



MINUTES

GSQ Amalgamation Members' Meeting 8 June 2021

Via Zoom

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Attendees:

Present in person

Adey, Lorraine	Glen Dyer	Stuart Neill
Albert, Gayle	Bobbie Edes	Margaret Nicholson
David Barnes	Lee English	Annalies Nutley
Kerry Beeton	Ann Fitzgerald	Kate Peters
Bennett, Lynne	Robyn Fletcher	Rhona Pickering
Jan Bimrose	Steven Fletcher	Megan Prance (AKA Rhoda)
Rosaleen Carroll	Russell Fraser	Claire Rodwell
Maureen Cavanagh	Susan Grant	Lesley Roebig
Helen Connor	Liz Haddon	Sally Romano
Janice Cooper	Ian Hunt	Hugh Smith
Ailsa Corlett	John Jones	Georgie Snow
Paul Cummings	Judy Lofthouse	Catherine Thompson
Jenny Daniel	Howard McKinnon	Helen Veivers
Kim Davis	Helen McKinnon	Janice Wellard
Bob Dean	Hilda Maclean	Pauline Williams
Lorri Digney	Sue Margetts	
Geoff Doherty	Christine Meehan	

Apologies

Kim Cooke	Amanda Gothard	Trish Hamill
Tom Hamill	Graeme Moulton	Mike Murphy
Angela Hawes	Helen Smith	Di Edelman

Meeting opened 7.35pm

Helen Veivers welcomed GSQ members and thanked everyone for registering.

1. Amalgamation update

Helen advised that a letter was received from Queensland Family History Society (QFHS) advising that its Management Committee had made a decision not to progress with amalgamation. GSQ now needs to move forward - the GSQ Management Committee had not stopped making plans for GSQ; however, some areas were put on hold until a decision was made about amalgamation.

2. What will GSQ be in 2030?

Helen asked members to think ahead and make suggestions about what GSQ would look like in 2030 e.g. possibilities could include a smaller building due to digitisation of records and more records accessed on line, library off site etc.

2.1 Issues raised by members:

Stuart Neill: Is GSQ viable financially?

- David advised that GSQ needs to move premises due to the rent currently being paid (\$47,000 per annum)

- The Management Committee had been considering options for GSQ if amalgamation did not progress. If premises secured at right price GSQ will be financially viable but if not, it may be a slow death.
- GSQ depends heavily on membership base for funding and the royalties' base is not strong.
- The Education Program needs to be addressed in terms of how better to raise income.
- Fundraising is one off.
- The primary focus is to reduce costs within the next financial year.

Paul Cummings: Considers that the figures provided in e-News are misleading i.e. assets \$320,000 (mostly non cash) and need to put in terms of how much money is in the bank to meet liabilities.

- David is prepared to break figures down into fixed asset, i.e. library (has not been revalued in over 10 years). Need to break down into non-current and current assets.
- Other assets such as IT assets are from a grant so show as income in current year that makes the figures look distorted.

Lorraine Adey: How many members are required to make GSQ viable?

2.2 Royalties

- Currently supplied to *Find My Past* approximately 600,000 records and we have the aim of increasing this number of records; projects are in place to do this.
- The Management Committee is currently negotiating with My Heritage to provide data and generate more royalties.

2.3 Digitisation of Records

- Assistance is required to produce the indexes to assist with generation of royalties. This work could be done from home or at GSQ. If members would like to volunteer contact Kim Davis volunteer@gsq.org.au
- The Indexing Team work second and fourth Monday of the month and is coordinated by Maureen Cavanagh and has been working on one set of records. Work involves reading fiche or PDFs from old records i.e. baptisms, funeral directors, and creating digital records that can be searched on line.
- These records can then be purchased by FMP, My Heritage etc.

David advised that if changes are made in the next financial year and projects undertaken GSQ will be in a much better financial state.

2.4 Premises

Annalies Nutley: Members would want GSQ to still be operating in 10 years and growing. The priority is finding space. What can people do to assist this? What are the parameters for the property?

Paul Cummings: Finds it frustrating not knowing what specifications are and it seems as if information is being withheld. He has been trying to find ground floor premises that do not have steps or with wheelchair access.

Megan Prance: What can GSQ afford to pay?

