

NEWS NOTES

Edited by Helen Yoxall

ANU Archives of Business and Labour

Correspondent: Maureen Purtell

The most exciting event this month (July) was the handover of the keys to what I have temporarily called the 'Archives Annexe'. For those who are familiar with our underground location it is the large space immediately behind our reference area. Previously occupied by various University departments and mostly used as a book storage depot by ANUTECH, this space will be used immediately for incoming palletted storage. When modifications are made we will be able to arrange access to the repository which bypasses the office and research section and accommodate extra shelved storage and sorting space.

Among recent acquisitions are the records of the Pit Prop Cutters' Section of the Australian Timber Workers' Union (NSW), records of the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers' Union Federal Office and the papers of Mark Aarons and Sir Gordon Jackson. Additions were received from Pacific Dunlop Ltd, Manchester Unity Victoria, Davies and Baird, CSR's Technical Field Department, James McEwan & Co Ltd, H. B. Selby Australia Ltd, John Danks & Son and the last files relating to the sales of Tooth & Company's NSW hotels in 1990.

Some particular effort has been made over the past few years to educate our depositors to list their records for transfer according to broad archival principles. This is no easy task when most of our client organisations and firms are not located in Canberra. Almost all collections we now receive are well listed to the item or file level. Use of the scanner allows us to manipulate information on lists sent, identify and link series and generally speed up the process of producing useable guides. The number of depositors sending disks with listed additions is on the increase.

One impressive recent list came from the Federal Office of the Australian Building Construction and Builders Labourers' Federation. It accompanied a new collection received in batches between March and June this year. Covering the contents of over 250 cartons in all, the descriptive list identifies all types of union records from ca. 1913-1987.

Another large trade union collection is now in hand. It consists of additions to the Federal Office of the Australian Workers' Union deposit. The selection and descriptive work was done by an archivist employed by the union as a consultant, working first at their Sydney office and, for the last few months, at ABL. An additional composite list produced by a staff member allows easy access to the myriad record agencies contained in the total collection of some 75 shelf metres.

The Burns Philp collection held in the Archives is now available for research use. Stage I of a work plan on this complex group of records has established control to allow access and illuminate the potential of wide ranging record series for research. Further stages involve detailed item listing for photographs and heavily used series and conservation work on the large map collection.

Australian Archives

Correspondent: Malcolm Wood

Change to *News Notes* correspondent

Malcolm Wood is the new Australian Archives *News Notes* correspondent. He has joined the Archives as Assistant Director-General, Corporate Policy and Support, following the transfer of Sam Skrzypek, former Assistant Director-General and *News Notes* correspondent, to another position in the Australian Department of Administrative Services.

Australian Society of Archivists Conference

The Director-General presented a paper *Towards the Centenary of Federation: Plans and Projects* at the Society's conference on *Documenting Modern Society* held in Sydney in June this year. Australian Archives staff also participated in sessions on electronic records; legal and ethical issues in managing archives, including access and privacy; and education.

PARBICA FIVE

The Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) held its biennial meeting and conference, PARBICA FIVE, in American and Western Samoa from 23 June to 10 July. Australian Archives was represented by Dagmar Parer, Director, Development and Planning, who attended the oral history sessions, and Michael Piggott, Director, Technical Training, who attended the seminar on legislation.

User news

Australian Archives has developed and implemented a unique retrieval facility based on functions and activities carried out by

Commonwealth agencies. The functions module allows users to identify agencies performing specific functions or the record series created by those agencies. Searches may be narrowed by the period during which a particular function was carried out and by the location of a particular agency.

Credit card facilities were introduced in all Archives regional offices in November 1990. Bankcard and MasterCard are now accepted for payment of photocopying and reprography charges as well as the purchase of publications.

Microfilm copies of the following record series have been distributed to all the Archives regional offices:

- Newcastle passenger and crew lists, inwards and outwards, 1865-1881
- Victorian naturalisation records, 1847-1903
- South Australian naturalisation records, 1848-1903
- Duplicate certificates of naturalisation, 1917-1936.

