

# NEWS NOTES

**Edited by Maggie Shapley**

## **Australian Council of Archives**

*Correspondent: Lee McGregor*

The Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Archives was held at Queensland University, Brisbane, on 3 June 1988. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following organisations: University of Queensland, Northern Territory Archives Service, University of New South Wales, Australian Archives, Archives Office of New South Wales, Corporation of the City of Adelaide, BHP Limited, John Fairfax and Sons, Public Record Office of Victoria, University of Wollongong, State Library of Victoria, Council of the City of Sydney, John Oxley Library, Queensland State Archives, Australian War Memorial, State Bank of Victoria, Archives Office of Tasmania, Australian National University Archives of Business and Labour, Reserve Bank of Australia, Public Record Office of South Australia, Westpac, University of Sydney, University of Melbourne, and National Library of Australia.

The President's Annual Report detailing the work of the Executive and the Council over the previous year was received and adopted by the meeting. The Treasurer in his Annual Report noted that the Council's total accumulated funds stood at the healthy figure of \$18,045.01 at 23 May. At present, little of the Council's annual income is being spent and there was some discussion of the best way to expend the funds.

The new Executive for the 1988/89 year is Lee McGregor (Queensland State Archives) as President, John Cross (Archives Office of New South Wales) and Val Siebert (Public Record Office of South Australia) as representatives of the State and Territory Government archives, Clive Smith (Westpac) and Narelle Crux (BHP) as representatives of other members, Brian Cox for Australian Archives, and Peter Crush as President of the Australian Society of Archivists Incorporated.

Tony Marshall (State Library of Victoria) had prepared a number of amendments to section 5 of the constitution for consideration by members at the meeting. Discussion centred on proposed amendment 5.8(b) in relation to whether a member of the Executive Committee is elected

as an individual or as a representative of a particular institution. Unfortunately the matter could not be resolved as constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority of members in favour, and there were not the required number of members in attendance. The meeting voted that the intent of the proposed constitutional amendments be adopted for the guidance of future Executive Committees.

Peter Crush (Corporation of the City of Adelaide) reported on the International Council on Archives Model for the Collection of Archival Statistics. In general, comments on the model were favourable although there was some concern that the questionnaire was too long and some discussion of the most suitable units of measurement. Members agreed that the Model be adopted for the present and reviewed at the next Annual Meeting, by which time any problems in using the Model should be more apparent.

An Australian Libraries and Information Council Committee on Machine-Readable Records had referred the category of 'functional files' to the Australian Council of Archives for comment. In his own inimitable fashion, Michael Saclier (ANU Archives of Business and Labour) cut straight to the heart of the matter by asking if anyone actually knew what 'functional files' were. No-one ventured a definition. A debate developed on whether or not traditional archival principles and methods are still applicable to the preservation, disposal and use of machine-



*The 1988 ACA AGM in progress.*

*Left to right: Lee McGregor incoming President, Queensland State Archives, Ian Pearce outgoing President, Archives Office of Tasmania and Glenda Acland, University of Queensland Archives which hosted the meeting.*

*(Photograph: University Archives and Department of Photography, University of Queensland)*

readable records. The incoming Executive was directed to consider the issue further and make some formal response to the ALIC report.

Other matters discussed at the meeting included legislation on public access to certain categories of criminal records, the formation of the Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services (ACLIS) and how that might affect the Australian Council of Archives, and the need for a policy statement on archives for distribution to political parties. A sub-committee consisting of Glenda Acland, Peter Crush, Michael Saclier and Clive Smith was formed to work on the archival glossary. The need for a secretariat was discussed at length and various ways of funding it were suggested. This was clearly a major problem for the 1987/88 Executive and members agreed that the various options should be carefully considered by the incoming Executive with a view to improving this aspect of the Council's organisation. In the meantime, the meeting authorized the Executive to spend up to \$3000 on secretarial services over the next year. The proposal for a Historic Records Commission was again raised, particularly in view of the winding-down of the Historic Records Search.

