



2026 QUEENSLAND MEMORY AWARDS



Guidelines and selection criteria: Fellowships

Working dog ready for moving to the next camp at Ilfracombe. Darren Clark Droving Photographs 2013, State Library of Queensland, Image no: 29221-0001-0018. | Rahma Osman, an Eritrean refugee, at the Mu'ooz Eritrean Restaurant & Catering in West End, Brisbane, 2016. 30568 Tradition Now Eritrean community photographs, State Library of Queensland, Image no: 30568-0002-0013. | Isis Masonic Lodge, Childers, 2014. 32529 Queensland Nocturne photographs, State Library of Queensland, Image number: 32529-0005-0002.

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The Queensland Memory Awards

The [Queensland Memory Awards](#) support the documentation, preservation and sharing of Queensland's memory—past and present—through fellowships and awards.

Fellowships support researchers and creatives of all kinds to interpret the significant collections of the [John Oxley Library](#). Through deep engagement and interaction with the collections, these interpretations provide new insights into the collection and contribute new knowledge about Queensland's history.

The **John Oxley Library Awards** recognise individuals and organisations for outstanding contributions to documenting, preserving, and enhancing our understanding of Queensland's cultural heritage. Nominations are accepted year-round.

The Queensland Memory Awards are supported by sponsors and philanthropic donations through the Queensland Library Foundation.

KEY DATES

9am, 26 June 2025	Nominations OPEN – visit www.slq.qld.gov.au/qma
6pm, 15 July 2025	Fellowships Online Information Session
11.59pm, 1 August 2025	Nominations CLOSE
August 2025	Assessment and Judging period
Mid-September 2025	Notification of application outcome
6 November 2025	Recipients announced at awards ceremony
December 2025 - March 2027	Fellowship period

Fellowships on offer in 2026

Open to Australian residents in any discipline or form of expression, for projects or research of any kind. This includes, but is not limited to, researchers, artists, creatives, filmmakers, digital media practitioners, data scientists, musicians and composers, curators and arts professionals, writers, independent scholars, and other creatives. Applicants from both academic and non-academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

- [John Oxley Library Fellowship](#) – \$25,000
- [Monica Clare Research Fellowship](#) – \$20,000
- [Rainbow Research Fellowship](#) - \$20,000
- [The Royal Queensland Show \(EKKA\) Fellowship](#) - \$20,000
- [Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship](#) – \$15,000

JOHN OXLEY LIBRARY FELLOWSHIP

One (1) fellowship of \$25,000.

Awarded annually to support projects that uncover Queensland's rich and diverse history using the resources of the [John Oxley Library](#) and State Library of Queensland.

The John Oxley Library Fellowship is generously supported by the Queensland Library Foundation's President's Circle patrons.

Additional information for this category

- Applicants may opt to also be considered for the John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship during the application process in SmartyGrants. Fellows receive the same benefits as the John Oxley Library Fellowship, but there is **no stipend** for the Honorary Fellowship.
- The Honorary Fellowship may be offered to the first shortlisted applicant after the winner of this Fellowship.

Selection criteria

Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality, original and creative concept• Creation of new knowledge about Queensland history• Relevant and timely research, project activities and outcomes
Collection use and creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant use of, or contribution to, the John Oxley Library collection.• Supports State Library's collecting priorities outlined in our Content Strategy.• Potential for increasing public knowledge of State Library's collections
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential to inspire interest and curiosity in Queensland history, and foster new perspectives• Potential for tangible public outcome such as creative work, exhibition, lecture, written work, online product or performance.• Level of benefit: how the fellowship may impact the applicant's career development; if the applicant is a past recipient of a Queensland Memory Award; would the research project likely proceed without the fellowship.
Viability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly defined project scope, goals and timelines• Realistic use of available resources• Ability of applicant to undertake and deliver project

MONICA CLARE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

One (1) fellowship of \$20,000.

Awarded annually to people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to research, explore and create new knowledge about Queensland's First Nations' histories and cultures using the [John Oxley Library](#) and State Library collections and resources.

The Monica Clare Research Fellowship is generously supported by the Siganto Foundation.

