeteries. Our vision is to promote research, celebrate creative interpretation, and advocate for the protection and appreciation of cemetery heritage. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, digital innovation, and community engagement, we aim to make Queensland's cemetery heritage accessible and meaningful for everyone.

The 2026 Stories in Stone cemetery heritage conference will be held on Saturday 29 August (9am-4pm) and the venue is the beautiful funeral chapel at 270 Kelvin Grove Road, Kelvin Grove, Brisbane.

This conference follows on from the successful 'Stories in Stone' events held over the previous two years. The theme for 2026 is 'Explorations', and the varied range of wonderful presenters include cemetery and local historians, researchers and volunteers, fiction authors, curators, celebrants, and musicians – every one of them passionate about preserving and exploring our memorial heritage.



Text and image from the Association's website, <https://qchaa.org/>

HQ CONGRATULATES KAREN WALLWORK OAM, BEACHMERE HISTORY AND RESEARCH

Congratulations to Beachmere's own Karen Wallwork on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division as part of the King's Birthday Honours.

This prestigious recognition has been awarded for Karen's outstanding service to community history and reflects decades of dedication to preserving and sharing the stories that make Beachmere such a special place.

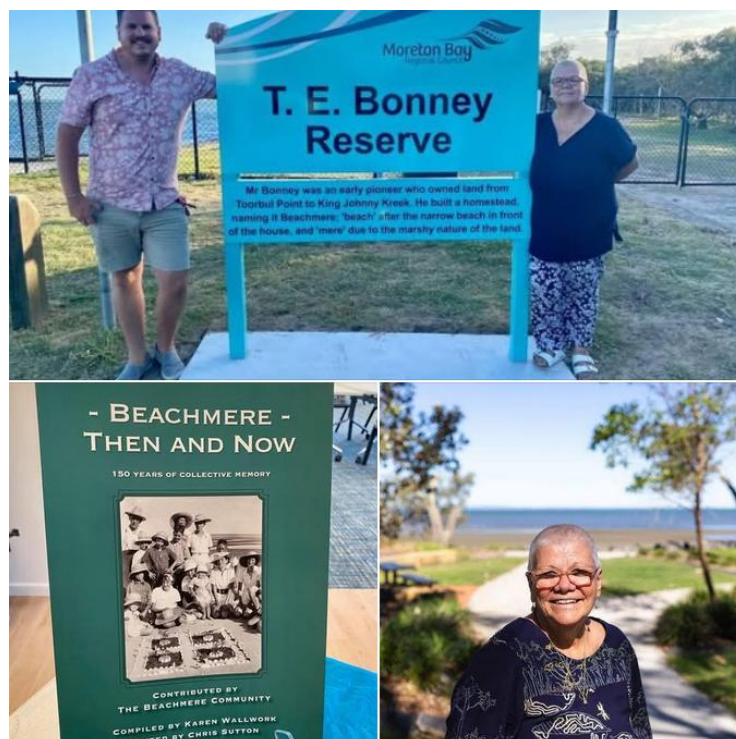
Karen has been a driving force behind local history through her work as Founder of Beachmere History and Research Inc, author of several books documenting Beachmere's past, a community speaker, performer, volunteer and advocate for preserving our local heritage.

Her contributions extend across our community through the Beachmere Heritage Trail, the upcoming Beachmere: The Collective Memories of a Seaside Village exhibition, University of the Third Age, the Beachmere Men's Shed, RSL, Wildlife Rescue Queensland, Palm Lake Care and many other organisations.

Karen's passion for local history has helped ensure the stories, people and events that shaped Beachmere are not forgotten and can continue to be shared with future generations.

This honour is incredibly well deserved and is recognition not only of Karen's commitment, but also the value of preserving and celebrating local history.

On behalf of our community, congratulations Karen on this remarkable achievement and thank you for everything you have done for Beachmere and the City of Moreton Bay.



Text and image from a Facebook post by Councillor Mark Booth, Division 2, City of Moreton Bay. Beachmere History and Research is a member of History Queensland.

BRIBIE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION – DNA WORKSHOPS, 11 JULY

Each year Bribie Family History Association facilitates a whole day session on a topic of interest to people with an interest in family history. This year, Helen Smith will host two half day workshop sessions about DNA on **11 July 2026** at the Bribie Island Arts Centre.

The morning session, called 'Diving Deeper into Ancestry DNA,' will be an introduction to DNA and shows how to deal with confusing results from a DNA test. The presentation examines the key features available within Ancestry's DNA platform, including shared matches, coloured match groups, notes, tree evaluation, ethnicity estimates, ThruLines®, and chromosome inheritance concepts. Participants will learn how to sort and cluster DNA matches into family groups, recognise paternal and maternal lines, identify unknown ancestors, and build evidence-based hypotheses using both documentary research and genetic evidence.

By the end of this session, attendees will understand how to turn a confusing DNA match list into a structured research tool that supports accurate relationship identification and stronger genealogical conclusions.

The afternoon session, called 'Solving Family Mysteries with Autosomal DNA,' will be more advanced for more experienced practitioners. This lecture provides a practical introduction using case studies to the use of autosomal DNA in genealogical problem solving, with a focus on the analytical tools and methodologies used by today's genetic genealogists after using the tools at Ancestry or MyHeritage. These will include the Leeds Method, DNA Painter site with the Shared CM Project, and the WATO (What Are the Odds?) tool and how it can be used to test competing relationship hypotheses using both DNA evidence and traditional genealogy.

This presentation combines practical examples with clear explanations of key concepts, providing attendees with strategies they can immediately apply to their own research. Whether investigating unknown parentage, identifying biological relatives, or solving longstanding family mysteries, this lecture demonstrates how autosomal DNA can be integrated with documentary evidence to produce stronger and more reliable genealogical conclusions.

The sessions are independent of each other. You can book one or both sessions. Both are open to public booking.

