



SNIPPETS

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWS OF THE QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Get in touch!

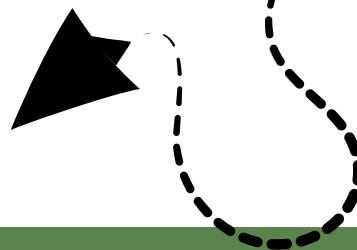


IMAGE: STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND, VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS



Spotlight On...Volunteering

What makes QFHS run?

Did you know that every benefit, resource, activity and service you receive as part of your QFHS membership is provided by fellow-members who volunteer?

Any seminar or workshop you attend, our unique digital records, Members Lounge or guest speaker events, our newsletter and journal, our extensive library and map resources as well as countless other IT and admin activities behind the scenes are all produced by volunteers. Without these people giving back to our society, it simply would not exist.

Sometimes you may notice a gap in our services and think 'why doesn't somebody do something about that?' or you may have a great idea that 'somebody' could bring to life; the answer to these situations is that we never have enough volunteers for all the tasks and great ideas!

Maybe you could be the "somebody" we're looking for?

“

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people giving back
to our society,
it simply would not
exist.

Caroline Brudell

What's stopping you?

If you've thought about volunteering and never done it, **what's stopping you?**

No time?

This is a problem for many of us but it is possible to suit tasks to your availability or to break tasks down to share. We value our volunteers' time and want the experience to be enjoyable, not stressful. As well as the time estimates provided in individual role descriptions at **QFHS - Volunteers** you can work within a team doing tasks that fit your availability.

Do I have the right skills?

There is a great variety of tasks and roles within the society. The role and team descriptions on our website under **QFHS - Volunteers** describe the skills and qualities we need.

Perhaps you could transfer experience from your working life or expand your skills by working with a team that could train you. Or, you could start in one role and move to another as you gain confidence. By the way, we also support training that helps with your role!

What's the environment like?

You can be sure that other volunteers you encounter share your interest in family history which is a great basis for building friendships and sharing tasks in a team reinforces this.

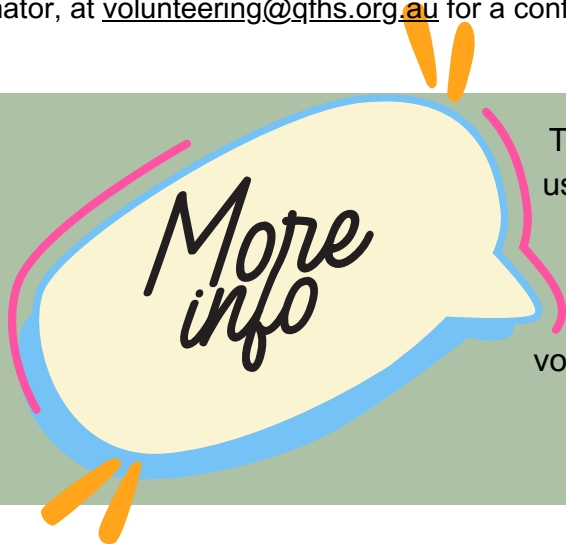
Having recently secured a lease with the Brisbane City Council we are adding to our renovated premises with further projects to improve member comfort. There are also regular social events.

What about safety?

QFHS takes the safety of its volunteers seriously. We hold regular training sessions covering fire safety, cyber security and other related matters. We hold volunteers' insurance and public liability and have a program that ensures the building and equipment used is properly maintained.

What if it doesn't suit me?

We try to understand volunteers' interests and abilities and match them with suitable roles/tasks. However, if things aren't working out as you'd hoped, please don't hesitate to contact Caroline Brudell, the Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteering@qfhs.org.au for a confidential chat.



There are so many benefits to volunteering with us here at QFHS and we would love to have you join our team.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering you can find more information on our website [here](#) or by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator, Caroline Brudell via [email](#).