Additional information about this category

- State Library's [Content Strategy](#) outlines our commitment to collecting and providing access to First Nations content. We centre First Nations peoples and communities, respecting their knowledge, cultures, and histories. Our work follows Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) protocols to ensure First Nations traditional knowledge and cultural expressions are properly recognised and protected. For more information, see our [Content Strategy webpage](#).
- State Library's collections have predominantly featured material created about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but not from the perspective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. State Library must address this imbalance to ensure our collections reflect a diversity of experiences and perspectives from First Nations' people. Explore a sample of the First Nations' collections held by the John Oxley Library on our [website](#).
- Applications for this fellowship may respond more to 'collection creation' – through new work or acquisitions – over 'collection use' in the relevant selection criteria.
- Entries must include a copy of a Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent/Letter of Confirmation with a common seal from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander incorporated community organisation OR a Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent statutory declaration form.
- For more information on this fellowship, watch our Monica Clare Research Fellowship Information event [recording](#).

Selection criteria

Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality, original and creative concept• Creation of new knowledge or new content about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander history and culture in Queensland• Relevant and timely research, project activities and outcomes
Collection use and creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant use of, or contribution to, State Library collections – refer to additional information section above.• Supports State Library's collecting priorities outlined in our Content Strategy.• Potential for increasing public knowledge of State Library's collections
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential to inspire an interest in Queensland history, and foster new perspectives• Potential to connect State Library and Queensland's First Nations communities• Potential for tangible public outcome such as creative work, exhibition, lecture, written work, online product or performance.• Level of benefit: how the fellowship may impact the applicant's career development; if the applicant is a past recipient of a Queensland Memory Award; would the research project likely proceed without the fellowship.

Viability

- Clearly defined project scope, goals and timelines
- Demonstrated cultural competency in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Realistic use of available resources
- Ability of applicant to undertake and deliver project

RAINBOW RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

One (1) fellowship of \$20,000.

The Rainbow Research Fellowship supports research, exploration, and creation of new knowledge about Queensland's LGBTQIA+ / Queer histories and communities using the [John Oxley Library](#) and State Library collections and resources.

The Rainbow Research Fellowship is generously sponsored by Lyn Valentine.

Additional information for this category

- Applications from people who identify as LGBTQIA+ are encouraged.

Selection criteria

Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality, original and creative concept• Creation of new knowledge about Queensland's LGBTQIA+ histories• Relevant and timely research, project activities and outcomes
Collection use and creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant use of or contribution to State Library collections• Supports State Library collecting priorities• Potential for increasing public knowledge of State Library's collections
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential to inspire interest and curiosity in Queensland history, and foster new perspectives• Potential for tangible public outcome such as creative work, exhibition, lecture, written work, website, performance• Level of benefit to the applicant, how the fellowship may impact the applicant's career development, if the applicant is a past recipient of a Queensland Memory Award, whether the research project would likely proceed without the fellowship.
Viability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly defined project scope, goals and timelines• Realistic use of available resources• Ability of applicant to undertake and deliver project

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW (EKKA) FELLOWSHIP

One (1) fellowship of \$20,000.

[The Ekka](#), officially known as the Royal Queensland Show, is a Queensland icon and the state's largest annual event, held at the Brisbane Showgrounds. Since its inception in 1876, the Ekka has been a cherished tradition, bringing together regional and urban Queenslanders to celebrate the state's agricultural industries. From its early days when attendees dressed in their finest and show bags were filled with coal, the Ekka has evolved into a vibrant showcase of everything that makes Queensland unique. In 2026, the EKKA will mark its sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) and the outcome of this project will be an important legacy at the centre of its celebration.

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) Fellowship supports research into the history of the Ekka - its people, stories and history using both the [John Oxley Library](#) collection and the [RNA archives](#). The fellowship allows a researcher to delve into both collections to uncover and generate new knowledge about the Ekka's lesser-known history, bringing fascinating stories from the archives to light.

The Royal Queensland Show (EKKA) Fellowship is generously supported by The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA).

Selection criteria

Significance

- High-quality, original and creative concept
- Creation of new knowledge about the people, stories and history of the Royal Queensland Show (EKKA)
- Relevant and timely research, project activities and outcomes

Collection use and creation

- Significant use of or contribution to State Library collections and/or the RNA Archives.
- Supports State Library's collecting priorities outlined in our [Content Strategy](#).
- Potential for increasing public knowledge of State Library's collections

Impact

- Potential to inspire interest and curiosity in Queensland history and heritage, and foster new perspectives
- Potential for tangible public outcome such as creative work, exhibition, lecture, written work, online product or performance.
- Potential for increasing public knowledge of the history of the Royal Queensland Show (EKKA), new histories discovered and documented.