The anticipated timings are:-	9:00 am	Registration & Introductions.
	9:30 am	Session 1 <i>(including a short break)</i>
	12 noon	Lunch break
	1:00 pm	Session 2 <i>(including a short break)</i>
	3:30 pm	Finish

The cost of the Workshop is:

Single sessions	Members \$30, Non members \$40
Both sessions (full day)	Members \$50, Non members \$70

Please make payment to: **Bribie Family History Association**
Westpac, BSB: 034-119, Account: 379180
(with your name as reference so we can track the payment)

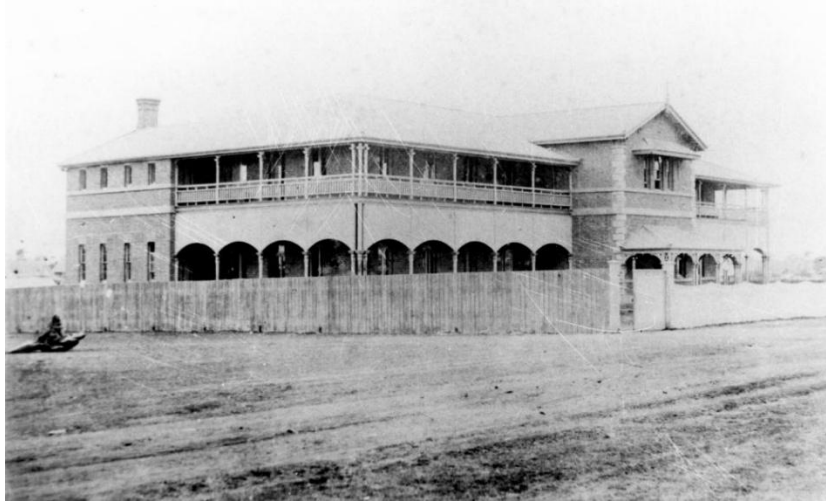
Then send your payment receipt to briebiefha.treasurer@gmail.com.

Please indicate clearly if you are registering for the morning session "Diving Deeper into Ancestry DNA" or the afternoon session "Solving Family Mysteries with Autosomal DNA" or both.

MARYBOROUGH FAMILY HERITAGE INSTITUTE INC

Item from the *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser* (Qld.: 1860 – 1947)

25 May 1876 - New Immigration Barracks. The new immigration barracks have now been completed for some time and handed over to the authorities. In their present condition they are, however, perfectly useless for the purpose for which they are intended. They are without any appliances for cooking purposes, without a water supply, furniture, or necessary conveniences. The yards in connection with the Wards also require to be fenced. A large batch of immigrants are expected any time in July, so the authorities have but short time in which to render the place habitable.

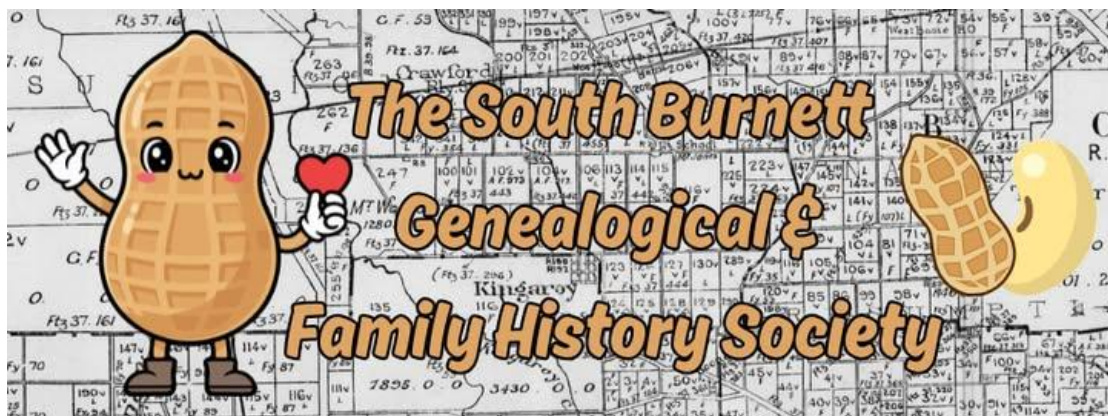


The building, constructed as the Maryborough Immigration Barracks and completed in 1876, was later converted to a school. Today it is still part of the Central State School at 471 Kent Street, Maryborough.

From the Institute's *Heritage Happenings*, Vol 37 Issue 1, June 2026.

SOUTH BURNETT GENEALOGICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

One of our newest members. The group was formed on 23 June 2018 and is located at the Kingaroy Town Library, Civic centre, Glendon Street, Kingaroy QLD 4610 on Wednesdays from 9-12.



Information and image from <https://www.facebook.com/groups/966934933485829>

Email: southburnettgenealogy@gmail.com

(Slightly edited.)

ANNERLEY-STEPHENS HISTORY GROUP INC

Key achievements:

- The ASHG history room in the Yeronga Community Centre reached its two-year milestone in January. It has transformed the range of opportunities we offer including public drop-in days, workshops, talks and historical displays.
- The Villa Street project team was invited to present the project to the SLQ Local Studies Workshop.
- The 2026 program has been well attended. It included Lesley Synge's Wal Stubbings, Wharfie, 2 street talks (Inchcape St and Rhyndarra St), History Alive, and a display of Daniel Joynes's historical architectural drawings.
- The social history of sport in Stephens community project commenced on 18 April with a Sports History Symposium. The aim is to produce a publication in 18 months' time.
- Coming up: Heritage and Character in Brisbane's City Plan workshop with Heritage planner Mark Baker. August and September talks are Government House and the people who built it (Judith Anderson) and Women's suffrage in Qld (Deb Jordon) and a local history afternoon at the Yeronga Village. The History of Religion Stephens conference is on 7 November.
- An equipment grant was received from Club Yeronga and a display grant was received from the BCC. Volunteer recruitment is a focus for the next 6 months.

