

## QFHS INC. AWARD FOR SERVICES TO FAMILY HISTORY

*Nominations are called each year for the QFHS Inc. Award for Services to Family History, which is reserved for QFHS members only, and in 2022 the Award was announced at our Volunteers' Morning Tea on 21 November. The nominations are considered by previous awardees as designated by the Management Committee and they form an ad hoc committee for this purpose each year.*

The nomination accepted for 2022 was **Dr Kerry Raymond**, Member Number 3103B. All services mentioned have been voluntary.



Dr Kerry Raymond joined QFHS in September 1998. She served on the Management Committee from June 2019 until September 2020. During the COVID pandemic of 2020-22, she was active in bringing the Society's information online. As a result, the datasets now provided to Society members are an immeasurable asset. Since 2020, when the pandemic obliged the Society to move to virtual presentations, Kerry has provided invaluable assistance by training others in using the Zoom application, so more of the Society's activities could resume and move online. Kerry is a willing and patient teacher; she leads and inspires others to embrace technology regardless of their level of experience.

Kerry is also part of the AskQFHS team. This group was established during COVID lockdowns to provide answers to research questions. Kerry always draws on her immense knowledge of Queensland sources to provide in-depth responses to enquirers.

In addition, Kerry has been a long-time contributor to the QFHS Education program as a presenter and, more recently, as a member of the QFHS Education Sub-Committee. Kerry's earliest offerings were hands-on workshops for QFHS members to

assist them in using Wikipedia at beginner and intermediate levels. We all know that Kerry is passionate about Wikipedia and has been Wikipedian in residence for the State Library of Queensland. She foresaw the importance of Wikipedia to family historians and provided opportunities for members to up-skill in the application.

In conjunction with her work with Wikipedia, Kerry is enthusiastic about Queensland geography and has extensively documented Queensland country towns, places, people, and institutions. Of course, this work is helpful to all researchers, but Kerry takes it to another level by providing learning events for QFHS on finding Queensland places, particularly those that have undergone name changes or have disappeared from the Queensland map.

She has provided many presentations on Queensland history and family history resources, including workshops on the Queensland mapping application, Queensland Globe, and Queensland geography. Some workshops are hands-on small group situations, and Kerry's generosity extends to providing one-on-one sessions for those unable to attend at the scheduled time.

Kerry, with her background in IT, is a leader in investigating and solving dilemmas in technology. She willingly researches all documentation to find answers to user requirements or complex questions.

Her professional life has provided a thorough grounding in aspects of copyright, and she is always happy to advise family historians in this confusing area.

With her husband, **David Horton**, Kerry maintains a 'Chapel Hill' website providing free resources to family historians, including

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cemetery photographs and monumental inscriptions in Brisbane and south-east Queensland, church photographs, and a database of renamed places in Queensland. Kerry and David have gathered, indexed, and maintained all the resources on this site.

Kerry is a sympathetic listener, provides guidance and comfort when difficult or troubling situations arise, and takes a

pragmatic approach to Society activities and volunteer involvement. She is a fitting recipient of the QFHS 2022 Award for Services to Family History.

## CONGRATULATIONS KERRY

*Nominated by Sue Reid and  
John Perryn*

*(photograph provided by Allana O'Kane) ■*

## END OF JOURNAL LOAN SCHEME

The Journal Loan Scheme was established in the 1980s by **Ann and Tony Swain**. Its purpose was to provide members who lived more than 50kms from the Brisbane GPO with access to the same journals their Brisbane-based cousins were able to consult at the QFHS premises. Remote members were entitled to borrow up to ten journal titles from a list circulated to all new members and published in our Queensland Family Historian journal. Popular titles were circulated around Queensland to interested members. Sometimes there were up to a dozen people waiting their turn! QFHS provided the forwarding address labels, and members would forward to the next person on the list, with the last person returning it to QFHS.

It was a wonderful scheme and helped to provide a tangible service to members who might otherwise feel they were not getting the same access to QFHS services as city folk.

In 1999 when **Cecily Stevenson** took over management of the scheme, there were 557 requests by 67 members borrowing 69 journal titles. However, the number of members utilizing the scheme dwindled over the years, so that by 2019 there were just four people on our list.

Two major factors contributing to the decline in Journal Loan Scheme user numbers were the high cost of postage, and the increasing availability of journals in electronic form. The latter is a mixed blessing. It saves all family history societies postage and printing costs. Although I suspect most of us really prefer to hold a printed journal and savour

turning the printed pages and scribbling in the margins, the reality is that almost 70 percent of our exchange and purchased journals are now in electronic form. Our Management Committee officially approved the JLS retirement in August 2022.

Whilst we bid a fond farewell to a scheme that served our remote members so well for so long, we encourage all members wherever they live, to access our most recent exchange ejournals. Log on to the QFHS website, go to Resources, then Subscription Journals and follow the instructions on the information sheet. After a few months these ejournals are stored on the QFHS computers, for accessing on the premises, just as we do for the physical journals. Have a browse and see what genealogy gems might be waiting to be discovered!

***Rosie Gall*** ■

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