### **Australian Archives**

*Correspondent: G. Finlay*

The Australian National Guide to Archival Material Part One (ANGAM I), the main finding aid compiled by the Australian Archives, has hitherto been available to the organisation's clients in paper format only. As part of Australian Archives ongoing ADP program, intellectual control data about records and their administrative context has been loaded onto the Archives' computer, so that this data is now available on computer output microfiche. The microfiche are available for consultation in the Australian Archives' Reference and Guide rooms by official and public users, and photocopies of the registrations and inventories held on the microfiche will be available to users in the normal way. Users will also be able to request ad hoc printouts and searchers of the database by Archives staff.

The Australian Archives has also released a range of provisional explanatory material to assist client use of the ANGAM I microfiche and understanding of the data in the finding aids. The material, which is on display in all regional offices, includes several wallcharts describing the structure and use of ANGAM, a sequence of short information sheets about ANGAM I concepts and formats, and a brief leaflet about ANGAM I and ANGAM II. These items are supplemented by a more detailed booklet which covers the background of ANGAM as a whole and supplied step-by-step instructions for its use. The explanatory material will be revised after client responses have been evaluated, following a survey conducted for this purpose during July and August.

*Relations in records: a guide to family history sources in the Australian Archives* (AGPS Press, Cat. No. 87 0248 2) is now on sale at a recommended retail price of \$19.95. *Relations in records* is the first comprehensive national guide to Commonwealth sources which contain essential documents for the family historian. The guide, which covers records from the late nineteenth to the mid twentieth century, is divided into four main sections: immigration and shipping, defence, population, and Commonwealth government employment. Records are grouped by subject and each record series is fully described so readers can judge immediately its relevance to their needs. Where appropriate, extensive runs of records are presented in easy-to-read tables complete with series reference numbers. The guide also has a detailed index to assist readers to find information, illustrations of primary source material, and detailed explanations of the Australian Archives' finding aids and control systems.

The Australian Archives has recently taken delivery of a locally made ultrasonic welder for polyester. The Consonic Ultrasonic Archives Welder (Model AWOT-150), designed to meet the Archives' requirements, enables protective polyester envelopes of up to 160cm by 160cm to be made with a simple weld operation per side. The envelopes will be used to assist in the preservation of all types of documents.

### **South Australian Regional Office**

As a result of the recent National Records Return, the South Australian Regional Office targetted non-current records over thirty years old for transfer action. During 1987/88 transfers were arranged from the Australian National (Railways) Offices at Murray Bridge, Peterborough, Port Lincoln, and Port Augusta, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the Australian Electoral Commission.

### **Victorian Regional Office**

Planning of new leased accommodation which will provide the Victorian Regional Office with a centrally located user facility in Queensbridge Street, South Melbourne, is well underway. Construction of a new leased building is also in hand to provide additional records storage. This building is situated next to the two buildings currently occupied by the Australian Archives at Dandenong and will replace the Port Melbourne facility.

### **Western Australian Regional Office**

In January 1988, two officers from the Western Australian Regional Office carried out a survey of Commonwealth records held on Christmas Island to assess the storage conditions and determine the historical importance of records held on the Island. An assessment was also made of the records of the Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island which ceased mining operations on 31 December 1987. Arrangements were made for

the eventual shipment of the records to Perth for transfer into archival custody.

### **Australian Capital Territory Regional Office**

Officers from the ACT Regional Office organised a small display of items relating to the Provisional Parliament House in conjunction with the Coalition Parties Reunion Dinner held in the dining room of the Provisional Parliament House on 16 May 1988. The Parliament House Construction Authority has begun to transfer records to the custody of Australian Archives now that the major planning and construction work has been completed on the new Parliament House. Recent transfers of personal records have included those of the Hon. Clyde Holding, the Hon. James Carlton, the Hon. Susan Ryan, the Hon. Peter Morris, and the Hon. Reginald Swartz.

A large photographic order received from the Hyatt Hotel Canberra has been fulfilled. Reproductions from the Mildenhall collection of photographs, the Canberra Design Competition drawings, and other items relating to the Provisional Parliament House were supplied for permanent display in the hotel.