BRIBIE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC

We are a small but active group. Our current membership stands at 44, an increase of 32% on this time last year, and with a Facebook group membership of 82. Our meetings are held in the Anzac Room of the RSL Club Bongaree; our thanks to the Club for their ongoing support. We have an exciting speaker schedule for the remaining meetings in 2026.

Since the last report in November 2025, we had the pleasure of hosting the History Queensland President and Santa to our Christmas meeting. Our Annual General Meeting was held in February and saw the majority of the 2025 Board restand, unopposed, and the appointment of a new Treasurer.

Speakers' presentations to date have included "Mining the Archives", "Clean up your Family Tree: Fix common mistakes" and "How Oral History can augment Family History". Upcoming presentations are scheduled to include "Colonial Justice: Police Magistrates and Justices of the Peace", "Paper to Pixels", "Family Search", "Bribie Island personalities" and "Scattered Leaves, Indelible Bonds: The Diaspora of Six Irish Sisters"; our Annual Workshop this year will focus on DNA.

We have been successful in obtaining another grant, this time from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. for additional equipment for external displays. Further information on our Society can be obtained from our Facebook page or by contacting bribiefamilyhistoryassociation@gmail.com.

BRIBIE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are in our 18th year and are well respected and recognized in the community and media on a wide range of local historical issues. After a decline in membership resulting from COVID, our membership has grown over this year and now stands at 84 members and 3 Life members. There is clearly a growing interest in local history which results from regular articles in the *Bribie Islander* fortnightly magazine delivered free to all residents, and conducting Bribie History classes at U3A. Both are done by President Barry who writes the articles and conducts the classes. Committee members also conduct Heritage Walks throughout the year in conjunction with the Council – a Bongaree Heritage Walk and Bribie in World War 2, by Greg Carson and Roger Nunn.

Secretary Lynne Hooper maintains a comprehensive database of files and communications with many related organisations and individuals and gives presentations to clubs and organisations throughout the region. Over the years we have built a significant Database of historical documents, photos, maps and information. A selection of these is published on a Blog Site by archivist Donna Holmes; Secretary Lynne coordinates and updates the Database in response to increasing requests for information from past and current residents.

We have published 5 books in recent years and the sale of these, plus payment by Council for Heritage Walks, provides a regular income for the Society. We are still without a permanent home but have weekly use of a public room at the library for our research, meetings and public interaction.

We attract excellent visiting guest speakers to our well-attended monthly meetings at the RSL Club, together with members invited to speak on a wide range of topics. We have good relationships with other local historical societies and museums and arrange visits to places of interest throughout the year. We also provide guest speakers to the Moreton Bay History Seminar and write Bribie History articles for publication by other organisations. The Secretary is currently working on the publication of our revised Handy History booklet, which is sold in local shops, plus our three local History brochures available free to the public.

The Bribie Island Historical Society has had a good year, but like many organisations with aging membership, we do not have an effective succession plan for ongoing Committee management. The President was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia by the Governor-General on Australia Day for services to the preservation of local History and the community.

BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM

On Sunday 12 April the museum commemorated the last tram trip in Brisbane (13 April 1969) with a successful Great Gatsby Picnic event. Live music added to the pleasure and prizes were awarded for the Best Dressed (20's fashion) Lady and Gentleman. It is intended that this become an annual event.

The museum has created a Strategic Planning Committee and a Marketing Committee to implement plans drawn up by a consultant. These plans are imperative for the museum to continue to remain operational and to progress in a professional manner. Aging membership is a problem (as it is with other organisations) and these plans are, in part, designed to increase the number of younger members.

Specific recruiting of drivers and conductors is starting to happen. Stricter medicals, which tram crews MUST pass, are seeing older drivers having to retire from active service. Without crews, the museum will have no option but to go into static display mode. Increasing passive income from using the museum grounds for non-tram-oriented activities is also being looked into.

CABOONBAH UNDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH has had a busy start to 2026. We were successful in our application to the Community Benefits Fund and secured almost \$9000 to go toward some timber repair work as well as the purchase of a defibrillator. We also are grateful to the Somerset Regional Council for the grant of \$750 to assist with running our 4th Bunyip Picnic which occurred on 26 April. We had a quieter day than in 2025 when we combined with Churches Together, but still held a very relaxing afternoon of music and community. Support was received from The Picnic Society and the Esk Grand Hotel.

The Highfields Probus Club and the Toogoolawah Women's Group are two examples of groups who came to the church for a tour and talk. Both groups expressed their enjoyment of these occasions. The Caboonbah Undenominational Church is an historic building available for hire for those interested in a unique country experience for special life events, as well as whole community events. We thank History Qld for promoting our events.

CAIRNS DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Cairns Family History Society continues to operate with an active and committed Management Committee under the leadership of President John Fearon. Earlier this year, our long-serving Secretary, Rosemary Holroyd, stepped down from the role but remains actively involved in Society activities and operations. The Society currently maintains a membership base of approximately 120 members, including six Life Members. An excellent monthly newsletter continues to be produced and distributed to members. Our primary income streams are derived from membership subscriptions, educational and public events, and grant opportunities where available.

The Society supports several member interest groups, including one of Queensland's longest-operating DNA groups led by Heather Cox and Melanie Dunstan. Heather and Melanie assist members with their DNA research through one-to-one sessions and educational presentations on topics including Ancestry Cluster Tools and DNA Painter. Our strong member events program is coordinated by Pat Clark and includes a forthcoming field excursion exploring World War II sites and locations across the Atherton Tablelands, in partnership with the Tolga War Museum.

