

Dear members

I am delighted to announce late Friday afternoon Brisbane City Council offered QFHS new premises at advantageous tenancy conditions.

Years of effort & dedication by many members submitting multiple Expressions of Interest in various facilities & meeting with many BCC personnel & councillors to secure a new home for the Society have finally borne fruit. We have yet to 'sign on the dotted line' but have no doubt our new address will be 46 Delaware St, Chermside, in the leafy surrounds of 7th Brigade Park. More details will be communicated over the next week or so.

I am very grateful to all those who, over many years, have contributed to positioning QFHS to be the successful contender on this occasion. It's been a priority agenda item many Management Committee members & it is impossible to name all of those who have contributed in ways large & small that have brought the Society to this marvellous outcome.



Location of new premises at 46 Delaware St, Chermside, set in leafy surrounds of 7th Brigade Park.
Note: site boundaries are approximate.

This good news followed five days of considerable consternation. Earlier in the week we were advised that our new landlord intends to start repair works to buildings further down the driveway at the back of our Resource Centre including our storage shed. We were given

notice to vacate our storage shed in 30 days. Thirty days to find a new home for 60sqm of stored archive material! Sixty square metres of material we couldn't fit into our Resource Centre! We immediately requested a meeting with the Landlord's property manager to discuss requirements – just how elastic could that 30 days be?

However, the next day we received an even more concerning email advising of a rent increase from \$2,500 per month to \$5,217 per month – starting 1 September. This was an untenable proposition for the Society.

Fortunately, in early June BCC had already offered us a premises in Delaware St Chermshire – it was freshly refurbished but far too small for our needs. While we were considering the options for extending the building, alternative premises became available nearby – larger, & with the advantage of a storage shed on site. We quickly realised this was the option that would better suit our needs & have been waiting, patiently, since.

The wheels of bureaucracy often grind slowly but, to their credit, when the Community Facilities team at BCC heard of our new & pressing circumstances, they moved with alacrity to offer us the premises without tender. The new rent is a 'peppercorn' & will be a fraction of our old rent. While the rent itself is low, Council does require their tenants to spend a healthy amount on maintenance & improvements but, even so, the Society will be financially better off, viable into the future, & able to offer additional value to our members.

We have some hard work ahead - moving, & all attendant preparation, is no easy activity - & your Management Committee has commenced planning the process. There will be opportunities for discussion soon – we want to hear your thoughts about what you want to see in our new Resource Centre. I encourage you to dream a little & imagine ...what do you see in the future for QFHS? We want to know! Please ask questions, make comments, share ideas & opinions, or request more information by emailing newpremises@qfhs.org.au

We will keep you appraised of developments along the way. A members-only section of our website is being established where you can go for all information relating to our relocation & the Members Meeting scheduled for 7.30pm Wednesday 17 August will include a 30min Q&A/discussion opportunity on the subject of New Premises before the guest speaker's presentation from 8pm. Register to attend on Eventbrite here. Please register even if you intend to attend in person at Gaythorne as this guarantees you will receive relevant documents before the meeting.

These are exciting times & I think it not unreasonable we enjoy a little celebration at the happy outcome in the face of dire circumstances.

So wooo hoooo! & happy dancing!

Best wishes to all

Allana O'Kane

President

