

NEWS NOTES

New Zealand

The second half of the year has been an eventful one for New Zealand. For the **National Archives** Chief Archivist *Judith Hornabrook* a fortnight's visit to Australia to make contacts with archivists in Canberra and Sydney and observe what is being done there was both a pleasant and profitable experience. She returned stimulated and all the more in favour of trans-Tasman contact. Senior Archivist *Rosemary Collier* also managed a brief visit to Sydney during her annual leave and enjoyed the opportunity of meeting fellow archivists and attending a lecture by Mr Peter Walne.

Papers of Lieut.-Gen. Sir Edward Puttick, former Chief of General Staff, and those of several politicians have been accessioned in recent months. The most sizeable group comprises papers of the former Prime Minister, the late Rt Hon. Norman Kirk.

Holdings of maps and plans have increased markedly. One accession, from the Ministry of Works, consisted of 100,000 maps and plans.

As part of a survey of government record offices, the Senior Archivist is working with officers of the State Services Commission. They are at present engaged in a pilot project at the Ministry of Transport.

National Archives has also been represented in meetings to consider the development of photographic archives in New Zealand.

During the year we farewelled with regret *Alan Flynn* who retired as officer-in-charge of the Auckland Records Centre and *Brad Patterson* who left to fulfill the requirements for his Ph.D. degree. They have been succeeded by *Denis Clark* and *Michael Hodder*. *Tim Lovell-Smith* has returned after a year's leave overseas. With the new year we look forward to a further extension of the staff establishment as another archivist position has been approved. In 1976 there will be a move to more spacious accommodation which should suffice for all archival holdings, at present scattered in several different places around Wellington, until more permanent premises are available.

In honour of International Women's Year, the **Alexander Turnbull Library** has established a specialised collection: the New Zealand Women's History Research Collection. It is hoped that a concentrated effort will lead to the creation of a national collection, which will include for example diaries and letters, the records of women's organizations, scrapbooks and photographs.

A two-day map keepers' seminar was organized by the Library's map librarian *Phil Barton*. The first of its kind in New Zealand, it was modelled on those of the map curators' circle. The emphasis was on map keeping with current collections. Approximately twenty-seven people participated, representing a range of different archival collections.

The Plunket Society, which occupies a very special place in New Zealand's social history, has agreed to transfer to the **Hocken Library** the historical records of its headquarters in Dunedin.

The National Archives, the Turnbull Library and the New Zealand Library Association sponsored a six-day seminar in September. Held in Wellington, the seminar was attended by fifty-one archivists, manuscript librarians and others, from a variety of sources. A comprehensive programme covered many aspects of archives and manuscript theory and practice, including conservation of archival material, the preparation and use of finding aids, principles of archives administration, and records management.

Australian Archives

Thea Exley is Acting Director in *Dr Keith Penny's* absence overseas. *Chris Hurley* and *Lindsay Cleland* will each be Acting Chief Archivist for part of the time *Dr Penny* is away. *Margaret Jennings* has returned to her position as Archivist, Survey and Disposal, Victoria after a private visit overseas. *Des Reay*, from the South Australian office, will take up duty as Assistant Conservator in Melbourne from January 1976.

A tender for the construction of extensions to the Adelaide repository at Collinswood has been accepted and work is expected to begin early in the year. The two-storey extension will provide storage space, processing and lending areas, a conservation laboratory and offices. The existing building will be remodelled to provide public user areas including facilities for using microfilm and audio visual records. The whole building will be air conditioned. The movement of records to premises at Somerton Park began on 13 December. By the end of January this building will house 3,000 shelf metres of records.

An auxiliary power plant is being installed at Villawood, New South Wales. Features of the new repository there include air conditioning in the whole of Stage 2 and in the vaults and office areas in Stage 1, mobile Maxtor shelving throughout, and a Telelift system to facilitate the movement of records. The capacity of Villawood when all the shelving is erected will be 204,200 shelf metres.

A significant number of seismic magnetic tapes recording data from off-shore petroleum exploration under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act are held at Villawood on behalf of authorities designated under the Act. By arrangement with State authorities some on-shore exploration data is also held. Regular accessions of this material are received, in the form of digital and analogue tapes, magnediscs and microfilm cassettes.

