



Dear members

As I'm sure you can imagine, your Management Committee is significantly engaged with all matters to do with our impending relocation to new premises:

- planning the move itself – 11,000 volumes and hundreds of journals from family history societies around the world in the print library, thousands of microfiche, 2500 maps, several dozen PCs, + + +
- assessing our various collections – are they still current, accessible, necessary and managed appropriately?
- arranging the transfer of services eg. telephone, internet, mail.
- gathering quotes from electricians, painters, carpenters, cabinetmakers, and suppliers of floor coverings, library shelving, furniture, solar panels, window fixtures
- consulting with various member groups re their future requirements and thoughts about the Society's future (more news about this later)
- designing plans to incorporate 'must haves' and 'nice to haves' and then refining those plans as each consultation leads to more ideas and better definition of what's required.

Not to mention settling in to our new roles and progressing other matters of importance to the Society:

- ensuring the Society is well presented at the Sands of Time Conference in late October where we will have an Exhibitor table
- planning to take the Society out into the world in other significant ways
- that our hybrid meetings – a combination of members in person at our Library and Resource Centre and others at home participating on Zoom – function to a high standard with use of appropriate technology and involvement of more volunteers in the delivery of these important gatherings
- improving communications within the Society
- ensuring we recognise our volunteers - we cannot deliver the Society's services and programs without them
- planning for the next year – our calendar of events doesn't 'just happen' and must be managed for the optimum benefit of all our members
- planning for the next five years – even a leisurely wander on a sunny day needs to result in a destination – we'd want to be back before dark, wouldn't we? Imagine a bride's parents driving to Sydney for the wedding and stopping off to explore antique shops, funky galleries in quirky towns off the beaten track only to miss their daughter's wedding because they'd lost track of the days. The Society needs to

plan where and what the current and future members will need the Society to be over the next five years. We need to be able to measure our progress and speed up/forgo that interesting meander if it looks as if we'll not get to our planned destination in time.

So, yes, there's a lot happening at your QFHS. And also, now, **a hard deadline - for vacating our current premises**, at least. During the last week we received a 60-day notice of termination of our tenancy at Gaythorne. We have requested an extension of 30 days but, realistically, must plan to vacate the Gaythorne premises by 7 November. Your Management Committee did experience a few moments of dismay but we already know the Society is well placed to continue delivery of our online services and programs and is adept at quickly adapting to changed circumstances, as evidenced by the Society's response to the pandemic. So we have no qualms on that score.

We also have a *Permit to Occupy* the new premises from Brisbane City Council and the process for signing a lease with BCC is underway. The variables we cannot control are the availability of tradespeople and the supply of materials. We will push where a push will deliver a positive outcome and we will do what we can, where we can. If that means our 'hard' collections go into storage for a few weeks while the new premises is prepared for our occupancy, and our online programs and services continue to deliver for our members, then that is what will happen. Any storage costs we incur as an interim measure will be less than our current lease of over \$5000 per month – so win/win!

We now have a tight timeframe to complete consultations with our various member groups but let me assure you that final plans are still fluid. Certainly, when we have 11,000 books, that absolutely defines the number of bookshelves required, so bookshelves can be ordered without Society-wide consultation. What is not defined is where the shelves are placed in relation to other activities our new premises will accommodate. The bookshelves can prevent or encourage certain activities and it is the activities of the Society about which we need to hear opinions. Please attend one or more of the following sessions to examine the floor plan options, to discuss the activities they reflect, and to express your hopes for the Society's future, both short term and long term.

You are encouraged to think not only of your own experience and expectations as a member but of what a future member will expect from the Society.

Schedule for further consultation

Further to the presentation at the last Members Meeting and establishment of the New Premises page on our website, Management Committee has been in discussion with a number of the operational groups within our Society – the Technical Advisory Group and Print Library Team being just two that require significant floor space at the new premises and/or are fundamental to our service delivery to members.

