

QFHS INC. AWARD FOR SERVICES TO FAMILY HISTORY

Nominations are called each year for the QFHS Inc. Award for Services to Family History, which is reserved for QFHS members only, and in 2024 the Award was announced at our Volunteers' Morning Tea on 9 December. The nominations are considered by previous awardees as designated by the Management Committee and they form an ad hoc committee for this purpose each year.

The nominations accepted for 2024 were **Alex Daw** member number 1273A, **Dale Fogarty**, member number 1853, and **Wendy Angliss** member number 4363A. All services mentioned have been voluntary.

Alexandra Daw

Over the years, Alex Daw has contributed to the Society in many meaningful ways. During the years between 1989 and 2020, Alex variously contributed to Research Team co-ordination, the sale of QFHS Publications, and Management Committee including a stint as Secretary.

However, it is her tireless work during the two years as QFHS Vice President (2022-23, 2023-24) that I wish to address in this nomination for the award.

Alex has been a significant force in a large part of the Management Committee's endeavour and achievement during these years. Her approach to decision making is deep and thorough – she always brought a wider perspective to the discussion and provided researched examples to inform the committee of the ways peak bodies were managing the same or similar matters under consideration.

While many of the achievements I include here were the result of a team effort, the team was always the better for Alex's contributions:

- relocation from Gaythorne to Chermside, the Strategic Plan Update 2023-26 and the successful competitive tender for the BCC facility in Chermside all benefitted from Alex's enthusiasm, organisational skills, determination and focus.
- we have an active Emergency Planning Committee because Alex found the time needed and provided impetus for its establishment and continuance.
- many of the elements of our building security and safety have been actioned or

enhanced by Alex's commitment and attention – purchase and recordkeeping of the CO2 monitor to reassure members (in the lingering almost-but-not-quite-post-COVID days) that the building was safely ventilated, installation of a duress alarm so Library Assistants had recourse to assistance should it be needed, dealing with the stolen hot water service, and regular liaison with the security company.

However, it is in the areas of member services and programs that Alex's influence is perhaps most highly visible.

Alex embraced the innovation of the Members Lounge – designed to provide extra value to our membership of the Society by making more activities available at no or little cost – and

- instigated the bi-monthly Book Club where, for two years, we've read more widely than we'd have done without encouragement, been exposed to both more perspectives than we'd select for ourselves and to different styles of writing – always a benefit to those who aspire to putting pen to paper for our own family.
- curated *What's New?* for 15 months by presenting the cream of the crop of new resources available online
- supported the development of more hybrid activities by hosting online components of the monthly *Presenting...* guest speaker program.

She has also been instrumental in designing and delivering multiple orientation and training sessions for Library Assistants and other volunteers.

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Alex's input also ensured the effective collaboration, planning, and delivery of many of the Society's significant events in the last two years:

- the Irish Research Group's 20th Anniversary celebration (June 2023),
- the Ulster Historical Foundation Talks (February 2024),
- the Central European Interest Group's 40th anniversary celebration (June 2024), and
- the Meet the Authors event (August 2024).

Above all else, Alex's constant example has helped foster a positive culture in the Society.

Alex consistently demonstrates the values that are so necessary in a volunteer organisation such as QFHS – innovation and enthusiasm, empathy, cooperation and kindness.



Alex receiving her award from President Kevin Haley

CONGRATULATIONS ALEX
Nominated by Allana O'Kane

Wendy Angliss

Perhaps Wendy's more public facing role is as co-convenor of the Colonial India and the Far East Group. The group first met in August 2018. Founded originally by Dette Glenday, Char Sale and Wendy Angliss, it has gone from strength to strength, invigorated by the enthusiasm of its founders. Meetings are held in even months of the year and generally follow a different subject each time. Wendy often leads the discussions and we always learn something new each time!

All Special Interest Groups have their admirable qualities but perhaps the standout feature of the Colonial India and the Far East Group is its beautifully presented newsletter. Published in the alternate months since April 2020, it is indexed by topic. Wendy is the editor of this publication and puts together an amazing array of topics as varied as religious customs, communication, transport, animals and tellingly in 2022 isolation and quarantine. As good family historians, we know how important context is to tell a good story. What a wealth of information is contained in these pages!

A less public-facing role but for those participating in what might be called the inner circle of QFHS aka the Management Committee, perhaps a more vital one for the smooth running of the Society is Wendy's role as Assistant Treasurer. Many a Treasurer (or Acting Treasurer) has taken heart from meeting Wendy for the first time and knowing that they are in excellent hands. Wendy's qualifications in the financial sector are without question. In her non-QFHS life she is Financial Controller for Arthritis Queensland. She was also State Treasurer for the Queensland Country Women's Association from 2013-2015.

Wendy was recognised by QFHS in 2019 for her work in setting up our financial accounts on the new program Xero, including entering all the transactions from 2018/19. What a job! Of course we rely heavily on Wendy's financial expertise and experience in all things operational as well as tricky things like lodging BAS statements, reporting and auditing.

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More important however is Wendy's unfailing cheerful attitude to all who encounter her in QFHS business. Her eternal optimism, ability to resolve problems, cheerful coaching of new players in the executive team and concern for ensuring that QFHS is best served in all financial areas is her and our chief asset.

Wendy, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued passion for all things family history and QFHS. You are an outstanding volunteer both in the practical side of what you do for QFHS and its members. You display commendable qualities as a team player, suggesting improvements to the way we do things that will ultimately be to our benefit either in terms of time and or money. You have provided the society with a rich legacy by capturing the knowledge of the Colonial India and Far East Group through its newsletter. Please accept this award as a recognition of all that you do.



Wendy receiving her award from President Kevin Haley

CONGRATULATIONS WENDY
Nominated by Alex Daw

Dale Fogarty

Dale has been the convenor of the Irish Research Group since the end of 2018. During this time Dale has advanced Irish research within the group by regularly convening and presenting at bi-monthly meetings, Research Days and through contacts with other Family History groups.

Dale keeps abreast of the latest news on online sites, and as a member of the ACT Family History Group, advocated on behalf of QFHS members to attend meetings of their Irish group online.

She is patient and willing to assist anyone who wishes to find their Irish ancestors.

Dale has promoted innovations such as online bookings for meetings and research days through Eventbrite, enabling accurate data collection pertaining to the activities of the Irish Research Group.



Ruth was unable to attend to read her nomination of Dale. The nomination was read by John Young from the Irish Research Group.

Dale was overseas and will receive her award at a later date

CONGRATULATIONS DALE

Nominated by Ruth Linde ■