A revised sentencing workshop has been developed by the ACT regional office, and additional workshops have been held to overcome a backlog of agency staff requiring this type of training. Twenty-six agencies have also been surveyed in order to assist in determining their archival training needs and developing a more comprehensive agency training program. A new leaflet on the ACT Regional Office has been released which provides general information about the office for official and public users.

### **New South Wales Regional Office**

Officers from the NSW Regional Office have held seminars on the use of archives for honours students in the School of History at the University of New South Wales and Economic History at the University of Sydney, as well as for post-graduate students in Government at the University of Sydney. The office will assist with staffing a desk at the 1st International Family History Conference to be held in Sydney in October.

Recent transfers of personal records have been received from former and current politicians including the Hon. Gough Whitlam, the Hon. Barry Cohen, the Hon. Sir John Carrick, Senator the Hon. Graham Richardson, Peter Coleman, Michael Maher, Alan Cadman, Philip Ruddock, and the Hon. Mr Justice Michael Kirby. Other notable transfers include research records of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, records of Professor Robert Black from his work on the National Health and Medical Research Council, and records concerning chemical warfare created by Professor Raymond Le Fevre in his wartime defence work.

Records from the Chullora Area Aircraft Workshops which document the production of Beaufort, Beaufighter, Lancaster, Lincoln, and Canberra aircraft during World War II and later have also been transferred to the NSW Regional Office from the State Rail Authority Archives.

### **Australian Joint Copying Project**

*Correspondent: Michael Richards*

The future of the Australian Joint Copying Project looks a little more assured, at least for the next five years. A meeting at the Fisher Library on 11 July of representatives of both University and State Libraries, and Glenys McIver and Graeme Powell from the National Library, resulted in promises of support for the Project that will largely compensate for the State Library of New South Wales' withdrawal, at least as far as salaries of the London officers are concerned. Support was also expressed for an increase in the price of AJCP microfilm, the surplus thus generated to be devoted to the cost of filming in Britain and Ireland. This question is under examination in the National Library.

On 12 July the long-awaited Irish Transportation Records gift was presented to the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, by the Prime Minister of Ireland, Charles Haughey, at a well-attended function in the foyer of the National Library. The gift consists of 105 reels of microfilm, on which is to be found the cream of surviving records relating to transportation in the State Paper Office in Dublin Castle, and a computerised index, which lists nearly 40,000 names mentioned in the papers filmed. The bulk of the records concern petitions to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, some 40% of which originated from prisoners sentenced to transportation. Most records prior to 1836 have not survived, but for the period between 1836 and 1857 this gift is a rich source of information. The microfilm has been incorporated in the Miscellaneous Series of the AJCP, and copies of both microfilm and index are available from the National Library at cost. Contact the Manuscripts Section for a copy of the prospectus detailing contents and the cost.

Work is continuing on a new AJCP *Handbook* for the Dominions Office. Most of this will concern D.O. 35, a very large class (nearly 600 reels) of original correspondence, 1926-1946. It has been filmed and listed in collaboration with the National Archives of Canada. The filming of Dominions Office material will continue important series already covered by the Project in its work on the Colonial Office.

Collaboration with the National Archives of Canada has also resulted in the filming of material in the archives of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. This film comprising 32 reels, has been received at the National Library, along with 6 reels of War Office 25 Registers.

## **Australian National University Archives of Business and Labour**

*Correspondent: Michael Saclier*

We have been living with the idea for so long that it seems extraordinary that nothing has, till now, appeared in *News Notes* about our computer system. Now all can be revealed! The first orders have been placed and, by the time this sees print, we will be up and running.

The system is based on the Intel 80386 microprocessor and will run the SCO Xenix V 386 operating system. For those with a technical interest, it will have 4 Mbytes of RAM, a 64 kbyte cache memory (for speedy memory-bound processes), a 160 Mbyte ESDI hard disk (for fast disk access), and a 60 Mbyte tape cartridge unit (for back-up).

An intelligent serial controller will provide access from eight terminals making, with the system monitor, nine user positions. These terminals will be partly XT/AT PCs running terminal emulation software and, if funds become available, may be wholly such machines. The idea is to take the word processing task off the main machine and put it on the desktop. Failing this, some workstations will be ASCII terminals and WP will be done partly on the main machine.