This is part of a planned program for making copies of records of high interest to users nationally available.

Preservation

Ina Koneczna, Preservation Policy Adviser for Australian Archives, attended the Copenhagen meeting of the International Standards Organisation Technical Committee on paper for long-life records in May 1991. She represented Standards Australia as well as the Archives at this meeting. An interim Australian Standard on Permanent Paper will be issued by Standards Australia this year to have effect for two years. Ms Koneczna is the Archives' representative on the Standards Australia Technical Committee which is developing a standard for terminology relating to recycled papers. A draft standard covering terminology relating to recycled papers was issued for public comment in March 1991.

The Archives was also represented at the International Council on Archives Committee on Conservation and Restoration meeting held in May 1991 in Washington, DC. The Archives supported a resolution urging substantial commitment from the international archives and conservation community to the work of the International Standards Organisation committees developing standards affecting materials from which records are created.

New South Wales Regional Office

The Region, in conjunction with the Department of Defence, has commenced a major exercise to survey, appraise and describe records of the Cockatoo Island dockyard prior to their transfer to Australian

Archives' custody. The dockyard, owned by the Commonwealth until 1932 and working since then under Commonwealth contract, is due to close. The records represent a valuable resource for Australian maritime and industrial history research. Work on the project is expected to be completed by September 1991.

The Region now publishes a quarterly *News Bulletin* providing news about the Archives' services and holdings for public clients. The first issue was published in November 1990. Themes in recent issues have included local history resources in the Archives' holdings and information about special access provisions of the *Archives Act, 1983*.

Northern Territory Regional Office

The Region's newly extended Nightcliff repository in Darwin was officially opened on 7 June 1991. Sam Skrzypek as Acting Director-General officiated at the opening which was attended by local clients and Colin Hollis, MP representing the Advisory Council on Australian Archives.

ACT Regional Office

Early in 1991 Dr Jurgen Real of the Bundesarchiv spent three months with the Region completing an inventory of records created by the German Administration in Papua and New Guinea and the South Pacific. Dr Real's work will assist Australian Archives in documenting and microfilming these valuable records.

Tasmanian Regional Office

On 19 and 20 March 1991 the Region participated in the Department of Administrative Services Expo held in Hobart. A display prepared by regional staff featured photographs and panels explaining Australian Archives' services. A computer terminal was made available to demonstrate the Archives' main databases.

The Sixth Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry was held in Launceston in May 1991. Maggie Shapley, Assistant Director, Access and Client Services Central Office presented a paper at the Congress entitled *Relations in records — finding your family at the Australian Archives*.

Australian War Memorial — Research Centre

Correspondent: Anne-Marie Schwirtlich

Information Services

The 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing last year was the first of many 25th, 50th and 75th anniversaries to be commemorated over

the next five years. The Information Services Section has been kept busy answering requests for information and processing orders for photographs and film footage relating to these events. We expect this trend to continue.

Joyce Bradley, Kaye Browne and Ian Smith attended the 6th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry held in Launceston from 9 to 12 May. A display booth was also mounted to promote the Memorial's Research Centre and its collections and activities.

Printed and Written Records

Over the last seven months we have focused on two acquisition projects — the first a project to document Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who served in the armed services, the second to document the work and experiences of personnel serving with naval units as part of the United Nations' forces in the Persian Gulf.

Notable acquisitions include the papes of Lt. Colonel G. Stone detailing his service on the Iran-Iraq border with UN forces in 1989-1990 (PR91/50), the diaries of Sgt. A. Shephard recording his three and a half year evasion of the Japanese in the Malayan jungle from 1942-1945 (PR91/49), letters from sailors on HMAS *Success* to Morphetvale Primary School (PR91/87), and a letter from Captain Shalders, commanding HMAS *Darwin* in the Gulf (PR91/95).

