

Snippets 2026



Official e-newsletter of the
Queensland Family History Society

Image: State Library of Queensland



SNIPPETS VOL 26 NO 2

This month we have an opportunity to visit the State Library of Queensland and a behind-the-scenes look at what they have to offer. Check out the Members Lounge - Social for details.

We can also find out about the "Don Bradman" of Australian Explorers - Sir Augustus Charles Gregory. He is a man few have heard of today but has given much to the early history of Brisbane and Australia.

Don't forget to have your say at our Bi-annual General Meeting on 24th March. Note that our proposed new Constitution will be presented at this meeting. You can also register any questions or items to be discussed by emailing the secretary - see notice below.

If you have some spare time that you can donate to your society please check Jenni's post below to see what volunteers are needed.

Have you had a chance to checkout our new Library Catalogue Database? It is there to help you with your research and is the result of many hours of work by our volunteers.

Happy reading

NEWS

21 Feb 2026	New Members Welcome and Orientation	9:30am - 12:30pm
23 Feb 2026	Members Lounge - Book Club - Dirrayawadha by Anita Heiss	10:00am - 11:30am
13 Mar 2026	Learn @QFHS - One Search introduction (including finding images) (online)	10:00am - 11:30am
18 Mar 2026	Members Lounge - Presenting Sir Augustus Charles Gregory (hybrid)	1:00pm - 3:00pm
23 Mar 2026	Members Lounge - Social - Tour of State Library of Qld	10:00am - 2:30pm
24 Mar 2026	Bi-annual Members General Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
29 Mar 2026	New Members Welcome and Orientation	9:30am - 12:30pm



Bi-Annual QFHS Members General Meeting

**24 March 2026
7:30pm - 9:30pm**

This meeting will be a hybrid meeting, held **in person at the QFHS Family Research Centre, 46 Delaware St, Chermside** and **online via Zoom**.

A notice of the meeting is being distributed to members by email and post.

Vote on the proposed new constitution

At this meeting, members will be asked to consider and, if they think fit, pass a special resolution to adopt a new constitution of the Queensland Family History Society Inc.

The **proposed constitution** and supporting documents will be emailed to all members and posted to those without an email address. Note that members are not voting on the bylaws. Further [details and links](#) are here.

Documentation for the General Meeting can be found [here](#) or by contacting the Secretary at secretary@qfhs.org.au

For members unable to attend, please appoint your proxy to vote on your behalf by using the form [here](#). Completed proxy forms must be with the Secretary by 7:30pm on 22 March 2026.

Members may register questions and/or add items to the agenda by emailing the secretary at secretary@qfhs.org.au

All members are urged to participate. Register to attend or record your apology below.

REGISTER

QFHS Management Committee Meetings

Constitution Update;

The proposed constitution has been recommended to members for tabling at our general meeting 24th March 2026. Members should receive the links to read the proposal and associated documents during the latter part of February. A huge thank you to Charlotte for all of her efforts over a lengthy period to develop a document for members' consideration. Thanks also to Chris Shuetz and Kevin Haley for their contributions to the constitution sub committee's discussions and recommendations.

Centre update;

The sign on Delaware St is erected and looks good. Frame rust spots have been treated, frame undercoated and final coats of paint to be applied will complete this project.

Plans are in hand to complete the drainage of the downpipes from our new awning away from our building in the coming month. Chris Gibbs is arranging painting of our front door and waterproofing our front wall where we currently have water issues in severe wet weather. Quotes for this work has been approved by the MC. Other carpentry repairs around the building are being arranged to finalise some smaller jobs which require trade experience.

Electrical defects reported in the BCC audit late last year are receiving attention. We are addressing the possible repositioning of some security lighting on the front of our building as a result of the completion of the new awning. We are proposing to install a light above the front door to make access in the evening

safer and more convenient including better lighting for combination use to access the key lock box.

The annual termite and pest control inspection was undertaken during the closure. There was evidence of termite activity around the site and MC approved a termite control treatment recommended by the contractor to provide protection going forward which will be completed by early March. This aspect is a condition of our lease.