The Society is also working collaboratively with Cairns Regional Council in connection with the Cairns 150th Anniversary commemorations. This includes support for our ongoing initiative, Shadows of the Past, led by Rosemary Holroyd. The program is a four-evening presentation series focusing on 10 Cairns pioneers buried in the Old Cairns Cemetery on McLeod Street. The Society's Library and Research Centre at Gatton Street, Westcourt operates through the dedication of a small volunteer group and is open between 10am and 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Research and Library lead Kesley Court is widely recognised for the assistance she gives to members and researchers, including many from outside Cairns, with locating information and resolving longstanding family history 'brick walls.'

As with many volunteer and community organisations, the Society continues to face ongoing challenges, including rising operational costs, increasing website and IT expenses, compliance and building costs, and ongoing information technology management requirements. Despite these challenges the Society remains active, community-focused, and strongly committed to preserving and promoting family and local history throughout Far North Queensland.

CAPRICORN COAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

President Peter Roper, Treasurer Jim Goodsell, Secretary Diane Roper. We have continued our regular meetings with monthly General and Weekly Working meetings, and we open the Club Rooms each week to meet members of the public for assistance with researching history. Over Christmas and New Year we held venues to successfully sell our books and calendars. Recently, two of our members gave presentations to a local Probus Club. President Peter Roper is attending a local writers' festival in May to join a panel presentation on history.

This week, members journeyed to Byfield to enjoy a tour of a local tea tree farm which produces a wide range of products. This was followed by a silent electric boat cruise down a silent creek. After lunch at the local store set in the rainforest, we visited a heritage station house, Raspberry Creek Homestead, the first established near Stanage Bay in 1869 and one of the first resumed by the Army for their exercises. The homestead was moved to nearby Byfield in 1987 and is now used by a branch of the Shire Library and History Centre. An eerie glimpse into our past.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY

Central Qld Family History is celebrating our 40th Anniversary on 21 May 2026. Planning has gone into hosting a morning tea at Glenmore Homestead for our members and past members. We have been very successful in the past 12 months with grant funding for new computers, monitors, software, and whitegoods (refrigerator and microwave oven).

Our project work is continuing, however due to lack of volunteers we aren't moving as fast as we would like. We are grateful for the work our team is doing. Our membership is holding at 126 and the

committee are actively working on enhancing the association's visibility within the community. CQFHA members' mornings once a month, and our offering more educational sessions, are proving successful with members.

Our challenges are the operating expenses of electricity, rates and insurance. It would be wonderful to have more members visiting the rooms, but however much we have tried the number of visits has not increased much. We do, however, have very good attendance at our organised educational events. Our *CQ-Genealogist Journal* continues to be published three times a year. Currently, 32% of our members reside outside the Rockhampton area.

DOUGLAS SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On behalf of the society, I thank the Management Committee members for their enthusiasm and many hours of volunteering across the activities undertaken this year. The committee consists of Secretary Lynn Anich, Treasurer Anne Lloyd, Vice President Ann-Marie Fapani, Archivist Gail Cockburn, Media Liaison Officer Pam Willis-Burden, committee members Dian Stevenson, and Belinda Peters. The Financial Records and Reports Anne Lloyd prepares continue to be of a high standard and we acknowledge her skill and patience in this task, working with the auditor Williams Cete and Co. We are so fortunate to have dedicated Officers on the Committee, with Minutes and Meeting Notices distributed on time and recorded correctly. Thank you Lynn and Gail. This year we have two additional printed reports, the Archivist Report and the Historical Talks Guest Speakers list by Gail Cockburn.

The Special Meeting following the AGM in 2025 resulted in amendments and updates to the Constitution being accepted and we were notified on 21 August that the amendments had been registered under the Collections Act 1966. Monthly General meetings have been re-named to Local History Talks and are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Mossman Support Services. The talks have been well attended and I thank all the Guest Speakers for their effort and time to make these talks most enjoyable. Thank you to the committee members who seek out, invite and organize the speakers and provide a generous afternoon tea. Research and Archiving has been taken further with many hours contributed by Dian Stevenson, Gail Cockburn, Pam Willis Burden, Lyn Anich and Bel Peters. The documents donated by Noel Weare's family have been sorted and re-boxed, thank you Dian. The database has grown to over 2000 entries thanks to Gail Cockburn's hours and dedication. General Enquiries have increased substantially with members researching some interesting characters and events. The wonderful visual display of the Bump Track and its contribution to the Tableland Mining Industry was researched and completed by Graeme and Dian Stevenson and taken to the Open Day at the Herberton Mining Museum on 6 September by Graeme and Dian with Lynn and Vivienne.

The Museum had 1368 adult visitors, with 12 volunteers on roster for once, twice or three times a month. Our doors were open for about 2050 hours. This is a fine effort in show-casing the Museum to locals and tourists. No major weather event occurred although we did experience considerable rain and closure while the roof was replaced. The Museum's verandah roof was replaced in December just before the rains commenced in earnest. Thank you to the Douglas Shire Council and their contractor. A special thank you to the Douglas Shire Council for their annual Museum maintenance donation of \$5000. A commercial cleaning company gave the Museum a major clean in February 2026.

More volunteers would be welcome and the Committee is always on the lookout for interested members – 49 at present. The volunteers meeting and morning tea was held on 2 March to discuss various issues facing volunteers and ideas for improving the Museum and suggestions were recorded. Two benches were restored lovingly by Mary Fapani and John Anich supervised by Ann-Marie Fapani, and are now placed on the Museum verandah. Dian and Graeme updated the Low Isles display board and this looks clear and bright again. Thank you for these additions to The Museum.

We held a successful Christmas dinner at The Surf Club restaurant on Tuesday 2 December and although we did not give any specific awards in 2025, we recognize and appreciate that our volunteers are serious, energetic and hardworking members of the Association. Volunteer Appreciation Certificates, designed and printed by Ann-Marie Fapani, were presented for the second year.