Private Records has issued guides to the Army medical service papers of J. W. Barrett, R. H. J. Fetherston and J. W. Springthorpe. It has also issued guides to the papers of Major General H. E. 'Pompey' Elliot and to papers generated by Brigadier Maurice 'Bunny' Austin in the course of his colonial military research.

Official Records has issued *A Chronological Guide to Official Records in the Australian War Memorial's Collection*.

Major arrangement and description work has been completed on the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force unit war diaries relating to Gallipoli (AWM 6) and the New Guinea campaign records (AWM 33).

We continue entering item titles on the Australian Archives ANGAM II database — over 60 000 items have been loaded onto the database — substantially improving item level access to Official Records.

Printed Records has started a major reorganisation (physical and intellectual) of the map collection and completed a finding aid to the Christmas card collection.

Ron Gilchrist was interviewed, about the Private Records collection, on the *Talking History* program (ABC Radio) on 4 February (interview broadcast 12 and 17 February) and on radio 2CN on 20 February.

The Memorial hosted a two week course, *Managing Archives: an Introduction*, conducted by Ann Pederson. It was run from 8 to 19 April. Nine Memorial staff attended the course together with eight participants from Australian Archives, the Department of Defence (Navy Office), the National Library, the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and the Royal Military College.

The Memorial lodged a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies, for its Inquiry into Australia as an Information Society, and gave evidence before the Committee on 8 March.

Richard Llewellyn, the Memorial's Registrar, organised and hosted a one day seminar, *Public Access to Information Resources in Museums*, which was presented by David Bearman on 17 June. The seminar was attended by staff from the Australian National and Queensland Art Galleries, the National Museum of Australia, Australian Archives, the National Library of Australia, the Historic Houses Trust and the Powerhouse Museum.

Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records, Monash University

Correspondent: Sue McKemmish

Enrolments in our course in 1991, the Master of Arts (Archives and Records) and Graduate Diploma in Archives Management, show a 100% increase over 1990 levels, establishing the viability of the Archives and Records program at Monash. Originally set up on a trial basis, the program has now been placed on a more permanent footing with the appointment of Sue McKemmish to the continuing position of Senior Lecturer.

The teaching program and curriculum for the first year (Part I) of the Master's course and the Diploma are now fully developed, offering a general education in archives and records work, and the opportunity to acquire basic computer and management skills. Individual subjects in this part of the course can also be taken on a sessional or not-for-credit basis.

Further development of the second year (Part II) of the Master's course will result in 1992 in a more integrated program which should provide a stimulating environment for continuing students and advanced practitioners (who are eligible for direct entry to Part II) to pursue their special interests.

In association with Part II of the Master's course in the first half of 1992 we are planning to run a number of research seminars on topical

issues, for example:

- Series 1: Archival Documents, Accountability and The Law
- Series 2: The Role of Archival Institutions in a Modern Democratic Society
- Series 3: The Selection of Archival Documents for Permanent Preservation (including the impact of modern technology on our archival heritage)
- Series 4: Descriptive Standards and Archival Networking.

It is anticipated that each seminar series will involve guest speakers and presentation of research papers by our students and staff, as well as opportunities for discussion, exchange of views, and the development of ideas that might contribute to the formulation of policy frameworks for managing archival documents (current records and historical archives) in the 1990s and beyond.

Publicity about the seminars will be distributed early next year. An updated brochure about our courses in 1992 generally is now available from the Department (Monash University, Clayton, Vic. 3168).

John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

Correspondent: Kathy Frankland

In May, Kathy Frankland and Reina Irmer took a photographic exhibition to Barcaldine to celebrate the opening of the Australian Workers' Heritage Centre and one hundred years of Labor in Queensland. Entitled *The Shearers' War and Images of one hundred years of Labor in Queensland*, the exhibition focuses on the 1891 shearers' strike and significant events in Queensland Labor Party history. Part of this exhibition will be on display at the State Library during August.