You are all invited to communicate with the New Premises Team via the email newpremises@qfhs.org.au and there are additional opportunities for interacting with MC and each other. **Please note the location of each event.**

**Wednesday 21 September 1pm – a bumper event!
Members Meeting + Guest speaker + lunch + book sale
at the Gaythorne premises**

As usual, this is a hybrid meeting but this month includes additional in-person content. Our guest speaker is Pauleen Cass whose presentation is *Becoming a fan of FANs*: let your family's friends, associates and neighbours reveal more of your family's history. The Members Meeting afterwards will focus on *New Premises for a Next Generation Society*.

In addition, from midday

- we will commence a Book Sale of items no longer current or necessary to the collection
- a sandwich platter lunch will be provided
- a variety of plans will be available online and on display

Please all register your intention to attend - either online or in person - via Eventbrite [here](#)

**Friday 23 September 10am – Library Assistants Meeting
at the Chermside premises**

Our volunteer Library Assistants are integral to the Society's ability to offer in person assistance at our premises. Despite the benefits to many of continuing remote access to services, programs and resources, our new premises will be an important hub for Society activities and our LAs will play a vital role in its success.

In addition to important LA business, *New Premises for a Next Generation Society* will be a hot topic for discussion at this meeting and we also have some other important matters to discuss with LAs.

- Morning Tea will be provided

Library Assistants are requested to register your attendance with LA Roster Manager, Dette Glenday.

**Tuesday 27 September 10am – QFHS Elders meeting
at the Chermside premises**

As we consider shaping QFHS for the next generation, we acknowledge the contributions of those who've come before us. Our longest-standing members have laid the foundation for the Society we have today. It's been their passion, commitment, energy and drive that have underpinned so many of the Society's achievements to date and we are keen to hear their perspectives on the future of family history research, in general, and of QFHS, in particular, so the shape of our new premises is fit for our current members and our members of the future.

- Morning tea will be provided.

Invitations will soon wing their way to email inboxes. Registration of attendance will be via Eventbrite or email to secretary@qfhs.org.au

The Library and Resource Centre, Gaythorne – closed 22 September

QFHS will be closed on the public holiday declared as a national day of mourning upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Continuation of any online activities planned for the day will be at the discretion of the organiser.

Book Sale

The Print Library volunteers, with input from others with specialist knowledge of particular areas within the collection such as SIG Convenors and their teams, have been busy assessing the book collection for relevance and currency. Several hundred books - from the collection as well as books donated during the year - have been identified as no longer current or necessary to the collection.

We've decided to offer them to members first before disposal elsewhere so a rolling Book Sale will commence at midday on 21 September and will be a continuing feature at Gaythorne until the end of October so do plan some extra time on your next visit to QFHS. Books are priced at \$2, \$5 and \$10.

This activity is secondary to the very important and time consuming task of ensuring the Print Library collection that is transferred to new premises is relevant to the needs of our members.

Services to Family History Award

The Award for Services to Family History is presented annually to QFHS members who have made a significant contribution to family history. Previous recipients are listed on our website at <https://www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/awards/services-to-family-history/>

So many volunteers make the Society a vibrant, and useful organisation delivering programs and services to all members and I invite you to suggest a member for the award. Please contact our Secretary, Anna Gallagher, with your suggestions by 30 September. The award is presented at the annual Volunteers Thank You morning tea.

Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea 2022

In the calendar for Monday 21 November, this event will still take place – *location to be determined closer to the date*. We'd love to see all our volunteers so please add the date to your calendars now. The Volunteers Thank You morning tea will be a hybrid event and although technology is not quite up to the point of helping us share a cupcake with our remote participants, it will allow us to include everyone in the event. All volunteers are equally valued.

I will conclude with an expression of grateful thanks to all members of the Society who

have offered their assistance in any capacity – I expect we will be calling on you as our planning progresses – and to all who have stepped up to the task of managing the myriad of jobs that are essential for the successful relocation to a new premises that is well prepared for our arrival. This, of course, is in addition to our regular delivery of programs and services. It's a testament to the continuing interest in and care for the Society by all involved. Members of the Management Committee, in particular, have found themselves with a far heavier workload than imagined when they agreed to their nominations.

These are exciting and busy times and the Society is fortunate in the group it has in the Management Committee.

Best wishes to all

**Allana O'Kane
President**