Fundraising events for this year. Congratulations to the members who organized and worked at all our fundraising events. The major fundraiser, a Trivia Night, was held at the Central Hotel in Port Douglas on 16 April 2025. The Central Hotel donated \$1500 to the Community Group who has been allocated one of the 8 evenings in the year. Thank you for such a generous contribution. The Trivia Nights contributed \$8,562 for this year and were held at Club Mossman and the Central Hotel. The Shire businesses were especially generous in the donations of money and prizes for our fundraisers, considering the closing of The Mossman Mill and the economic downturn of the cane industry across the Shire in 2025-26. A Community Raffle evening allocated by The Tin Shed realised \$910. Fundraising also includes the Museum entry fee, \$4613, book sales, \$1874, donations, \$5,187, and Port Douglas Cemetery Walks on 14 August and 20 September, \$675. The LiveLife Pharmacy Community gift program was presented to the Association on 18 February this year. A total of \$16,634 was raised for the year, a fantastic effort by our members, considering we were struggling for ideas for fundraising two years ago.

The society has designed embroidered logos on white shirts to wear at events to promote the Society last year and all members are welcome to bring along a white shirt at \$10 per embroidery. Twelve members have taken up the idea and wear them at the Museum and functions. They look very smart and are a public promotion for the Society. The ANZAC Day display was completed by Bel Peters in 2025 in the Douglas Shire Council foyer and we purchased a tear drop banner in July 2025 and that has been flying and promoting the Society ever since.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2026-27 when we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Douglas Shire.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

The recent death of long-time member, previous President and Education Convenor Marg Doherty has had a significant impact on the society and her loss has been deeply felt by all who knew her. There have been several changes to key roles and a period of adjustment to these changes. The education program is proceeding under the leadership of the new Education Convenor Fleur Creed.

The new website is currently partially operating and is expected to be fully functional by the end of May. The development of the new website is an exciting initiative for the society and will assist the general public to access information on what the society has to offer.

The annual Margaret Coleman Volunteer Award presentation is being held at an afternoon tea for volunteers on 16 May.

The Annual Open Day will be held on Saturday 22 August and will feature library tours, stalls operated by the interest groups, and guest speakers.

A committee has been formed that will develop activities to celebrate GSQ's fiftieth anniversary in 2028.

A monthly orientation session is being held at the Resource Centre for new members and existing members are also welcome to attend.

A new interest group called WeAre.xyz has commenced and is proving very popular.

The Colonial and Convict Connections Interest Groups will be attending external events later this year.

GENEALOGY SUNSHINE COAST

Membership at GSC remains constant; although we have had members cancelling, new members keep the total constant. We would, however, love to increase our membership, and somehow encourage younger folk to join. Interest Groups continue on a monthly basis, Early Australian and Convicts, Irish and Scottish, Writing, DNA and Family Search and Roots Magic. The information sessions following the General Meetings have provided some interesting topics and discussions. There have been Family Recipes, Weddings, Christenings and Baptisms just to name a few.

Towards the end of 2024 the Society became aware of issues with our IT systems. Over time, it was a bit like Topsy and just kept growing! A computer company was contracted and work has begun in sorting, tidying and storing some twenty-eight terabytes, much of it Local History – hours and hours of work that needs to be safeguarded for future generations. Beginners Classes have proved popular and have contributed to new members. Approach has been made from a Lifestyle Village and a Men's Shed for Workshops to be held and information provided. It is rewarding to be able to get involved with the wider community.

In March we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the extension to our building. It was very interesting hearing the story and the vision of the then members and the effort that was made to provide such a great facility. Having read '*to forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source and a tree without a root*' we wish happy researching to all the genealogists out there.

GLASSHOUSE HISTORY GROUP INC

Despite not having a corporate base our history association continues to be active in research and in attempting to raise community awareness of 'Glasshouse Country' history. We are fortunate to have continuing good cooperation with the local newspaper editor (*Glasshouse Country & Maleny News*) to publish articles of interest.

Our Facebook page is also an ideal communication medium to post the outcome of research and in particular historical photographs. Photographs of early climbers on the iconic Glasshouse Mountains always receive numerous 'Likes' and comments. The Facebook page currently has over 1900 followers and it is interesting to look at the statistical 'Dashboard' to find the locations of regular followers, eg. Goondiwindi, Maryborough, Gladstone, Gympie, Roma, and further afield in Sussex (England), Korea, Tokyo, Alberta (Canada) etc.

Monthly Community Meetings, Glass House Neighbourhood Centre. The monthly community engagement meetings continue in 2026 which have a twofold benefit – they provide a public face for the Glasshouse History Group, and the different themes each month prompt potential areas of historical research. Meeting themes in 2026 have included 'Great Grandfathers', 'My First Home', and 'Old Writing Accessories.'

Beerwah Library Display. For the month of February an opportunity was taken to establish an extensive display of old hand tools in the Beerwah Library. The tools were sourced from various collections and identity labels prepared to inform visitors of the uses made of the tools, eg. a wooden Saddler's Knee Clamp.

GOLD COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society Open Day in March followed by an Introduction/Beginners Session two weeks later both proved successful and resulted in several new memberships. Regular monthly articles in the Gold Coast Over 50s publication continue to attract new members. Our membership numbers are stable.

The monthly Computer Users Group has had very interesting topics this year. In April members were delighted to be present at a lecture by two of our expert members on How to compile and format a family history book, as well as how to create a book from Legacy. The digitisation program is now moving into its second phase by our starting to digitise the journals and other in-house resources in our library since completion of the family history books.

We are increasing our volunteer base and welcoming additional library research assistants. The Society website has been updated and we are looking forward to the forthcoming launch of the book sales page on the site. Our members are eagerly awaiting a presentation by Helen Smith later in May.

LEYBURN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Leyburn and District Historical Society Inc is proud to list our achievements of the past few months. We have released our story of Leyburn's special contribution to the history of World War II on YouTube, a compelling account of the work of the secret Z Force Special Unit, based in our area, whose details were not available until 1987.