As part of the John Oxley Library's Aboriginal Community Access Program, collections of photographs have been made available to the Yarrabah Council, Deeral Aboriginal Corporation, Mulgrave River Community and the Kuranda Rainforest Cultural Centre. The John Oxley Library has also negotiated with the Kowanyama Community to copy over 2000 photographs held by the Community. The Department of Employment Education and Training has also assisted the Library's Aboriginal traineeship program by funding Mrs Ysola Best for 13 weeks. Mrs Best will spend a number of weeks with each of the different sections within the John Oxley Library to learn how the Library functions.

Recent acquisitions include the records of the Tattersalls Club and the Rhondda Colliery.

J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History

Correspondent: Glenda Oakley

A new booklet has been published to aid genealogical and historical researchers in the Battye Library and the State Archives of Western Australia. *Our Military Ancestors: a Guide to Sources in the J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History and the State Archives of Western Australia* (Perth, LISWA, 1991, 27 pp) includes details of battalion histories, honour rolls, muster rolls and other sources available to researchers. This guide gives bibliographic details of specific sources and hints and notes on finding more elusive sources, in WA and elsewhere. It is available from the Battye Library for \$5 plus \$1 postage.

The Battye Library Oral History Unit in conjunction with Radio 6PR *Nightline* program and the Bureau for the Aged have begun their Four Generations Project. The Project aims to show continuity and change through the memories of four generations of chosen families. Copies of tapes and transcripts from the first series of interviews have been lodged with the Battye Library.

A photograph from the Pictorial Collection has been selected from millions of available images to be used as the basis of a postage stamp. The series of stamps will be called *Legends of the 1890s*. Watch for the stamp relating to Steele Rudd's *On Our Selection*.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Warwick Hirst

Four students from the UNSW archives administration course have begun field work in the Manuscripts Section: two are compiling a guide to our holdings relating to the performing arts and two are sorting the recently acquired music manuscripts of Alfred Hill, one of Australia's most important classical composers. Earlier in the year lectures and a practicum were given to twenty-five students of the course on the arrangement and description of personal papers.

The NSW Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists has received a grant from the State Government to establish the Local Government Archives Project. The project will employ a professional archivist to visit local government authorities to provide free advice on establishing records and archives programs. The project will be run in conjunction with the State Library and the project archivist, Sandra Mowbray, will be located in the Manuscripts Section.

Notable recent acquisitions include the literary papers of writers Peter Corris, Kit Denton, Gerard Windsor and Angelo Loukakis and critic Don Anderson. The Library has also acquired the papers of prominent environmental and peace activist Dr Helen Caldicott, and further records of Friends of the Earth.

On 24 July, the Library, through the generous grant from 'the Australian Bicentennial Multicultural Foundation, launched a project to expand its holdings of the records of communities of non-English speaking background. The Premier, the Hon. Nick Greiner MP accepted a cheque for the project from Mr Ross Tzannes, a director of the Foundation. The funding will enable approaches to be made to the Chinese, Greek and Italian communities.

The records of the NSW Branch of the Italian Federation of Migrant Workers and their Families, 1972-85, have recently been deposited with the Library. Another significant acquisition for 'The Italians in NSW Project' is the papers of Franco Battistessa, the doyen of Italian journalists in Australia from his arrival in Sydney in 1928 until his death in 1978.

With the assistance of an Australian Bicentennial Grant, the State Library has arranged for the microfilming of the extensive d'Entrecasteaux archives held in the Archives Nationales, Paris. To date seventy reels have been received through the project and copies have been duplicated for the National Library of Australia and the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston.

Recent microfilming activities have included the copying of further Miles Franklin and Macarthur Family papers, David Low caricatures, collections of miscellaneous family trees and merchant shipping logs and crew lists.

Processing of the existing sound recording collection continues. Up to February 1991 there were some 1200 tapes. At the same time interviews are coming in for appraisal and some interesting projects are being encouraged including the recollections of Ms Elfreda Morcom concerning her employment in the Department of External Affairs during the early years of the Cold War. The Library's own oral history is proceeding and Miss Jean Arnott whose library life stretches from 1921 to 1968 was recently interviewed.