In addition, a laser printer will provide good quality print and an OCR scanner will give us the means of gaining electronic control of thirty years of lists.

The major piece of software running on the main machine will be a relational database. This will be a package called Foxbase+ to start with (a dBaseIII+ workalike) but may ultimately be one of the SQL systems such as Informix, Oracle or Ingres.

## **Australian War Memorial**

*Correspondent: Ron Gilchrist*

The Research Centre has undergone a number of changes since the new year as a result of the implementation of the Research Centre Review recommendations. These include the amalgamation of the Printed and Special Collections with the Written Records section, the fusion of the two official Records sub-sections, with the consequent loss of permanent staff at the Mitchell Annex, and the creation of an Information Services unit. This unit will handle the majority of official, public and staff enquiries, allowing the remaining curatorial staff to engage in collection management, development and exhibition work. The restructuring will also allow the Research Centre to revert to the normal Monday to Friday opening hours. Other changes are likely in the next few months as a result of the handover of the new Administration Building to the Memorial in September. Some curatorial staff will be housed in the new building and their former work space modified for better public access and improved collection security.

The Research Centre was fortunate not to suffer serious damage to the collection in May when a burst water pipe flooded parts of the lower floor area. Prompt action by staff and the emergency services coupled with the smooth implementation of the Disaster Plan prevented extensive damage. The damage was restricted to mainly published items in the Staff Library and Printed Records collections as well as general furnishings.

The opening of four new galleries between October 1988 and April 1989 has meant that considerable curatorial time has been involved in exhibition planning. The *Records of War* gallery will reflect the diversity of material held in the Research Centre with a particular emphasis on documentary evidence and form a changing introduction to the Research Centre.

Recent accessions include the papers and manuscripts of War Correspondent Winston Turner, the private papers of Gavin Long (the General Editor of the Official History 1939–45), and the diary and papers of Sergeant Stan Arneil on which he based his well-received prisoner-of-war account, *One Man's War*.

### **Flinders University Archives**

*Correspondent: B.S. Baldwin*

Flinders University Archives was established in 1985 on the basis of a report by Susan Woodburn which the University had commissioned in the previous year. In the Archives' policy statement, the Archivist is responsible to the Registrar for authorising any destructions and for the custody of all non-current official records of the University. The statement is explicit that 'non-current official records of potential archival value shall not be retained by officers, schools or units on historical grounds without the cognizance and authorisation of the Archivist'. Provision is also made for the preservation of appropriate non-official information relating to University staff or their activities. The present part-time Archivist was appointed in May 1986.

A guide to series in the first one hundred transfers was distributed to senior administrative personnel and heads of disciplines in July 1987. Among non-official records so far received are the personal papers of several foundation professors as well as the extensive papers of the late J.M. Main, Reader in History, for which an indexed inventory has been prepared.

Special projects include the co-ordination of photographic records, without impairing their arrangement by provenance, to form a collection illustrating the origin and development of the University. Over three thousand views have so far been listed, with appropriate finding aids. Some progress has also been made with a consolidated index to Council minutes.



The Archives occupies a portion of a repository designed for the joint use of the libraries of Adelaide's tertiary institutions. Shelving available to the Archives measures 680 metres of which half has been filled. The building's stack block has inner walls and ceiling of styrofoam in a six to eight inch metal sandwich, resulting in an average temperature of 20 degrees Celsius within a range of 10 to 25 degrees. At the optimum 20 degrees the relative humidity averages fifty percent.

## **La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria**

*Correspondent: Tony Marshall*

It is now officially clear that Victoria is not to have a new State Library building. Rather, the Queen Victoria Medical Centre site is to be offered for a commercial development which will incorporate premises for part of the Museum of Victoria; the existing Museum and Library buildings will be refurbished and extended to accommodate the Library.

Several exhibitions have been mounted this year, including 'May Day' marking the celebration of the day through the years, 'Australia's Italians, 1788-1988', and 'The Great South Land', an exhibition of books relating to the European discovery and exploration of Australia. The Library has also hosted and participated in the Ephemera Society's second annual exhibition, 'Growing up in Australia: an exhibition of the ephemera of childhood'.