Membership Fee Changes as of 1st May 2024

It's been five years since our membership fees were last increased. Given the rising overhead costs and ongoing expenditure, such as insurance and electricity and increased spending on technology infrastructure, a motion was passed at the last General Meeting to increase our fees as per the schedule below:

Fee Type	New Fee
Joining Fee (for new and lapsed memberships)	\$10.00
Single Membership (per annum)	\$80.00
Dual Membership (per annum)	\$120.00
Associate Membership (per annum)	\$120.00
Single Life Membership	\$1,200.00
Dual Life Membership	\$1,800.00
Journal only subscription (incl. postage per annum)	\$40.00
Journal only overseas subscription (incl. postage - no GST payable per annum)	\$40.00
Non-Member Visitor Fee Daily	\$20.00



In this Month's Edition

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SNIPPETS

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land upon which we operate, the Turrbal and Jagera peoples.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions for Snippets must be received by the 16th of each month for consideration of publication in the next edition, released between the 20th and 22nd of the month.

Submissions to be emailed to The Editor at snippets@gfhs.org.au.

We welcome all contributions to Snippets on family history or historical topics. Contributions may include, but are not limited to, book reviews, articles, research news tips, community news and notices.

The Editor reserves to the right to amend any submission received for format, readability, and layout reasons.

Submissions should be submitted via email, either as text in the body of an email or in an attached word document.

Editorial Team



Editor: Chenoa Nichol

Feedback Survey

CLICK HERE

From the Editor

What a wonderfully warm welcome to our new look Snippets! The feedback from members was very positive and I'd like to thank the readers who took the time to reach out and let us know their thoughts on the presentation changes. I've shared some of the feedback received in the **Community News** section of this month's edition.

Snippets will continue to evolve as we take on board our members feedback on content and layout. Each month we will include a **short survey** where you can provide your thoughts on the latest Snippets edition. The link to the survey will appear at the bottom left of this page and where relevant through the edition.

Moving on to this month's edition! Volunteers are the backbone of our society and Caroline, our Volunteer Coordinator, is putting the call out for our members to think about how they may be able to **contribute to our society**. As a new volunteer, I can say I have met some lovely people and it is so refreshing to have conversations with others that share my love of recording family history.

The volunteer feature is part of a new '**Spotlight On**' series. Each month, we'll put the spotlight on an aspect of the society, be it a volunteer profile, a Special Interest Group or a fantastic resource we have available for our members.

Another new feature is the '**Research News**' section. Here, we will share new resources we've been made aware of, research tips and more. We'd love your input into this new section - if you come across a resource you think our members may find interesting or a tip that's saved you time (and money!), please let us know.

May has a number of cultural dates and we take a look at **Cinco de Mayo**, a Mexican day of celebration, and our Australian **Labour Day**. It was fascinating to research how our Labour Day public holiday came about and learning about the sheep shearing strikes at Barcaldine. Also, be sure to check out the Famous Friday post written by our social media guru, Werona. The article focuses on **Caleb Shang**, the most decorated Australian Chinese soldier of WW1.

Until the next edition, happy reading and I look forward to receiving your feedback on this month's content.

All the best,

Chenoa Nichol

President's Update

The Society is celebrating an important event this year – the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Central European Interest Group in 1984. The first meeting of the group – which began life known as the German Group – was held on 29 April that year. Subsequently, countless QFHS members have been assisted, encouraged and mentored in their Central European family history research over the ensuing 40 years.

To honour this significant milestone, we will hold a special event at the Family History Research Centre on Saturday 1 June 10am-12pm. All members of the society, not only current and past members of the Central European Interest Group, are invited to a special morning tea allowing plenty of time to catch up with old acquaintances followed by a few presentations. The planning group has arranged for some terrific raffle and lucky door prizes and a dedicated group is working towards a major unveiling at the event.

There will be guided tours available for those members who have not visited the new Family History Research Centre before and, for those interested, tables will be booked at a nearby Club for lunch together. A formal invitation will be issued in the next week or so and bookings are essential. We hope many members will join the Management Committee in celebrating the Central European Interest Group's 40th Anniversary.