Having successfully implemented the automation of acquisition and cataloguing procedures for published materials the Library has turned its attention to the automation of processing procedures for original materials such as pictures, maps and manuscripts.

Pictures was chosen as the first area for automation because of the significant backlogs of inadequately processed material. The task of specifying system requirements was complex, requiring an examination of all current procedures and because of the need to

incorporate existing videodisk copying projects. The resulting system will be truly integrated and able to describe items and collections, maintain records of exhibition and preservation activity, provide location control, management information and a variety of access points, including subject access, which will be available to clients via the Library's OPAC. AWA's AWAIRS has been used to devise a pictures system, based on the FINE-ART system in use at the ANG.

Access to the Library's map collection will be vastly improved with the implementation of automated procedures. Maps are being treated in the same manner as other published material and maps staff are currently being trained in ABN searching, editing and cataloguing. Incoming items are being entered on ABN and URICA and searchable fields on the Library's OPAC will include scale, chronological and situational data, geographic co-ordinates, cartographic form and Boggs and Lewis area classification. Series sheets will continue to be indexed on key maps are to be moved to a maps viewing area within the Mitchell Library Reading Room.

Monash University Archives

Correspondent: Ann M. Mitchell

The storage crisis long threatened is now upon us. Records Administration, of which the University Archives is a part, gained another unit and four registry clerks as one result of the amalgamation in July 1990 with the former Chisholm Institute of Technology. The Institute was itself the product of a merger only nine years before and so the Greater Monash acquired campuses at Caulfield and Frankston. Caulfield site history goes back at least to 1922 and the days of the old Caulfield Tech. The quantity of inherited records is not large at say 136 metres, but none have been processed to any reasonable archival standard. Meantime, the building housing the Caulfield registry is under threat of imminent demolition to make way for a (very small) car park. Staff have been given three months' lead time to effect an estimated twelve months' work including unfamiliar archives processing tasks; shutting down the Chisholm record system; maintaining an active registry presence; and planning a move into as yet unallocated space.

At Clayton, we have been forced inwards as usual, in order to create space where none was before. Clayton registry was completely reorganised during 1990. Static shelving was converted to mobile and new shelving was designed, using a combination of static and mechanically assisted mobile units. Space rationalisation and the replacement of some old furniture with ergonomic desks and chairs, enabled the creation of two new workstations. The total file carrying

capacity on the floor also increased from 437 to 559 linear metres. The computer network was doubled from four terminals to eight. The registry staff complain that this is still not enough! (Once we were grateful to have two.) With the exception of one of the new terminals, all changes took place within the confines of the 193 square metres of the registry proper wherein up to 14 persons work together continuously, and cope with a large floating population of departmental clients.

The expansion of the teaching program in records and archives administration by staff of the Graduate Department of Librarianship, Archives and Records, led to fruitful cooperation between practising unit and teaching departments. For much of 1990, several Diploma students were engaged on a variety of University Archives projects and performed work of lasting value. One of these, Jan Getson, was recently appointed to the new position of archival assistant. This represents the first addition to the Archives professional establishment since 1981.

Of necessity, accessions into the Archives are still heavily restricted. Survey activity in a wide range of academic and administrative departments has increased to a remarkable degree. But there is no unoccupied shelf space in the Archives, and most clients are obliged to maintain their own records pending the outcome of negotiations for additional repository space. Of the papers that we have taken in, the following are of special interest: Emeritus Professor H. C. Bolton, Department of Physics (date range 1935-1986); Dr Alan Gregory, formerly Faculty of Education now Master of Ormond College, University of Melbourne (1956-1990); Mr Keith Francis Hudson, former actor and speech adviser to the Faculty of Education (1931-1985); Warden's Office, University Union (1961-1987) — the latest of several consignments from the Warden's Office. (This one is of particular interest because it includes definitive sets of subcommittee papers not reported elsewhere within the University committee system.)