The publication programme has also been active with the catalogues of the May Day and Italians exhibitions (the latter published bilingually with the Italian Historical Society), two special issues of the *La Trobe Library Journal* (number 40 comprising a long article by John Arnold on circulating libraries of Melbourne and number 41 comprising the catalogue of 'The Great South Land'), and most notably the long-awaited publication of *The Life and Adventures of Edward Snell in Australia* (Angus and Robertson, \$49.95) in which Tom Griffiths has edited one of the Library's outstanding nineteenth-century diaries.

A steady inflow of manuscripts and archives has continued, including records of the Federation of Scientific and Technical Workers (Victorian Branch), Day's Mill at Murchison, the Poowong Butter Factory, and the Prahran Multicultural Community Benevolent Centre. Substantial additions have been made to the papers of the McCrae family and the records of the National Book Council, the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies, and the Australian Telecommunication Employees Association. Perhaps the most unusual acquisition has been a 'long letter', comprising sheets of paper pasted up as a ten metre roll, containing a vivid account of life in Melbourne written by a new arrival in 1853.

Morag Loh, well-known as a writer and historian, is the curator of the Migrant Experience project, which is collecting photographs which

document the presence in Victoria of Chinese, Italian, Greek, Lebanese, and Vietnamese immigrants and their descendants. The collection, of which two-thirds is retrospective and one-third the work of photographers commissioned during 1988, will lead to a variety of displays, exhibitions and publications.

Many years ago the Library acquired the voluminous papers of the navigator and Antarctic seaman Captain John King Davis. With the lifting of the twenty-year closure of the papers and a generous grant from a charitable foundation, work has now begun on arranging and describing the papers and will result, we hope, in the publication of a guide to them.

### **Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales**

*Correspondent: Cathy Hobbs*

The new State Library Building was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on the evening of Wednesday 4 May. As part of the proceedings the Queen was taken on a tour of the 'Coming of Strangers' exhibition by Paul Brunton, Manuscripts Librarian. The exhibition includes more than 200 original letters, paintings, diaries, sketches, and memorabilia dating from 1788 to 1822, the period which set a pattern of development for the colony and the nation.

The Mitchell Library participated in the State Library's Gala Open Day which was held on 7 May. Thousands of visitors were taken on tours and attended talks on the various activities and services of the Library, as well as being entertained by story-tellers, musicians and mime artists.

The Mitchell Library re-opened on 16 May in its attractively refurbished premises. Greatly improved facilities have been provided for the accommodation of readers, staff and collections. Use of the Reading Room has dramatically increased since the re-opening, with a 97% increase in enquiries answered in comparison with the same period last year. Despite disruptions to service caused by relocation and a four-week closure we continued to experience high levels of activity associated with the Bicentenary. As well as increased use of the Reading Room, more than 300 items have been sent to other institutions for exhibitions, and over seven thousand items were examined for reproduction requests, the greatest number ever recorded. In June the Manuscripts section moved from a nearby office block to the Mitchell Wing of the State Library building. It is the first time in twelve years that all sections of the Mitchell Library have been situated under the one roof.

Notable acquisitions include the records of the Communist Party of Australia (1920s to 1980s), the literary papers of Nancy Phelan, records of the Tenants Union of New South Wales (1976-1986), records of the Five Dock locality of the New Guard (1931-1936), photographs and relics of Stephen Gibbon on the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of

1911–1914, watercolours of birds by Gladys O’Grady (1920s to 1980s), and the extensive archives of ACI Australia Limited, an Australian manufacturing company established in 1872. Of special interest are the newly acquired papers and ephemera of activist Debbie Homburg which document her involvement in the Prisoners’ Action Group, Australian Prostitutes Collective, Women Behind Bars, and tenants rights. Particular success was achieved in the acquisition of the papers of state politicians, with Barie Unsworth, Rodney Cavalier, Ken Gabb, Garry McIlwaine, and Terry Metherall donating their personal papers to the library. There have been significant additions to the Rainbow Archives of material on the alternative movement, including posters and handbooks of the Down to Earth festivals of the 1970s and 1980s. As part of its commitment to ethnic services the library acquired a collection of reminiscences of members of the Austrian community and the papers of Father George Aerts on the establishment of ethnic broadcasting in Australia.