We have launched a new project We Remember Them: our family's wartime stories. Details are provided elsewhere in Snippets and will soon be added to the website. We will capture stories from the homefront, both here in Australia and wherever was 'home' to your ancestors, as well as of those serving in various theatres of war in whatever capacity that may have been. The creation of a virtual Honour Board will be a permanent record of our family's wartime experiences and allow for additions over 2024 and the years beyond. The design of a dataset from the names, locations, and other details will add to information that members can access via the Society's research-data-rich Datasearch facility.

Thank you to the members who attended the General Meeting held on 26 March. In addition to receiving interesting reports from the Management Committee on the Society's financial position and activities undertaken towards achievement of the Society's strategic priorities, members also voted to accept the proposed increases in membership and other fees. We do appreciate our members attendance and expressions of support for the work that Management Committee is doing for betterment of the Society and its members.

Thank you, also, to the Library Assistants (LAs) who attended the quarterly LA Training and Consultation session earlier in April. Library Assistants are often the first contact the public has with the Society so to call them our ambassadors is no overstatement. They are also of considerable value to the members who visit the Research Centre providing helpful interactions and integral to undertakings such as the clearance sale of Unlock The Past titles. We are grateful to the 32 members who volunteer as Library Assistants and keen to assist them develop skills and knowledge to enhance their role. Alex Daw and Nic Brett are developing a program especially for this purpose.

In the same way it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a team to deliver many of our services and programs so thank you to Alex and Nic as well as the other contributors to this quarter's LA Training and Consultation: Dette Glenday, Pat Gardner, Carolyn Brudell, and Greg Crawford.

Best wishes to all members



Allana O'Kane

Research News

Were your ancestors in Victoria?

Provenance is a free journal published by the Public Record Office Victoria. It's available online now - to access a full copy of the journal click on the map below.



The article, 'Tracing Ancestral Voices', by Kendra Rhodes, may be of particular interest to family historians.

The article outlines a genealogical research journey involving memory, emotion, history and archival research. It demonstrates the reclamation of lost ancestors and their stories, covering the inevitable highs and lows of archival research.

At the centre of this research are Kendra's grandfather, Charles, and great-grandmother, Ethel.

Just days before passing away in 2008, Charles whispered into the ear of his great-grandson, 'you can't choose your family'. These curious words were the inspiration for the author's family history journey, starting with birth and death certificates and eventually leading to state ward records.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Is your ancestor a Scottish-Australian convict?

A new dataset is available through www.oldscottish.com relevant to researchers who have a Scottish-Australian convict in their ancestry.

The dataset takes the available convict transportation records, which are available through the State Library of Queensland here, and links them to records of the Scottish High Court and Circuit Court where the majority of convict sentencing occurred.

The information includes:

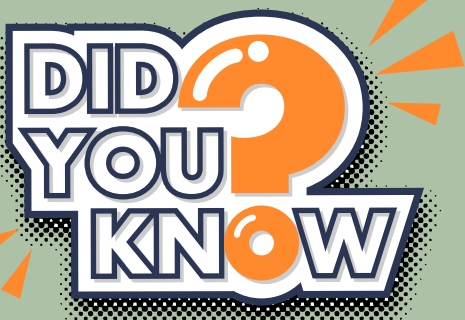
- ancestor name
- occupation and residence
- trial details
- journey details

Information on the court case can then be ordered for a fee.

You can view the index [here](#).



Emigration from the Isle of Skye.
(1853, January 15). Illustrated London News, p. 433.



Did you know you can access the Queensland Law Reporter's list of probate applications from 2012 to present? You can view the register [here](#).

Currently there are 126,000 probate applications available via the search interface. The majority of records will be for Queensland residents, however, may contain interstate records if the deceased held significant assets (e.g. land holdings) in Queensland.

UNLOCK THE PAST

SALE

The QFHS bookshop is selling out all of it's Unlock The Past stock at less than half price!

With over 60 titles to choose from, there is bound to be something in our collection to appeal. Stock is extremely limited, some editions only have one copy left in stock so make sure you get in quick and place your order. All stock sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Books can be collected from our Research Centre or posted for a \$5 flat rate postage fee (regardless of number of books purchased).



What Can I Order?

A list of Unlock the Past books available to order is located [here](#), at the back of this edition of Snippets.