Building Maintenance Register;

The register has been established and will be maintained by Facilities. We have set up our register using our financial year as our annual checks period viz 1st April to 31st March to coincide with our BCC lease which commenced 6/3/2024. We won't have a register to produce for the year 1/4/24 to 31/3/25 as no record existed nor were any annual checks undertaken. All maintenance checks required in terms of our lease for the year to 31/3/26 will be met as required.

Grants;

Peter Gehrke will again assist with our grant applications going forward. There will be a BCC grant opening 23rd March which shall receive Peter's consideration on our behalf. Our Gambling grant application is our only current action for which a decision is expected late February to mid March 2026. We shall acquit the server grant (finalisation of the paperwork) as our new unit is operational.

2026 Speaking Tour

David Barnes reports our Brisbane event with Blaine Bettinger and Simon Davies both here in person is tentatively set down for 17/18th October which is still to be formally confirmed by one of our speakers.

Sue Reid, Carolyn Grimward and Geoff Morgan have agreed to form a small working party to assist David with the Brisbane event. More on this topic in the coming months.

Volunteering:

Jenni Doolan has been successful in filling some roles however there are still a number to fill.

Update on Library proposed alterations;

The new server has been relocated to the TAG room and the surplus horizontal map cabinet was picked up by its new owners the Annerley Stephens History group.

Four new tables were installed recently in the digitising area as we move forward with this project. Other items currently in this area will be moved into the kitchen area, but that move will be delayed awaiting BCC approval to tile the kitchen and subsequent laying after approval.

Centre security alarm triggered;

We had an alarm alert on Sunday afternoon 1/2/26. It appears that the alarm was triggered by a large spider or gecko moving near the TAG room motion sensor. There are five motion sensors strategically placed around the interior of our centre.

Centre security door locks

Front; We have had recent instances of the front door not being locked and also the key lock box dials have not been scrambled. Members who open or close the centre are requested to ensure they unlock or lock the door which is just a part turn of the key with our new lock. Would you please check the door handle is locked when leaving. **There is only one key in the key lock box.** After opening the front

door, the key is to be placed in the plastic envelope, top drawer of the front desk and upon leaving is used to lock the door and replaced in the key lock box. Whenever the key lock box is closed please ensure the dials are scrambled whether or not the key is in the key lock box.

Rear; Would all members please note that if you open the rear door that you make sure it is locked when you leave. When opening the centre, members should use the new front door as that is where the key is and where to disarm security. The existing back door is a little tricky and the door can remain unlocked which is not obvious when closing the door from the inside. It is not wise to assume it's locked.

We trust this update is of interest to you.

Graeme Drew 12/2/2026.



Volunteering

Hi Everyone

We are still looking to fill the following positions

Publicity Co-Ordinator - Are you a strong communicator - if so, this role is for you. The Publicity Co-Ordinator promotes and helps shape our public image. You will play an integral part in driving the QFHS brand within the community

Snippets Co-Editor - Do you have basic computer skills and know your way around a computer – if so, this is an excellent opportunity to gain experience with new systems and play an integral part in keeping all members informed of what's happening within the Society

Community Outreach Co-Ordinator – organise show bags for exhibitions, liaise with other community (groups and clubs, purchase supplies for show bags. (approx. 1-2 hours per month

If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions or just want to chat about them, please give me a call on 0412 789 559

Indexing Volunteers Needed

QFHS has an ongoing project called QBNI (QFHS Book Names Index). We are going through all our books and checking whether they have an index. If they do, we scan the index as a PDF file. This file is subsequently processed to generate a list of the names and page references for each book, collected in an Excel file.

These details are then loaded into a searchable database which is available online for our members. So far we have indexed almost 900 books, with over 580,000 names listed.

There are many books where the index has been scanned but the index files have not yet been generated, and this is where we need your help. If you can generate a document with Word or Excel, you can work at home to make indexes.

Generally, people use Word to read the PDF and then edit the file or convert it to Excel. If you have an OCR program to convert the PDF to readable text, that makes it easier. Others are happy to just manually transcribe the details from the PDF into an Excel file. We can provide some training assistance if required.

If you feel you could help, please contact Peter Reed at digitising@qfhs.org.au



A warm welcome to the New Year from the Print Library Team. Lets hit the ground running with an introduction to "Koha", the new Library Catalogue Database, hosted and supported in Sydney by Prosentient Systems.

