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FELLOW OF THE QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. : SUE REID

***Suzanne Reid** has been admitted as a Fellow of the Society for her devotion to advancing the work of the Society. Such a prestigious award is made to those who have given long and sustained exceptional service to the Society and to family history, and the Society permits a maximum of only ten Fellows at any one time. A Fellow automatically confers life membership if this has not already been awarded. The Award was presented by some of our Fellows, Eric Kopittke, Dorothy Jeffrey and John Perryn at our Volunteer's Morning Tea held on 22 November 2021.*

Sue's citation was submitted by

Charlotte Sale, Geoff Morgan, John Perryn, Gayle Thomsett, Bev Young and Chris Gibbs.

We are pleased to nominate Sue Reid to become a Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society Inc.

Sue joined the Queensland Family History Society Inc. (QFHS) in January 1982, becoming member number 174. Since then she has made outstanding contributions to many aspects of the Society, and many members have recognised her work and appreciated her involvement.

Sue's greatest gift to the Society is her implementation of a clear vision of QFHS as a provider of quality educational programs for both members and non-members. By her sustained development of QFHS's education program, Sue has significantly raised the profile of the Society, provided a reliable revenue stream, and created a means to attract and keep members – particularly during the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions.

Sue's dependable leadership, knowledge, supportive engagement and hard work have delivered key benefits for the Society and make her a worthy recipient of this Award.

Criterion 1: Long, sustained promotion of the Society in multiple facets of Family History endeavour.

(Read by Geoff Morgan)

Sue began volunteering at the Society when, from 1987 to 1989, she became the second

co-ordinator of the Adoption Scheme for Remote Area Members (ASRAM). This scheme arranged for our Brisbane members to volunteer to help remote members with their research.

Sue was closely involved in the development in 2014 of QFHS's new website. Her work with the website's content continues to be more extensive than anyone else's. Apart from authoring much of the content, especially in regard to QFHS events, she maintains the ambience of the site as if it were written by a single author –

monitoring the grammatical aspects such as case, tense, tone, person and spelling.

Moreover, during the 2020 COVID-19 restricted shut down of the library when QFHS published close to 40 searchable datasets to its website, Sue provided or



continued

edited most of the descriptive 'About this dataset' documentation.

Queensland's first Local, Family and Social History Conference, *In Time and Place*, was held in Brisbane in October 2015. This was jointly developed and managed by QFHS, the Genealogical Society of Queensland and History Queensland. Sue represented QFHS on the organising committee. Sue also produced the bulk of the content for the website for the conference.

Sue ensured QFHS's activities were advertised and promoted in various publications, particularly in local newspapers.

Sue has ably represented QFHS at the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations, ensuring the Society's interests are recognised at the national level.

Criterion 2: Continuous involvement in helping run the Society – not necessarily through being on the Management Committee.

(Read by Chris Gibbs)

Sue joined the Computer Training Group as a trainer in 1999, commencing her ongoing delivery of quality education for family historians. This group ran workshops to assist members to use computers and introduce them to computer-based resources in the QFHS library or on the Internet. On joining the group, Sue conducted a member survey to ensure that the training was best suited to the needs of members, demonstrating her commitment to evidence-based improvement. In 2000 she became Co-ordinator of this group, continuing until this group was subsumed into the newly formed Education Sub-Committee in 2013.

In February 2008 Sue became co-convenor of the Family History Writing Group, and later sole convenor from 2017. This enabled her to share her passion for the written word and inspire many to share their family history through writing. Sue has willingly assumed the responsibility for designing the yearly programs and chairing each meeting. Her collaborative manner ensures that the topics for discussion are acceptable to

members of the group, and that interaction at each meeting occurs in an informal supportive atmosphere.

Sue is a past collator of the QFHS Who Does What - the record of member responsibilities in the operation of the Society.

Sue has been an active volunteer at the Society since 1987. She became Secretary of the Society in December 2009 and soon after was elected President, serving in this role from 2010 to 2013. She has continued as a Management Committee member to the present, contributing calm and experienced mentorship to the executive.

In 2014-15 Sue's proactive approach saw her involved as a member of the Strategic Working Group and the Membership Strategy Group during the strategic planning process, which culminated in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

Sue received the Award for Services to Family History in December 2015 for her dedicated and passionate service to the Queensland Family History Society Inc. and for her contribution to family history education.

Criterion 3: Creative and implements concepts which substantially benefit the Society and raises its stature among Family History Societies.

(Read by Charlotte Sale)

Sue's greatest gift to the Society is her clear vision of QFHS as a provider of quality educational programs for both members and non-members, a vision she shares with many members.

Sue is the driving-force behind that vision's realisation – particularly through her role as Convenor of the Education Committee. In early 2013 Sue became the Education Officer for the Society and created this Sub-Committee. Under her direction and very active involvement and leadership, the Education Sub-Committee plans, develops and implements a program of educational talks, seminars and Fridays@QFHS – now expanding to Weekends@QFHS and evening events. These sessions are heavily booked

FELLOW OF THE QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. : SUE REID (Cont.)

with some sold out very quickly, and many with waiting lists.

Sue spends many hours in consultation with others, identifying, contacting and negotiating with potential presenters who have expertise in topics of interest, aspects that the Education Sub-Committee has identified as priorities. She also encourages and provides opportunities for members to develop their confidence and presentation skills and become presenters. As a result, QFHS speakers are in demand at libraries and other Societies.

At many of these events, Sue has been a key presenter herself. In addition, Sue has attended a number of the triennial Australasian Congresses on Genealogy and Heraldry as well as other conferences where she has been a presenter, and more importantly a strong advocate for QFHS.

When COVID restrictions allow, educational outings are also part of the education program, including visits to the Queensland State Archives and elsewhere. Seminars, often held at the Queensland Baptists Conference Centre, offer members not only excellent education and social engagement but also a place to view and purchase from the QFHS shop – a valuable income stream for the Society.

Sue conceived the six-week course “Finding your Family: a beginner’s course in research”. She created and led a team to develop and deliver the course, held for the first time in February 2016 and delivered every six months since then. Of those who begin the course as non-members, almost all take out membership during or shortly after completing the course, and a number have gone on to become key volunteers within the Society.

The implementation of COVID-19 restrictions meant the cessation of face-to-face education. Sue’s response was to immediately work with others to determine an appropriate online platform for the internet-based delivery of the program, and to increase the frequency of presentations to

maintain member interest and participation. Previous speakers were invited to have their presentation materials available to members on the QFHS website. Speakers who were previously unavailable due to geographic distance were engaged, and talks were scheduled at weekends and evenings as well as weekdays. As a result, the revenue stream from the education program has been maintained. In addition, members are enjoying attending in the comfort of their own homes, and participants from around Australia and overseas are part of the program.

By her sustained development of QFHS’s education program, Sue has significantly raised the profile of the Society. The program provides a reliable revenue stream. It provides a means to attract and keep members. Importantly, it also provides opportunities for members to engage with the Society in a way that attracts them to participate as volunteers, supporting the Society into the future.

Sue’s dependable leadership, knowledge, supportive engagement and hard work have delivered key benefits for the Society and make her a worthy recipient of the Award of Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society Inc.



Sue being presented with her certificate by QFHS Fellows Eric Kopittke, John Perryn and Dorothy Jeffrey.

Standing nearby are Charlotte Sale, Geoff Morgan and Chris Gibbs (at back)

(photos provided by Lyndal Cosgrove) ■