How Do I Order?

To order, send an email to the Library Assistants at FD@gfhs.org.au with a CC to bookshop@gfhs.org.au. Your email must include your details (full name, address, and phone number) as well as your order details (book code and title).

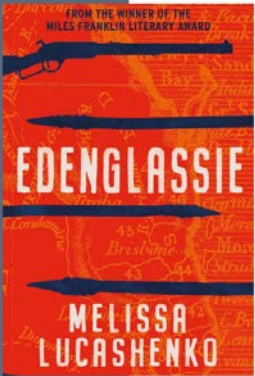
The Library Assistants will verify the requested books are still available and will confirm via return email. Payment is required before posting/collection, and can be made by phoning the Centre on 07 3355 3369 or paying over the counter at the Rsearch Centre. Orders must be paid for within 5 days of receiving the confirmation of order email.



BOOK CLUB

Edenglassie
by
Melissa
Lucashenko

Monday
22nd April
7.30pm



[Read More](#)

Did you know Brisbane was almost called Edenglassie?

In this epic novel set in Brisbane when First Nations people still outnumber the colonists, award-winning Goorie author Melissa Lucashenko tells two extraordinary stories set five generations apart.

Our book club is designed for family historians. We read both fiction and non-fiction and share our opinions. Highbrow, lowbrow - we do not care as long as we are reading good writing and learning something along the way.

MEMBERS LOUNGE SOCIAL



Coffee & Chat
Wartime
Stories

[Read More](#)

Wednesday
24th April
10am

Our ancestors live on when we share their stories.

How did the various generations of your family fare during wartime?

Did they come from small country towns where a generation of young men were lost to the First World War? In what theatres of war were your ancestors involved?

Bring along a story, a photograph, a newspaper article, a memento to share with the group.

LEARN@QFHS

When
'life story'
becomes
'life history';
An oral history
approach



Wednesday
8th May
10.00am

[Read More](#)

Oral history is the collection of stories and reminiscences of people who have firsthand knowledge of any number of experiences.

Join us for this Learn@QFHS event as we delve into the topic of oral history.


Our guest speaker, Greg Hallam, has been the Historian for Queensland Rail for about 20 years.

In this Members Lounge Presenting event, Greg talks us through the Railway Jubilee of 1914.

Set to be a fascinating journey into the past for locomotive enthusiasts, family researchers who had ancestors that would have attended the Jubilee or worked on the railways, and for those who simply just love all things history.

Spots are limited so book your ticket now!

MEMBERS LOUNGE PRESENTING



The Railway Jubilee of 1914
Wednesday 15th May 1pm

[Read More](#)

Join us for this upcoming discussion group on Descendancy Research.

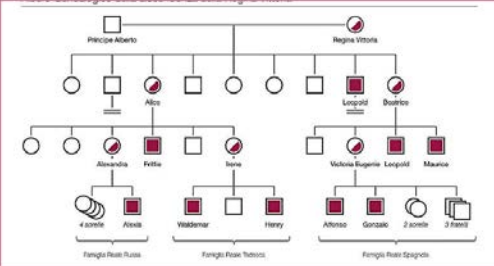
Perhaps you are already subconsciously using descendancy research as a methodology. Perhaps you would like to share what use you have found for it, or the discoveries made as a result.

Can you offer advice on how to proceed if choosing this pathway?

Nancy Edwards from the Queensland Family History Society Inc will facilitate this meeting.

MEMBERS LOUNGE
Talking About...

Descendancy Research



Monday 22nd May 10am

[Read More](#)

Are you a new member? Or maybe it's been a while since you visited our Library and Resource Centre in Chermiside?

QFHS conducts monthly welcome and orientation sessions for Society members. We invite you to attend a New Members' Welcome and Orientation session when you join the Society or at any time you would like a refresher.

Sessions are designed to help you understand the extensive facilities and resources available. We encourage you to attend a session so you can appreciate the scope of our holdings and how they may assist in your research.

New Members Welcome & Orientation
Sunday 26th May 9.30am



[Read More](#)



Get out your calendar and mark in the below upcoming QFHS events to be sure you don't miss out! Further details will be provided closer to the date.

