

Diary Dates December:

- 2nd – 10-1am – Qld State Archives seminar – Maps. Bookings: 3131 7777
- 5th – 1pm - SLQ – Conservation Clinics. Free – Bookings: 3840 7768
- 6th 1pm SLQ Conservation Clinics. Free – Bookings 3840 7768
- 7th – 10am-2.30pm English/Irish Group
- 7th – 10am-3pm SLQ Open Day. Free
- 8th – 7.30-9pm North Brisbane Branch – final 2008 meeting
- 10th – 6-9pm GSQ Wednesday Night Opening
- 11th – 7.30-9pm – Bayside Branch meeting
- 13th – 9am-12 noon Management Committee meeting
- 13th – 9am-4pm Qld State Archives, Runcorn – Saturday opening
- 14th – 10am-2.30pm Convict Connections
- 20th GSQ closes for Christmas/New Year
- 25th – e-News deadline for January edition
- 30th – 10am-3pm Special Opening – GSQ Fisher Street
- **January**
- 3rd, 7th & 10th – GSQ Special Opening Days
- 13th – GSQ resumes normal opening hours
- See Events column for more January dates

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An official publication of the
Genealogical Society of Queensland
Inc.



From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the December issue of GSQ's e-newsletter. The November storms have caused problems for GSQ, as for many other businesses and homes. More about this later in this issue. We thank you for your patience. As always, contributions to this e-newsletter are welcome. Please send any items for the December issue to the Editorial Team c/- Pauline at pstirland@hotmail.com or c/- GSQ at gsq1@optusnet.com.au. Deadline is 25th of each month.

Josephine, Paul and Pauline – your editorial team

From the President

Hello again to Members

Firstly, can I express best wishes from the Management Committee to our members who were adversely affected by the wild weather in SE Queensland over the last week or so? I hope that your property can quickly be repaired and that you and your families do not suffer in the long term from these events.

GSQ, as you may know, was not exempt and while we were unaffected by Sunday's events, we suffered from seepage two days later and the seepage problem we experienced has continued to prevent us from opening for more than two weeks. We are hoping to open midway through the first week in December. The seepage problem brought out our usual volunteers: Christine Smith, Barbara Robinson, Elaine Lucas, Tony Burrows and Josephine Nolan and others. Thanks for your untiring efforts once again.

I apologise to our members who were disadvantaged by our closing. The main item affected by the water seepage was the carpet, so all the furniture had to be moved to allow the carpet-drying fans to operate. We were advised by the carpet firm that the smell and associated mould was a potential health risk, and the Committee decided this was a risk that we could not accept, hence the closure. Water seepage has been an ongoing problem – this is not the first time - and I am about to convene the first meeting of our Operations and Administration Sub-Committee, where we will take a fresh look at this problem.

We have now been closed for two weeks at the time of writing this update. Members of the Management Committee will be opening some days during the usual Christmas break, which I hope will go some way to making up for the closure. The opening dates are now finalised and you'll find them elsewhere in this e-News and we'll also post them separately on the website. Look forward to seeing you over the Christmas break.

That's all for this month. On behalf of the Management Committee, I wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year. **Marg Doherty**

Computing equipment

Funded by



Gambling

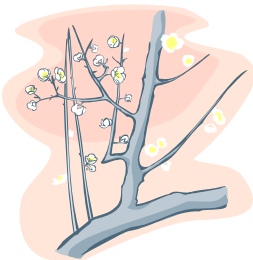
Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

*Thank you
Gambling Community
Benefit Fund!*



*Only a Genealogist
regards a step
backwards as
progress.*



Branch News

Q150 Project Update

The Q150 project, Queensland Muster Roll 2009, is still awaiting the finalisation of the development of the software which will be used for the input of data, both for people wanting to submit new information about their families and for those volunteers able to help with the data entry. The installation of the software has been delayed by the interruption to our operations caused by the water damage, but we hope to be ready to go by the second week in December. Volunteers for data entry are still welcome. **Russell Fraser**

Queensland State Archives – Opening of New Building

GSQ was well represented at the recent ceremony to open a new Building at the Queensland State Archives at Runcorn. GSQ members present included Paul Mann (GSQ Vice-President), Margaret Holding (North Brisbane Branch), Les McFadzen (Redlands Branch), Sondra Stafford (Southern Suburbs). The Building was opened by Premier Anna Bligh, with members of the Queensland Cabinet also in attendance. The Building provides much needed, environment-controlled, state-of-the-art archival storage space for Queensland's records. **Paul Mann, GSQ VP**

NSW Research Officer retires

We are sad to hear that Joan Reese, GSQ's long-serving NSW Research Officer, has had to retire from this role due to ill-health. Many members have benefited from help and guidance provided by Joan and will be saddened by this news. We wish Joan well and thank her for all the help she has provided to GSQ and its members over the years.

North Brisbane

The final meeting for 2008 for the **North Brisbane Branch** is on Monday, 8th December 7-9pm when the Branch holds its Break Up for Christmas Night. The Branch meets at Fallon Cottage, Fallon Street, Everton Park 4053 (*behind the Everton Park Library*). More details from Margaret Holding at holding@powerup.com.au.

Bayside Branch

Bayside Branch of GSQ meets on 11th December at 7.30 – 9pm in the Staff Room of the Wynnum Central State School at Florence Street, Wynnum Qld 4178. For further details contact Elma O'Toole on ashelm@bigpond.com.

Southern Suburbs

There is no meeting of **Southern Suburbs Branch** in December. Further information about 2009 activities is available from Noele Alexander at npalexander@optusnet.com.au

Net Nibbles

There's not a lot new on the net this month that hasn't previously been reported on. Those with Canadian ancestry will be interested to know that Ancestry.ca and FamilySearch are partnering up to digitise the Canadian censuses. They hope to release in 2009.