Mortlock Library of South Australiana

Correspondent: Roger Andre

The Mortlock Library of South Australiana relieved winter's gloom with a donor function à La Trobe for many of the contributors to private collections. A representative display included such drawcards as notebooks and watercolours by Colonel Light, Skipper's sketches of the tempestuous Lola Montez and written messages from Kaurna and Pipalyatjara school children a hundred and forty years apart. Highlight of the evening was the presentation by Adelaide Brighton Cement Limited of Edward Snell's 1850 watercolour *The Cutter Frolic crossing*

to *Yorke[sic] Peninsula*. Otherwise the Private Collections Unit has mounted small displays commemorating *The Original Anzac* and the fiftieth anniversary of Australian Women's Services, the latter drawing largely on the collections of World War II civil defence organiser, Natalia Davies.

Among other significant donations have been further papers 1830-1989, of Sirs Charles and John Glover, mayors and lord mayors eight times between them; records of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, 1890-1990; and records of the Legacy Club of Adelaide, 1940-1980. The modest purchasing budget has enabled the acquisition of a significant letter by John McDouall Stuart written from Port Lincoln in 1848 and the major part of a collection of illuminated addresses presented to the Earl of Kintore, Governor of South Australia, 1889-1895, and, as is their wont, split by the auctioneers into separate lots. The most significant donation to the pictorial collection has been a donation of four hundred and thirty negatives of the early work of Joyce Waterhouse (1887-1966), an outstanding Australian photographer of the 1920s.

The J. D. Somerville Oral History Collection's range of services and procedures is continuing to develop as the Collection enters its fifth year. For instance, a proportion of the 1300 recordings so far in the Somerville Collection are interviews conducted in languages other than English. In an exciting, but relatively expensive, experiment two Italian language interviews have been transcribed in three stages (verbatim dialect, standard Italian and English) to provide a high level of access to the dramatic stories of these post-war migrants.

The Somerville Collection has also expanded its range of loan equipment. An additional set of high quality field equipment is now available for long term loan to country based interviewing programs and an excellent Sony transcribing machine with foot-pedal controls is available for loan as well.

The Oral History Officer, Beth Robertson, has also begun commissioning interviews for the collection on a modest scale. Interviewees are chosen to fill specific gaps in the collection. The first two commissioned interviews were those of a former woman inmate of the Adelaide Gaol and octogenarian sisters who migrated from Germany in the 1950s.

Oral History Officer, Beth Robertson, Pictorial Curator, Barbara Holburn and Archivist, Neil Thomas, whose employment has hitherto been somewhat precariously dependent on bequests or trust funds, have now all won positions on the permanent establishment, resulting in greater stability for the Private Collections Unit. Recently appointed State Librarian, Frances Awcock, has familiarised herself with Mortlock Library collections and services and is now devoting her attention to a new structure for the whole State Library.

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Section

Correspondent: Graeme Powell

A collection of papers, maps and paintings of the Humphrey Family purchased by the Library represents the earliest collection of Australian manuscripts that it has acquired for several years. Adolarius Humphrey (1782?-1829) was a mineralogist who accompanied David Collins on his voyage to Australia in 1803 and took part in the subsequent attempt to form a settlement near Port Phillip. His letterbook describes the voyage and the difficulties faced by Collins' party before it abandoned the settlement. Later papers relate to the activities of Humphrey and other members of his family in Tasmania.

Among modern records acquired by the Library were the papers of four former officials who served in the Australian administration in Papua New Guinea: John Black, Gus O'Donnell, Gerald Toogood and Ian Downs. Downs' papers are unusually varied, covering his career as a district officer, coffee planter, politician, novelist and historian of the Australian administration. Other personal papers received in recent times include those of the politician Gordon Bryant, the businessman Sir Gordon Jackson, the town planner Peter Harrison, the musician and arts administrator James Murdoch and the children's writer Christobel Mattingley. Ronald Waters, a lifelong friend of Patrick White, presented a fine collection of 57 letters written by White in which he discoursed on plays and films, actors and writers, politics and food, and other interests that they shared.

