



Sunshine Coast Council Historian in Residence 2022 - 2023

Introduction

The Sunshine Coast Council has significant cultural heritage collections, which are managed by Cultural Heritage Services and the Heritage Library. These teams are responsible for preserving, interpreting, exhibiting, and making accessible council's collections for present and future generations to explore and enjoy.

Historians (including archaeologists, heritage librarians, museologists, archivists, teachers, and heritage architects) are invited to be part of Sunshine Coast Council's annual Historian in Residence Program, funded by the Arts and Heritage Levy.

The program offers qualified and experienced historians the opportunity to immerse themselves in a research project that will reveal, document, and showcase aspects of the region's history and heritage.

Outline

The Historian in Residence will undertake research into Sunshine Coast's history and heritage with specified outcomes (refer to page 3).

The story or stories could evolve from existing council collection items, be related to an historic event or topic (including contemporary) or respond to an identified gap in the existing body of historical work (refer to page 2). Projects can be drawn from the council's Heritage Library collection, Bankfoot House collection, Landsborough Museum collection or council's other collection items. Additional resources include relevant online sources and material held with other organisations, such as Queensland State Archives and State Library of Queensland.

Positions

There are two positions available for the Sunshine Coast Council Historian in Residence Program, one located at the Heritage Library (Nambour) and the other at Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct (Glass House Mountains) or Landsborough Museum (Landsborough). The successful applicants will be contracted for a period equating to three months duration, commencing at an agreed date, and delivered by 13 June 2023.

The final decision for the topic, timeframe and schedule of payment will be negotiated between the Coordinator Cultural Heritage Services and successful applicants.

Each Historian will receive:

- Payment of \$10,000 (to be paid in instalments)
- Support from council's Coordinator Cultural Heritage Services (and nominated staff)
- A workspace at the Heritage Library (Nambour) or Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct / Landsborough Museum (Glass House Mountains/Landsborough)
- Access to physical and digital heritage collections held by council.

Application

Applicants are asked to select one of the following topics (or detail their own topic) that identifies a gap in the knowledge of Sunshine Coast's history. A storyline concept must be provided as part of the application, which outlines the research focus on one of the general themes below (refer to outcomes page 3). There will be two residencies in total, one residency and one topic per location (one at either Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct or Landsborough Museum; and one at the Heritage Library).

Identified Gaps - Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct / Landsborough Museum

- A changing landscape – agriculture since 1900 in the southern region of Sunshine Coast
- The development of micro industries on the Sunshine Coast
- Compilation of stories - memories of Bankfoot House by local families and their descendants and/or connections to Landsborough
- Focused collections-based research at Landsborough Museum and/or Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct
- Archaeological investigation/survey into subsurface features at Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct
- Research project into the first generation of Grigor children.

Identified Gaps - Heritage Library

- Sunshine Coast from 1960 to 1980 and the social, economic and cultural changes
- Sunshine Coast roads and infrastructure development from early pathways and transport routes to main highways, coastal and rural roads, recent up-grades, and the economic, political, and social impact
- The history of tourism development on the Sunshine Coast from signs and structures to economy and impact
- Focused research on a Sunshine Coast rural industry (e.g. coffee, arrowroot, tobacco, citrus) from beginning to present day including economic, social and political influences
- Archaeological investigation/survey into the subsurface of Charles Clarke Park Mooloolaba, the site of the Pettigrew Sawmill
- Focused collection-based research of historian's choice at the Heritage Library.

Note: First Nations topics must show written approval by claimant groups prior to submitting an EOI. Topics that sit outside this program may have the potential to be supported by other areas of funding.

If you have a topic other than listed in the identified gaps that is new and unpublished, and is themed (as above), please send an email in the first instance to:

culturalheritage@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Outcomes

The following outcomes are required of the Historian in Residence:

- Agreement with the Sunshine Coast Council on your topic and storyline to produce new work that has not been published
- Supply of support research material and bibliography of three stories
- Submission of three written stories of 1,000 words or equivalent for digital stories
- Supply of images and material for Council's heritage website for an online exhibition
- Participation in public programs:
 - Open community participation (1 day equivalent) – the public will be invited to speak with the historian on their chosen topic for a chance to capture local knowledge, material and research links. The two locations are Heritage Library and Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct / Landsborough Museum
 - Historian Talks (2 days) - presentation of outcomes at two locations - Heritage Library and Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct / Landsborough Museum (2 presentations per historian).

The research outcomes of the Historian in Residence Program will be added to the Heritage Library collection and will be publicly accessible on council's heritage webpages. The program will be promoted through council's media channels, including social media, and may be showcased in a public event in 2023.

The Historian in Residence will retain copyright of the material generated during the residency and will acknowledge Sunshine Coast Council as the original commissioner of the material.

Sunshine Coast Council will retain the right to publish material generated from the program in any format without further permission or remuneration.

The person

The historian ideally will:

- Hold tertiary qualifications in history or related discipline (such as archaeologists, heritage librarians, museologists, archivists, teachers and heritage architects)
- Have demonstrated experience in historical research and writing including the ability to critically assess and contextualize evidence and events of the past.
- Have demonstrated ability to write effectively, engagingly and accessibly for a general audience
- Have the ability to relate to people from all backgrounds and communicate engagingly with community members
- Be familiar with the tenets of copyright, intellectual property and privacy legislation and have the ability to apply these to the creation of historical works
- Live locally or within reasonable travelling distance to the Sunshine Coast
- Have an ABN and relevant insurance.

First Nations peoples are encouraged to apply.

Applying for the position

Historians are required to submit an Expression of Interest using the Historian in Residence

Application Form. This includes:

- Storyline concept (refer to itemised list on page 2) or your own topic
- Explanation of why the topic has been chosen referring to:
 - The collection items that have inspired the story ideas
 - How the proposed stories will enhance the existing body of documented history of the Sunshine Coast
 - How the proposed stories respond to a current event or topics
 - How the proposed story ideas will connect with the community.
- Project Plan with proposed schedule
- Three examples of work similar to that required for this program. If the work is a book, submit only a short chapter (as attachment)
- Names of two referees familiar with the applicant's research and writing skills
- Current resume/CV (as an attachment)
- Proof of insurance (as an attachment).

Council has recently acquired the Landsborough Museum Collection (see museum website). Access the following sites to understand council's general heritage collections:

- <https://heritage.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Bankfoot-House/Bankfoot-House-Collections>
- <https://heritage.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Collections>

Selection

A panel from Sunshine Coast Council will assess the Expressions of Interest against the above requirements, including:

- Proposal concept (such as connection to council heritage collections and Sunshine Coast's regional story)
- Qualifications, experience, and skills
- Outcome of referee checks
- Examples of prior work.

Key dates

- Expressions of Interest open: 3 August 2022
- Expressions of Interest close: 24 August 2022
- Successful applicants notified: 15 September 2022
- Project commencement: negotiated
- Preliminary research: Oct/Nov 2022
- Community participation sessions (1 day of 2 sessions - Nambour and Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct / Landsborough) – payment 1)
- Historian Talks (2 days - Nambour and Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct / Landsborough – payment 2)
- Submission of documentation – payment 3
- Project completion: 13 June 2023.

Further enquiries

Any questions regarding the residency or the application process should be directed to: Cultural Heritage Services: culturalheritage@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au