

News Notes

Edited by Helen Yoxall

AMP Society

Correspondent: Carlyne Bruyn

The Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) opened for business on 1 January 1849. The first branch was established in Victoria in 1863. 1908 saw the establishment of a UK branch. There were now branches in every Australian state, New Zealand and the UK, backed by a strong district office network, set up from 1881.

No formal archives program for AMP existed until 1950, when a tentative decision was made to write the corporate history, and available historical records were surveyed and collected. The position of Archives Officer was part-time, and the work involved in maintaining a large, varied, and growing collection of records and artefacts, as well as researching it on request, proved overwhelming. When AMP restructured in 1988, the Archives Officer became full-time, with the title of Archivist. The Archives were moved into the Secretariat, the core administrative area of AMP, with responsibility to the Company Secretary.

The Archivist is a sole operator with no staff. The budget is drawn up by the Archivist and negotiated annually as part of the Secretariat budget. About one quarter of the collection, the most heavily used and valuable components, is kept at our Head Office building at Circular Quay in Sydney. The remainder is housed off-site in non-AMP storage. Vital records, such as the Minutes of the Principal Board, are held in Secretariat as part of the area's overall responsibilities.

The Archive's resources are available to any AMP staff member, agent, and retired officer, and to the public, for any viable purpose, on request to the Archivist. No charge is made for research at present. Access to specified records for in-depth research is possible.

The Archivist receives a wide and varied range of requests for information. Heavy use is made, for example, by Public Relations and Sales (including agents) for promotional and informational purposes, but, as the Archive profile creeps ever upwards (through steady and judicious marketing), increasing

use is being made by many other areas. Restructuring meant that branch archive collections were centralised to Sydney, and heavy use is made by state and branch offices. Public requests come from academics, government departments, local historians, genealogists, and many others.

The collection centres around the Minutes of the Principal Board, and the Minutes of the Local Boards, the Annual Reports, the staff journal, which began publication in 1892, and the photograph collection. Of course there is much, much more than this, but space does not permit. There will be a guide to the collection sometime. In the meantime, the entire collection is being indexed on to AMP's Records Management System, developed in-house for the Records Management program, and this means easier, cost-effective, fast, efficient data entry and information retrieval.

Archives Office of New South Wales

Correspondent: Martyn Killion

The Archives Office has recently published in a limited edition prints from the original copperplates of Major Sir Thomas Mitchell's Map of the Colony, 1834. This was done in conjunction with W. C. Penfold and Company Pty Ltd and launched by the Association of Consulting Surveyors, Australia at an international conference of Surveyors held in Melbourne. This is the first time that the copperplates have been printed from since the original print run. The retail price of this collector's set of three prints is \$1 200 and may be purchased directly from the Archives Office. We are also planning a larger print run of lithographic prints later in the year.

The Office has developed a new corporate identity. The somewhat outmoded immigrant ship has been replaced with the image of an infinity symbol which signifies the perpetual nature of archives and the records continuum.

There are two new exhibitions in the City Office entitled *A Melancholy Wreck: Dunbar 1857* and *First the Dream then the Reality* depicting Sydney's worst maritime disaster and the construction of the Sydney Opera House respectively. *A Melancholy Wreck* was launched simultaneously with a book signing by the author of a recent work on the *Dunbar*. This was particularly well attended by members of the public. The current exhibition at Kingswood is entitled *Fact and Fiction*. It illustrates a number of myths and legends in New South Wales history and compares these to the evidence in the extant archival material.

Australian Archives

Correspondent: Keith Parrott

The first half of 1994 heralded significant changes to the organisational structure of Australian Archives. These changes were most noticeable in Canberra with the amalgamation of Central Office and the ACT Regional Office to form a new National Office from 1 July 1994. The new National Office structure has two branches: Records Control and Care and Records Standards and Access. The position of Assistant Director-General, Records Standards and Access was advertised in the national press during the first half of July. Two associated developmental projects have been initiated: a documentation standards project, headed by Keith Parrott, and a systems integration and development project, headed by Stephen Ellis.