Our long-term project to digitise our files continues. A group of enthusiastic members, using scanning equipment purchased with a grant from History Queensland, devote one morning a week to this task.

Liberator Park was established as a permanent memorial to the servicemen who were based in and flew from Leyburn as part of the World War II Z Force Special Unit. Recently, a plaque erected by the Society, detailing the history of the park, was broken, but with the help of our local Regional Council, replacement and repairs are underway. We have requested that Council erect suitable barriers around the park to limit vehicle access. We have recently discovered the site of the original Z Special Unit campsite, abandoned because of an unreliable water supply, and plan to erect a plaque there also.

MOGGILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY (MHS)

MHS has concentrated on hosting two major open days to showcase our work and share aspects of our local history. Furthermore, we have been actively involved in research and various projects.

- Visit to Bora Ring (25 May): This event was a resounding success with over 40 attendees. A participant identified a 'scarred tree' on Kangaroo Gully Road, and this information has been forwarded to the Cultural Heritage Unit.
- "Death and Dying in Moggill" (29 October): This event attracted Society members and local residents. Judy Nissen delivered an engaging talk on historical funeral practices, while Karen shared stories of pioneers buried in the local cemetery.

Major Projects:

- Cemetery Working Bee (July): Volunteers laid gravel on several graves. Thanks to Jessica's efforts in the memorial garden, visitors can easily navigate and read all memorials. Native plants have been added to the garden.
- New Cemetery Entrance Sign: Brisbane City Council installed a new sign at the cemetery entrance, accurately stating the first burial occurred in 1856. The old entrance sign will be affixed to the shelter after major restoration work has been completed.

Other Projects and General Information:

- Anstead Bushland Reserve: Track names and signage for the reserve, Quarry & Sugars Cottage.
- Death Certificates and Presentations: We extend our gratitude to Greg Adermann for assisting in obtaining death certificates aiding our cemetery presentations and genealogical research.
- Grave Marking: We have temporarily marked 11 graves using GPR, old photos, and maps. Notable graves include those of Sexton, Campbell, Lewis, Roper, Pook, Twine, Anstead, Finlay, Mitchell, Stock, and Hardgrave.
- Pioneering Families Research: Updates on the Finlay family have been completed by Robert Finlay. Additional stories uploaded on our website were Makepeace and Twine. We have the following family histories being written: Boyle, Westcott, Sherrin, Lewis, Lumsden, Roper, Sexton, Hardgrave, Smith, and Harley.
- Moggill Marathon Support: Thanks to Bill and volunteers, we supported the 2025 marathon and received a \$1,000 donation from Brisbane West Lions, aiding our insurance and website costs. We look forward to supporting the marathon on 17 May this year.
- Newsletter Stories: Historical stories about Moggill in our monthly newsletter.

Plans for 2026:

- Quarry Visit: Due to high interest, we plan to organise a visit to the Quarry and Sugars Cottage.
- Archaeological Collaboration: work with Brisbane City Council on archaeological projects at the Quarry.

NEW FARM AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society recently passed the 250 membership mark. Our monthly meetings continue to attract solid turnouts, with around a hundred members and guests in attendance. It's clear that securing strong speakers on topics of local interest attract strong attendances. Providing a delicious afternoon tea also helps! Our website, our monthly e-newsletters and the AV recording of our meetings all play important roles in connecting and informing our members. We now have more than 60 presentations on Vimeo.

Our latest publication, *New Farm: Another 50 Stories*, by historian Gerard Benjamin, is selling well. We conducted several guided history walks of the New Farm area. On Sunday 10 May we will be running a stall in New Farm Park in conjunction with Teneriffe Lions, who are bringing Marion, a 100-year old working steamroller to the park.

We are nearing the end of the first year of a three-year, \$10,000 Historical Organisation Assistance Grant from the Brisbane City Council. The program builds the sustainability and capacity of community-based, not-for-profit organisations like ours to deliver history and heritage activities. In practical terms, for us this includes digitising our paper archives, making more information available online, and updating our membership and administrative processes to make our society better able to meet future challenges and opportunities.

NUNDAH & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

We sometimes find things in our archives which appear to have been forgotten and which – indeed – may never have been looked at: material donated, perhaps many years ago, by a local enthusiast hoping that it would interest our researchers. Recently we found in our compactus three display folders of photocopied documents; they were unlisted and undescribed and the only information about them was the name of the donor. A volunteer and I have been listing the contents. It is an intriguing collection of – amongst other things – early handwritten colonial records (several signed by the Governor of the day), early settlers' letters to the Colonial Secretary, and early Government Gazette proclamations and notices relating to our area. The donor obviously had a season-ticket to Qld State Archives! One memorable inclusion was a copy of the original letter in which the former German missionaries sought a pre-emptive right to buy the land that had been set aside for purposes of the mission and which the former missionaries had begun farming in their own right after the mission failed: the letter is referred to and quoted in histories and biographical notes, but here was a copy of the original. What else is in this donor's collection? (We are still going through it.) And what else is in our archives but forgotten?

We have launched a project called 'Our street and nearby' in which we are seeking reminiscences and memoirs from our members and community members. Our resources already include numerous 'recollections', but most of these were written in the first half of the 20th Century. It is time for us to bring that aspect of our resources up to date: we want to hear about life in our area in the '40s and '50s and '60s, and the impact of the changes in our suburbs and our way of life in those critical decades. If we receive enough stories and can add photographs provided by their authors or obtained from public sources, we may be able to publish a collection.

We do not have the space or a big enough collection of historical items to have a museum, but there are a number of museums within 10 or 20 kilometres. Several of our active volunteers visited Sandgate Museum for one of their 'Tea with History' Devonshire morning teas last year. We are wondering if our membership would be interested in group visits to nearby museums. We are testing the water by asking members for expressions of interest in a group visit to the Queensland Horse Racing Museum at Eagle Farm and Doomben Racecourses.