June 2024

- 1st 10am - Central European Interest Group's 40th Anniversary Celebration
- 19th 7.30pm - AGM & Family History Book Award

July 2024

- 8th 10am - Finding your Family: The Fundamentals of research

Twilight Years Expo

Friday 17th May 2024

The upcoming Twilight Years Expo will provide an excellent opportunity for us to promote QFHS and our mission to preserve, research and share family history.

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to promote our membership at the Twilight Expo. The Expo is aimed at showcasing the various options available to retirees and enhancing their enjoyment of their retirement years.

As a volunteer, you will be an essential part of our team, helping us with tasks such as setting up our stall, distributing brochures, and engaging with visitors to generate interest in QFHS.

We would be grateful for your support and involvement in this fantastic event. If you are interested in volunteering, please email volunteering@qfhs.org.au ASAP nominating your preferred timeslot with a second preference, and we will be in touch with you in the next few weeks.

This is the envisaged roster. At least two volunteers would be rostered to cover each shift. Proposed Roster:

- Shift A:** 8:30am-10:30am Collecting material from Chermside and setting up at Arana Hills
- Shift B:** 10:30am-12:30pm Looking after the stall and managing queries
- Shift C:** 12:30pm-2:30pm As above
- Shift D:** 2:30pm-4:00pm As above then packing up materials and returning them to Chermside.

The HILLS & Districts Chamber of Commerce Inc.

Seniors Committee proudly presents

TWILIGHT YEARS EXPO

Friday 17th May 2024
10:00am - 3:00pm

Official Opening 10:30am
by Tim Mander MP

PCYC Hills District
Leslie Patrick Park Complex
Olearia St West, Everton Hills

As the sun goes down, the fun begins!

Supported by

Peter DUTTON MP
Federal Member for Dickson

City of MORETON BAY

Tim MANDER MP
Member for Everton



Indie publishing: your book in our collection

Find out how you can get your self-published book into the National Library of Australia collection. Click above to read the article.

We Remember Them: our family's wartime stories

The **We Remember Them** project will gather stories from our members focusing on the wartime stories in their family trees. A virtual Honour Board will be created on this website to display an image of the individual and a few vital statistics. Each image will be linked to the story of that person's wartime experiences.

The stories may be of men and women who served in the military as sailors, soldiers, or airmen. They may have been nurses or doctors. The stories can be of participants in any theatre of war – Boer War, the World Wars, Korean or Vietnam Wars, Iraqi or Afghanistan Wars. Perhaps you are fortunate to have a family story from the Crimean or Napoleonic Wars?

But we'd also like to receive stories about civilians in wartime - residents of villages, towns or cities overtaken by war, or stories of refugees and displaced persons. On the home front, do you have an ancestor who was in Darwin in 1942? Or who remembers the headlines of the Japanese midget submarines being detected in Sydney Harbour later the same year? Is there a family memory of rationing? Has an 'austerity cookbook' been passed down through the generations in your family?



You are invited to submit as many stories as you like. They can be long or short and all writing styles are welcome. We will continue gathering stories during the year and will index the names mentioned to create a searchable dataset. This has the potential for members to make connections with each other that are not currently apparent.

While we are not all gifted writers, what's important is to capture and share memories before they fade. Don't leave it until it's too late! Our ancestors live on when we tell their stories.

Please use this [link](#) to head to our website and login. Click on the **We Remember Them** project link and submit your entries for the **We Remember Them** virtual honour board.



Our member, **Charlotte Sale**, will be presenting via Zoom for the Genealogical Society of Queensland on the topic of:

Finding the Family Farm: Using Land Records and Maps for Queensland Pastoral Properties

Saturday 4th May 9am-11am

Contact secretary@qfhs.org.au for the discount code to pay GSQ member price. Click on the image for more information and to secure your spot.

Community News

“

I'm a new member. I wanted to congratulate you on a great newsletter - it was well laid out and had lots of useful information.

~ Suzanne C.

“

You are correct when you say you have 'Pat-sized' shoes to fill and also the contribution from previous editors including the step-in from Alana. You've done an amazing job with your first edition and I look forward to reading many more.