With the creation of the National Office, the offices of Australian Archives located in State capitals and Darwin are to be known as State Offices. Since June all Brisbane-based staff of the Queensland State Office have been located at the Cannon Hill complex. A major refurbishment of the Cannon Hill site was undertaken to accommodate all staff and functions previously located in Santos House in Brisbane City. The address for the Queensland Office is 996 Wynnum Road, Cannon Hill, Qld, 4170 (PO Box 552, Cannon Hill). Telephone: (07) 399 3822. Fax: (07) 399 6589.

Strategic Directions statement

During August, the Director-General George Nichols released *Australian Archives Strategic Directions*. This important document sets out the broad strategies the organisation will seek to pursue between now and the turn of the century in meeting its responsibilities under the Archives Act. Copies of the statement are available from all offices of the Archives.

Archival-quality paper and packaging materials launch

On 1 June 1994 the Honourable Michael Lee, Minister for Communications and the Arts, launched a joint venture for the production of archival-quality paper and packaging materials involving Australian Archives and the paper industry firms Australian Paper, Visy Board and Unistat Pty Ltd. It took place in the Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra and attracted over 300 guests. The range of products developed as a result of the venture include archival quality office papers, folders, file covers, envelopes, document wallets, packaging materials and a wide range of storage containers. In launching the venture, the Minister stressed the importance of enterprise networking of

this type that brought together the expertise of organisations in the public and private sectors. He also noted the export potential of products of this nature, which were developed as a result of Australian technology and skills.

Exhibitions

Australian Archives' exhibition to mark the International Year of the Family, *Making Ends Meet: Child Endowment for Australian Families*, was opened in Kings Hall, Old Parliament House, Canberra on 27 April 1994 by Professor Bettina Cass, Chair of the National Council for the International Year of the Family. The Exhibition, which will run until November, traces the introduction of the Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme in 1941.

With the acquisition of additional funding, the travelling exhibition *Between Two Worlds*, which was prepared to mark the International Year for the World's Indigenous People in 1993, will be able to visit Perth, Melbourne and Dubbo. The exhibition was previously shown in Sydney, Canberra, Alice Springs, Darwin and Adelaide.

Anniversary publications

Two works planned for publication late in 1994 will mark the 50th anniversary of the archives function being established within the Commonwealth government. One, written by Dr Hilary Golder, will trace the history of Australian Archives since 1944. The second, appearing under the Ancora Press imprint, will be a collection of essays on archival themes jointly edited by Michael Piggott of Australian Archives and Sue McKemmish of the Department of Librarianship Archives and Records, Monash University.

Australian War Memorial—Research Centre—Printed And Written Records

Correspondent: Anne-Marie Schwirtlich

Acquisition and disposal

Private Records recently acquired the diary kept by Frederick Hugh Cust Brownlow while on active service with the NSW Contingent to the Sudan in 1885. The diary provides a daily account of his experiences and includes detailed sketches. Official Records has acquired Australian port defence charts 1938–1946 (AWM 246), additional papers of 1939–45 War official historian, David Dexter (AWM 172) and some records relating to peacekeeping forces in Somalia (OW 93/11, OW 93/13).

Documentation

Ron Gilchrist completed a secondment under the Memorial's Research Policy to assist him to complete a guide to the papers of Field Marshal A. T. Blamey. Some work remains to be completed on the guide after which consideration will be given to how best to publish it. Ian Smith, a staff member of Information Services, also completed a secondment under the Memorial's Research Policy to research and write a guide to the library collections and archives of the Memorial. The guide has been completed—the options for publishing it are being considered.

Arrangement and description work has included finalising the series description and inventory of items for AWM 1, Pre-Federation and early Commonwealth records; continuing work on AWM 27, Records arranged according to AWM Library subject classification; AWM 249, Wesley College, Melbourne, biographical cards; AWM 257, Official History of Australia's Involvement in South-East Asian Conflicts 1948–1975; Records of Ian McNeill; and AWM 262, Australian War Memorial war trophy history sheets.