Two new guides to manuscript collections have been published: one to the papers of novelist Elizabeth Jolley and the other to the papers of a former Governor of New South Wales, Sir Philip Game. A new guide to the use of the Manuscripts Collection has also been completed and will be published later this year.

### **Mortlock Library of South Australiana**

*Correspondent: Roger Andre*

An Aboriginal Holding Project is underway in the Mortlock Library involving the identification, processing and indexing of archival records and photographs relating to South Australian Aborigines. Dave Jury has been recruited to mastermind the project for which he has created a database employing Inmagic software. An Aboriginal Reader Services Officer will also be appointed, and a joint copying project will be undertaken with the South Australian Museum.

Where European settlement is concerned, significant recent donations have included papers of John Howard Angas, son of George Fife Angas who floated the South Australian Company, and further papers of the first Anglican Bishop of Adelaide, Augustus Short. A anonymous phone tip-off resulted in several sets of nineteenth-century chemists and ‘druggists’ prescription books being salvaged from the weekly rubbish collection.

The Mortlock Library’s holdings are weakest in the business records area and four pallet loads of Wood and Sons’ Anchor Foods records have helped fill a gap. However, in a regrettable precedent, a century’s accumulation of Glen Ewin Jam records was sold off in two dozen separate lots at the Glen Ewin auction and clearing sale in the Adelaide Hills in July. In the face of unexpectedly high bids and fragmentation of the

record group, Mortlock's archivists withdrew to concentrate their resources on securing George McEwin's 1843 diary, a vital record of horticultural and industrial pioneering. Members of the McEwin family who no longer held control of the property or effects pledged generous donations but to no avail, as the diary went to the successful bidder for the homestead, factory and land. A final disappointment was the auctioneers' last minute decision to split up a collection of Glen Ewin medallions into individual lots.

### **National Library of Australia, Manuscript Section**

*Correspondent: Graeme Powell*

In the last six months the Library has succeeded in acquiring a pleasing mixture of personal papers. Some of the new collections represent new subject fields for the Library. John Passmore has presented his papers and for the first time a manuscript collection is held documenting many facets of Australian philosophy in the last 40 years, as well as Passmore's close links with notable British and American philosophers. Similarly, Clabon Allen is the first professional astronomer to be represented, although his diaries, covering the years 1922-53, are more concerned with bushwalking and social life in Canberra than with his work at the Mount Stromlo Observatory. Other collections illustrating the diversity of acquisitions are the papers of the historians Russel Ward and Humphrey McQueen, the economist Heinz Arndt, the judge Sir Richard Blackburn, the librarian Dietrich Borchardt, the newspaperman Angus McLachlan, the artists James Gleeson and Margaret Stones, the ballet dancer Edouard Borovansky, the actress Robyn Archer and the publisher Alec Bolton. Literary collections have included letters of Mrs Campbell Praed, war despatches of Kenneth Slessor, radio plays of Hal Porter, and manuscripts of T.A.G. Hungerford, Olaf Ruhen, Roger McDonald, Andrew Taylor and Rhyll McMaster.

All these collections are dwarfed in size by the personal papers of Sir William McMahon, which were transferred to the Library following his death in April. Extending over 35 years, they contain an enormous amount of material not only on his long Ministerial career, culminating in the 1971-72 Prime Ministership, but also on his later years as an energetic and often outspoken backbencher. Other political collections have been the papers of Jim Keefe, the former Senator and A.L.P. President, and Sir John Cramer. The Cramer Papers are a major source on the formation of the Liberal Party.

Although most acquisitions comprise modern papers, nineteenth century manuscripts are received from time to time. A detailed diary kept by an officer on the convict ship *Guildford* on a voyage to Australia in 1827 was purchased at a London auction. Another useful collection acquired

in England were letters and diaries of the Warne Family relating to their travels in Australia and New Zealand in 1875 and 1889-90.

There has not been the same level of acquisition activity in the area of organisational records. The only substantial collection of such records received in recent months was the archives of the Confederation of Australian Professional Performing Arts.

