



Snippets

2023



The official e-news of the
Queensland Family History Society
Inc.

Illustrated Cover of [The Queenslander](#) Nov 22 1934.
Image courtesy of State Library of Queensland

Volume 23 No 11

Welcome to our final edition of Snippets for 2023.

It's been a busy year for your Society. Starting with the stalwart efforts of so many to establish the new Family History Research Centre at Chermside and, in the following months, dedicated work to refresh and expand the range of services and resources available to members in person and online. I'm sure your Society leaders are looking forward to personally thanking and congratulating those who have given their time and talent to QFHS at the upcoming Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea.

In this issue we have chosen to include a special focus on our volunteers. We'll look at the various teams ...who they are and what they do. It's our way of honouring them and thanking them. We hope you enjoy this little "behind the scenes" expose and appreciate their contributions ...great and small.

Thanks also go out to all of you ...our members and readers who have shown patience during a time of significant change and have continued to engage in our education and other events. It's a positive sign that we're on the right track to meeting your needs.

Recently your editor was fortunate to participate in one such event. In late October I joined fellow members at the State Library of Queensland for an orientation and information session. The collection at SLQ is so extensive that it can be a bit overwhelming. Thanks to

SLQ's generous community engagement program, our group received a personalised tutorial from Librarian, Kirsten Perris and then a guided tour of the various sections of the library. We learned how to search the library catalogue, borrow items and access the various hard copy, microfiche, microfilm and digitised collections. The John Oxley Library on the fourth floor is a beautiful facility filled with a treasure trove of precious information for those researching Queensland history. Watch out for similar excursions (see Members Lounge Socials) in 2024 and do join in if you can. It's a great way to learn, explore and meet like-minded family researchers.

We have many other exciting events on offer in 2024. Learn@QFHS sessions, guest speakers, celebrations and a Members Lounge overflowing with opportunities to learn and share. **Snippets** will be back, this time under the hand of a new editor, and don't forget the **Queensland Family Historian** filled with great family history stories for you to enjoy. If you're looking for some interesting Family History reads our back issues of the journal (from 2008-2023) are available in PDF form on the QFHS website [here](#) (login and start reading).

It's been a special opportunity to chart the changing face of QFHS over the past 3 years and to bring you news, resources, tips and tricks that hopefully kept you on the research trail. I do hope you'll consider joining us as a volunteer - whatever experience or skills you have will be most welcome.

Best wishes for your family history journey and the future. Many thanks to those who have provided support and ideas to make my work that much easier.

Regards,
Pat

Pat Smith
Editor

What's news?

Research Centre closed
SUN 10 DEC - TUES 16 JAN 2024

Ulster Historical Foundation Talks
Friday 16 February 2024 9am-1pm
Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermside

Advance your knowledge of Irish research at this very special morning featuring guests from the Ulster Historical Foundation.

This event is your gateway to tracing your roots, connecting with your ancestors, and embracing your unique heritage.



Program:

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History research
- The importance of gravestone inscriptions and funerary monuments in Irish research
- Irish education and school records: the records of the National Education system
- Getting the most out of Griffith's Valuation

Book Now

Let's unlock the secrets of your Irish heritage together

VOLUNTEER



Take a look at our new Volunteers page [here](#) on the QFHS website. You can find information on the roles currently available and how to express interest. If you're unsure of how you can contribute, supply a few details and our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Caroline

Brudell, will be in contact for a chat. There really is something for everyone!

We rely completely on the support and contributions of our volunteers. Why not join us? Volunteering is 'win-win' – it benefits both the individual and the Society.

President's Update

Dear members

As another eventful year for the Society draws to a close, we're taking the opportunity of the final issue of Snippets to **thank and recognise all the volunteers who've contributed in a multitude of ways to the year's successes.**

While it's not possible to list every single individual, we'd like to acknowledge the various teams who've made it possible for the Society to function and deliver a variety of programs and services to members throughout the year:

- Our **Library Assistants**, and roster wrangler, Dette Glenday, without whom the Family History Research Centre could not open for member research and who provide frontline assistance to researchers; and the **Research and AskQFHS teams** who respond to all sorts of enquiries online.
- The **TAG team** without whom we'd not have IT equipment available for use at the Research Centre, digital resources available for remote and local access and reliably functioning v-Library software and hybrid meeting equipment
- The **Print Library and the Maps teams** who make print and electronic resources available – a marvellous variety of books, microforms, maps, and journals from family history societies far and wide
- The **Education, Members Lounge and Special Interest Group teams** which deliver inspiring and informative member programs in a variety of formats to members far and wide.
- The **Membership team** that manage new memberships and renewals (a not inconsiderable task for a membership of 850+), and who welcome and orientate new members so they can best utilise the wonderful resources we have available for them.
- The **Indexing and Digitising** teams which generate important new indexes and digital records, and quality materials for members to use in their quest for uncovering the lives of their ancestors.
- The Community Outreach team which arranges for a QFHS presence with quality display materials at community events and provides speakers to community groups.
- The **Communications team** which publishes Snippets each month and the Queensland Family Historian journal each quarter, manages social media channels, publicises the Society's activities, updates the website, creates videos to record our events and provide instruction in the use of various resources,
- The **Operations team** which keeps the Society functioning by taking care of the physical facility and all consumables for kitchen and copiers/printers; who manage the book shop, pay the bills, order new plant and equipment, design emergency

response procedures, review important aspects of the Society such as our constitution and by-laws, privacy policy, codes of ethics and conduct; who wrangle the calendar, and the various applications we use to deliver our services and programs – Zoom, Eventbrite, MailChimp, and SurveyMonkey; those who coordinate and judge the Family History Book Award; and who liaise with our major affiliates – our commercial subscription databases, state and national libraries and archives, state and national peak family history organisations.

It's impressive, isn't it? Some of these teams are specifically mentioned in this issue of Snippets (can you imagine the length of Snippets if we'd included them all?) and each will be included progressively in some form or other in each issue of Snippets during 2024.

While we have an impressive number of volunteers (90+ making regular contributions and another dozen or so who consistently volunteer for one-off activities), there is always movement with volunteers retiring from roles or relocating and no longer able to continue with their hands-on activities – or because there is an increased need for expanded services in particular areas. **We currently have a pressing need in the Communications, Education and TAG teams** – all very important areas in the Society's ability to successfully deliver member services and programs.

We ask all members to **please consider the win-win opportunities of volunteering**. Of course, the Society (and therefore, all members) significantly benefits from the generosity of volunteers but the individuals volunteering also benefit – from the company of others with similar interests, from the satisfaction of helping others, from opportunities to develop new skills, extend knowledge, and further their own research.

No matter what your interest or your skills or talents, or your time availability, there is definitely a niche in the Society for you as a volunteer, and by strengthening teams we make volunteering a collaborative task, even if some of the projects have significant opportunities for autonomy within the teams.

Check out the information available on the [Volunteer webpage here](#) and complete an Expression of Interest for a no-obligation chat with Volunteer Coordinator, Caroline Brudell.

As a special thank you to our volunteers, the Management Committee will host the annual **Volunteers Morning Tea at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club in Chermiside on Monday 4 December 10am-midday**. We hope to have the company of all our valued volunteers, and other members who'd like to join the Management Committee in expressing appreciation for all our volunteers are welcome to join us. Those who cannot attend in person may join us via Zoom. No matter whether joining the event in person or online, registration is essential – [please book here](#).

At the morning tea, one of our members will be presented the **2023 Award for Services to Family History**. The worthy recipient will have made a significant contribution over many years to the family history community, in general, or to the Society and our members, in particular. Presentation of the award is one of the many pleasures of the President.

And a note on our duty of care to the volunteers who attend the Research Centre or the various other venues their official volunteering for QFHS requires: **we are currently in the process of renewing our Volunteer Worker insurance policy and have requested the**

age range of covered volunteers be extended to include volunteers to age 90. We await the paperwork from our broker but anticipate a successful outcome. Thank you to all who offered possible avenues for further research and enquiry regarding the age limit extension and thank you to Treasurer, John Young, for his negotiation of all our various insurance policies - no small task!

Finally, on behalf of the Management Committee, I extend best wishes to all members for the festive season and, if you do not have the company of your immediate family members, we all know there is enjoyment to be had in the life and times of our ancestors.

We're never really without company, are we?

Allana O'Kane
President



Volunteer team profile: *the Communications team*

Effective communication within the Society is vital to our successful provision of services and programs to members. Targeted communication with the community at large allows us to spread and strengthen the Society's reputation allowing the Society to grow for the benefit of all members.

The Communications team ensures that our services and programs are appropriately and effectively supported so members gain maximum benefit from their association with QFHS.