Viability

- Clearly defined project scope, goals and timelines
- Realistic use of available resources
- Ability of applicant to undertake and deliver project

QUEENSLAND BUSINESS LEADERS HALL OF FAME FELLOWSHIP

One (1) fellowship of \$15,000.

Awarded annually to support projects that uncover and create new knowledge about Queensland's business and economic history using the resources of the [John Oxley Library](#) and State Library of Queensland.

The [Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame](#) is an initiative of QUT Business School and State Library of Queensland. The Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship is generously supported by the John Allpass Charitable Foundation.

Selection criteria

Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality, original and creative concept• Creation of new knowledge about Queensland's business and economic history• Relevant and timely research, project activities and outcomes
Collection use and creation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant use of or contribution to State Library collections• Supports State Library's collecting priorities outlined in our Content Strategy.• Potential for increasing public knowledge of State Library's collections
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential to Inspire an interest and curiosity in Queensland business and economic history, and foster new perspectives• Potential for tangible public outcome such as creative work, exhibition, lecture, written work, online product or performance.• Level of benefit: how the fellowship may impact the applicant's career development; if the applicant is a past recipient of a Queensland Memory Award; would the research project likely proceed without the fellowship.
Viability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly defined project scope, goals and timelines• Realistic use of available resources• Ability of applicant to undertake and deliver project

WHAT DOES A FELLOWSHIP OR RESIDENCY OFFER?

- A supportive environment for research, inquiry, and creation.
- A shared workspace in the Neil Roberts Research Lounge on Level 4 of State Library of Queensland.
- An orientation and introduction to State Library.
- An honorarium paid in scheduled instalments (excluding the John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship). This honorarium can assist with research, travel, and living expenses at the fellow's discretion.
- Free Wi-Fi, printing, and photocopying.
- Access to staff expertise, including connecting fellows with relevant collections.
- Support from the Research Coordinator to assist with day-to-day needs.
- Access to State Library collections and resources.
- Special borrowing privileges.

WHAT ARE FELLOWS OR RESIDENTS EXPECTED TO DO?

- The fellowship period starts in December 2025 and runs until early 2027, with a public talk about the project's outcomes at a [Research Reveals](#) event.
- Contribute at least three (3) articles to State Library's [John Oxley Library Blog](#) related to their research.
- Provide two (2) reports on their progress: one mid-fellowship and one at the conclusion.
- Participate in at least one (1) public program related to their research project, such as the Research Reveals events.
- Compile and submit an annotated bibliography or comprehensive technical documentation of the research undertaken and present it to State Library for use as a research resource upon completion of the fellowship.
- Submit a short report and testimonial at the conclusion of the fellowship outlining the benefits of the experience.
- Deposit a copy of any work produced with the John Oxley Library.
- Be available for publicity purposes, including media interviews and social media engagement.
- Contribute to creating online content about the fellowship or residency.
- Ensure the outcomes of the research acknowledge the State Library of Queensland.
- Fellows are provided with physical space, Wi-Fi, and printing access. Fellows must bring their own laptop or digital device to complete their projects.
- Fellows are required to sign an agreement with State Library detailing the payment schedule and other requirements.

ELIGIBILITY

WHO CAN APPLY

- Australian residents including interstate residents. It is expected that a portion of your fellowship will occur onsite at State Library.
- Applications are accepted from any discipline or professional background for projects that involve research using State Library collections. This includes but is not limited to researchers, artists, creatives, filmmakers, digital media practitioners, data scientists, musicians and composers, curators and arts professionals, writers, independent scholars and other creatives. Applicants from both academic and non-academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
- Applications are accepted from individuals or pairs (maximum two co-applicants).
- Projects already underway or with other funding are eligible, but this must be disclosed in the application.
- Relevant archives or collections in other cultural institutions and companies can also be used.
- Queensland Government employees must upload a letter or email of support from their manager.