### **Northern Territory Archives Service**

*Correspondent: Baiba Berzins*

The administrative changes resulting from the replacement of Steve Hatton by Marshall Perron as Northern Territory Chief Minister appear to have had little consequence for the Archives Service which is still with the Conservation Commission. The effect of the changes for the Report of the Archives Review Committee are not yet clear.

Additional space at the Winnellie repository will enable the Archives to shortly resume the transfer of non-current Government records, halted in March 1987.

In January 1988 the Archives purchased the manuscript notebook, 1843-49, of John McArthur and John Jnr., respectively the Commandant and the storekeeper at the Port Essington settlement. A segment about the purchase was recorded for the *7.30 Report* on ABC Channel 6 in Darwin and subsequently broadcast throughout Australia.

A recent exhibition on Darwin in World War II attracted a record number of visitors (over 500) and resulted in the donation of many items, principally photographs, to the collection.

### **Queensland State Archives**

*Correspondent: Lee McGregor*

For the first time the role and functions of the State Archives have been defined by law in the Libraries and Archives Act 1988. Part V of this Act gives increased powers to the State Archivist for the inspection of records in official custody and for the transfer of records over thirty years old to the State Archives. However, the Archives remains within the State Library under the new Act. With the retirement of Laurie Ryan, and the appointment of Des Stephens as the new State Librarian, structural changes within the State Library are imminent.

The first one-day seminar run by the State Archives for students enrolled in the Master of Local History course at the University of Queensland has received very positive feedback from both University staff and students. The long-term benefits will be better prepared researchers and closer liaison between academic researchers and the Archives' staff.

Preparation of a retention schedule for the Expo Authority records is well underway. Organisers had expressed concern that proper provision for their records should be made.

The conservation laboratory has recently received a Vacuum Suction Table. This new toy has proven itself extremely useful for applying a thin backing or lining which allows a document to be handled more safely. Other uses are the partial washing out of soluble discolouration from very fragile records damaged by mould, insect or acid attack, with very little ink transfer and no bleeding, and the removal of adhesive tape without increased staining. Initial tests indicate that the backing process can be reversed without damage to the paper.

### **State Archives: Western Australia**

*Correspondent: Sandra Pigott*

Church records comprise the largest single group of private records in the State Archives and unlike many large deposits appeal to a wide range of researchers. The State Archives of Western Australia received, in March 1988, a deposit of over one hundred items pertaining to the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury in the south-west of the state. They comprised correspondence, minute books, parish registers, photographs and other records. This material will be of interest to church and local historians as well as genealogists and sociologists.

Dealing with the inventories and listing the provenance presented some problems for the archivist in that although the records were deposited by the Diocesan Secretary the records proved to have been produced not only by the Diocese but at the Deanery and Parochial levels as well. There was also the problem of the travelling clergy. One particular set of registers was maintained by a Brotherhood who performed services and ceremonies for many miles around their home town. This situation also applied to many other parishes where the stationery may be headed for the parish but rites performed all over the district in places now supporting towns and larger populations. Today's enquirers would expect to find the information under these names, and listing would have to be noted under the name of the later parish. In one case, the parish changed its location, its name and became the cathedral.

The records cover the period 1830-1980 but of course not all areas may claim complete records covering their existence. Such a large deposit is a valuable addition to the church records already in the State Archives.

### **University of Queensland Archives**

*Correspondent: Glenda Acland*

Earlier this year the Archives relocated from its temporary home on Level

4 of the J.D. Story Administration Building to renovated accommodation on Level 1 of the same building. The move has provided a better work arrangement with a separate air-conditioned repository, search room, wet area for minor conservation work, and office space. Unfortunately the areas are not contiguous and there are concerns about the high humidity levels in the repository and water entry into a basement level. It is anticipated that the slight increase in storage space will be filled by the end of 1988. Staff numbers remain at two.

The University hosted the Third Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Archives on 3 June and a meeting of the University and College Archivists' Special Interest Group on the preceding day. These meetings were both most successful and we were pleased to welcome so many archivists to our remote outpost of the profession.