Specifically, the Communications team

- produces the QFHS newsletter **Snippets**.
- publishes the QFHS quarterly journal **Queensland Family Historian**.
- manages **social media** channels: Facebook, X (previously Twitter) and Instagram.

- updates the **website** and keeps the homepage current.
- creates **videos** to inform, instruct and to provide a record of Society events.
- provides **publicity** for QFHS events.

Would you be interested in an exciting volunteer opportunity in the Communications team?

Do you have an eye for design? Are you a meticulous proofreader?

Would you like to contribute to improving our communications work?

Can you string a sentence together? Or are you more of an image creator?

Do you enjoy designing and managing small projects?

Would you enjoy helping to build the Society's reputation?

Would you like the opportunity to work with others? Or do you prefer to go it alone?

Are you happy to work on tasks within a framework or does freedom and creativity appeal to you?

The Communications team truly has something for everyone!

Our most pressing need for volunteers is in the Snippets and Publicity teams but we would love extra hands and minds in every aspect of our work.

Discover more about exciting volunteer opportunities with the Communications team [HERE](#). Training and mentoring will be provided for all roles within the Communications team

On behalf of all members, the Management Committee would like to thank the volunteers who've contributed in the Communications sphere during 2023 - your work is greatly appreciated:



Pat Smith – Snippets editor

Geoff Morgan – Snippets proofreader

Lyndal Cosgrove – Journal editor

Gayle Thomsett, Bev Bonning, Pam Masel and Dawn Montgomery – Journal proofreaders

Leanne Donovan, Pauline and Ken Heiniger, Lyndal and Richard Cosgrove, and

Sarah Barry – journal & eJournal distribution

Allana O'Kane – publicity

Laurie Lee – videographer & YouTube channel

Debra Ricks, Sue Reid, John Perryn and Laurie Lee – website content

Alex Daw and Werona Armstrong – social media

What's on?

Your calendar for early in the new year



Events

Seminars, Workshops, Courses and Conversations

- 1 Feb 7.30pm (hybrid) [Family History Toolkit - Introduction to Momento](#)
8 Feb 7.30pm (online) [What's New?](#)
9 Feb 10am (online) [Learn@QFHS - Finding your QCWA History](#)
21 Feb 7.30pm (hybrid) [Presenting... Family History and the Big Picture](#)
26 Feb 10am (hybrid) [Book Club](#)
28 Feb 10am (hybrid) [Talking about... Researching a Biography](#)

Bookings essential. Please check [website](#) for more information.

Other important dates

[Library Assistants Training and Consultation](#) - 11 January/15 January 10am-1pm

All other Volunteers Orientation and Training - 12 January

[New Members Orientation](#) - 28 January 9.30am (in person)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)



2023

Family Tree Maker Users

1 Dec 10am

DNA (beginners questions)

2 Dec 1.30pm

Family Historian Software Users

3 Dec 1pm

Qld Pre-separation - Excursion

8 Dec 10am - 3pm

Irish Research Group

9 Dec - 10am

Colonial India and Far East

10 Dec - 7pm

2024

The Master Genealogist Users	18 Jan - 7pm
Family History Writing Group	20 Jan - 9am
Welsh	21 Jan - 10am
English West Country	25 Jan - 12pm
DNA (Beginners Questions)	27 Jan - 10am
Family Tree Maker Users	2 Feb - 10 am
Central European	3 Feb - 10am
Family Historian Software Users	4 Feb - 1pm

Please check the QFHS website or contact the group convenor to confirm your meeting location. Meetings may alternate between online or in person at our **Family History Research Centre - 46 Delaware Street, Chermiside.**

Special Interest Groups - one of the jewels in our crown.

Once again, this year our Special Interest Groups have provided inspiration and insight, education and energy to many.



We're grateful for the leadership and administration provided by the following convenors and leadership teams:

Research groups:

Central European - **Eric Kopittke and Peter Row**

Colonial India and the Far East - **Dette Glenday and Wendy Angliss**

English West Country - **Jenny Davidson**

Irish - **Dale Fogarty, Amanda Gotthard, Denniston Furey, Leslie Boshammer, Ruth Linde**

Scottish - **Chris Schuetz**

Welsh - **Charlotte Sale and Carolyn Grimward**

User groups:

Family Historian - **Malcolm Kingston and Chris Wright**

Family Tree Maker - **Geoff Morgan**
The Master Genealogist - **Kevin Hayley**

Interest Groups:

DNA - **Chris Schuetz and Ann Swain**

Family History Writing - **Sue Reid**

QLD Pre-Separation - **Ann Swain and Jenny Davidson**

We also acknowledge that the strength in the 12 Interest Groups is not only their leadership but also the generosity of members willing to share knowledge and support each other - you're all gems.