~ Carmel B.

“

I wanted to say how thrilled I was with the new look Snippets. Just the introduction of the double paged spread makes a huge difference.

~ Caroline B.

“

Wow! Just wow! As a long time-ago Snippets editor myself, I am just blown away by the new look. Thank you for this fresh, exciting and inspiring e-newsletter. I look forward to reading many more editions.

~ Charlotte S.

“

I was very impressed with the latest edition of Snippets. I have worn many different hats over the years and was editor for many years so am aware of what goes into producing a new edition each month. Keep up the good work.

~ Bev Y.

“

I am a long-time member of QFHS and always enjoy reading the newsletters, full of interesting information for members. Congratulations on this exceptional edition, which I loved.

~ Sharon B.



Thank you to all readers who took the time to send an email with feedback on the last edition of Snippets.

Do you have a letter to the editor or comment you would like to make on this month's edition? We would really be grateful for your feedback and contribution. To take the survey, please click the link below

SURVEY

The latest edition of the **Queensland Family Historian** is out now!

QFHS members can read it free [here](#). There are some great articles and lots of society news. Don't forget to register your selection from this edition for the Journal Article of the Year award. You will receive an email in the next week or so to cast your vote!



May

2024

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 10am Family Tree Maker Group
5 1pm Family Historian Software Group	6 QFHS Family History Research Centre Closed	7	8 10am Learn@QFHS When 'life story' becomes 'life history'	9	10	11 10am Scottish Interest Group
12	13	14 7pm Management Committee Meeting	15 1pm Presenting... The Railway Jubilee of 1914	16 7pm The Master Genealogist Group	17	18 9am Family History Writing Group
19 10am Welsh Interet Group	20	21	22 10am Talking About... What is Descendancy Research?	23 12pm English West Country Interest Group	24	25 10am DNA Interest Group (Beginners Questions)
26 9.30am New Members Welcome & Orientation	27 Start of National Reconciliation Week	28	29	30	31	

Also in
May



5th Cinco de Mayo 	6th Labour Day 	23rd Buddah Day 	26th National Sorry Day 
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Notable Cultural Dates

A Look At...

Cinco de Mayo (5th May)

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration held each year in parts of Mexico and the United States. It honours the Mexican liberal government's military victory in 1862 over Napoleon III's French invasion and attempt to establish a satellite city in Puebla.

In 1861 Mexico declared a temporary moratorium on the repayment of foreign debts. In response, a triad of English, French and Spanish troops invaded the country.

Whilst the English and Spanish troops had withdrawn by April of 1862, the French troops remained, their campaign supported by wealthy landowners and driven by Napoleon III's plan to remove the North American foothold in Mexico.



Image: depiction of Battle of Puebla, Encyclopedia Britannica

On 5th May, 1862 Mexican troops defeated approximately 6,000 French in the Battle of Puebla. Although the French did not fully exit Mexico for another five years, the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla signified Mexican resistance to foreign domination. About 1,000 French troops were killed during the battle.

Cinco de Mayo is largely celebrated in the United States to acknowledge Mexican heritage and in Puebla, where a re-enactment of the battle is held each year.

Celebrations include colourful street parades with dancers performing to mariachi (traditional Mexican folk music), street food and in Washington D.C the Race of the Chihuahuas is held.



Image: Denver, Colorado - a Mexican dance troupe performs to traditional Mexican folk music National Geographic

According to National Geographic, celebrating Cinco de Mayo has helped to bridge a gap between Mexican and American cultures, allowing Anglo-Americans to gain a better understanding of Mexican traditions.

Whilst some view Cinco de Mayo as an opportunity to indulge in tacos and beer, it is a day that continues to be of cultural significance to the town of Puebla and many Mexican Americans.

Sources

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/100505-cinco-de-mayo-history>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Cinco-de-Mayo>

Notable Cultural Dates

A Look At...

Labour Day (6th May)

Labour Day recognises the achievements of the Australian labour movement in campaigning for workers' rights and establishing the eight hour work day.