For those with UK ancestors, the FreeBMD site at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com> continues to update their site and you now have pretty good odds of finding the births, marriages and death references for the UK up to 1917.

That's all from *Ali the Net Nibbler* for this month.



*Fishing for ancestors?
Maybe these net nibbles
will help*

Australia's First Electoral Rolls launch online

Ancestry announces the launch of Australia's First Electoral Rolls online. There are more than 30,000 records including those of some of Australia's greatest historical figures. Don't forget that GSQ has a subscription to Ancestry so you can check these out next time you're at Fisher Street.

LDS Films currently on loan at GSQ – available to all!

Individual GSQ members hire films from the LDS to help them in their research. These may be of interest to other members as well. If you are interested, you are also able to look at the films although we ask for a small donation to support the service. Please note that the person who ordered the film will have priority access. A new batch of films has just arrived and is being processed now, so details are not available as we go to press. Please ask at the desk for details.

Events

The end of year Volunteer Thank You morning tea was cancelled due to problems caused by the storms. This is being rescheduled for 17 January – same time, same place.

A reminder that GSQ will close for the Christmas/New Year break on Saturday 20th December at 4pm. However, special arrangements are being made to open on the following days: Tuesday 30th December, Saturday 3rd January, Wednesday 7th January, Saturday 10th January. On Saturdays we'll be open from 12noon to 4pm and on the Tuesday and Wednesday we'll be open 10am to 3pm.

Here are some diary dates for January 2009

Saturday 3rd 12noon to 4pm - GSQ open

Sunday 4th 10am to 2:30pm Scottish Group

Wednesday 7th 10am-3pm GSQ open

Saturday 10th 9am-12noon – Management Committee meeting.

Saturday 10th 12noon to 4pm – GSQ open

Saturday 10th 10am-11.30am – SLQ – Presentations by GSQ, QFHS, SLQ and LDS Church on their respective societies and how they can help those researching their family history.

Tuesday 13th GSQ regular opening commences

Saturday 17th 10am Volunteers Morning Tea



*Mark these dates in
your diary so you don't
miss out*

Interest Groups Update

Interest Group meetings scheduled for December are: 7th English/Irish Group; 14th Convict Connections. These are the final Interest Group meetings for the year and are open to all members. A gold coin donation is appreciated. Doors open 10.00am to 2.30pm. Interest Group dates for 2009 will be published in the December *Generation* and details will be at Fisher Street.

At the **English/Irish Group** meeting, Pauline will describe some Christmas traditions, facts and figures. Some Christmas fare will be available. Come along and share your Christmas stories. **If you are planning to attend, we suggest you ring GSQ on Friday 5 December just to make sure that we're able to open.**

Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc

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GSQ's opening hours are:

Monday - closed
Tuesday - 10am - 3pm
Wednesday - 10am - 3pm
Thursday - 10am - 3pm
Friday - 10am - 3pm
Saturday - 12 noon - 4pm
2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month - 6pm-9pm.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.gsq.org.au

Raffles

Our current Raffle has a first prize of a \$50 **Archive CD Books Voucher** and a second prize of a Basket of Goodies – to be drawn on December 17. Our ticket sales are now down because of our enforced two week closure, so all members are encouraged to support this last fund-raising venture for 2008. Tickets are just \$1 and can be purchased on any day at the Library. For those who will not be visiting in the next fortnight, please consider ordering some tickets by mail. Proceeds of the raffles are used for the benefit of Society members.

GSQ's 30th Birthday

Unfortunately we have had to postpone the display of photos and memorabilia of GSQ's first 30 years. However, many members have provided lots of photos that we would like to share with you. GSQ has come a long way since 1978. In the first couple of years, GSQ comprised a large number of chapters, brought together under a State Executive Committee. GSQ didn't have a real home: the Committee used to meet at the home of various Committee members. For a while it used an office in Auchenflower and then space was provided by TAFE in South Brisbane. It was recorded in August 1980 that "T.A.F.E. has agreed to our placing a cupboard in one of their rooms to house our library ..." Approval was granted to purchase a suitable cupboard that could be locked and "It was hoped to open the library shortly and details when confirmed to be announced at the Convention". The relationship with TAFE was obviously a positive one and within a month, GSQ was offered the use of a large table and two chairs in an area adjacent to the cupboard. Technology has changed as well as our accommodation. In 1979 a donated typewriter "had a number of keys sticking" and approval was granted for it to be overhauled." Our current excellent computing facilities are due to a Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant received in late 2007.

GSQ would not be where it is today without the significant contributions, both great and small, by the many dedicated members and volunteers who have devoted significant parts of their lives to the Society. We encourage everyone who is able to contribute, to contact Josephine Nolan so that we can place GSQ on a firm foundation for the next 30 years.

Genealogy classes

Our schedule of classes is finished for the year but GSQ is committed to offering a range of classes to suit the wide range of members' needs. More information is available from Pauline at pstirland@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Update

We certainly give "thanks" and say "thanks" to all those volunteers who, at a moment's notice – after a quick phone call from Christine – were able to give time to shifting boxes and bundles of records and stationery items so that the water could be pumped out and dryers then brought in to attempt to repair the damage caused by the heavy rain on Tuesday November 19. As always, it reminds us that our Society is so very dependent on its volunteers to keep our Library in good working order for all its members. It is timely, then, to ask each of you to consider giving some time in 2009 to helping in the Library. There are many and varied jobs – and always a place for you! Don't hesitate to contact me. *Josephine Nolan*

Deadline for copy

Copy for inclusion in the GSQ e-news should be sent by the 25th of each month to either:

pstirland@hotmail.com or

gsq1@optusnet.com.au