Government Gazettes

Brief guide 33 | Queensland State Archives

Queensland Government Gazettes are an official serial publication. The Gazettes provide proclamations by the State Governor, official notice of actions of Government departments, local councils and government functions such as education, immigration, legislation, courts, transport, lands and railways.

The early Gazettes provide detailed and valuable information for family history researchers and general history researchers. Due to the growth in government responsibilities and the Queensland population after 1960, the detail in both the Gazette indexes and Gazettes proper diminishes.

The Queensland Government Gazettes can help you to find information about:

- Acts of Parliament
- Appointments to government positions and resignations of senior officers
- Appointments of Justices of the Peace, Commissioners for Declarations
- Brands – registration and transfer
- Constitution of Queensland – Administrative arrangements, Governor's speech
- Directives, Government
- Disaster, Declaration of
- Disposal of uncollected goods
- Education – school enrolment management plans, teaching appointments
- Electoral divisions: establishment and changes to electoral district boundaries
- Polling booths
- Environmental notices
- Government tenders for public works, schools, roads, funerals, etc.
- Heritage registers
- Insolvencies, Declaration of
- Land orders – road closures,
- Land – reserves, sales and taking of
- Legislation notices, including announcements of new Acts of Parliament
- Regulations and amendments or subordinate legislation
- Lighthouses
- Local government – shire and town council notices
- Native title notices
- Naturalisations
- Notification of approved forms
- Patents, Registration of
- Police notices
- Premiers notices
- Proclamations
- Registration lists

- Registration of companies and firms
- Taxi service licences
- Unclaimed money
- Wills, intestacies
- *Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act* amendments
- Writ of Election

Queensland State Archives holdings

The Public Search Room has microfilmed copies of the:

- Gazettes from 1859 – 1989
- Cumulative or consolidated annual indexes from 1859 – 1982

Microfilms are in date order in filing cabinets at the back of the Microform room.

Finding aids in the Public Search Room

A CDROM index of the consolidated index of the Queensland Government Gazettes 1859-1919 created by the Queensland Family History Society is available on the Public Search Room computers. Topics indexed include appointments, errors in deeds, partnerships, promotions, resignations, tenders accepted and transfers.

To assist PSR researchers, the following photocopies of lists from Gazettes are shelved in the Finding Aids:

- Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Weekly Statistical Returns, 1885 – 1904, 6 volumes
- Hotel and liquor licences, 1860-1914, 10 volumes
- Railway employees, 1889 – 1941, 24 volumes

Digitised copies

Text Queensland is a site which presents digitised copies of the Queensland Government Gazette from 1859 to 1900. Text Queensland is a collaboration between the University of Queensland Library and the Centre for the Government of Queensland at the University of Queensland.

This can be found at: http://www.textqueensland.com.au/gazette

How to search Gazette Indexes

1. Know exactly what you want to find, e.g. person's name, position or activity
2. Find the name of the Act or legislation, if needed, e.g. *Education Act, Real Property Act, Lands Act*
3. Think about possible index headings, e.g. a timber licence in the Port Douglas District may be indexed as Licences – Timber Granted – Land Agent – Port Douglas
4. Check for cross referencing in early Gazette indexes, e.g. searching for a stolen horse and the subsequent reward would be indexed as:
    - HORSE, reward for
    - SUMMARY of rewards
    - REWARD, horse

Topics of common interest to researchers

Education

The Gazette headings are under the name of department or public authority, at the time.
For example,

Board of General Education for the years 1860 – 1875:	Search ‘B’
Department of Public Instruction for the years 1876 – 1957:	Search ‘P’
Education Department for the years 1957 – 1989:	Search ‘E’

Details gazetted include:

- District Inspectors
- Examination centres
- Scholarships
- Schools
- School committees
- Teachers
- Trustees and Boards for vested and non-vested schools

Schools

Search the name of the school

Details gazetted include:

- Location of school
- Date of gazettal
- Classification of school

From 1913 to 1947 - search ‘P’ for Public Instruction, subheading Schools Established, for the alphabetical list of schools.

Prior to 1913, and after 1947, there was no alphabetical listing under Public Instruction, look at each page reference cited.

School committees and Teachers

Know the name of the school or the name of a teacher or committee member.

From circa 1869 to 1913, search under ‘A’ for appointments:

- Go to Board of Education, until 1876 ; or Public Instruction, after 1876
- Look under Surname or Position, e.g. Smith, W E – Member of School Committee or Member of School Committee - Smith, W.E

From July 1913 to 1935 the Indexes were cross-referenced:

- Search under ‘P’ for Public Instruction, subheading School Committee / Teachers
  or
- Search the Last Name in the Index

From 1935 to circa 1957 Search ‘A’ for appointments, subheading Public Instruction for the teacher.

From 1957 – 1989 Search ‘E’ for Education

Details gazetted include:

- Appointments
- Resignations
- Retirements
- Re-admissions (for Teachers)
- Classification of Position (probationary, full time etc.)
- Name of School and or School District,
- Date of appointment

Note: the Education Office Gazette (EOG) from 1899-1986 is available in the Public Search Room. This gazette contains extensive details about teachers and schools

Supreme Court and Public Curator records

Wills and Intestacies

You need: Name of the individual and date of death.