Robyn Fletcher: Has there been discussion about purchasing the property?

Steve Fletcher: Raised issue of co-tenancy with council and paying low rent.

Ailsa Corlett: Excess printed magazines are taking up floor space and could be converted to digital and back issues sourced from other societies.

Ann Fitzgerald: What is the option of purchasing a house in the suburbs?

Members advised that they would like more information on premises specifications. It was advised that the March e-News had provided information in the President's Report on what was required for future premises.

Response from Helen Veivers

- Helen Veivers advised that a Premises Sub-committee has been set up consisting of Helen Veivers, David Barnes and Bob Dean.
- Many GSQ members have offered suggestions that have been followed up on. An ideal property at the right price has not yet been found.

- Council requires multiple tenants to rent their properties and requires maintenance of the properties. The Management Committee has been involved with the Brisbane City Council and has placed tenders for several properties. State government has not suggested anything yet.
- One property is currently being investigated but it needs to have changes made to make it suitable.
- The Management Committee was searching for properties whether amalgamating progressed or not.
- The Premises Sub-committee will be meeting within a week to form specifications that will be provided to the Management Committee for approval on 21 June that can then be sent to property managers. Specifications will also be provided in next e-News so that members know what is required.
- The location being considered is the south side, 8 – 10 km from CBD as that is where most members reside.
- The premises will need to be about the same size as Wishart with offices, meeting room, storage etc. The size of the library may be reduced by purchasing a compactus system via a grant.
- 400 square metres would have been required if amalgamation had proceeded but only 200 square metres is required now.
- Adequate parking is required as most members drive to GSQ.
- Currently considering what resources/equipment etc. need to be transported.

Response from David Barnes

- Best advice from property advisers is that GSQ needs to go to the market in July/August to be in the frame to move by 31 December otherwise may be paying for rent for too long.
- The landlady would have certain expectation about value of the property.
- It has to be cost effective to move otherwise there is no point if there is no benefit. David budgeted \$20,000 to move from Wishart some of which may be recoverable. Suggestion when property found in two to three months negotiating with landlady of Wishart premises and keeping her informed of our progress in finding alternative accommodation.

3. Members' suggestions for categories for development

3.1 Increase Income

- *Sally Romano*: Where are growth revenue opportunities i.e. digitising (royalties) and research including paid research for external parties? Volunteers could work from home using Ancestry etc. GSQ would have enough members with the skills and capacity to do this. May need to spend some funds on advertising.
- Education talks.
- Donation Drive: Is there a change of doing this again. Helen Veivers advised that this was not considered possible.
- *Megan Prance*: Computer skills education to attract members
- *Annalies Nutley*: Transcription services. GSQ has a template and transcribes information. Could highlight on website. Need to clarify copyright conditions. Family search NSW BDMs – unique microfilm/fiche. Similar to Joy Murray NSW Transcription services.
- *Steve and Robyn Fletcher*: Carindale Library has conversion facilities. Could check to see if some of the fiche could be converted to digital records.
- If using FMP and need to find an index use FMP as it helps generate royalties. This information needs to go into e-News.
- *Hugh Smith*: Raise fund through 'Cash for Container' program.

3.2 Increase membership fees

- *Sally Romano*: Suggestion that instead of paying fees annually a monthly direct debit system could instigated and may be more acceptable to members.
- *Georgie Snow*: Suggested six monthly memberships.
- *David Barnes*: Agreed membership fees need to increase, possibly to \$75 per annum. Moratorium of \$15 joining fee ends 1 July. Automatic debit would cause a lot of extra work.
- *Steve Fletcher*: Suggested an annual ~~an~~ increase and round to nearest dollar.
- *John Jones*: It becomes the norm if raised by CPI every year.