On 5 December 1975, several members of staff attended a seminar on Microfilm Systems in the Australian Government. The seminar was arranged by the Public Service Board. Some of the speakers had addressed the International Micrographics Congress and this was an opportunity for a wider range of staff to increase their knowledge of microfilm systems currently in use.

By the Administrative Arrangements Order of 22 December, Australian Archives was transferred from the Department of Special Minister of State to the Department of Administrative Services. Staff will be involved in assisting departments with the control of records following substantial administrative changes in the Australian Government.

Archives Office of Tasmania

Stan Ellis, formerly of the Queensland State Archives, has been appointed to run the microfilm camera and will shortly be starting on the rather massive programme of filming the records of the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Space problems will be alleviated somewhat early in 1976 when about half of the fixed shelving will be converted to compactus. While the physical changeover is a rather terrifying prospect, we are looking forward to having some room to play around with.

At the recent auction of material collected by Dr Clifford Craig which was held in Launceston, the Archives were able to acquire a number of items, mainly private papers, photographs, and newspapers to fill gaps in our holdings.

Section IV of the *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania* is now available. It is *Free Immigration*, priced at \$5.00 (\$5.60 post paid) or \$7.00 for the few hardcover copies available. (It is intended to review the volume in the next number of *Archives and Manuscripts*.—Ed.)

The most significant recent transfer is a large amount of records from the Prisons Department covering over a century of gaol administration. This is particularly important because of its tie-in with the earlier records of the Convict Department. Some significant private records have been received too, including further instalments of the Van Diemen's Land Company's records and the diaries of Sir N. E. Lewis, former Premier of Tasmania, covering 1878-1935.

Archives Office of New South Wales

The position of Principal Archivist was advertised in the press on 22 October 1975, at a salary of \$16,547. In addition to being the Chief Executive Officer of the Archives Authority of New South Wales with responsibility for control of its Archives Office, the appointee will be responsible for the operation of the Government Records Repository and for the direction of the newly-established Records Management Office of New South Wales. The position was subsequently re-advertised at a salary of \$20,191.

The first fifteen cells of the new Government Records Repository at Kingswood were opened officially by the Hon. L. F. J. Barraclough, M.L.A., Minister for Culture, Sport and Recreation, on 28 November 1975. It is hoped to construct a further three cells in 1976. Meanwhile, planning is still proceeding on the proposed new Archives Office headquarters building in Sydney's Rocks area.

South Australian Archives

On 8 December the staff welcomed back *L. T. Dillon* after his year's study leave during which he attended the Diploma Course in Archives at the University of New South Wales.

Recent large accessions of official records have included correspondence files from the Highways Department (1951-60) and from the Public Buildings Department (1946-58). Smaller transfers of interest are 191 volumes of Royal Adelaide Hospital case books

(1868-1924) and 9.5 m of records (c. 1850-1971) of the Commissioners of Charitable Funds.

Hand-operated compactus shelving affording an additional 250 m of shelf space was bought from the library of one of the Adelaide newspaper companies and has recently been installed. Although second hand, it is in good condition.

Other institutions

Queensland State Archives has been requested by the Survey Office to undertake a review of their current record-keeping procedures and to devise ways of achieving a substantial improvement in records management. This is a new field for Q.S.A. which has previously confined its work to archival and semi-current records.

Significant recent accessions have included court records from Charters Towers, Malanda and Stanthorpe, and architectural plans and drawings of buildings from the Works Department.

Douglas Misso retired in January from the **Public Record Office**, Victoria. The P.R.O. has been provided with a near-new building at North Laverton, an outer suburb of Melbourne. No details have been released yet of whether an inner-city office is to be maintained or when the main transfer of records will take place. The P.R.O. reports that among recent accessions have been correspondence (1930-67) and rate books (from 1908) of the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.

Shirley King tells us that the **University of Tasmania Archives** have received further records from the Hobart Meeting of the Society of Friends in the form of minutes of monthly meetings (1833-1950). From the Catholic diocesan archives they have received records of the Catholic Women's League.