AWARD FOR MERITORIUS SERVICE TO FAMILY HISTORY

Members of QFHS Inc. were delighted when it was announced that Eric and Rosemary Kopittke were winners of an AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History at the recent Darwin Congress. Unfortunately, neither Eric nor Rosemary was present because of work commitments so Dawn Montgomery accepted the award on their behalf.*

It was decided to hand-over the AFFHO award to the Kopittkes at the Annual General Meeting of QFHS Inc. so that fellow members could acknowledge their achievements.

Ann Swain, the QFHS Inc. AFFHO representative, and also secretary of AFFHO, read the citation submitted by the Management Committee of QFHS Inc. that resulted in Eric and Rosemary being chosen to receive this prestigious award.

The Patron of QFHS Inc, Mr Michael Bryce, AM, AE, presented the award to Eric and Rosemary. He congratulated them and thanked them for their contributions to family history.

[* AFFHO – Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations]

QFHS INC. NOMINATION FOR AFFHO AWARD

Nominees: **Rosemary and Eric Kopittke**
Nominated by: **Queensland Family History Society Inc.**
Service: **All voluntary**

Rosemary and Eric Kopittke have given outstanding service to family history in Australasia through their joint authorship of the *Emigrants from Hamburg to Australia* series, leadership in the publication by the Queensland Family History Society Inc. of a very wide range of other research materials, and their sustained leadership and personal contributions to Society activities for over twenty years.

Their *Emigrants from Hamburg to Australia/Australasia* publications are a marvellous, unique research resource for the high proportion of Australians and New Zealanders with German ancestry. The information they contain is from the original Hamburg listings, which include emigrants' former place of residence, age and occupation — information not available on many corresponding arrival lists. Many of the Hamburg lists are written in old German script, presenting special problems to researchers who are not conversant with the script or the language. Where no Hamburg records are available, newspaper extracts have been included. Other useful data for each ship and extracts from press reports on arrival at port are included where available.

As an example of the scope, for 1854, in the gold rush period, 47 ships departed from Hamburg for Australia with emigrants bound for NSW (including Qld), SA, Victoria and Tasmania. The reconstructed passenger lists for 27 of the ships give name, town and occupation. For the remaining ships, no Hamburg records are available, so newspaper extracts have been included giving names of some emigrants. This publication has a total of 3996 entries.



QFHS Inc. Patron, Mr Michael Bryce AM, AE, congratulates Eric and Rosemary Kopittke at the recent AGM of the Society.

The compilation of these lists for publication is a truly remarkable achievement by Rosemary and Eric. They produced the first of the series in 1991. It now consists of 20 publications, each covering between one and four years between 1850 and 1879 and released in both microfiche and print form, plus two consolidated indexes covering 1850 – 59 and 1860 – 69. The final one, 1874 – 75, is set for release in 2006. Each represents countless hours of painstaking transcription of the German script, checking and crosschecking names and places, and matching against other sources where available, as well as the actual production. ▶

In addition to the *Emigrants from Hamburg* series, Eric, a senior physics teacher at St Peters Lutheran College, Brisbane, has had a much broader role in developing family research in Central Europe. In particular, he is a popular and regular speaker on the topic at Society meetings and other gatherings across Queensland and northern NSW. He has coordinated the QFHS Inc. Central European Group from early days and led numerous workshops and other group activities. His guidance of computer training workshops has also been a feature of Eric's continual involvement in the smooth running of QFHS's services to members.

As founder and leader of the QFHS Inc. publications team, Rosemary has organised the publication of over 150 books, microfiche, microfilms and CDs — invaluable resources to Australasian researchers. She has been the backbone of the team, initiating projects, organising material to be indexed and the indexers, liaising with holders of source documents, setting indexing standards and protocols, proofreading, writing supporting documents and publicity, and generally attending enthusiastically and tirelessly to the myriad of details needed to see the publications to fruition. She has personally recorded innumerable monumental inscriptions and done much of the indexing for many of the publications.

Rosemary, a statistician with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland, has also contributed in numerous other ways to QFHS Inc. and the services it provides to its members and other researchers, including both as cemetery coordinator and bookshop convenor for about ten years and President (1992 – 95).

Both Rosemary and Eric were awarded inaugural Fellowships of QFHS Inc. in 2000 in recognition of their sustained positive contributions to the Society and to all facets of family history and genealogical endeavour.

With the final publication in the *Emigrants from Hamburg* series to be released in 2006, culminating a 16 year commitment which has benefited thousands of family history researchers across Australasia, it is particularly appropriate that the outstanding services Rosemary and Eric Kopittke have given to family history in Australasia be recognised this year.

■

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PRE-SEPARATION GROUP APPROVAL

I have approved the application of **Morton Keith Howes** (Member #3717) of Indooroopilly QLD 4068 to become a member of the QFHS Inc. Pre-Separation Group.

Morton is descended from **William Lear Ramsbottom** and **Mary Foster Cameron.** William and Mary were married in the Congregational Church, Ipswich on 14 February, 1856.

Morton will be presented with a certificate as Member #257 of the QFHS Inc. Pre-Separation Group.

Congratulations, Mort



Marie McCulloch
Assessor
QFHS Inc. Pre-Separation Group
2 June, 2006