Labour Day has been celebrated in Queensland since the 1860's however, did not become a gazetted public holiday until 1912. Prior to being known as Labour Day, the day and associated celebrations were called 'Eight Hour Day' between 1901 and 1912 - in recognition of the eight hour work day it is representative of.

The first street parade celebrating Labour Day was held in Brisbane on the 16th March 1867. At the time only a small number of workers had secured the right to an eight hour work day. It would take many more years, until 1891, before there was significant change to working conditions across Queensland, largely brought about by the sheep shearers strike in Barcaldine.



Image: Barcaldine Blade Shearers, 1890

The strike of Barcaldine was one of the first major Australian industrial disputes. The depression of 1890 combined with the pastoralists proposal to decrease shearing wages led to tensions between the two groups.

Over the preceding months attempts were made to negotiate contracts and wages but proposed work conditions were still unsatisfactory. Sporadic strikes were held until 10th March 1891 when approximately 1500 workers blocked the Barcaldine railway and were met by two dozen police. The military were deployed and over 1,000 troops were sent to various camps in Queensland to assist with keeping order.

The strike committee was arrested towards the end of March (they were later sentenced to three years hard labour at St Helena Island), however the strike continued and in May approximately 3,000 shearers marched to the 'Tree of Knowledge' at Barcaldine railway station under the Eureka Flag to protest poor working conditions.



Union camp in Barcaldine during the 1891 Shearers' Strike. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Neg 2027

In the aftermath of the strike, the first Australian Labor Party was formed and celebrations of the eight hour work day were shifted to the first Monday in May, in recognition of the shearers protest march in May 1891.

Sources

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/1891-shearers-strike>

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/labour-day-history-pictures>

Notable Cultural Dates

A Look At...

ANZAC Day Commemorations (in photographs)



Men, women and children line the streets in Brisbane to watch the procession of the 41st Battalion on Anzac Day, 1916. This was the first ANZAC Day commemoration to be held.
Image courtesy of National Museum of Australia



Australian and New Zealand troops marching down Whitehall to Westminster Abbey in London, ANZAC Day, 1916. Image courtesy of National Museum of Australia



Phil Wilding, Students from Murrin Bridge Aboriginal School at the Lake Cargelligo cenotaph for ANZAC Day, New South Wales, 25 April, 1960
Image courtesy of National Library of Australia



The Dawn Service, 2019.
Image courtesy of The Australian War Memorial



The catafalque party at ANZAC Square in Brisbane, 2022
Image courtesy of RSL Queensland

Click [here](#) to find the nearest ANZAC Day service to you for 2024 (via the RSL Queensland website)

Catch up on our socials...

Do you follow our Facebook page? Click on the Facebook link to the right to follow. Here's a recap of one of the interesting articles shared on the QFHS Facebook page in April 2024



Famous Friday: Caleb James Shang (1884 - 1953)

In the lead-up to ANZAC day, today's featured Queenslander is Caleb James Shang - the most decorated Chinese Australian soldier of World War 1. Born on August 4, 1884, in Fortitude Valley, Queensland, Caleb was the eldest of thirteen children, born to Lee Wah Shang and Mary Jane Noon. His family later moved to Cairns, where Caleb finished school at the age of twelve.

At the outbreak of the war, Caleb was working as a clerk in Cairns. The Defence Act of 1909 prohibited enlistment for individuals 'not substantially of European origin or descent'. However, Caleb, aged 31, defied these restrictions and enlisted alongside approximately 200 other Chinese soldiers throughout Australia.

Caleb joined the 47th Battalion, where his bravery and dedication earned him recognition. He was first awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his bravery and resourcefulness at Messines Ridge in June 1917, where he observed German preparations for a counterattack on the 47th Battalion's recently secured positions.

Exposing himself to the enemy, Caleb courageously signalled to the rear for artillery support and effectively aided in thwarting the advancing Germans.

The Bar to his DCM came in April 1918, following his exceptional bravery during the heavy German attack around Dernancourt. His commanding officer wrote, "This soldier's example has always been a source of pride in this Battalion, but on this occasion, he excelled himself by his wonderful powers of endurance, intrepidity and utter contempt for danger".