Our Christmas hamper tradition continues...

We are collecting non-perishable festive food items and soft toys to create a hamper or two for distribution by the Salvos.



If you cannot contribute directly, we are collecting donations & will purchase items on your behalf for inclusion in the hampers.

Donations can be made via the [Shop on the website](#). Please add 'Christmas hamper' to the Comments field during the payment process so we know exactly where your donation is to be directed.

Volunteer Profiles

Introducing Chris Robertson and Werona Armstrong, two of our members who have embraced volunteering opportunities at QFHS during 2023.

We asked them a few questions: why do they volunteer? what do they do? and what do they get out of volunteering?

Chris Robertson

I've had a passionate interest and involvement in family history research and activities for many years and understand that the development, management and accessibility of community-based family history resources and activities, such as QFHS, rely entirely on the tremendous efforts of many hard-working and dedicated volunteers.



So when I retired from full-time work, I decided that I should also make a personal contribution and commitment to support QFHS by volunteering for any tasks required.

Under the tutelage of QFHS Vice President, Alex Daw, I am now able to set-up and facilitate the Members Lounge events and activities (both Zoom and face-to-face meetings and presentations). I have also extended my volunteering activities by accepting a position on the Management Committee.

Volunteering not only enables me to proactively support the Society and its members in a range of activities, but it also provides me with a high level of personal interaction with the many very talented and experienced QFHS members and guest presenters. My personal level of competency and capability in family history research and writing continues to improve in line with my volunteering activities.



Werona Armstrong

Hi there! I'm the new Social Media Coordinator here at QFHS.

My journey into genealogy began 22 years ago when my husband and I moved to America. With a new baby and visa restrictions preventing me from working, I sought a pursuit to keep my mind occupied and discovered my love for family history.

In 2019, now as a mother of three, our family returned to Australia. I decided to deepen my knowledge and am on the verge of completing my studies in Family, Local, and Applied History at UNE. I may be a little crazy, but I'm hoping to embark on my Master of History next year.

I joined the QFHS about a year ago, initially hesitant to volunteer due to my short membership duration. However, after mustering the courage to connect with Volunteer Coordinator, Caroline Brudell, I found the process surprisingly easy. Within a week, I had a

volunteer role that perfectly matched my interests.

I love being part of a community with shared interests. Contributing to the bigger picture is rewarding, and the best part is, I'm having fun doing it!

Events

Most of our speakers donate their time for the larger educational benefit of our members.

We are particularly grateful for the donation of time and effort from our own members. Their knowledge & expertise are valuable gifts to the Society and our members, and we thank them, one and all.

Talking about ...



Researching a Biography

**Wed 28 Feb 2024
Commencing 10am (AEST)**

Online

Click [here](#) for more information

[Register Here](#)

Presenting ...

Family History and the Big Picture

Presenter: Dr Gaye Wilson

Learn@QFHS

Finding your Queensland Country Women's Association History



Presenter: Jeni Bush

Friday 9 Feb 2024

10 -11.30 am (AEST)

Online

Tickets \$15 - \$25

Click [here](#) for more information

[Register Here](#)



Wednesday 21 Feb 2024

7.30 - 9.30pm (AEST)

Hybrid: online and in person

Free event

Click [here](#) for more information

By volunteering with our Education Team, you have the chance to make a meaningful impact. Whether you have experience in event planning, technological proficiency, or simply a passion for family history, your skills and dedication can contribute to our community.

Register your interest on our volunteers page [here](#)

**Finding your family: the
Fundamentals of Research
6 week intensive training
program**



Presenters: QFHS Tutors

Commences Mon 12 Feb 2024

(2 hours attendance per week)

Online

Tickets \$60 - \$90

Click [here](#) for more information

Registrations close 5 Feb 2024

[Register Here](#)

Thank you to the champions in the Education team



We'd like to express sincere appreciation to **Nancy Edwards, Kerry Raymond and Sue Reid** for their dedication to supporting the learning of our members during 2023.

