

OUR FUTURE

This discussion paper is the second of a series which expands on information provided to members about discussions to amalgamate the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS) and the Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ).

The first discussion paper, available on your Society website, explained the reasons for amalgamation discussions and addressed benefits and impediments to it taking place.

In this paper we discuss member feedback received to our first Communique and outline the potential amalgamation process in more detail.

Your comments or questions are welcomed – please email them to either

QFHS: ourfuture@qfhs.org.au or GSQ: ourfuture@gsq.org.au

or mail them to either Society's postal address.

YOUR FEEDBACK ON COMMUNIQUE 1

Thank you to the many members of both Societies who gave us your feedback following the first Communique. It is encouraging to hear your thoughts, suggestions and concerns and to know that all of us care deeply about the future of the Societies.

Thank you also to those who offered to help out with the many tasks necessary should amalgamation proceed.

Many of you expressed your support for amalgamation, and a few of you had concerns yet to be addressed.

The most-mentioned issues are discussed below.

ACCOMMODATION

The issue of new premises was raised by many members in responding to Communique 1. The Amalgamation Sub-Committee is exploring our needs in detail and seeking suitable options for the new organisation.

A number of members made excellent suggestions of possible government or local council assistance that may be available. A number of options have already been explored and we continue to reach out to the various bodies for whatever assistance may be available.

We are seeking government assistance to secure suitable premises with minimal rental on a long-term lease (exceeding 10 years). For this we expect to be responsible for running, minor maintenance and initial fit-out costs.

Ms Corrine McMillan, Member for Mansfield, and Mr Timothy Mander, Member for Everton, have been approached to help us identify such premises. Both are actively interacting with

Ministers and Departments responsible for government buildings to find any suitable space.

Both Ms McMillan and Mr Mander have been advised that the space requirements of the amalgamated organisation would be 930 square metres, meeting disability standards for access. This is to accommodate the combined collections and resources as well as meeting rooms, a lecture theatre, and space for research activities, seminars and Special Interest Group meetings. An administration area, kitchen, and ambulant toilets are included.

Regarding location, feedback from members of both Societies indicates agreement on–

- Within 8 km of city centre
- Recognising needs of members living both north and south of the river
- Easily accessed by public transport
- Easily accessed by car, with provision of ample parking

Being exceptionally mindful of just how important the location of new premises is to members, the Amalgamation Sub-Committee will continue to update members on this issue as developments occur.

PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

Several members suggested other organisations that we could partner with, or reach out to for assistance and support.

The concept of a “History Hub” is one we support, where organisations devoted to aspects of the history of Queensland and those who live here could share facilities and benefit from each other’s experience and expertise.

A range of organisations could be interested in sharing and will be approached in due course.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The amalgamation process would not entail any increase in membership fees. Any costs would come from Society capital.

Those who are presently members of both Societies would pay only one membership.

It’s expected that some reimbursement arrangements would be made where membership has been paid to cover a significant period beyond amalgamation and either a) a member has paid a membership fee to both Societies or b) a member chooses not to continue their Society membership as a result of amalgamation.

BRINGING THE SOCIETIES TOGETHER

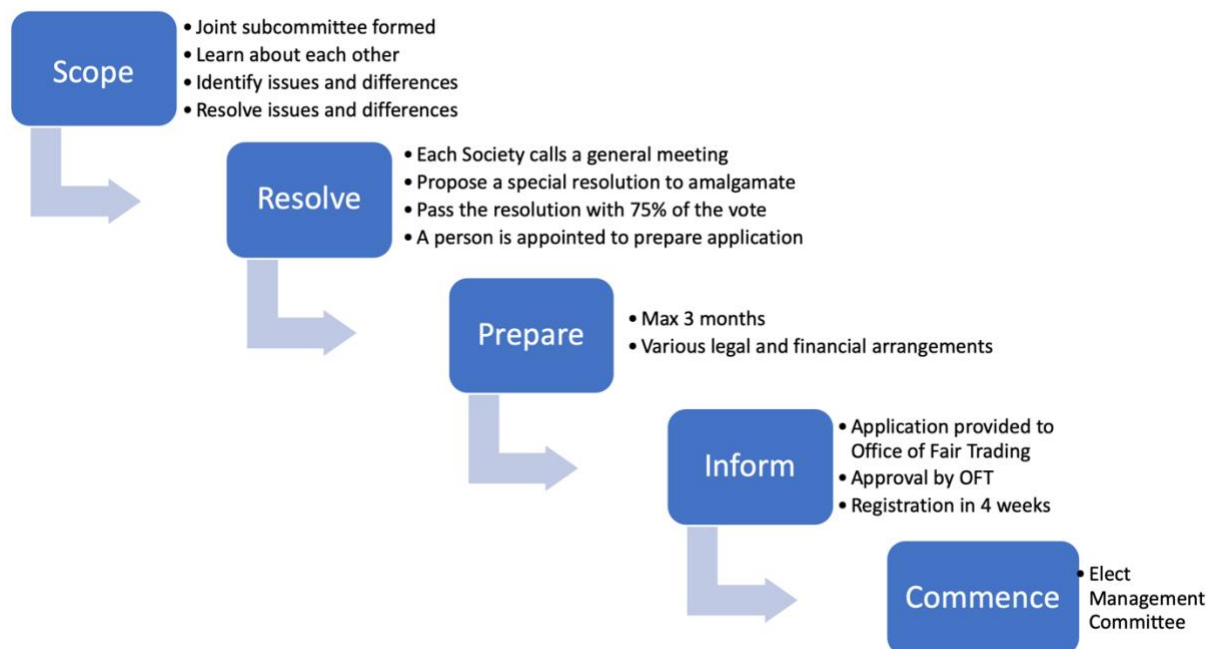
Several members suggested ways to allow members to get to know the other Society. Others mentioned they knew very little about the other Society. With this in mind we will create opportunities for members to attend and perhaps participate in the activities of each Society.

This is already underway, with member prices for many workshops and seminars being extended to members of either Society. You may begin to see representatives of each Society at each other's events. Joint working parties may be formed where a common issue is to be addressed.

As opportunities arise, you'll be informed through these Communiques or by the usual Society communications.

THE AMALGAMATION PROCESS

The main steps to amalgamation are shown in the diagram below.



If the resolution does not pass at the general meetings called in the second step, the subsequent steps cannot proceed.

Note that it is a requirement of the Act that one person be appointed to prepare the application. This may be someone independent of either Society.

These steps are determined by the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, under which both Societies are incorporated. This Act is administered by the Queensland Office of Fair Trading. Links to relevant legislation and government sites are included on your Society's "Our Future" webpage at <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-qfhs-amalgamation-discussion-papers/> or <https://www.qfhs.org.au/ourfuture>.

NEXT STEPS

Amalgamation is not yet agreed. We are presently in the most challenging and time-consuming step, scoping the potential amalgamation and determining whether or not it is the best way forward.

The Amalgamation Sub-Committee will continue to work together, under the direction of the two Society Management Committees, to explore and resolve issues and differences. The two Societies are equal partners in this process, working towards a potentially greater and more resilient organisation.

More details of the issues to be addressed and their potential resolution will follow.

Ongoing Communiques will inform and update you on progress.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Your input is welcomed. You are invited to provide any questions or comments by emailing either

QFHS: ourfuture@gfhs.org.au or GSQ: ourfuture@gsq.org.au

If you prefer not to email, you can post your feedback to either Society at the usual postal address, marked "Our Future".

Thank you for your interest.

Bev Young

President
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Helen Veivers

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