ORAL HISTORY QUEENSLAND

OHQ delivered a well-attended workshop on Oral History Basics and Interviewing Skills on 28 March at the Spinners and Weavers Hall in Auchenflower. The workshop will be held again in June to accommodate those who were unable to attend in March.

Recruitment of Volunteers. OHQ posted an article and an advertisement for volunteers on the Volunteering Queensland website in February 2026. We were delighted that four people offered to volunteer to assist us in the preparation of our regular newsletter, the E-Bulletin. One of the four resigned having found full-time work, the remaining three continue to bring ideas and material to the design of the E-Bulletin.

Public talks. Suzanne Mulligan addressed the Bribie Island Family History Association on the topic of Oral history in family history on Friday 1 May. Elena Volkova will address the New Farm and District Historical Society in June on the topic of Oral history, its value and contribution to the wider historical body of knowledge. Elena is leading a project, The Centenarians Project, to record the oral histories of Brisbane residents aged 100 years and over. This project arose from the 2025 Brisbane 100 commemoration during which Elena ran a sound booth which attracted great public interest.

OXLEY-CHELMER HISTORY GROUP INC

For most of 2025, members of our Group were pre-occupied with commemorating events concerning the centenary of the formation of the Greater Brisbane City Council and the end of the Sherwood Shire Council. In October we held an enjoyable dinner on a 1920s theme, just as the local citizens had done to farewell their local councillors in 1925.

In 2026 we are celebrating our own 30th anniversary. In June we will acknowledge the work of those who started the History Group, and encourage our current members to participate by sharing their own stories and reasons for belonging to the Group. We have also been able to reprise some memorable talks and events previously presented.

QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Upgrade of research centre facilities: A new entrance to our Family History Research Centre including an awning, sensor and security lighting, and roadside signage have been completed since our last report. Significant rearrangement of our library area to improve use of space available and increase display material is underway and expected to be completed by 30 June. Additional improvements within the research centre are being undertaken to provide members and visitors with better facilities. We are upgrading our previous ageing IT system with the installation of a new server system which is now operational, and are currently replacing 12 computers with updated models. Our new website has been under construction for some time now. We are now testing it on a limited in-house basis and expect to launch online in July. For a short period after the new site is launched, we plan to operate two web sites until we are satisfied the new website provides facilities to meet members' and the public's expectations.

Special interest Groups: Our thirteen special interest groups continue to offer valuable support to our members on a regular basis and are well attended, either at the research centre or online.

Education: We have regular speakers/special interest sessions during each month. A small working group is currently reviewing our Education program with a view to streamlining it to align with user expectations.

Constitution: We have received approval from the Office of Fair Trading for our recently updated constitution.

Open day for 2026: Our Open Day will be on 29 August and will showcase our Research Centre, our resources and our Interest Groups. It will be a great day and well worth attending.

Online open day: We are investigating ways to offer an online open day for those who find travel to our research centre challenging. The event would run for a few hours on a date to be finalised once the technology for this event is assembled.

Membership: Our membership has remained reasonably constant over the past six months. We have experienced a modest turnover in membership numbers; in most cases departures are related to current economic conditions, however we have been able to attract new members in their place.

Horizontal map cabinet: We are pleased to advise this unit, offered at the last meeting for collection, found a new home with the Annerley Stephens History Group.

REDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC

I'm pleased to report that the Redland Genealogical Society has its highest membership ever, with a membership of 132 being reported at the April 2026 meeting. When analysing the reasons for this I believe work by our Membership Officers in conducting sessions in our Genie Room aimed at familiarising members and visitors with the resources and facilities on offer, may be a contributing factor. The Group is engaging in a full-day visit to the Gatton Historical Society on 20 May, something members are really looking forward to. We've had some wonderful Guest Speakers at our monthly meetings with a presentation by Sean Dugger on ways to trace Irish Ancestry, an information rich talk by Tracey Olivieri, President of Friends of South Brisbane Cemeteries, and an insight into how she conducts searches by new Redland Local History Librarian, Kristianne Buckley.

SANDGATE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM INC

Like many other local museums our collection is a heterogeneous one: old typewriters and superseded electronic equipment, stuffed birds, kitchen and laundry gadgets and equipment, 100-year old bricks, old bottles, and once-loved crockery, share space with portrait photographs of long-gone aldermen, sea shells, First Nations artefacts, bound volumes of defunct local newspapers, and bus conductors' hats and ticket punches.

One of our entrepreneurial and creative volunteers decided early in the year to create and manage an exhibition on the theme '*A Century of Love ... Weddings, Fashions and Traditions.*' The lead-up to the exhibition resulted in the Museum becoming filled with loans from members of the community of wedding dresses, gloves, hats and other garb, photographs, keepsakes and reminiscences. It was a great success. That was quickly followed by an exhibition focused on transport: items in our collection relating to cars, buses, trains, and the construction and reconstruction of roads and bridges in the area.

Naturally, being near Shorncliffe, we are active on Good Friday, the day of the Bluewater Festival when the yachts leave for Gladstone. For some years the Chamber of Commerce has retained the services of a motorized 'train' which trundles back and forth along the seafront for a kilometre and a half. The Chamber of Commerce allows the Society to collect donations from passengers at both ends as they board. On the same day the Museum was open for an all-day Devonshire Tea which also raised funds. This year our volunteers raised more than \$1300.