Exhibitions

The Memorial received significant funding from the Commonwealth Government to develop and mount an exhibition to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the second world war. Ron Gilchrist (Private Records) and Lorraine Haslem (Printed Records), together with several other staff from across the Memorial will be involved in the research and development of the exhibition.

In December 1993 the Memorial started work on the preparation of a Gallery Master Plan. This work is predicated on the belief that the Memorial's galleries, while visited by over 800 000 people a year who are ostensibly very satisfied with them, require a major overhaul. Several working groups were established to consider aspects of the galleries (such as concerns of the audience, the extent to which visitor services are provided, how should/do museums engage visitors, what is the state of the existing galleries). The Gallery Master Plan is expected to be finalised in December 1994.

As a result of curatorial concern that the number of collection items on display in the Memorial's galleries was decreasing, curators in all areas of the National Collection were asked to begin a gallery-by-gallery assessment with a view to increasing the number of items on display by roughly 15%. The first gallery assessed and completed was the Western Front. The Mediterranean gallery and Aeroplane Hall are now being assessed, themes considered and suitable collection items identified.

Microfilming

Microfilming of AWM 4, Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914–18 War is complete. The conclusion of this project of epic proportions is of enormous significance and relief. Work will commence on assessing the best way of approaching the microfilming of AWM 52, Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1939–45 War — a project almost three times the size of the unit diaries for 1914–18.

Brisbane City Archives

Correspondent: Annabel Lloyd

I commenced duties as City Archivist for Brisbane City Council in February 1994. I am the first professional archivist appointed by Council and there was no official archives collection or policies. Therefore I have the daunting task of setting things up from scratch! The Archives is part of the Records Management Section, General Administration Branch, Finance Division. The Archivist is responsible to the Principal Officer, Records Management.

As a Public Authority, the records of Brisbane City Council come under the authority of Queensland State Archives which holds a small amount of pre 1940s Council records. Unfortunately, factors including periodic city centre floods and the tendency of the Council to store its records in basements have resulted in few records prior to 1925 (when the City of Greater Brisbane was formed) surviving.

The City Archives has been established in a former wool store building at New Farm (about 2 km from the GPO) where the Council's non-current records are also housed. Prior to taking over this site in December the Council stored its non-current records at three different sites. Between April and June the massive job of transferring approximately 50 000 shelf metres of material along with the shelving was undertaken. This included over 10 000 boxes of possible archival value which were transferred to the Macquarie Street site along with 500 sm of original Council rate books. A thousand sm of compactus shelving was installed in two air-conditioned vaults while an additional 1 200 sm was installed in the main building.

I have drafted a management policy for the Archives to submit to the Council's governing body. This will establish the Archive's authority and establish a framework in which the Archives can develop its services to Council.

Within its budget limitations over the next financial year the Archives will concentrate on developing a control system for the Council's archives. It is planned to develop an adjunct to the existing computerised Records Management system which will operate as a separate unit on the Unisys mainframe.

The main Archives office is now established with basic survival tools including a PC, sorting table, survey forms and the internal Council phone directory! Surveying of current holdings and establishing priorities for processing is now underway.

The task ahead of the Archives is massive. Developing a working knowledge of Council's records operations is demanding, given the Council's 125 year history and the size of its departments. (The Council is the largest metropolitan Council in the southern hemisphere—current files managed by Records Management number close to half a million.)

Council of Federal State and Territory Archives (COFSTA)

Correspondent: Denis Connor

The Council of Federal State and Territory Archives comprises the heads of the government archives authorities of the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory. The Council was formerly known as the State and Territory Archivists Group (STAG), adopting the new name in June 1993 to reflect the full membership of Australian Archives.

The Council meets twice yearly, with the mid year meeting timed to coincide with the annual meeting and conference of the Australian Society of Archivists. Its aims are to promote further a sense of understanding and consistency in the management of records of the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory. Matters that have been considered by the Council have included issues such as descriptive standards for archival records, joint standards for records handling and care, and agreed approaches to records that cross jurisdictions, such as records of joint Royal Commissions.

Convenor of the Council is Ian Pearce, State Archivist, Archives Office of Tasmania. Secretariat services are provided by Australian Archives. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for December, 1994 in Perth.