WHO CAN'T APPLY

- Projects forming part of postgraduate studies are not eligible.
- Australian Research Council (ARC) or university research teams are ineligible.
- Applicants must reside in Australia.
- Current State Library staff and Board members are not eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Read this document and review the selection criteria for the fellowship you are applying for.
2. Complete an online SmartyGrants application form. Hard copy applications will not be considered.
3. **Applications open at 9am on 26 June 2025 and close at 11.59pm on 1 August 2025.** A link to the SmartyGrants online application form will be available on the [Queensland Memory Awards](#) webpage once applications open.
4. Applications must be submitted **before 11.59pm AEST on 1 August 2025**. Late applications or supporting material will not be accepted. You should allow for any time difference, and internet connection or submission issues.
5. It is recommended that you preview the application form before submitting. Mandatory fields, word count limits and file size limits apply. All mandatory fields must be completed to submit.
6. Once you start your form, you can save and edit it as many times as you like before submitting it. No changes can be made after submitting it.
7. You may nominate one project for multiple fellowships. If proposing different projects, submit a separate application for each.
8. Your application should address the selection criteria and will need to include:
 - short biographical statement and CV (maximum 3 A4 pages)
 - short description of your project and its relevance
 - short description of how you will use or contribute to John Oxley Library or State Library collections
 - brief overview of project goals, scope and timelines

- anticipated outcomes
 - three (3) referees
 - if applicable, details of other funding sources for the project and why fellowship funding is required, and/or details around what stage the project is in if it is not a new project.
9. You have the option of attaching any supporting material, such as letters of support.
10. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application. **Important:** if you do not receive this email, please check your junk folder. If you cannot find the email then immediately contact State Library at fellowships@slq.qld.gov.au or (07) 3840 7887.

TIPS TO FIND JOHN OXLEY LIBRARY OR STATE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

- Search the [Library catalogue](#) (One Search)
- Search the [State Library website](#)
- Chat with a Librarian or log a request via [Ask Us](#)
- Contact fellowships@slq.qld.gov.au
- Attend the Fellowships Online Information Session on Tuesday 15 July 2025. You can also watch last year's Fellowships Information Night event [video](#). There is a specific [video](#) for applicants of the Monica Clare Research Fellowship.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

- Each application is checked for completeness and eligibility by State Library of Queensland.
- Eligible applications are then forwarded to an independent judging panel made up of professionals with expertise in the related history field.
- Judges read and assess the applications against the selection criteria.
- Judges decide on a shortlist and one successful applicant for each category.
- The panel may require an in-person interview with shortlisted applicants for more information.
- Judges award the applicant who best meets the selection criteria. Only one successful application can be selected per category.
- The judges may, at their discretion, consult with other experts to assist in evaluating the merits of each application, including contacting the applicant's referees.
- The judges may, at their discretion, move an application to an additional or different category if they feel the application is more relevant or also relevant to that category.
- The outcomes of the judging process are final, and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into regarding decisions or the judging process.
- Judges may not award a category if there are not applications of suitable merit.
- The names of the judges will be [published](#) at the conclusion of the judging process.
- Judges must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as they become aware of them. State Library of Queensland records all conflicts of interest, perceived, potential and actual. The conflict of interest is managed by the State Library.

INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions, please contact State Library of Queensland.

Phone: (07) 3840 7887 or (07) 3840 7879

Email: fellowships@slq.qld.gov.au

Web: www.slq.qld.gov.au

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRIES

- Complete applications must be received no later than **11.59pm AEST on Friday 1 August 2025**. Late entries will not be accepted.
- The applicant consents for the applicant's personal information to be used and disclosed where appropriate for editorial, advertising, or promotional purposes in conjunction with the Queensland Memory Awards program. State Library of Queensland will adhere to the privacy principles in the [Information Privacy Act 2009](#) (see Privacy notice below).
- State Library of Queensland reserves the right to change the conditions, cancel, or vary the awards processes at any time, whether before, on, or after the closing date.
- The conduct of inviting applications does not give rise to any legal or equitable relationship.
- In all matters relating to the conditions of applications and judging process, the decisions of the judges and State Library of Queensland are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Breach of conditions of application may render an application invalid.
- No person will be entitled to claim compensation for loss from State Library of Queensland for any matter in connection with the Queensland Memory Awards, including, but not limited to, a failure by State Library of Queensland to comply with the conditions of application.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The State Library of Queensland is subject to privacy legislation which applies to the Queensland public sector — the Information Privacy Act 2009. The Information Privacy Act contains a number of privacy principles that set out how agencies must handle personal information.

Further information on the Queensland Government's information privacy scheme can be accessed through the Office of the Information Commissioner.