

26 July 2019

Our Future

Dear Member,

We continue to receive thoughtful and supportive feedback on our Communiques about the possible amalgamation of the Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) and the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS), for which we thank you.

Our third Communique updates you on our search for premises and also on the many activities underway to explore our amalgamation possibility.

Discussion Paper 3 expands on the topics of this Communique. It is available on QFHS's "Our Future" webpage at <https://www.qfhs.org.au/ourfuture>.

You will also find there a comparison of Society interest groups and a listing of some of the areas of discussion we are addressing.

The search for suitable premises

While the search for suitable premises continues to be at the forefront of our activity, it may be that an amalgamated organisation would operate from two locations for a time.

Since the last Communique the following actions have occurred in the search for suitable premises:

- A meeting with Ross Vasta, Federal Member for Bonner
- Discussion and clarification of our needs with representatives of the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works
- Contact with Bowls Queensland to advise of our interest in partnership possibilities with suitable clubs

- Site visit to Gabba Towers, a state government owned building at Woolloongabba with space available for not-for-profits
- Site visit to the Moorooka Bowls Club, which is in administration. We continue to express interest in this potential site.

Actions underway include:

- Meeting with the Deputy Mayor of the Brisbane City Council, Krista Adams
- Meeting with Kate Jones, MP for Cooper and Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry and Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Membership

A working group will be formed shortly to frame possible future membership arrangements, based on the principle of no financial disadvantage. Members' interests will be kept at the heart of these discussions.

Partnering with others – can you help?

We are considering the formation of a Heritage Hub comprising organisations devoted to aspects of the history of Queensland and those who live here. It is envisaged as having a shared location, preferably in a building of historical significance, providing the potential for co-location of library materials and for shared stakeholder management regarding the history of Queensland. We expect there may be a range of participants with differing needs for collaboration and support.

We are looking for organisations to be part of this Heritage Hub. They may be of equal standing looking to simply share premises, or one that would benefit from shared support in some way.

Do you know of an organisation that this might suit?

If so, email the name of the organisation to either QFHS: ourfuture@qfhs.org.au or GSQ: ourfuture@gsq.org.au

Bringing the Societies together

Both Societies now offer reciprocal member rates to attend each other's educational opportunities.

GSQ members are invited to the QFHS Colonial India and Far East special interest group, and QFHS members are invited to the GSQ Military special interest group.

8 October – a bus trip to Toowoomba for members of both GSQ and QFHS is now taking bookings. Cost is \$50 including morning tea and lunch, bookings can be made on QFHS's website at <https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/bus-trip-to-toowoomba/> or by phoning QFHS.

31 May – A successful morning tea and get-together was hosted by QFHS for volunteers from the Collections and Financial areas of both GSQ and QFHS. A reciprocal visit to GSQ is planned.

A similar social opportunity is being planned for the Special Interest Group convenors.

Amalgamation Planning

Several working groups have already formed and are sharing information to scope a potential shared future.

A team of about 20 volunteers from both QFHS and GSQ is attending a workshop on 30 July to identify and group the key issues and differences between the two Societies. You will find a list of some of the discussion areas on the Our Future webpage of your Society. Further workshops will progress individual areas, involving others as the discussion widens.

Have your say

Once again, your input is welcomed. Ensure your feedback is included in the process by emailing ourfuture@qfhs.org.au within the next week:

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

Thank you for your interest.

Chris Gibbs
President, QFHS