The new database can be found at library.qfhs.org.au

Members of the Print Library Team have been working tirelessly over the last twelve months to massage the data that was imported from vLibrary.

Some unwanted and unexpected results popped up in the new database and much work has been going on to rectify, cleanse and tidy up the data in Koha.

The most important thing to know at the moment is that vLibrary has been frozen for most of the last year meaning that all new records have only gone into Koha.

With the limited resources available, all efforts have been focused entirely on Koha. With the gap widening between vLibrary and Koha, the Print Library Team invite you to have a look at our new database.

Some points to know.

The Koha Catalogue is available to all and you do not need a log-in to search!

Members will still be able borrow books from the "Book Awards" and "Lending Library" section of the Library. Books not on loan from these two areas will show as "available".

The bulk of the Library is for research only and in most cases these books cannot be borrowed.

These books will show up as "Not Available, Restricted Access - Research only".

The Library Assistants will soon be in a position to check books in and out using Koha.

Some electronic records will still only be accessed by attending the Library at Geebung.

In Koha, an example of the simplest search would be by going to the drop down button that by default shows "Library catalogue". Click that button and select "Title". In the search entry field to the right enter "Geebung" and click the search button to the right. Two entries with Geebung in the title should be shown.

Members may have a Call Number to find. To find an exact match, select "Call Number" from the same drop down options and enter the full Call Number in quotes eg, "H4/034 1 2".

The Title "Geebung story : the next fifty years" should be found.

An option called "Advanced Search", directly under the Library Catalogue option button is where visitors can start to develop more targeted searches.

To see all the Book Award collection, just click on the Group Icon for Book Awards and hit "Search". Further searching is possible from within that selection.

Have a look at Lists, found near the top left. The Print Library Team have grouped similarly themed records to help with quick searching.

The New Year has certainly started with some pace so welcome to Koha. Please explore, there's a lot to see, and remember, it is a work in progress.

vLibrary is still the same as you have known it except no new substantial entries have been added in the last twelve months. Koha is the place where you will find up to date

data.

New SIG

The **Technology Interest Group** is a new interest group established in 2026 and will provide an opportunity for members to discuss and learn how to make the most of technology both for family history and personal use. This includes commonly used computer software such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, research websites and the rapidly expanding field of AI. It will not cover technology already discussed in other interest groups such as DNA, FTM etc.

If you have suggestions for any topics please [email us](#) with your thoughts.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, held alternatively at the centre and via Zoom. Members must [register](#) with the convenor to receive the link to the session.

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Next meetings:



Central European:	Saturday 4 April 26 – 10am – 12noon - hybrid
Colonial India & the Far East:	Sunday 12 April 26 – 10am – 12noon - online
DNA (beginners' questions):	Saturday 28 March 26 – 10am – 12noon - hybrid
DNA (some experience):	Saturday 28 February 26 - 10am - 12noon - hybrid
English West Country:	Thursday 26 March 26 – 12 noon – 2pm - online
Family History Writing:	Saturday 21 March 26 – 9am – 12noon - online
Family Historian Software:	Sunday 1 March 26 – 1pm – 3pm - online
Family Tree Maker:	Saturday 1 March 26 – 10am - 11:30am – hybrid
Irish Research Group:	Friday 13 March 26 – 10.00am – 3:00pm - in person
QLD Pre-Separation:	Saturday 14 March 26 – 1.30pm – 3:30pm - online
Scottish:	Saturday 14 March 26 - 10am - 12noon - hybrid
Technology:	Thursday 5 March 26 – 10.00am – 12noon - in person
The Master Genealogist:	Monday 16 March 26 – 7pm - 8:30pm – online
Welsh:	Sunday 15 March 26 – 10am - 12noon – hybrid

Meetings vary between: online; hybrid with some members online and some in person; or in person at our Family History Research Centre, 46 Delaware Street, Chermside. Please check the [QFHS calendar on the website](#) or contact the group convenor to confirm your meeting location.

[Learn more about Special Interest Groups](#)

Would you like to learn more about a particular interest group or perhaps join them for a meeting? Click [here](#) and select an interest group. You can contact the Convenor if you have any questions or would like to join a meeting.