- *Ailsa Corlett*: Is a member of a number of societies GSQ is the cheapest society she belongs to.
- *Geoff Doherty*: If price increases then need to offer extra i.e. education, digitisation.
- *Georgie Snow*: Considers that GSQ already offers a better education program.
- *Steve Fletcher*: Cannot offer multiple year membership and need to offer single year otherwise, people will pay for multiple discounted deal. David responded that three year memberships locks them into three years.
- *Steve Fletcher*: Suggestion to offer discounted membership to special target areas younger age group i.e. under 30.
- *Sally Romano*: Considers that only smatterings of young people would be interested in joining a genealogical society and that most people really only have time when retired. U3As, Rotary etc. need to be targeted for new members.
- *Glen Dyer*: To lock in young members, may need to alter operating hours i.e. evening hours for working people.
- *Ian Hunt*: GSQ offers value for money with membership. Microfilm and CDs were previously the only ways to research. GSQ offers a lot and has a great library.
- *Pauline Williams*: In order to attract more members we have to increase our online profile, so that people know we are here and what we offer.
- *Megan Prance*: To attract more members could do as churches do and lease out part of the premises to other groups in the hope that others will join. i.e. run computers courses. Many seniors have limited computer skills so GSQ could run general computer skills courses.
- *Lorri Digney*: Need to focus on Membership drive Fund Raising Drive, Website advertising.
- *Hugh Smith?*: Need to know what Goals/Targets to be set and aim for these – can't achieve if do not know what our targets are. (eg: How much do we need extra to stay at Wishart as one scenario).

GSQ had matched QFHS level and QFHS had advised that they would not increase for first year but CPI increases after that.

4. Promotion of GSQ

4.1 Special Interest Groups, Blog, Generation etc.

- *David Barnes*: Special Interest Groups are a GSQ strength and need to be promoted more.
- *Pauline Williams*: Special Interest groups, education programs, the resource centre and GSQ volunteers, Blog, and Generation. Need to promote GSQ to the broader society.

4.2 Other societies/community groups

- *Helen McKinnon*: Provide brochures to other societies, 'Refer a Friend' campaign. Members could provide GSQ brochures to other clubs they belong to for marketing GSQ. Could also target aged care homes, retirement homes, community groups etc.

4.3 Facebook page

- *Megan Prance*: The Facebook page needs to become a Group, not a page so it will have a presence. Will require an active current team of at least five to respond to questions (Megan offered to administer Facebook). David advised that funds are in the July budget.
- *Pauline Williams*: Could promote Special Interest Groups more actively to an audience outside GSQ membership via Facebook.
- *Ann Fitzgerald*: Promote DNA aspect i.e. one on one service for members.

4.4 Education Program

- *Ailsa Corlett*: Covid caused problems for education program and BCC library sessions. GSQ previously held sessions that showed new members the library and holdings. Need to promote on the Website that GSQ is the only place to access Family Search in Brisbane and what other records that only GSQ has that won't be found on Family Search and Ancestry. Need a new librarian to accession books.

4.5 Lending Library

- Would a Lending library be a possibility, as does QFHS? This would have been implemented if amalgamation had proceeded using duplicated books.

4.6 Website

- *Lorri Digney*: Local advertising suggested. David advised that advertising would not be a problem for tax purposes. Could also consider for Generation.

5 Future Members' Meetings – how often?

- Feedback from members that more communication is required. Helen Veivers advised that communication with members currently occurs via Website, Facebook, e-News, Generation and event reminders.
- It was agreed that three monthly Members' meetings be held focussing on what has worked what has not and that meetings would be held more frequently if the President decides that this is required.
- Sally commented on the amount of work done by many members of the Management Committee.

6 DNA Seminar/Zoom Groups

- Bobbie issued a reminder for the DNA Seminar.
- Monday and Thursday Zoom groups are open to all members and Wednesday night Zoom meetings open to everyone with a guest speaker on fourth Wednesday of the month.

Helen Veivers thanked everyone for all their good ideas.

7 Date of next General Members' Meeting

To be advised in e-News.

Meeting closed 21.10pm

Actions Arising

- Lorri Digney offered to help coordinate a Membership Drive.
- David Barnes to provide split of Current and Fixed Assets in E-news reporting in the next publication.
- Secretary to place following items on Agenda for 21 June Management Committee meeting: Facebook Administration: Membership Fees increase for 2021/22; Discounted membership for 2021/22; Digitised magazines on Website and back copies requested.
- David Barnes to place following items on June Management Committee Planning Meeting Agenda: Purchase of Wishart Property; Lending Library; Transcription Service for Baptisms; Commercial Advertising on website; Calculation of membership increase for the budget to break even.

Signed as a true and correct report of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. General Members' Meeting Minutes of 8 June 2021.

Signature:

Name: Helen Veivers

President, Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

Date: