

## 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 2023 the Award was announced at our Volunteers' Morning Tea on 4 December. 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 2023 was **Rosemary Gall**, Member Number 4634. All services mentioned have been voluntary.



*Rosie receiving her award from President Allana*

Rosie Gall joined QFHS in August 2007. She demonstrates many of the qualities we value in our volunteers – steadfastness, good humour, compassion, thoughtfulness, professionalism, an enquiring mind, innovation – the list goes on.

Rosie is qualified as a Librarian and Careers counsellor, obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in History at Monash, then completing her Grad.Dip. in Education at Deakin, following up with a Grad.Dip. Librarianship at RMIT, and just recently a Diploma of Family History through the University of Tasmania.

In August 2014 Rosie wrote a very helpful article for our journal on the *Biographical Index of South Australia 1836-1885*, edited by Jill Statton. She describes it as the first port of call and a gold mine for South Australian family history researchers, of which Rosie is one.

During her time with QFHS Rosie has devoted her many hours of volunteer time to the Family History Research Centre, firstly to the Journal Loan Scheme, with Rosie assisting Cecily Stevenson. She took over the JLS when Cecily moved to care and passed away in 2019. In the February 2023 *Historian* she wrote about the end of the Journal Loan Scheme,

which had operated since the 1980s to benefit country members with access to journals, urging members to log on to our website to read the subscription journals now online.

After the JLS was wound up Rosie moved to assessing and accessioning donations, including writing heartfelt thank you letters to all our donors. This is a not inconsiderable task as so many of our members are at an age where de-cluttering is all the go and of course, they are also incredibly generous. A little bit like Sisyphus, Rosie has her work cut out for her.

Despite the demanding nature of her labours she has time to think about what we could do differently and was a keen supporter of a lending library at QFHS – one of our more unique features. In the February 2021 *Historian* she wrote about the Queensland Family History Book Award Books, when they were separated from the main library and became available as a discrete collection in their own right, and part of the Lending Library, with the collection focusing on 'winners' and 'highly recommended' categories. Other Award entrants remain in the Print Library but are available for loan.

Rosie gave time to the QFHS Management Committee from June 2019 to December 2020. Anyone who has served on the MC knows the time commitment and energy this requires. It also demonstrates her deep concern and commitment to an organization which supports family historians in all their endeavours. Rosie is about to become a grandmother which will no doubt provide a very welcome distraction from her QFHS duties. Don't forget us will you Rosie?

### CONGRATULATIONS ROSIE

*Nominated by Lyndal Cosgrove and Alex Daw  
(Photograph provided by Alex Daw) ■*