EVENTS

New Members Welcome and Orientation



Get ready to make the most of your membership

These orientation sessions are held either **in person at the QFHS Family Research Centre, 46 Delaware St, Chermside** or **online via zoom**. It is your opportunity to learn more about our research resources, services and learning opportunities.

Not a new member but need an update on accessing resources at our Family History Research Centre? You're very welcome to join the sessions.

The next session will be held at our Research Centre on 21 February 2026 at 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Bookings are essential at welcome@qfhs.org.au.

Members Lounge - Talking About ...

Ethical Communication

Date: 25 March 2026

Time: 10 am-12noon

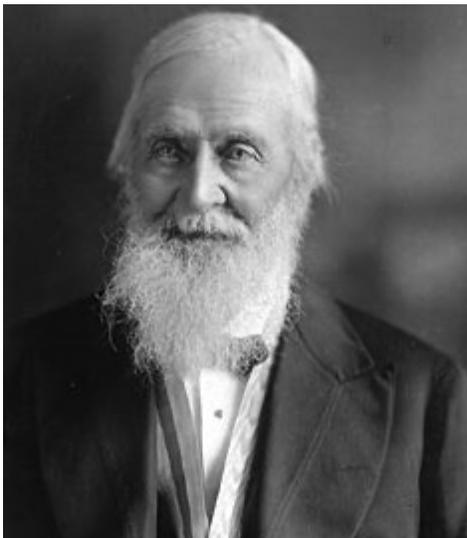
Presenter : Nancy Edwards



Ethical Communication of Sensitive Information. When the desire to share a discovery is a scratch you can't itch.

To register and [read more..](#)

Members Lounge - Presenting



Sir Augustus Charles Gregory

Date: 18 March 2026

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Presenter: Dr Gary Bacon AM, PGM

Sir Augustus Charles Gregory has been called 'The Bradman of Australian Explorers' but few today have heard of him. To register and read [more..](#)

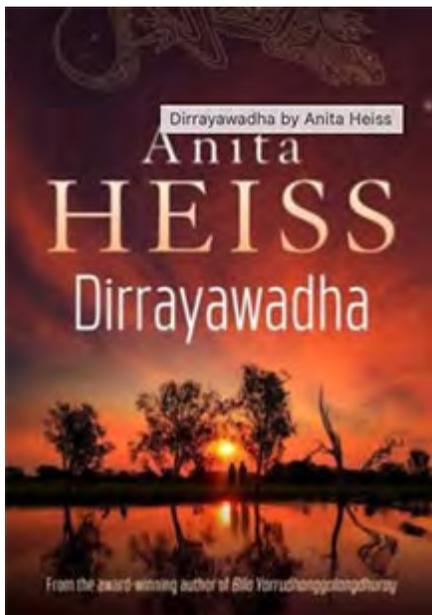
Members Lounge - Book Club

Dirrayawadha by Anita Heiss

Date: 23 February 2026

Time: 10am - 11:30am

Anita Heiss is breathing new life into the Australian historical epic. Dirrayawadha (Rise Up) shows the



resistance leader Windradyne as the remarkable figure he was and surrounds him with fascinating figures otherwise lost to history.

To register and read [more..](#)

Learn@QFHS



One Place Study

Date: 13 March 2026

Time: 10am - 11:30am

Presenter: Kirsten Perris of SLQ

Kirsten will look at the key resources at the State Library of Qld and how to effectively access them. To register and read [more..](#)

Members Lounge - Social



Tour of State Library of Qld

Date: 23 March 2026

Time: 10am - 2:30pm

Presenter: Kirsten Perris of SLQ

Join Kirsten for a research visit and behind-the-scenes tour of the State

NOTICEBOARD



Research Reveals 32026

6 March 2026 - 7 March 2026

Over the past year, nine researchers have delved deep into State Library's collections, uncovering new stories and fresh perspectives on Queensland's history through their [State Library Fellowships](#). Now, they're ready to share their discoveries.

Join us for [Research Reveals](#), a two-day event where the 2025 State Library Fellows present the outcomes of their research projects, revealing little-known histories and insights drawn from State Library's collections.

The logo for the Queensland State Archives, consisting of the words "QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES" in a white, serif font, centered on a dark blue rectangular background.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

1995 Queensland Cabinet Minutes now open

In 1995, change was everywhere. Rugby league split with the emergence of Super League, pay TV arrived in Australia and Coolio's Gangsta's Paradise topped the charts. At the same time, Queensland Cabinet was considering decisions that would shape the state's future.

We have now released the 1995 Cabinet Minutes, providing insight into government decision-making during a period of economic and policy change.

Read [more...](#)



Life of a Colonial Woman

28 February 2026

3:00pm - 5:00pm

via Zoom

Traces of colonial women are hard to find. We know they worked hard, they supported their husbands (or not) and they raised and educated the next generation of colonials.

But what of their lives? Did they own land? Did they do business? Were they law abiding?

To book and read [more...](#)



RootsTech 2026 Opens Virtual Discovery Experience Ahead of Event

The interactive discovery feature is offered annually as part of the premier global RootsTech conference. The experience enables participants to find and connect with living relatives. Millions have participated since the activity's inception and have enjoyed how it can strengthen family connections and lead to new discoveries. In 2025, participants discovered nearly 5 million ancestral relationships.

How Does Relatives at RootsTech Work?

To join Relatives at RootsTech 2026 online:

- Go to FamilySearch.org/Connect.
- If you don't have a free FamilySearch account, create one when prompted.
- Add what you know to the FamilySearch Family Tree. The more relatives you have in your family tree, the greater the probability that cousin connections will be made.

The feature's discovery technology will immediately begin using FamilySearch Family Tree information to search for and match any common ancestors with related participants worldwide and show how you are related. If desired, newly connected relatives can message each other through the website. Participants can also see how many relatives have joined the experience and filter them based on location, common

ancestor, or family line.

The interactive experience will be available through 31 March 2026. Participate today to find new relatives and connect.



Friends of Nundah Historic Cemetery

180 Stories for 180 Years

February 2026 will mark an extraordinary milestone for our community: 180 years since the very first recorded burial in Nundah Historic Cemetery.

As Queensland's oldest surviving cemetery, Nundah holds the memories and quiet legacies of generations.

To honour this anniversary, the Friends of Nundah Historic Cemetery are creating a special commemorative project: A collection of 180 stories, each one dedicated to a resident of the cemetery.

These stories can capture the life, service, character, or contribution of the people at rest within our historic cemetery.

This is a community project, and we warmly invite you to take part. Whether you're a long-time local, a family descendant, a history enthusiast, or someone simply curious about the people who built the early Nundah community, we would love for you to help tell their stories. No previous research experience is necessary, just enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to explore the past.

If you'd like to be involved, please read [more...](#)

**COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC**

28th March 2026



10:00am start
CEMETERY WALK

To be held in the Coffs Harbour Historical Cemetery.
Interested in graves and headstones? Read [more...](#)



Upcoming events that may be of interest:

Date: 14 March 2026

Title: Banished women: convict hardship in colonial NSW

Read [more..](#)

Date: 28 March 2026

Title: From Europe to Australia - tracing the roots of migrant ancestors.

Read [more..](#)



Records from the Supreme Court of Victoria, Cardinia Shire Council and Land Use Victoria (Vicmap) have been added to Public Record Office Victoria's (PROV) collection in recent months.

Family Reunion

MARSHALL; PRESTON; WOOLMER; WIXON; SCHMIDT

(FAMILIES who settled in the FRAZER COAST AREA – arriving around 1800's).

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL - SUNDAY 5TH APRIL [EASTER WEEKEND 2026]

BROOWEENA MUSEUM

(Between Biggenden & Maryborough)

Free Camping Grounds – NO power with Toilets
BUT !! NO SHOWER – TEE BAR HALL UP THE ROAD

RSVP & More Details contact: Kathy Hunt kathygf15@bigpond.com

Kathy Hunt on Facebook (with the ANZAC picture)

SHARE! SHARE! SHARE! WOULD LOVE TO SEE AS MANY DESCENDANTS AS POSSIBLE.

RESOURCES - NEW AND ONGOING



**New Materials available on
FamilySearch**

See the full list of collection updates in the [FamilySearch Newsroom](#).

Today, more than 20 billion historical records and images can be searched freely at FamilySearch.org.

Other related databases include:

[FamilySearch Unlocking Centuries of Italian Ancestry Records](#) (2018)

[FamilySearch Italy Discovery Page](#)

[FamilySearch Brazil Discovery Page](#)

Who Does What at QFHS?

Have you wanted to contact someone at QFHS but not known who was the right person? We have an extensive list of "Who Does What", recently updated.

Members can find it on the QFHS website under the "Members Portal" tab, or click [here..](#)

It is a testament to the many wonderful volunteers who work together to keep QFHS delivering to us all. Many thanks to Jenni Doolan, our Volunteers Coordinator, who keeps this listing up-to-date.

To save the society printing and postage costs **we urge members to cancel their print copy and access the online copy.** Send a request to membership@qfhs.org.au.

The **eHistorian** - which is how we refer to the electronic version - is available online for the years **2008-2025** and may be selected by year and then issue.

The chosen PDF document will appear either in new tabs, new windows, or as downloaded files depending on your browser, version, or settings.

You can search the **Queensland Family Historian Name Index 1979-2025** [here...](#)



Journals: a Rich Resource

(This list is updated monthly.)

NT

[Gensoc NT Progenitor 44 3 2025 09 \(PDF\)](#)

[Gensoc NT Progenitor 44 4 2025 12 \(PDF\)](#)

Victoria

[Victoria Gum News 44 01 2026 02 \(PDF\)](#)

England

[Bristol Avon 202 2025 12 \(PDF\)](#)

[East Yorkshire Banyan Tree 184 2026 02 \(PDF\)](#)

[Family History Federation Bulletin 64 2025 12 \(PDF\)](#)

[Family History Federation Bulletin 65 2026 01 \(PDF\)](#)

[JGSGB 111 2025 10 \(PDF\)](#)

[JGSGB 112 2026 01 \(PDF\)](#)

[West Surrey Root Branches 52 3 2025 12 \(PDF\)](#)

Ireland

[NIFHS News 78 2026 01 \(PDF\)](#)

Scotland

[Tay Valley Historian 133 2026 02 \(PDF\)](#)



Queensland newspapers newly digitised

We have been working on a project with the NLA to get some of our older microfilm digitised. Hundreds of titles, including many regional Queensland ones, have been selected for this project and are being added to Trove. We're keeping a live list for people to track on our website, but you can also see the updates on Trove's website. I'll include links below. They're well worth exploring if you have the chance!

- On our website - <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/more-vintage-queensland-newspapers-trove-2025>
- December updates in Trove - <https://trove.nla.gov.au/announcement/2025/11/07/new-december-2025>
- Coming soon in Trove - <https://trove.nla.gov.au/announcement/2024/03/22/coming-soon-trove>



The Family History Federation is based in the UK but it puts out a "Really Useful Bulletin" each month on its website that may be of interest to our members with UK backgrounds.

[Read more...](#)

Assisted Immigration to Queensland

A new dataset with 262,900 entries has been added to the QFHS online research resources. The entries date from 1848 to 1912.

To gain access, click on <https://www.qfhs.org.au/online-access/assistedimmigration/>. Please read its associated [ABOUT](#) document for details of the data.

Did You Know?

QFHS provides free access to an extensive range of information available through the library editions of the websites listed on the QFHS website, and accessed through member login details. Some can be accessed from home, and others through the Research Centre in Chermside.

QFHS is a FamilySearch affiliate library. You can reach limited-access Family Search databases and images on the QFHS computers.

Source of our cover illustrations



For the past several years, we have chosen an illustrated cover from *The Queenslander* to add to the header for Snippets.

The Queenslander was launched by the Brisbane Newspaper Company in 1866 and discontinued in 1939. It was the weekly summary and literary edition of the *Brisbane Courier*, the leading journal in the colony - and, from 1859, the State of Queensland.

With weekly publication spanning 60+ years, there were many (out-of-copyright) images to consider as a header for Snippets.

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 interesting to members our newsletter will be. 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.

Many images used in Snippets are sourced from Pixabay, the State Library of Queensland, and Wikimedia Commons.

The Family History Research Centre is located on

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