



Newsletter Nine

December 2025

CONTENTS

1	President's Report	4	DGR Status
2	Collections Report		Supporting TOCAH
3	Brisbane Valley		Membership of Historical
	Heritage Expo		Societies
	TOCAH Website	5	Wish List
	In Our Collection		Thank You

President's Report

This has been a busy couple of months for TOCAH.

Planning Meeting

It is very timely for Sharyn Innes to conduct the Planning Workshop on 31 October 2025 in Nambour, as we need to consider our aims and future directions. Thank you to Sharyn for conducting the session, Elaine for allowing us to use her Zoom membership, and those who attended in person and online. I think we all found it very productive, and I think we are all looking forward to further discussion and planning.

Sharyn is producing a report on objectives and strategies for us to discuss at the November Committee Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting

TOCAH held an extraordinary General Meeting on Friday 31st October at Sunshine Mitre 10 to discuss quotes received for upgrading the TOCAH website. I was requested to send an email to the three respondents to request further information on websites they had created, particularly for charity websites plus further information on navigation and presentation formats. Those who quoted were asked to submit further responses by Friday 14 November 2025.

Volunteering Sunshine Coast Round Table, Thursday 30 October 2025 Community Centre, Maroochydore.

As the Collections Team Leader I was invited to attend this Round Table. It was very interesting. TOCAH was by far the smallest nonprofit in attendance (others discussed 400-600 volunteers) but it was worthwhile learning what others were doing. Similar issues faced everybody – volunteers very busy; many having part-time jobs, travelling regularly, and with other commitments. The days when volunteers turned up the same day every week to do a regular volunteer job have long since gone. Another issue discussed was the need to thoroughly investigate insurance coverage for older volunteers over the age of 70, and to ensure volunteers are aware of the coverage costs allocate to them.

Shortage of funds and difficulties obtaining grants was common to all although TOCAH is particularly hard hit because history of any sort is not in fashion.

A major item discussed was: The Queensland Parliament tabled its Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland report on September 18, 2025, following an inquiry that began in late 2024. The report, which is based on over 570 submissions and 15 public hearings, will be responded to by the government within three months, and the government's response will be published at a later date. The inquiry examined the value of volunteering, barriers to participation, the experiences of volunteers, and the effectiveness of government support.

Key points from the inquiry

- The value of volunteering: The inquiry explored the significant contributions of volunteers to the community, including personal growth, social connection, and skill development.
- Barriers to volunteering: It investigated obstacles such as legislative and regulatory burdens, as well as other restrictions that limit active volunteers.
- Challenges for volunteers and organizations: The inquiry looked into the current experiences of volunteers and volunteer-involving organizations, and their recommendations for improvement.
- Diversity and inclusion: It addressed the specific challenges faced by people from diverse backgrounds, with a focus on improving participation and accessibility.
- Government support: The inquiry assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of current government support for the volunteering sector and identified opportunities for improvement.

What's next

- The government has three months to prepare and release its response to the committee's report. <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=0&id=4456>

Google Workspace

By the time of the meeting, all committee members should have access to the TOCAH Google Workspace, and volunteers will be sought to develop a sub-committee to set up Workspace – Structure, Groups, Google Meet, etc. We need to work together to create a very workable space for the Committee to function and to manage our governance, administration, meetings, access to documents, etc., and the management of volunteers.

Thank you,
Jan Partridge,

Collections Team Report

Oral History Project

Our volunteers are busy doing oral history recordings around the Sunshine Coast. We have lost some volunteers because after they volunteered for TOCAH, their lives changed, some returned to full time work, others had family commitments which ate into their time. All our current volunteers are semi-retired and working part-time.

After advertising at VSC for more oral history volunteers, of three applicants, only one was able to commit to TOCAH. Illness and a return to work impacted on the other two.

To make life easier for OH volunteers, I have tried to ensure they are interviewing people close to where they live, e.g. Caloundra, Landsborough, Nambour, Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

It is important that we develop Google Workspace so that oral history volunteers can upload recordings to Google Drive so that we can then manage and organise these oral history recordings and related documentation (Oral history recordings are too big to be emailed).

Narrators

We are still eager to hear about any possible interviewees living in Southern Queensland, so if you know of any people, please let me know.

Archives Project

TOCAH also advertised on Volunteering Sunshine Coast for Archives volunteers and through SEEK received 10 enquiries from applicants based in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, etc. Unfortunately, I have contacted all of them and said this project is on hold until February 2026 because we need Workspace to be fully operational. We need to be able to meet them face-to-face on Google Meet to discuss archiving, develop Volunteer mailing lists, and for volunteers to be able to upload and download material in Workspace, etc. Three of the applicants who have previous library experience have contacted me to say they will still be happy to help.

