

# NEWS NOTES

**Edited by Maggie Shapley**

## **Australian Archives**

*Correspondent: G. Finlay*

A microfiche version of the Australian National Guide to Archival Material Part II (ANGAM II), which is the finding aid which provides information on those items on which access decisions have been made, has recently been produced. Entries for over 405,000 items are arranged by series number (in alphanumeric order) for each regional office. A complete set of the 103 fiche is held in each regional office for use by the public as a back-up when on-line access to the ANGAM II database is not available.

On 1 January 1989, the Australian Archives instituted a new system of authorising the disposal of Commonwealth records. The system provides for a single standard form to be used where previously a number of forms were used and for one simplified system of control for all types of disposal authorisation, ie. for destruction, transfer of custody/ownership, and amendment of records. While the new system is not linked to the Commonwealth Record Series system of control, the class approach to disposal authorisation has been retained. The new term for all disposal instruments, replacing 'Records Disposal Schedule', is 'Records Disposal Authority'. A revised General Disposal Authority (12 and 12A) enabling the disposal of finance and accounting records in all Commonwealth agencies was issued in July 1988.

The Australian Archives has published a brochure entitled 'Managing the disposal of Commonwealth records' in order to assist in familiarising senior management in the Commonwealth Public Service with this important concept. The brochure introduces in fairly broad terms the disposal provisions of the Archives Act and stresses the advantages of regularised records disposal programs, and is being selectively distributed to senior managers.

In 1988 the Australian Archives developed a booklet, in conjunction with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, entitled 'When It's Gone, It's Gone!!!'. The booklet provided advice on the disposal of information recorded and held on a system of networked personal computers. A general form of the booklet has now been produced and

is available to all Commonwealth agencies to provide guidance on the disposal of information in electronic format.

*Australian Capital Territory Regional Office*

Overseas visitors to the ACT Regional Office included Mr C. Kim, Director of Foreign Documents, Korea, accompanied by Mr J. Kyun from the Korean Embassy; Professor Hans Naess, Regional Director, Norwegian National Archives; Mr Shozo Nakano, Chief Librarian, Collections Development, National Diet Library, Japan; Ms Isleta, Asian Development Bank; and Dr G. Martin and Mr and Mrs N. Cox, Public Record Office, United Kingdom.

Other news from the ACT Regional Office includes the receipt of personal records from new depositors James Snow, MP, and Dr P. Wilenski; completion of microfilming of inwards ships manifests dating from the 1920's (Commonwealth Record Series A907); and the completion of the review of previous survey work and conservation treatment on Northern Territory survey maps dating from the mid 1800's to 1900.

*Victorian Regional Office*

A microfilming project to copy Boer War records held in the Victorian Regional Office has been completed. The records consist of nominal rolls and are controlled as Commonwealth Record Series B5155 to B5207 inclusive.

**Australian Joint Copying Project**

*Correspondent: Margaret E. Phillips*

The Irish Transportation Records, the receipt of which was reported in the previous issue, have generated considerable interest. Most encouraging is the number of sets which have been ordered by libraries and genealogical societies in regional centres. It is pleasing to see that records which were a gift to the Australian people are being made available in centres outside the capital cities.

The latest Public Record Office film from London includes further film from the Dominions Office Overseas Settlement Original Correspondence (D057, 1925-36). The papers of Liberal politicians Edward Cardwell (1813-1886) and Lord Granville (1815-1891) have been acquired, along with those of the economists Sir Otto Niemeyer and Lord Keynes.

Among the reels of the Miscellaneous series received is a range of material which should be of considerable interest to researchers. The autobiography of Robert Thomas describes his voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne in 1852 and his life in the Australian goldfields from 1852

to 1854. Selections from the Albert Gunther papers include important correspondence with Gerard Krefft concerning affairs of the Australian Museum in the 1860s. Miscellaneous collections from the Leicestershire and Hereford Record Offices, as well as the Manchester Central Library, are included.

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

*Correspondent: Michael Saclier*

The News Notes section is often the carrier of ephemera; this time, however, we have WE got news for YOU! Wednesday, 8 February 1989 saw the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission give its blessing to the group salary classification negotiated with the University over the past three years. What this means is that the Archives of Business and Labour now has a salary structure and designations which make it, we believe, unique in Australia. There are four grades, ANU Archivist 1-4, with salary steps as follows:

1	2	3	4
\$24,638	\$31,643	\$35,610	\$41,311
\$25,297	\$32,534	\$36,425	\$42,552
\$26,060	\$33,529	\$37,341	\$43,767
\$26,667	\$34,693	\$38,156	\$45,008
\$27,313		\$38,971	\$45,988
\$27,923		\$39,790	\$47,385
\$29,096		\$40,605	\$48,782
\$29,870			
\$30,776			

Significant points to note are:

- The designation as Archivists—in this day and age a considerable victory.
- The lengthening of the basic scale thus creating the possibility, for the first time, of recruiting staff with some experience, as well as professional beginners.
- The creation of a second level range is in some degree commensurate with the responsibilities involved. This compares favourably with the situation which has existed in the past (both at the ABL and in archives where salaries are tied to library scales) in which the salary premium offered for this level has often been derisory.

In general, it may be noted that the scales have extreme endpoints which span the five librarianship grades from Librarian 1 to Senior Librarian 3. In using these scales, however, the University Personnel Office

eventually showed considerable flexibility and creativeness in broadbanding and creating new salary steps between scales in order to arrive at four new scales which formed an acceptable compromise.

Six months on from our November 1988 note about the computer system being up and running, we are still taking our first tentative steps. The major issue has been the question of the design and implementation of the database. After much stumbling and considerable delay, we are (at the time of writing, February) beginning to input data. The database design has taken shape and there is a personal computer on every desk. By the time this note sees the light of day we should be well and truly launched into the realities of archival computing. An article on the implementation of small-scale, microprocessor-based, archival computing is threatened.

### **Australian War Memorial**

*Correspondent: Ron Gilchrist*

The restructuring of the Research Centre which took place in mid-1988 and the consequent disruption to work practices have been overcome with useful results. Curatorial staff have been able to direct their efforts toward collection-based projects and make considerable inroads into a number of problem areas requiring attention.

The staff in Official Records in co-operation with Conservation have been preparing AWM4, Australian Infantry Forces (AIF) unit war diaries, 1914-1918, for microfilming. Work on copying the black and white process has commenced and it is expected that reference copies of the Infantry Brigade and Battalion sections of the series will be available for public access in the latter half of 1989.

Mr Ian MacLean, the Memorial's 1988 Research Centre Fellow, has returned to the Memorial to complete work on his guide to the papers of Gavin Long, formerly General Editor of the Official History of Australia in the war of 1939-45. Mr MacLean's work will complement Michael Piggott's earlier guide to the papers of Dr C.E.W. Bean, Official Historian 1914-18.

Commercial interests have shown considerable activity following the recently announced \$3.2 million new policy proposal for the development of an integrated ADP program for the Memorial. Expressions of interest are currently being assessed with tender proposals and contract acceptance expected by late June. The new project will have a widespread effect on section work, particularly in relation to access to the Australian Archives' systems, collection control, and public access to information. In preparation for this program Private Records staff have been completing retrospective descriptive-standardization work on the 1930-81 collection

of personal papers. This work will be completed shortly and it is expected that public access to the system will be available in mid-year.

In late February the Prime Minister Mr Hawke announced the first financial instalment toward the establishment of the Keith Murdoch Sound Archive of Australia in the war of 1939-45. Sponsored by News Limited over the next three years, this oral history program will be a significant contribution to a clear understanding of Australia's role in the war.

Notable additions to the collection include the extensive research notes and source material collected by Dr John Barrett and the late Roger Joyce during their preparation of *We Were There* and the letters of Private Norman Blundell detailing the changing fortunes of his five year separation (1940-45) from his wife while serving with the AIF in the Middle East and New Guinea.

### **Geelong Historical Records Centre**

*Correspondent: Norman Houghton*

Usage for the calendar year 1988 was at a record level of 10,441 enquiries, comprising 8,005 personal visits, 1986 phone calls, and 450 correspondence items. Total patronage rose 9.2% on 1987 figures. The number of organised school visits rose sharply to 16 and school enquiries, almost non-existent in 1987, returned to the busy level of former years.

Cataloguing is up-to-date in all departments. A full stocktake of archival record holdings has been completed using volunteer labour. The project took almost one year to carry out and involved 700 hours of work. The results were satisfactory, revealing nothing missing but occasional mis-files and discrepancies between the internal contents of a box and the control numbers written on the outside of the box. A commencement was made to the project to place the Centre's most heavily used reference books and microfilms on the Geelong Regional Library's catalogue network.

The staffing establishment was marginally improved with the funding of increased hours for the part-time assistant's position from 8 to 16 hours per week. The Centre's staff is now equivalent to 2.4 full-time positions. The former position of Archivist was abolished in May and the new post of Director created to reflect the changing role of the Centre's principal officer.

Six microfiche readers were acquired from the Geelong Regional Library to provide for a better service to the microform collection, the Centre's fastest growing resource. The Centre now has 17 microfilm readers and one reader/printer — just sufficient for a busy day. Funds from a bequest were put towards a micro-computer system valued at \$10,000. This is used for word-processing, sales stock control and, most importantly, the

creation of a consolidated index database to the most heavily used records.

The Director's campaign to secure additional capital funds from charitable foundations for the Bicentennial Rebuilding Fund has been very successful, with \$29,500 being raised. The long planned refurbishment works for the archives store finally got underway after funding was assured from the Australian Bicentennial Authority and the municipalities of Bannockburn, Barrabool, Bellarine, Corio, Geelong, Geelong West, Leigh, Newtown, Queenscliffe, South Barwon, and Winchelsea. A shortfall of around \$40,000 was inevitable because of unanticipated structural frame problems but this was largely met from private sponsorship.

Preliminary work was started in July when the archives store was stripped of its contents. This work involved dismantling the shelving, physically transferring the archive records to other parts of the building, and shifting furniture and equipment. The floor of the store room was then cut into and lifted to expose the frame of the building. The new floor will bear in excess of 100 tonnes weight or 12kPa. The store was then fitted with air-conditioning, intruder alarm, and additional shelving. Storage capacity now totals one kilometre.

The culmination of the rebuilding programme was the declaration of the Centre as a place of deposit for Geelong local government archival records by the Minister for Property and Services, Hon. R.W. Walsh, on 5 December. This declaration has been sought by the Centre since 1974, so it was most gratifying to have reached this goal.

The operating budget for 1988-89 was trimmed due to local government funding stringencies and the Centre's management was requested to raise additional revenue. Fees for routine services were raised and patrons requested to make small donations every time they use the Centre's services. The Centre does not levy an admission fee and remains a free service, but the public is generally reminded that each and every time a patron makes a request for historical information the cost to the Centre is \$5.15.

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

*Correspondent: Anne Cahir*

The State Library of Victoria's annual Donors' Party was held on 16 December. Over 200 donors of manuscripts, pictures, theatre programmes, books, ephemera, and other material attended. The guests were also invited to a special viewing of the exhibition 'Pictures in an Institution: New Directions—new acquisitions', which ran from November 1988 to January 1989.

The exhibition 'Port Phillip Colonial 1801-1851' was on show in the Library's Irving Benson Hall from February to April. This was mounted

by a group of architectural historians with assistance from the Library and featured paintings, drawings, plans, manuscript material and models documenting buildings designed through the Colonial Architect's Office. The time span chosen covered the 'first build' of the colony from Foundation to Separation.

The Bicentennial project 'Building a Country: the Migrant Experience. Chinese, Greek, Italian, Lebanese and Vietnamese immigrants and their descendants in Victoria' is progressing well. There are nearly 1300 photographs in the archive, and images are now being selected for an exhibition to be held in June. It will then be available to tour schools, libraries, regional galleries, and workplaces.

Two outstanding recent acquisitions are Lieutenant Nicholas Pateshall's *A Short Account of a voyage round the globe in HMS Calcutta, 1803-1804*, a most important foundation document for Victoria, and a petition bearing about 8,000 signatures, taken up on the Victorian goldfields in June 1853 as part of a campaign for improved conditions and a decreased licence fee. Other acquisitions of note include further records of the Melbourne Film Festival, records of Williamson and Musgrove and the Princess Theatre, a collection of letters written by James Wilson an English immigrant from Melbourne and New Zealand (1852-1857), minute books of the Melbourne Ladies Benevolent Society (1850-1983), records of the architectural and townplanning practice Blyth and Josephine Johnson, diaries and other papers of the artist Norma Bull, and papers of the Shaw family's properties at "Wooriwyrite" in western Victoria and 'Yancannia' in far north-western New South Wales.

The latest news on the Library/Museum complex is that the Museum of Victoria is to move to new premises on the south bank of the Yarra River and to the historic Spotswood pumping station; while the existing complex is to be refurbished, rebuilt, and extended for use by the Library. \$120 million has been allocated for the Museum project and \$90 million for the Library (both amounts in June 1987 dollars and indexed). The estimated completion date for the projects is 1997.

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

*Correspondent: Jim Andrighetti*

Interest in the Newton Fowell letters (as reported in earlier News Notes) continued unabated throughout the Bicentenary. As well as being featured in the Library's 'The Coming of Strangers' exhibition, a selection of the letters travelled around the continent to accompany celebrations in Brisbane, Hobart, Launceston, and Perth.

A new selection of manuscript greeting cards have been released. These feature the manuscripts of famous works by Henry Lawson, Miles

Franklin, Elizabeth Jolley, Dorothea Mackellar, and William Bligh.

In January owing to increased stack area, all manuscripts previously housed at the Kingswood Repository (3,500 metres) were returned to the Mitchell Wing to be located permanently in the building.

Some notable recent acquisitions include the papers of Austrian electrical engineer Otto Weiss (1898-1946) who emigrated to Sydney with his family in 1938. Weiss was a significant contributor to the development of the electrical engineering industry in Australia during the war and to its independence from overseas products, pioneering the manufacture of crossfield generators in Australia. The papers include personal and professional correspondence both in English and German, design specifications, and photographs, 1930s-1950s. Also acquired were the papers of Sir Harold Wyndham (1903-1988) who was the New South Wales Director of Education from 1952 to 1968 document a lifetime devoted to teaching, research, and education administration, and the records of the Coo-ee Recruitment March from Gilgandra to Sydney in October to November 1915 have been preserved with the papers of its organiser, A.H. Miller. The historic 33 day march was emulated in other areas of New South Wales and these war-time marches were largely responsible for reversing the downward trend in recruiting figures and boosting homefront morale. The Library was successful in purchasing in London an important collection of letters by members of the Reibey family, including five by Mary Reibey, and the diary of Blanche Mitchell from December 1865 to December 1866; the Library already holds her diaries for the years 1856 to 1861. Further records were received from the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, including minute books and correspondence relating to the formation and early development of the School, 1833-1963.

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

*Correspondent: Roger Andre*

The Mortlock Library Pictorial Collection, transferred from the Public Record Office in 1986, continues to grow at a rate of about 2000 images per year and contains well over 50,000 items. Its popularity can be judged each day by the large public demand on its resources. Access is achieved by means of a subject index which endeavours to present the most outstanding images by detailed description and other techniques. Collecting emphasis remains on social history with two recent priority topics being 'Aborigines' and 'Women'. A successful exhibition with the theme 'Women and their Families' was mounted last October as a Bicentennial project and is now travelling South Australia. A computer-based project has been completed resulting in listing records, manuscripts, and photographs within collections with significant content relating to South Australian and Northern Territory Aborigines. In addition, a thousand or so photograph s



have been acquired through a joint copying project with the South Australian Museum under which original photographs which do not offend Aboriginal tradition have been copied for the Library's collection.

Archivists in the Mortlake Library are now part of the Private Collections Unit which includes several archivists and clerical officers, the Pictures Librarian, and the Oral History Officer.

While a formidable processing backlog remains, some ground has been gained, notably processing of the South Australian Red Cross Information Bureau records which are much in demand by World War 1 researchers. Work has been progressing on site at 'Grain House' on the records of the various farmer organisations which amalgamated eventually to form the United Farmers and Stockowners Association of South Australia. Other accessions include records from St. Peter's Cathedral spanning 1847 to 1980 and the latest transfer of records from the Australian Labor Party, South Australian Branch, which included State Council minutes from 1900 to 1966.

During the State Library's month-long stocktaking closure in January and February, Mortlock Library and Preservation Services Branch staff saw a rationalisation of much of the archival collection in regard to storage. In contrast to the decoratively restored main chamber, the basement storage and archival processing area are much in need of upgrading. Improvements are gradually being effected with damp-proofing approved for the current works programme.

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

*Correspondent: Graeme Powell*

The National Library's collection of manuscripts on the maritime exploration of Australia has been strengthened by the purchase at auction of an account of the voyage of the French corvette, the *Coquille*, written by one of its crew, E.P. Rolland. Commanded by Louis-Isidore Duperry, the *Coquille* explored the Pacific in 1822-25, visiting Port Jackson, New Zealand, Tahiti, New Guinea, and the Gilbert Islands. Another collection dating from the early 19th century is the diaries and other papers of Mary Braidwood Mowle and her husband Stewart Mowle, who lived near the village of Canberra in the 1840s. Contemporary collections recently acquired have included the papers of the politicians Dame Dorothy Tangney and Bill Hayden, the librarian Sir Harold White, the historians Les Blake and Cameron Hazlehurst, and the writers Kylie Tennant, Barbara Hanrahan, A.D. Hope, Les Murray, David Rowbotham, Cyril Pearl, Mavis Thorpe Clark, and John Tranter.

In contrast to the previous six months, which had been relatively quiet, some major organisational archives have been deposited, such as the

records of the Australian Ballet, the Australian Institute of Urban Studies, the Australian Early Childhood Association, and the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. The large size of these and other organisational archives have necessitated arrangements being made to out-house a growing proportion of the collection; the effects on processing work and reader services remain to be seen.

Staff in the Section were actively involved in the winding-down of the office for the Historic Records Search. In January the Australian Bicentennial Authority transferred the Historic Records Search computer and documentation, and from now on the Manuscript Section will be responsible for maintaining the register and liaising between the owners of restricted collections and researchers. The register will be produced on microfiche and should be available in libraries throughout Australia by May. The Library will publish a guide to the register later in the year.

Editorial work on the first instalment of Part E of the *Guide to collections of manuscripts relating to Australia* has been completed. The 300 entries, together with a cumulated index, will be published on microfiche in mid-1989.

### **Northern Territory Archives Service**

*Correspondent: Baiba Berzins*

Projects completed during 1988 include a survey of the conservation needs of the collection, itemised listings of the photographs held, and a revised guide to the oral history tapes and transcripts in the Archives.

The transfer of non-current Territory Government records, halted in March 1987, resumed in September 1988 with the extension of storage space at the Winnellie repository. Recent non-Government accessions include the records of the Australian Democrats (NT), the Darwin branch of the Australian Labor Party, and the Australian Fishing Industries Council (NT).

The Northern Territory History Award, which the Archives Service administers, is to be shared in 1989 by Jeremy Long for a study of the Patrol Officer Service, 1936-73, and Ted Egan for a study of the Caledon Bay and Woodah Island killings, 1932-33. Seven minor History Grants have been awarded for projects including one on the Hermannsburg Mission involving research in the Lutheran Archives in Adelaide.

The Principal Archivist, Baiba Berzins, has been appointed to the National Cultural Heritage Committee which is responsible for oversighting the administration of the Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage legislation.

## **Queensland State Archives**

*Correspondent: Lee McGregor*

The search continues for a suitable site for a new State Archives building. The existing buildings are full to overflowing and almost no semi-current records have been accepted for the last five years. As a result most government departments are now experiencing severe problems with records storage. The new building will double the records storage capacity of the State Archives as well as providing additional accommodation for researchers and for staff. At this stage it is estimated that the new building should be ready by 1992.

A General Disposal Schedule for Local Authority records is now almost complete and will be finalised and printed shortly. The draft schedule was prepared with the invaluable assistance of a committee of Local Authority record managers from the Records Management Association (Queensland Branch). All Councils received a copy of the draft and were given the opportunity to make comments.

One useful spin-off of the increased contact with Local Authorities has been the expansion of a program for microfilming Council minutes. Councils are being encouraged to deposit their original minutes with the State Archives in return for a microfilm copy supplied at minimal cost. Alternatively, the minutes are borrowed for filming and then returned to the Council. In this way, over a period of years it is hoped to acquire a full set of the minutes of all Councils in Queensland, either in hard copy or on microfilm. This will be a valuable resource for local historians and others.

1989 is the year of Queensland State Archives' 30th birthday. The first State Archivist, Bob Sharman, commenced work in 1959 under difficult conditions with an old and unsuitable building and few resources. Over the next decade he built up the holdings of the Archives bringing in material from all over Queensland. He was also responsible for having the present State Archives building constructed in 1968. This building was a major achievement, being the first purpose-built archives in Australia, and it has served us well in the intervening years. A number of activities are planned for later in the year to celebrate our birthday.

Work has commenced on Parts 2 and 3 of the Queensland Public Records Resource Kit on microfilm. The next two stages will consist of state electoral rolls from 1860 to 1900, and naturalization records from 1859 to 1903. These should be ready for sale by mid-1989.

**State Archives of Western Australia and  
J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History**

*Correspondents: Chris Coggin and Jack Honniball*

Margaret Medcalf retired from the position of State Archivist on 10 February after thirty-four years of service to archives and libraries in Western Australia. Her career started in 1955 when she was appointed to the Archives Branch of the Public Library of Western Australia. From 1971 she served in the dual role of State Archivist and Principal Librarian of the Battye Library, a position she occupied until May 1988, when the State Archives regained its identity as a separate organizational unit. Thereafter her responsibilities were directed totally to the State Archives.

Margaret was President of the Archives Section of the Library Association of Australia in 1972-73, inaugural convenor of the Perth Regional Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists from 1981 to 1985 and Convenor of the Society's National Conference in 1987. As State Archivist she was a member of the Western Australian Committee of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services from its inception, holding the office of Chairman from 1984 to 1986. Margaret's work in archives administration was carried out in the context of its integral place in the total records cycle. She was a founder member of the Western Australian Branch of the Records Management Association of Australia in 1982, and served as its President for the year 1988-89. As a result of the professional experience and expertise she contributed to its Maritime Archaeology Advisory Committee, the Western Australian Museum awarded her an Honorary Associateship. As head of the Battye Library, Margaret gave considerable time and service in the years 1977-79 to two committees which organized the State's sesquicentenary celebrations.

Margaret's Medcalf's contribution to the archives profession and to the development of the collections of Western Australian historical resources has been exemplary. Over the past twelve months she has been a driving force in the efforts of the State Library Service to develop a Public Records Office for Western Australia. When such an institution is eventually established, it will provide a lasting expression of Margaret's tireless dedication to the preservation of this State's recorded past. In further proof of this interest, she has accepted election as President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society for the year 1989. Other activities which will occupy her attention after her retirement will include planning for two major conferences to be held in Perth, as Chairman of the Programme Committee for the joint conference in September of the Records Management Association and the International Records Management Council and as Vice-chairman of the Australian Library and Information Association's 1990 Conference Committee.

'One hundred years of a free Public Library service' was the theme of a substantial exhibition that was recently held within the Alexander Library Building to mark the centenary of its progenitor, the Victorian Public Library. With due focus on leading personalities and all manner of developments during the century under review, the exhibition gave particular emphasis to the several buildings which in turn have housed Western Australia's chief reference library and latterly served as headquarters of the state-wide Library and Information Service. A succession of architectural plans featured prominently in the various segments of the display, and these were supported by a range of photographs, manuscripts, and publications. All the material shown was drawn from the Archives and the Battye Library, and the exhibition was presented under the auspices of the Australian Library Foundation.

#### **University of Queensland Archives**

*Correspondent: Glenda Acland*

A review of the Central Administration of the University has resulted in significant changes for the University Archives. The University Archivist has been given responsibility for the efficient and effective management of the University's records from inception to disposition. This change brings Records Management and the central Records Section under the responsibility of the University Archivist. The new unit has been called ARMS (Archives and Records Management Services) and two new professional positions, a Records Manager and an Archives Systems Officer, have been filled. The University Archives and the Central Registry remain separate operations within ARMS.

A dehumidifier of the refrigerant type has been installed in the main repository and has proved most satisfactory. However the concern over possible water entry remains, and the need for additional storage space is becoming critical. The University Archives now has its own computer, an IBM Model 50Z with 31 megabyte hard disk, which is linked to the main Administration VAX8650 computer. Priorities for 1989 include the computerization of both the current record system and the Archives' finding aids, as well as detailed appraisal work on subject files for the period 1965-1985.

#### **Western Australian College of Advanced Education Archives**

*Correspondent: Mark P. Brogan*

A joint research project on the social history of intellectual disability involving the College Archives and the Department of Community and Behavioural Studies has been established with a seed grant from the

Research Committee of \$5,803. The project aims to document the social history of disability in Western Australia from 1829 to the present using written and oral sources. Stage 1 of the project is scheduled to run to April 1989 when a research monograph will be published.

Programming staff from WACAE computer services are involved in the implementation of an archives system forming part of the Student Records System. On implementation in December 1988, the existing student records database will be divided into current and archive domains. Archive data files will be held on-line, ie. as disk files. Henceforth, disposal of paper files will be co-ordinated with the related process of archiving database records. It is anticipated that the archiving strategy adopted will enhance the performance of the WANG VS100 based system and also provide for more efficient management of paper records.