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Hello Subscribers

Over the last couple of years we have been busy digitising our historical records and enhancing our family history research services to be able to offer you the opportunity to buy historical register images online and then download them immediately. The feedback we have received since the introduction of this service has been overwhelmingly positive. Combined with the reduction in cost to access historical records and the instant access to information, the online service has proven to greatly assist family historians and genealogists to speed up their research.

The original registers were created using information from source documents. Source documents are the actual document recording the details of the event and feature the original signatures of all parties. For example, if you were searching for a record of George and Marsha Smith, married in 1927 in Rockhampton, you would find an image of the register entry that you could buy and download immediately. The register entry would have been transcribed by the Registrar of the day using information from the source document/s. These source documents have been previously unavailable.

We have a large range of source documents for some of our birth, marriage and World War One and Two death records. We have been asked on a number of occasions "when are you going to make the source documents available?". The major barrier to this has been resources and time.

We have some good news.

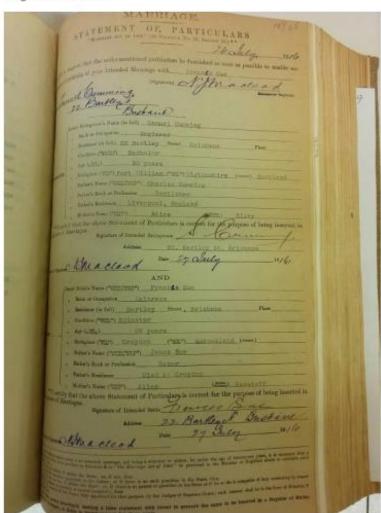
With our digitisation project being completed on time and within budget, we have been able to commence imaging our birth, marriage and WW1 and WW2 death records source documents. We will also update our historical search engine to enable you to identify if a source document exists for the record you have searched, and then functionality for you to buy and download the image online.

We have shipped our first consignment of 40,000 marriage source documents for Brisbane marriages between 1936 and 1940 and Country marriages between 1937 and 1940 for digitisation. We expect these to be imaged and returned to BDM by the end of 2015, and plan to have all existing source documents available for you to purchase during 2016.

Source documents vary in their composition and condition. Some records have as many as 5 pages including various statements by different parties, letters from parents, baptismal certificates or miscellaneous documents. Some records have only one source document. An example of an extensive source document for one record can be seen below, featuring 5 statements relating to a marriage, a Statement of Marriage and the Marriage certificate. Please note, the images below do not reflect how the final source documents will appear when scanned.

Exact release dates and price details will be notified as soon as they have been confirmed.

David John Registrar General

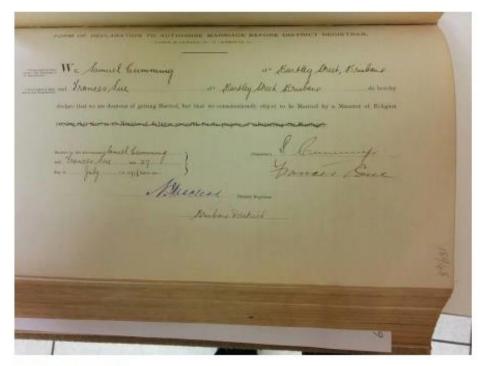


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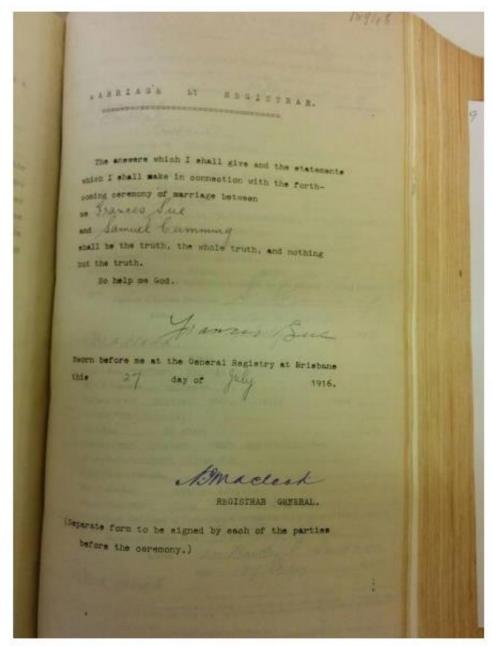
Above: Marriage certificate

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