One of our committee members is working on procedures via Collections Mosaic.

Both the Book Collecting Project and Digitisation Project are on hold until 2026.

We need more volunteers to manage TOCAH projects. I would suggest that each project should be managed by Committee members who oversees the activities of a sub-group of volunteers, so I am asking for volunteers to help us do this. The Team Leader needs to also help develop protocols, procedures, handbooks, technology, etc.

Brisbane Valley Heritage Expo



Representatives from TOCAH attended the second annual Brisbane Valley Heritage Expo which was held on 25 October 2025 in the Somerset Civic Centre in Esk, Queensland.

Displays from 26 Family History and Heritage groups from Kingaroy, Toowoomba, Nanango, Blackbutt, Bunya Mountains, Imbil, Kilcoy and the Somerset region were represented at the expo. There was a lineup of engaging keynote speakers throughout the day. The event was well attended with TOCAH adding more people to our interview list and making valued connections with other groups.

TOCAH Website

Stage 2 of the TOCAH website will soon be up and running. To get to that stage however, the current website will be offline for as short a time as possible. We will be doing off-line testing of stage 2 before we go live with it again.

In Our Collection

Tracks of Triumph

A Tribute to the pioneers who built the famous Kuranda Scenic Railway.

Published by The Cairns Post Pty Ltd in 2003

The Kuranda Scenic Railway, a renowned rail journey, honours the pioneers who built it and commemorates those who lost their lives during its construction—an enduring testament to Australian engineering achievement.

The Suffragists

100 Years of Women's Suffrage in Queensland

Written by John McCulloch and published by Central Queensland University Press in 2005

This book commemorates the centenary of women gaining the right to vote in Queensland in 1905, offering an account of the suffragists' campaign for women's suffrage.

Serving as a comprehensive resource for those researching women's voting rights in Queensland, it details the development of the "one-adult one-vote" principle from Queensland's founding in 1859, with particular attention to the challenges faced between 1890 and 1905.

Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Treasury of Country Australian History has now been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). This means that all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. If you're feeling generous and wish to make a monetary donation, our account is with Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 Account 231 346 842.

Supporting TOCAH

This is an important appeal for support. TOCAH aims to expand our membership base and increase the number of interviewees and volunteers.

We kindly request that all members assist TOCAH through the following actions:

- o Encourage friends to join TOCAH. Membership applications are included with this newsletter; please aim to recruit two new members by the conclusion of 2025.
- o Invite family, friends, and acquaintances to consider having their stories recorded. While we currently conduct face-to-face interviews, we are developing online interviewing strategies to extend our reach (please see attached form).
- o Identify individuals who may be interested in volunteering with us (form attached). We seek assistance with:
 - o Website and Facebook content management
 - o Oral history interviewing
 - o Data entry for our archives

Membership of Peak Historical Societies in Australia

A benefactor has offered to pay for membership of the following organisations until June 2026. TOCAH will gain considerably from becoming members of these peak historical bodies as they offer advice, training, insurance coverage, and grant opportunities.

Federation of Australian Historical Societies - <https://www.history.org.au/>

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies was established in 1977, has eight constituent members, one in each state and territory, and is the national peak body representing the interests of about 1,000 historical societies and about 100,000 members throughout Australia. Associate Membership: \$33 to June 2026

History Queensland - <https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/>

History Queensland is a not-for-profit organisation, run entirely by volunteers.

The Association was formed as a state-wide umbrella organisation to encourage liaison and co-operation between local and family history societies, to promote greater awareness of local and family history and to encourage all levels of government to recognise the importance of local and family history.

Local and family history societies operate throughout Queensland because of the dedication of thousands of members who give their services voluntarily to promote their common interest. Public Liability and Voluntary Workers Insurance History Queensland Inc., through its insurance broker, offers Public Liability Insurance under blanket group insurance. Currently, coverage offered is \$20 million. The General Public Liability Policy Wording is available.

Membership: \$22 to March 2026

Wish List

Our Wish List is a little different this edition. We have previously asked for support to purchase items for our collection. This time we are asking for equipment items that will help us with our interviews, meetings and advertising.

Oral History Interview Sets	\$300 ea.
Sound Set for Meetings	\$400
Website Hosting	\$1 000
Advertising and Marketing	\$1 000

Thank You

Once again, we would like to thank all our generous members and supporters for their kind and timely donations. Because of your support, we have been able to add to our collection and to the quality equipment necessary to conduct our interviews.



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, a safe holiday season and a happy New Year.