Manuscript valuations have for some time been a matter of concern to the committee that administers the Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme. It has had to deal with wildly varying valuations for the same item or collection and a dearth of evidence about the manuscript market. In February John Thompson and Graeme Powell met the committee and discussed some of the principles and criteria used in valuing material offered for purchase to the Library.

After a long delay, the first instalment of Series E of the *Guide to collections of manuscripts relating to Australia* was finally issued on microfiche in May. Work is now proceeding in assembling and editing entries for the next instalment. The Section's publishing output has been quite impressive, as in the same period Parts 9 and 10 of the Australian Joint Copying Project *Handbook* were published.

Northern Territory Archives Service

Correspondent: Greg Coleman

In addition to the regular transfer of government records, several collections of photographs have recently been accessioned. These photographs feature Darwin in the 1930s, Hermannsburg and the

Finke River in the 1920s, the bombing of Darwin in 1942 and numerous remote communities and cattle stations taken by staff of the Mobile Dental Unit in the 1940s and 1950s.

A recent oral history project in Central Australia completed the recording of 15 interviews with several Centralian characters including elders of the Warlpiri people. The oral history program now has over 800 interviews in its collection and approximately 80% of these recordings have been transcribed.

The Northern Territory Government History Awards program, which is administered by the Northern Territory Archives Service, this year awarded grants for research projects including the history of assimilation policies for Aboriginal people, a photographic history of the Italian Community in the Northern Territory, a history of medical services in the Northern Territory, and biographies of pastoral pioneers Charlie Schultz and Henry Packham.

Work is now completed on the design stage of the Archives information plan which will eventually result in automation of the records description and control system. The implementation stage is expected to take at least another two years.

A purpose built archive building is on the Northern Territory Government design list for 1991-1992. As with most state governments, the Northern Territory Government has implemented a rather heavy program of cost savings on the public service and capital works, so the outcome of the building proposal cannot be predicted at this stage.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: Linda Bell

Things are moving right along at QSA. Construction of the new \$27 million archives building at Runcorn (20 minutes drive south of the Brisbane CBD) has now commenced. There has been extensive consultation between Archives staff and Goodsir Baker Wilde Pty Ltd Architects in the design of the building. Public areas in the new building will include a large public search room, readers' lounge, exhibition area and lecture rooms. Accommodation for public records will be more than doubled with specially designed areas for microfilm, film, computer tapes and discs, and confidential records.

To alleviate some of our more urgent overcrowding in work areas, a demountable building has been erected in the rear car park of the Dutton Park building.

With the imminent release of Freedom of Information legislation, a joint project has been developed between Queensland State Archives

and the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs. Judy Lennon, a former Archives staff member, has been employed for six months to process a large quantity of the Department's records which are very difficult to access in their present condition.

The proposed review of archives legislation and the operations of Queensland State Archives will be underway soon. An Issues Paper was released in August. Copies can be obtained by writing to the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, PO Box 349, North Quay, Qld 4002.

It is anticipated that major changes to the operations of the Queensland State Archives will take place over the next two years. Arrangements are being made for the day-to-day administration of the Archives to be transferred from the State Library of Queensland to the Administrative Services Department. Some legal difficulties will remain until the *Libraries and Archives Act, 1988* can be substantially amended (probably late 1992 or early 1993).

A Business Plan for the Archives was completed in April. The thrust of the Plan is to provide a framework for the enhancement of operations. This includes the move to the new building which will enable us to improve the services offered to clients, reduce the cost to government of storing non-current records and provide a more cost-effective archival service to government. The Business Plan will be submitted to Cabinet shortly.

Two User Surveys are currently underway to ascertain both the needs of clients and the suitability of our present services in the Technical Services and User Services Branches.

Queensland State Archives has a new postal address. All mail should now be directed to: Queensland State Archives, PO Box 491, Annerley, Qld 4103.