Deakin University Archives

Correspondent: Ken Mould

The Archives has been in a state of transition and reorganisation over the past three years following the merger of three institutions to create a five-campus, 280 km long university stretching from Warrnambool to Clayton. At the completion of the merger, there were ten archival storage areas: Warrnambool, Geelong, Prahran (two), Toorak (three), Burwood (two) and Clayton. Standards ranged from 'superb' to 'grotty' and went all the way from brand new, air-conditioned, to an abandoned lift shaft!

Intellectual control of records was similarly diverse and ran from pallets of boxes identified only by vague hieroglyphics scrawled thereon to incredibly detailed box lists and indexes but unsupported by the record series or group concept. Appraisal and culling had not been done on any systematic basis (other than at Geelong) for four to thirty years so the nine non Geelong sites tended to be filled to the rafters with boxes and computer print-outs.

The first priority was to reduce the storage sites to a manageable number and to cut down on travel times and so obviously substandard depositories were culled, emptied, shelving removed and shut down. By January 1994 there were six sites of reasonable standard — Warrnambool, Geelong, Toorak (two), and Burwood (two). The total shelving capacity is still in a state of flux as the current round of dismantling and re-erection is not complete but there is sufficient shelf and storage capacity for current and future needs.

Capital funds were made available in 1993 for a new metropolitan central archives at Corporate Headquarters in Elgar Road, Burwood. This facility was constructed in the ironing/clothes storage area at the former Alambie Children's Home and was available for use in January 1994. The University's metropolitan staff is based there.

The record series concept at Geelong was extended and the entire holdings at Warrnambool and the Melbourne campuses were, or are being, converted. This has been a mammoth undertaking involving, literally, looking into every box and culling and consolidating on the way. Master series for University-wide records (minutes, agendas, course books, reports, etc.) have been created and the scores of duplicates in every consignment removed for recycling.

At the time of the merger there were more than six staff involved in Registry and Archives and rationalisation reduced this to 3.2 by 1994, with professional Archive staff numbering 1.2. The staff have spent two and a half years on the

road and up to their waists in boxes, bins, bags and pallets. An orgy of lifting, lugging, dismantling and trucking had been the norm and so the finer points of the profession have taken second place. There is now light at the end of the tunnel, however, and by early 1995 Deakin University Archives should be functioning routinely.

Edith Cowan University — Archives Studies Program

Correspondent: Mark Brogan

Graduate studies in records and archives management at Edith Cowan University officially commenced in Semester One, 1994. The Archives Studies Program offers the award of Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Archives) consisting of one year full-time study or part-time equivalent. The course is currently available to prospective students with a first degree, and may only be undertaken in external mode on a fee paying basis. Records management, government records and archives and electronic recordkeeping are core components of the Edith Cowan Program.

In mid May, Archives Studies played host to David Bearman, commissioned by the Program to prepare a second semester unit in electronic recordkeeping. During his stay, David participated in the making of a video on electronic recordkeeping and an on-line Virtual Campus tutorial with archives studies students. An agreement was made to produce a further edition of IST 4235 Electronic Recordkeeping as a CD-ROM based interactive learning package. Commencing with David's unit, all archives studies units are to be offered as either a CD-ROM or conventional package, with progressive conversion beginning Semester One, 1995.

The decision to progressively convert to computer based delivery modes for the archives studies program reflects university research demonstrating the superiority of computer based interactive learning in distance education, compared with conventional paper based, essentially non interactive modes. Where possible, existing initiatives such as the Virtual Campus will be seamlessly integrated into CD-ROM packages.

Geelong Historical Records Centre*

Correspondent: Norman Houghton

The year in review has been successful with an interesting and wide ranging accession of records, photographs and maps, a broadening interest in research

* The following paragraphs are extracts from the Centre's 1993 annual report.

topics and initiatives in cataloguing and indexing. On the negative side, problems in the education system have affected the Centre's school programs and depressed numbers in what otherwise would have been a buoyant year all round.