Details gazetted may include:

- Notices of Will
- Statutory Notices in Estate
- Probate Notices
- Statutory Notices of Creditors
- Letters of Administration

For Intestate Estates from 1860 to 1869, indexes were cross referenced; search either

- by surname, or
- ‘I’ for intestacies, then alphabetically by surname

From 1870 to 1912, indexes were cross referenced; search either

- by surname, or
- ‘S’ for Supreme Court, subheading for the notices for the Ecclesiastical, then alphabetically by surname

From 1913 to 1960

- ‘W’ for wills and intestate estates from the Supreme Court and Public Curator, Queensland, then alphabetically by surname

From 1960, there is no alphabetical index under wills and intestate estates. Surnames are listed alphabetically.

Details gazetted include:

- Name
- Address
- Occupation
- Date of death
- Name of Executor or Administrator
- Name of Solicitor

Transmission by death notices

You need: Name of the individual and date of death.

From 1861 onwards:

- Go to the index for the year of death
- Search under ‘R’ for Real Property Act, subheading Transmissions by Death

Details gazetted may include:

- Name
- Occupation
- Date of Death
- Name of claimant
- Description of land
- Particulars of the will
- Titles office reference

Insolvency

You need: Name of the individual and a date range.

From 1859 onwards:

- Search under ‘I’ for insolvent estates
- Search under the surname or company name

Details gazetted include:

- Applications for certificates
- Notices to creditors
- Assignment of estates

Rewards

Search for under ‘R’ for Reward offered or ‘S’ for Summary of rewards.

Details gazetted include:

- What felons wore when escaping from custody
- Whose horses were rustled or stolen
- Names of kidnapped children
- Names of servants who absconded
- Names of missing persons
- Names of shire councillors accused of fraud or embezzlement

Dead letters and Ship letters

You need: Name of the intended recipient and a date range.

Search the Index either under ‘P’ for Postal – unclaimed letters, ‘L’ for Letters, Unclaimed or ‘U’ for Unclaimed letters. These lists were published from 1860 to the early 1890’s. When available, the ship letters were published last. Ship letters were unclaimed correspondence written care of the ship on which immigrant families were travelling.

Occupations

Professions and Trades

You need: Name of Profession or Trade.

Prior to the 1960s, a good rule of thumb is to search under profession or trade. For subsequent years, search the administering Act or legislation for the profession or trade. For example:

- Church Ministers under ‘M’ for Ministers of religion or Marriage Act
- Dentists under ‘D’
- Doctors under ‘M’ for Medical practitioners
- Justices of the Peace under ‘J’ for Justices, from 1865 to 1955
- Marriage celebrants under ‘J’ for Justices Marrying Act, from 1961 onwards
- Nurses under ‘N’ for Nurses, List of Registered or Nurses and Masseurs Registration Act
- Railway employees under ‘R’ (annual listing from 1889-1941)
- Registered chemists under ‘P’ for Pharmacy Acts, from 1962 onwards

Public servants

You need: Name of the individual.

- Search under ‘P’ for Public Service Act

Details gazetted include:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Number on the list
- Present office, usually the appropriate department
- Place or location
- Date of first employment
- Date of first appointment to the Public Service
- Date of appointment to the present position
- Gross salary
- Allowances
- Last increase to principal salary; date and amount
- Each section usually contains additional notes in relation to salaries

Note: There are copies of the Queensland Blue Books in the Public Search Room.

Licences

You need: Name of the applicant for the licence or the licensee.

Prior to the 1950s, a good rule of thumb is to search under the licensed group, such as Auctioneers. For subsequent years, search the administering Act or legislation. For example:

- Applications for licences under ‘L’ for Liquor Acts, after 1960
- Lolly makers under ‘C’ for Confectioners
- Auctioneers under ‘A’
- Publicans under ‘P’
- Spirit dealers under ‘S’

Details gazetted include:

- Name
- Address or locality
- Employer’s name or Company name
- Business name eg: name of Hotel for Publican's licences
- Date of registration
- Qualifications, date received and place completed
- For Ministers; Registry district and residence, Religious denomination
- Certificate number or registration number.

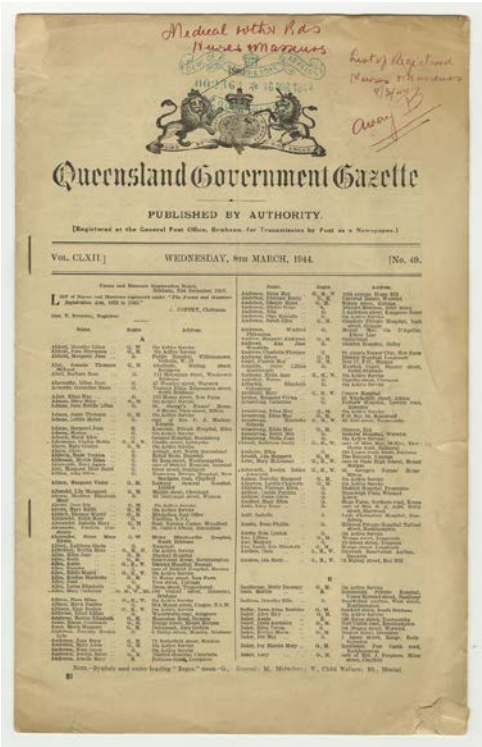
Land – pastoral leases

You need: Name of the run or pastoral lease.
Search in the Index under ‘R’ for Runs.

Details gazetted may include:

- Name of transferor, transferee, lessee
- Name of run, and pastoral district
- Name of applicant for pastoral leases
- Estimated area in square miles, and boundary description
- License fee.

Note: To locate files and documentation at Queensland State Archives based on information in the Gazettes, researchers must search ArchivesSearch, online indexes and other finding aids.



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