State Archives of Western Australia

Correspondent: Kandy-Jane Henderson

On 1 July 1991 the Archives Search Room, in the Alexander Library Building, was opened to the public for the use of Government and Private Archives. The Archives Search Room's opening will result in an improved reference service to users of original material. The Room will also provide more secure conditions. It will be open between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm on week days only. However, archival material will be available for use in the J. S. Battye Library of West Australian History when the Archives Search Room is not open during nights and weekends.

A registration system for researchers has been implemented and all

researchers using original material must register before material is made available to them.

Though it is only early days the opening has proved to be a great success.

University of Sydney Archives

Correspondent: Tim Robinson

Since the last despatch from the University of Sydney Archives (published in May 1990), there have been a number of changes. The most apparent was the transfer of archives from the Sydney College of Advanced Education and two of its predecessors, Sydney Teachers' College and the Guild Teachers' College. Other records from the former Colleges were also transferred to semi-current storage in the University.

For a number of years the Archives has been investigating methods for improving the management system used to control the official records of the University. This has continued with particular emphasis on the use of database software and indexing packages on personal computers. In particular dBASE IV has been used to create indexes to the miscellaneous photographs held in the Archives and to a series of negatives from the *University News*. Other indexes have been made to a series of personal files and a KWOC index has been created to a series of administrative files which has no other finding aid.

Arrangement and description has continued on the significant bodies of personal archives held. Margaret Dwyer has worked on the archives of Professor Sir Tannatt Edgeworth David, former Professor of Geology, and Foundation Challis Professor of Biology, William Aitcheson Haswell; Ken Smith on Professor Armand Bland and Tim Robinson on the papers of the family of Professor Alexander Mackie.

Margaret Dwyer conducted research into the Sydney Biological Station Trust (1879-1919) and the Foundation Professor of Biology, W. A. Haswell, particularly his role in the Mawson Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14. This was presented as a paper during the celebration of the Centenary of the appointment of Haswell. Margaret also presented a paper entitled *Engineers' Papers: An Undervalued Historical Source* at the Fifth National Conference on Engineering Heritage, Perth in December 1990.

The University Archives has recently held two small exhibitions to coincide with the launching of monographs from the University's History Project. The two books, one on the University's War Memorial Carillon and the other entitled *Academic Status and Leadership in the University of Sydney 1852-1978* were substantially written from sources in the University Archives. The exhibitions were mostly copies of photographs from the Archives and proved very popular.

Also recently the Archives has produced a number of brochures to explain its functions and to act as summary guides to holdings.

University of Technology, Sydney Archives

Correspondent: Sigrid McCausland

The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) appointed its first University Archivist, Sigrid McCausland, in January 1991. In its current form, the University came into being on 1 January 1990 from the amalgamation of the University of Technology, Sydney (until early 1988 the New South Wales Institute of Technology) with the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education and the Institute of Technical and Adult Education of the Sydney College of Advanced Education. UTS has four campuses — City, Balmain, St Leonards and Kuring-gai — in Sydney's centre, inner west and northern suburbs.

The archives function is within the University Secretary's Division, currently undergoing a restructuring, the results of which will hopefully bring a strengthened role for archives and records in the central administration of the University. The position of University Archivist brings with it the usual challenges of storage space, resources and competing priorities. However, a start has been made on basic archives services which will be available to those who form the UTS community — executive, academic and support staff, students and graduates — as well as to outside researchers interested in areas such as the history of technical, teacher and technological education in New South Wales in the last thirty years.

To date, the Archivist's efforts have been concentrated on bringing the records of the New South Wales Institute of Technology under archival control and on becoming familiar with the administrative history of the various bodies listed above. Fraser Faithful has recently joined the Archives on a full-time basis, which provides most welcome support. Together we are trying to develop an archives which both serves the institution and the public and has a role in helping to form an identity for an emerging university in a time of great change in tertiary education in Australia.