Patronage for the calendar year 1993 was at a total level of 9 525 enquiries comprising 7 269 personal visits, 1 829 phone calls and 427 correspondence items. Personal visits declined by 215 or 2.8% but other services rose marginally. The Centre has serviced over 83 000 personal enquirers since opening in 1979 and currently handles a monthly average of 499 patrons and 191 phone calls and mail enquiries. The main areas of interest continue to be family history, local history and building history but there has been a decline in these and a rise in broader topics such as biography, education, landscape, secondary industry, sport and transport. There was a severe deterioration in local history interest from school age users due to changes in VCE curriculum requirements and funding cutbacks in the State system.

Major projects given assistance have been Eastern Beach restoration, Dalgety Woolstore refurbishment, Geelong Hospital history, several sporting club histories including football, cricket, badminton and rowing and the Ryrie Street heritage program.

Ten books and booklets were published during the year based on research at the Centre and included four family histories, two church histories, books on Geelong Cornish and German immigrants and two sports histories.

A variety of microfilm records from other agencies were purchased to meet expressed client demand. These records included Naturalization Registers, South African War enlistments and electoral rolls.

The ongoing and never-ending process of compiling computer index entries continues at a steady rate. Projects worked on have been Lethbridge Cemetery Register and Headstones; Bannockburn Cemetery Register and Headstones; Morrison's Cemetery Register and Headstones; *Geelong Advertiser* News Items, 1840-50, 1894-1900; and *Investigator* Index.

Conservation microfilming was undertaken for a variety of records including the Gordon Institute minutes and student registers, municipal ratebooks for Geelong City Kardinia and Villamanta Wards, 1859-1900 and Newtown, all wards, 1895-1960. A rare, detailed plan of Barrabool parish was sent to the Victorian Conservation Centre for cleaning, rebacking and refurbishment.

As part of the Centre's public relations program a joint family history discovery day was held with the Geelong Family History Group on Saturday 13 March. The theme was Celtic families. Displays of records and artefacts were mounted at the Gordon Technical College and in vacant retail space at the National Wool Museum. An exhibition of architectural drawings from the Centre's collection was held in January in conjunction with Deakin University School of Architecture. Items from the William Thomas Telephone Collection were loaned to Telecom for an open day at the Geelong Telephone Exchange during the Spring Festival.

Much of the Centre's routine cataloguing, indexing, collating and typing is carried out by a group of volunteers, mostly provided by the Geelong Historical Society and the Geelong Family History Group. These individuals bring a wide range of skills, as well as enthusiasm, and thereby make it possible to initiate and complete tasks that otherwise would not be done. As well, eight work experience students from seven schools attended the Centre during the year. The students undertook a variety of tasks that included data entry, archive and map cataloguing, photography, indexing, photocopying and bookbinding. One archives student spent ten days on work experience as part of coursework requirements.

Contributing municipalities agreed on an operating budget of \$159 000 net for the 1993-94 financial year which is almost the same figure for the previous year and reflects various economies and efficiencies carried out during the year. Earned revenue from sales and rents was slightly down in 1993-94 due to a fall in sales income, no doubt due to the current economic recession. The tax deductible donation fund reached a high point of \$38 000 and from this was spent \$6 000 on minor equipment purchases. Most of the fund is earmarked for the foyer lift installation and will be spent when this facility is constructed.

The Geelong local government restructure implemented during the year resulted in changes to the Centre's management committee. Representatives from the amalgamated municipalities lost their formal elected status and were invited by the Commissioners to carry on in an informal manner pending a new structure and election. Operational matters continue as before pending clarification of various constitutional and budgetary arrangements and it is hoped these issues will be resolved in 1994.

James Cook University of North Queensland

Correspondent: June Edwards

In February 1994 the University Archives amalgamated with the Records Section. The University Archivist now supervises both areas and reports to the University Librarian, although he is wearing a Support Services hat. A client survey of the Records Section's users has been completed and a report written. Its system needs to be modernised and be more responsive to users.