Caleb then received the Military Medal in 1918 for 'remarkable bravery and initiative' during fighting around Amiens. Unfortunately, during the Battle of Amiens Caleb was wounded in action. The war ended during his convalescence but when he returned to Australia, he was one of the most decorated soldiers of the war.



Post-war, Shang resumed civilian life, working as a herbalist. He married Anna Louise Kassene in 1923 in Victoria. They then moved back to Cairns and started a family.

During World War II, Caleb served in the 17th Battalion, Volunteer Defence Corps in Cairns. Despite his distinguished AIF war record, Shang faced racial slurs. Making a stand against discrimination, Caleb, fully decorated, marched in the ANZAC Day parade for the first and only time in 1943.

Caleb passed away on April 6, 1953, in Cairns. His legacy lives on through Shang Street in Mooroolbool, Cairns.

The photo is courtesy of the Cairns Historical Society Research Centre.

If you are from Cairns or visiting Cairns, make sure to visit the Cairns Museum. The museum and Cairns Historical Society Research Centre offers a wealth of information on Cairns' rich history and heritage.

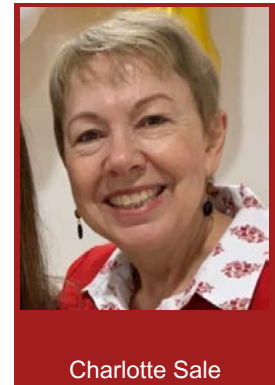
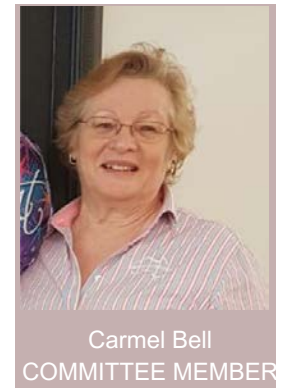
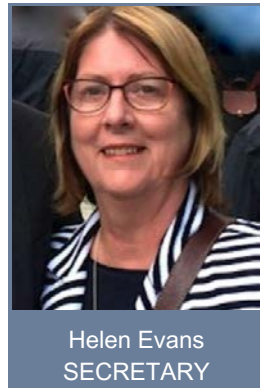


Caleb, Anna, and Delta Shang on Anzac Day in Cairns, 1943

By Unknown, 1943 - Photo courtesy Delta Shang. Deayton, C. (2011): *Battle Scarred: The 47th Battalion in the First World War*. Big Sky Publishing. p.300, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15256345>



Meet the Management Committee



The Queensland Family History Society Inc (QFHS) was formed in Brisbane in 1979 as a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political organisation with the aim of promoting the study of family, and local history, genealogy, and heraldry, and encouraging the collection and preservation of records relating to the history of Queensland families.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the the traditional custodians of the land upon which we operate, the Turrbal and Jagera peoples.

This Month's Snippets Image



This month's Snippets header image is from the front cover of the April 25th, 1935 edition of The Queenslander

This image is of a drawing crafted by Ian McBain featuring a young girl carrying a wreath in honour of our ANZACs.

As ANZAC day 2024 nears, this image is an appropriate reminder of the importance of commemorating and sharing the history and legacy of ANZAC day with our younger generations.

The Queenslander was the weekly summary and literary edition of the Brisbane Courier, the leading journal in the colony - and later, federal state - of Queensland since the 1850s. It was launched by the Brisbane Newspaper Company in 1866 and discontinued in 1939.

UNLOCK THE PAST PUBLICATIONS

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UTP0288	A Decade of Centenaries: Researching Ireland 1912-23	6	12.00	6.00
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UTPH0281	Civil Reg: BDMs in Britain & Ireland	1	3.50	1.75
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UTPH0293	BMD IN Australia	4	3.50	1.75
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UTPH0624	Online Newspapers: GALE	4	3.50	1.75
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In Person: Family History Research Centre, 46 Delaware Street, Chermside, Queensland
By Mail: QFHS, PO Box 78, Geebung, Queensland
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Email: Email: snippets@qfhs.org.au