

Dear Members

I apologise for delaying this update which I have held back until the arrangements for the lease of our new premises were largely resolved.

New Premises for the GSV Research & Education Centre: I am pleased to announce that we have signed an intent to lease premises at Level 6 of 85 Queen Street from early April 2017. The lease papers are being drawn up and will be executed in due course. The space we will lease is 225 sqm excluding the toilets and kitchen area which we will share with the other tenant on the floor. The area is well lit with natural light and will accommodate our Research Collection together with our computers and other equipment. In addition we anticipate that we will be able to form a meeting room that will have room for approximately 40 people.

Shift Process: We will close our premises at Collins Street from and including Monday 13 March. We intend to open the Centre in Queen Street for weekday operations from Tuesday 4 April. Saturday access will commence from 22 April. We will notify any changes to this timetable if they occur.

GSV Library: I would like to advise that we have reached an agreement whereby much of our library will be transferred to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) and for it to be, over time, incorporated into their library thus ensuring its long term preservation. We will retain a set of publications that we deem is important to our day-to-day research and education activities and this will become known as the GSV Research Collection. The library collection that is transferred to the RHSV will be accessible by GSV members under the terms of an agreement between the two Societies. The combination of the two libraries will form a collection of cultural significance for the State of Victoria.

Webinars from the Society of Australian Genealogist (SAG): The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in Sydney has very kindly offered to support the work of the GSV during its move to new premises by providing places for GSV members in its normally member-only webinar program between March and June 2017. Places are being offered at \$12 (the same as a SAG member) which includes all handouts and the recording of the webinar, so you can either listen live at the time the webinar is broadcast or listen later at a time that suits you. You will find details of the webinar program on our website with links to the SAG webinar page.

Funding Appeals: On behalf of Council I wish to sincerely thank the members who have recently donated funds to assist with our shift and to purchase equipment for our new Centre. We have applied for a grant to purchase a new high quality printer/scanner and we are raising funds to acquire a large LCD screen on a movable frame to provide audio/visual presentations supporting our education programs. Details of our appeals may be found on our website.

As you can imagine there is quite a deal of work to be undertaken to achieve the shift into our new premises. I apologise for any inconvenience that you may encounter and I encourage you to visit the new Research & Education Centre of the Society when we reopen and to actively participate in our events during 2017.

Best Regards

David Down
President