

OUR FUTURE

This Communique is the fifth in a series providing information to members about discussions to amalgamate the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS) and the Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ). There is no accompanying Discussion Paper, but you are reminded that all Communiques and previous Discussion Papers are available on the Our Future pages of your Society's website.

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LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Family historians of the future will ponder the strange worldwide happenings of 2020 and their impact on the lives of their ancestors. And for all of us currently grappling with the interruptions to our "normal" everyday lives, we will have interesting observations to add to our own family stories.

For those of us valiantly trying to maintain progress on the proposed amalgamation, this has been a frustrating time, but the intent of this Communique is to reassure all Members of both Societies that work is continuing, even though timelines have had to be adjusted.

With the lengthy closure of the Resource Centres of both Societies, both Management Committees are currently contending with gradual re-opening of their premises, albeit under changed conditions. But the needs and interests of Members during this time have not been forgotten, and the increased provision of online access to resources, including webinars and subscription sites, has not only been a significant effort, but noteworthy in terms of consideration of delivery of services to meet future needs and interests.

NAME OF THE NEW ORGANISATION

The previous Communique called for input to choosing the name of the new organisation. Thank you to those who supplied comment and suggestions.

Of the 139 responses received to Communique 4, the overwhelming majority favoured the name "Family History Queensland". So, with the endorsement of both Management Committees, Family History Queensland has been adopted as the working title.

ADJUSTED AMALGAMATION TIMELINE

Communique 4 provided a detailed account of all the actions of the amalgamation process, and it is suggested you refer back to that Communique for those details.

The critical part of the process is the holding of a Special General Meeting by each Society at which a special resolution to amalgamate is put to Members. With social distancing and other restrictions likely to be in force for some time, the Amalgamation Sub-Committee has come to the reluctant decision that it is impossible to plan such meetings this year.

The intention now is to work towards the holding of the Special General Meetings by each Society in April 2021, at which a Special Resolution for amalgamation will be presented

for Members' vote. Prior to these meetings, Members will receive extensive information regarding the amalgamation proposal and there will be a number of opportunities for Members to have any questions answered, or to make comments and provide suggestions.

SEARCH FOR SUITABLE PREMISES

While the search for premises has stalled during this lock-down period, communications have been maintained with Local and State Government representatives, and with a number of real estate agents.

On the other side of COVID-19, our efforts to attract government assistance with finding and financially assisting premises are likely to have lower priority as government agencies grapple with community regeneration issues. Accordingly, attention has intensified on the commercial sector, and a number of light industrial areas are now being investigated.

You will recall that the search for new premises is driven by lack of security of tenure over the premises of both Societies, namely –

- Month to month basis of the QFHS lease – but there has been no request to vacate,
- Expiration of GSQ lease in late 2020 - with options for extension.

It had been the objective of the Amalgamation Sub-Committee to locate suitable premises prior to seeking the members' vote on amalgamation – but, in line with the feedback from Members in response to the previous Communique, the seeking of Members' votes on amalgamation is seen as the higher priority.

In recognition of fruitless searching to date, the Amalgamation Sub-committee is considering the need to extend the area of interest beyond the '8km from CBD' zone – but remains focussed on the needs and aspirations of Members.

STAY IN TOUCH

Your views are valued and it is important that we stay in touch during these strange times. If you have information, comments, or opinions to share, please email either

QFHS: ourfuture@qfhs.org.au or GSQ: ourfuture@gsq.org.au

If you prefer not to email, you can write to either Society at the usual postal address, marked "Our Future".

Thank you for your interest.

Chris Gibbs

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Helen Veivers

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All communiques and discussion papers, including this one, are available on the Our Future pages of your Society's website.

QFHS <https://www.qfhs.org.au/ourfuture>

GSQ <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-qfhs-amalgamation-discussion-papers/>