The funds raised on Good Friday will go towards ordinary running expenses. However, our building, which the Society owns, needs renewal and renovation. It needs a new floor, repair of a retaining wall, rectification of termite damage, a substantial accessibility upgrade, and a new kitchen. Although the Museum has had some success in seeking grants for equipment, we know that grants for plans are generally unavailable, so we decided to launch a GoFundMe campaign hoping to obtain \$25,000 for the planning stage of our building renewal. Marketing the GoFundMe campaign will probably be a major part of our activities during this year. As a start, our President was recently interviewed for a short community news segment in a Channel 7 news program. We would be interested in hearing any tips from other societies which have had experience marketing GoFundMe campaigns: info@sandgatemuseum.com.au.

SOUTH BURNETT GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The South Burnett Genealogical and Family History Society, established in 1981, operates from the 1913 former Shire Council Chambers, Kingaroy. We provide accessible services to the community, with members assisting the public each Wednesday morning at the Kingaroy Town Library, which generates a steady stream of enquiries and ongoing interest in family history research.

We are actively engaged in a number of research projects, including Past and Present South Burnett schools, and individuals involved in the early years of the Peanut Silos in Kingaroy. In addition, several completed publications are available for purchase, covering topics such as the First District Hospital, the First Shire Council of 1912, From Boxes to Bookcases - organising your Family History, and Understanding Headstones, Burial Markers, and Graves. The Society also has personalised Family History wall calendars available to purchase.

Looking ahead, we will host a Historic Photos and Art Display on 16 June from 9:30am to 12 noon at the 1913 Building in Edward Street, Kingaroy, with a \$2 entry fee. This event will feature historic photographs from across the South Burnett region alongside artwork from the local Tuesday Friendly Art Group.

TOOWOOMBA & DARLING DOWNS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

So much has changed at the library with the passing of our secretary Marianne Diggles. The secretary's work has now been divided into many parts and frankly it's often when some job comes up that I say "Marianne did that." Our new secretary Kathy Siebuhr had stepped in to help Marianne late last year when necessary, but Marianne kept working as secretary until it became impossible for her to use the laptop. Vice-President Jacqui Brock has now taken on most of the research enquiries. Of course, she's also still looking after our Facebook page which is very time consuming.

We are fortunate that we have three ladies scanning the Toowoomba Chronicles and they have now completed 1975. Since TROVE have indexed them to 1965 but have not yet put all the newspapers up online, we have had a steady stream of requests for copies of the articles.

Our members are continuing to index school records and the index to the Government Gazettes from 1919 to 1964 is moving along very nicely and will probably be completed soon. Our discussion groups are still proving popular twice a month and our membership presently stands at 146 with 3 life members and four journal members. No doubt some will drop out this year, and others will take their place as always happens. We are keeping our heads above water, though, with a steady stream of casual visitors, and our publications keep selling.

WINDSOR & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

A new committee was elected at our November 2025 AGM (held at our home – The Old Windsor Council Chambers), bringing together a broad range of professional skills. This leadership team is well-equipped to drive the society forward and address modern challenges. A representative from the local Rotary spoke at the AGM about amalgamating with other districts to strengthen the organization's regional presence.

Following the January reopening after the holiday break, the committee established a comprehensive calendar detailing the year's events and scheduled meetings. Some of the Management committee meetings would be held by zoom. Our opening hours to the public at the chambers were changed. We will now open Saturday and Sundays from 10am to 2pm.

In February, the local community and members gathered in the chambers for a history presentation focused on William Jolly. The session explored his influential career, including his five terms as the Mayor of the Town of Windsor and his historic election to be the first Mayor of the Greater Brisbane City Council upon its formation in 1925. During his second term, the significance of the role was formally elevated to the title of Lord Mayor. Fifteen of William's descendants attended the presentation, much to the society's delight.

Five additional presentations are planned for the year, covering the history of suburbs once part of the Town of Windsor (which existed up to 1925): Lutwyche, Wilston, Woolloowin, Grange, and Windsor.

Once again, the society held its Anzac Day ceremony at the WWI memorial in Windsor Memorial Park, situated directly across from our headquarters at the Windsor Council Chambers. Since 1995, the society has hosted this annual ceremony following the closure of the local RSL. This year's event drew a crowd of approximately one thousand attendees who proved their resilience, despite a heavy downpour halfway through the service. Most remained until the conclusion.

Afterward, many crossed the road to the council chambers to enjoy morning tea and Anzac biscuits. The gathering also featured a sausage sizzle provided by Rotary and an insightful historical display curated specifically for the occasion.

We will be participating in several upcoming events this year, notably the "Taste of Wilston" fair in July, the Brisbane Open House event which includes the Windsor Council Chambers, also in July, and the Windsor State School "Windsorfest" in August. All leading up to the next AGM in November!

WYNNUM MANLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

WMHS continues to thrive with 76 financial members. We have a monthly meeting with a speaker at each meeting. Recent meetings included "The History of St Helena Island" by Dr Ian Patterson and "The History of the Waterloo Bay Rescue Association and their Rescue Boat the Dauntless" by former skipper Bruce Pattison.

Our next meeting on 21 May will feature indigenous author Chrissy Hansen-Doherty, who will talk about her family's experience of the Moorooka Aboriginal Camp. Meetings are held in the evening at the Ambulance Museum in Wynnum or in the restored former Baptist Church now located at Iona College and renamed Lindum Mere.

A major project this year is the digitisation of our records and documents, supported by a grant from History Queensland. So far, we have placed the following items on our website (wmhs.org.au), accessed from the Documents page:

- 720 obituaries
- 153 articles about Wynnum/Manly pioneers. Many of these include family trees
- 937 articles about non-pioneer Wynnum/Manly people
- 143 articles about houses – listed by address
- About 600 images – mostly listed in sets of 50
- 232 Newsletters – stretching back to 2002. The newsletters are listed by month, but we also have an index of 1,043 articles in the newsletters.

We have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wynnumhistory>) with daily posts. A recent post about Aboriginal rugby league player Lionel Morgan received 47,000 views. He was the first indigenous player to be selected for a major international match, playing against France in 1966 and in the London World Cup.

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