



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

Enriching family history

BREAKING NEWS

During the weekend I received the letter below from Chris Gibbs, President QFHS. (The letter has been reproduced in full.) A little background information - GSQ was approached in 2018 by a delegation from QFHS about the possibility of the two societies amalgamating. Talks have been proceeding since that time and a good deal of time and effort has been expended by both societies and much goodwill achieved. A date (24 July) had been set for the Amalgamation Vote – obviously this date can now be removed from your Diary!

21 May 2021,
Helen Veivers,
President,
Genealogical Society of Queensland.

Hello Helen,
I regret to inform you that at yesterday's meeting, QFHS Management Committee has decided to cease talks regarding amalgamation. As you know, QFHS held our second & third amalgamation Q&A sessions on 7 & 8 May. The Q&A sessions were well attended with approx 40 attendees on Friday and 26 attendees on Saturday. There was a decided and organised amount of talk by the against group.

Subsequent to the meeting I received a notice from the against faction wanting to convene a special general meeting. Ironically it was signed by 22 members, the same number back in 1979 who wanted to leave GSQ.

At yesterday's Management Committee meeting, both the Q&A meetings and the special general meeting were discussed. The Management Committee has agreed that QFHS will cease talks with GSQ regarding amalgamation. This decision was not taken lightly but it was decided that this course of action was in the best interest of QFHS members. The decision was taken to avoid the potential damage from a split against the perceived benefits to take amalgamation to a members vote.

I am fully aware of the enormous amount of work and effort both societies have put into these talks over three years. The decision has put me in an untenable position and I have informed the Management Committee and the members attending Wednesday's Members Meeting that I will not be standing for President at our AGM in June.

Thanks and regards,

Chris Gibbs.
QFHS President.

This decision made by the QFHS Management Committee on the basis of the views of 22 members has not only denied the majority of QFHS members the opportunity to cast their vote for/against amalgamation, but has also had the same effect for GSQ members

Nevertheless, GSQ's Management Committee met last night and has decided to grasp the opportunity in both hands to reinvigorate GSQ. We'll need the support of all members to do this and

we'll be seeking ideas from the membership, so now is the time to "put your thinking cap on" on how to best achieve this aim. We plan on organising an **Ideas Zoom** meeting in the near future and would like as many GSQ members as possible to participate.

Helen Veivers

President

GSQ Inc.

24 May 2021