They have provided a stimulating program of events that have given us valuable insights and helped us develop skills necessary for a more complete and rewarding search for our ancestors.

Other items of interest



A new home abroad: the Italian migration story

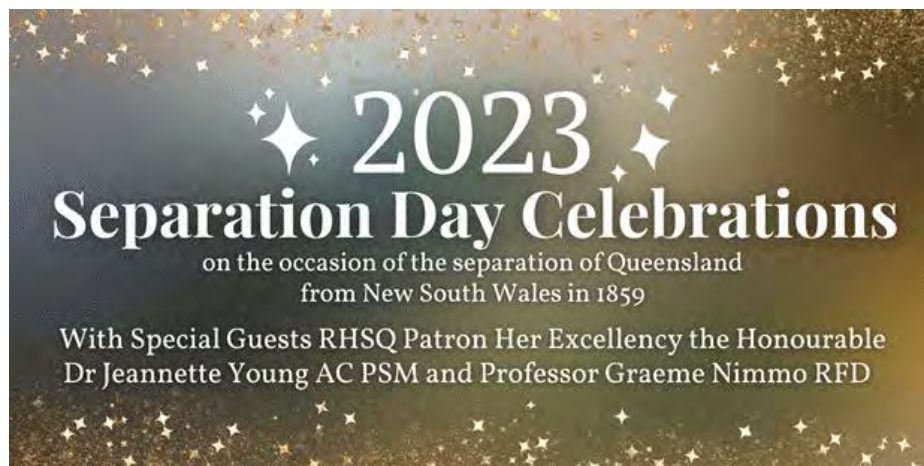
National Archives - free webinar

6 December

11am - 12pm (AEST)

This webinar will explore migrant selection documents, alien registration papers and investigation files from the national archival collection that tell the stories of post-war Italian migration. These records also provide insight into the Black Hand, anti-fascist sentiment and Second World War internment.

Register via Eventbrite [here](#)



Sunday, December 10

5 - 7pm AEST

The Commissariat Store Museum

115 William Street Brisbane City, QLD 4000

Details and tickets via Eventbrite [here](#)



Professional genealogist and author Brian Mitchell takes you through Irish passenger lists, outlining vital clues for anyone using these records today. Read more [here](#).

Irish Emigration Webinar

Professional genealogist and volunteer Jane Halloran Ryan covers the many causes and types of emigration, the places of immigration for many Irish and the various types of emigration schemes in operation. Access the webinar [here](#).

Members' Tips and Discoveries



Something for your Summer Reading List?

Thanks to Rob Adamson for sending in this recommendation. We all enjoy a good read. Rob writes:

"I've just read an excellent family history *My Grandfather's Clock* by Graeme Davison, from the BCC library. (A glowing review in the Weekend Australian a few weeks ago led me to it.) A most readable book, the sort of history I like. The author is an emeritus professor of history, my age, lots of parallels between his growing up and mine."



Do you have a book recommendation or perhaps you've come across an interesting article or resource? We're grateful for all of your suggestions and tips during 2023.

Keep them coming in 2024 by emailing snippets@qfhs.org.au.

VOLUNTEER



Join our band of valued volunteers as we work for QFHS members to uncover the past, connect with the present, and inspire the future.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those who have taken time out to send items of interest to our Snippets mailbox at snippets@qfhs.org.au

The more we receive, the more frequently we can produce a Newsletter. If your submission does not appear in this issue, we will try to include it in a future edition. Please note that reference to any product does not imply endorsement. Members are cautioned to evaluate products prior to purchase.

Editor

*The Family History Research Centre is located on
the traditional lands of the Turrbal & Jagera peoples.*

Disclaimer: This newsletter is produced in good faith, and information received is deemed to be accurate, but the editor takes no responsibility for incorrect information supplied. [Editor's note: The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Editor or of QFHS.] Permission to reprint articles from QFHS 'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER is granted unless specifically stated otherwise, provided: (1) the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the article: "Previously published in QFHS 'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER" with the appropriate date and volume number (eg QFHS 'SNIPPETS' NEWSLETTER

January 2009 Vol 9 No. 1). The last few years of Snippets editions are available
from: <http://www.qfhs.org.au/library/snippets/>

Copyright © 2023 Queensland Family History Society Inc, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Queensland Family History Society Inc
PO Box 78
GEEBUNG, Qld 4034
Australia