



I am writing to update you with progress we have made regarding changes that will impact the Society in the short and long term and information concerning our fundraising appeal.

Premises: We have successfully negotiated a formal Surrender Document with the owner of Emirates House

and we will exit our lease with effect from 31 March 2017. After careful consideration we have decided to remain in the city as this location is the most convenient and accessible to the majority of our members. Whilst we continue to search, we have identified possible premises and are in the preliminary stages of negotiations. Any space that we lease will be considerably smaller than our current premises but we are confident that we will be able to maintain and grow the services we provide to our members. As soon as I am able to advise the location of the new premises I will do so.

GSV Library: I am able to announce that we have reached an agreement whereby our library will be transferred to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) and for it to be, over time, incorporated into their library. We will retain a small set of publications that we deem are important to our day-to-day research activities and this will become known as the GSV Research Collection. This collection will remain with us wherever we are located. 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.

New Family History Society: Our discussions with the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies and the Cornish Association of Victoria to explore the viability of establishing a new family history society continue. Given the work required at present arranging the GSV shift we will meet again after our move. I will advise you when discussions resume.

Fundraising Appeal: We are seeking your support through donations to help us meet the costs of moving the Society to new premises. As part of the move, we wish to rejuvenate the GSV by modernising our equipment, computers and meeting-room technology. This will ensure we are embracing the latest technology and offering our members all the advantages of new equipment, while still continuing all our familiar one-on-one support. The move and upgrade of equipment is understandably an expensive process and donations to help us achieve this will be very welcome. Donations to this Fundraising Appeal are tax deductible.

Digitization: The Society is expanding its program of digitization of selected resources to ensure that our library collection becomes more accessible to our members from home. We are seeking your assistance to help with this project and if you can spare a day or even an hour then it would be appreciated. We need assistance to scan documents using a very simple process on our library scanner/photocopier. If you would like to help with this activity please email Margaret McLaren on [jwc0939mw@gmail.com](mailto:jwc0939mw@gmail.com). We also need assistance with the quality control of scanned items and the entry of data into our catalogue using Inmagic Db/TextWorks. If you are interested in these latter areas please email [gsv@gsv.org.au](mailto:gsv@gsv.org.au).

On behalf of Council, I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best regards

David Down  
President