The Australian Society of Archivists' annual conference was held in Townsville in May. Judging from the feedback from participants, it was a success. The Robert Towns Motel sent the organiser a huge bunch of flowers so the conference made the locals happy as well. Since the conference the University Archives has returned to normal. Extra space has been allocated to both the Archives and Records Sections so the Archivist will have, soon, a workroom and more shelving. Australian Archives in Townsville agreed to store, temporarily, a few metres of records for the University Archives which was appreciated, so the space pressures are easing a little. An access policy for the University Archives has been submitted for approval. Reference inquiries from both students and staff are increasing.

John Fairfax Archives

Correspondent: Louise Preston

John Fairfax Archives was established in early 1974 under a directive from R.P. Falkingham, General Manager of John Fairfax Limited between 1970 and 1980. Eileen Dwyer, who had worked for the Company for five and a half years as a senior executive secretary, was appointed Archivist. The Archives was established partly due to the approaching 150th anniversary of the organisation in 1981 and partly due to the transformations in the newspaper industry resulting from computer technology. Material in the Archives was consulted by the Company Historian, Gavin Souter, who was commissioned firstly to write a company history, *Company of Heralds* (Melbourne University Press, 1981) and later, another work on the Company, *Heralds and Angels* (MUP, 1991 & Penguin, 1992).

John Fairfax Holdings Limited is the holding company for the John Fairfax Group Pty Limited, publishers of three main newspapers: *The Sydney Morning Herald* (SMH), *The Australian Financial Review* and *The Sun-Herald*. The SMH, then called the *Sydney Herald*, began in 1831. It was established by Ward Stephens, F. M. Stokes and William McGarvie. John Fairfax and Charles Kemp

acquired it in 1841. John Fairfax became sole proprietor in 1853. In 1856 the firm of John Fairfax and Sons was founded. The firm changed from a partnership to a private company in 1916, becoming John Fairfax and Sons Ltd and on April 9 1956 it became a public company. During 1987 one of the Fairfax family, Warwick Fairfax, announced a bid to privatise the company. It was privatised through Tryart Pty Ltd, encountered difficulties with debt and went into receivership in December 1990. In December 1991 it was announced that Conrad Black, a Canadian media proprietor, had won a bid to acquire John Fairfax Group Pty Ltd. His consortium, Tourang Limited, acquired control of the Company. The consortium then changed its name to John Fairfax Holdings Limited. The Company became public on 8 May 1992.

During its 163 year history the Company has published many newspapers and magazines and has owned or controlled a number of subsidiary publishing companies. It has also had interests in radio and television. However, with the difficulties it encountered during the late 1980s and early 1990s the Company has contracted considerably.

In late 1955 the Company moved its premises from Hunter Street in the city to the present Broadway site (its fourth move since it began operations in 1831). Its newsprint store suffered a fire in 1971. Both of these events resulted in records being destroyed. There are records from last century and the first half of this century but the more complete collection dates largely from the 1950s. Records held by the Company mainly consist of management records.

The records are kept according to a Group system. Loose-leaf files list departments and the records received from them. There is also an ongoing record kept of administrative changes in the Company and its publications.

The Archives has one archivist, employed full-time. The Archives is in-house and is available to the Company mainly for legal and administrative purposes. External access is available but on a limited basis. The Company is moving from its Jones Street building during 1995. The administration and editorial sections will move to the Darling Park, IBM building, in the city. Production is to move to new premises at Chullora. Since 1989 the repository and administration of the Archives have been located at Level 3, 35-39 Mountain Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007. The Archives will not be moving next year; it is to remain at its present location. The postal address for John Fairfax is GPO Box 506, Sydney, NSW 2001. Contact telephone number: (02) 282 2833. Any enquiries may be directed to the Company Archivist.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Arthur Easton

Clive James, the renowned writer, humorist and social commentator, handed over the first consignment of his personal papers to the Library in May. They include all the drafts of his three volume autobiography, *Unreliable memoirs, Falling towards England* and *May Week was in June*, his three works of fiction, *Brilliant Creatures*, *Brmm! Brmm!* and *The Remake*, as well as a selection of letters from literary figures such as Philip Larkin, Peter Porter, Anthony Powell and Les Murray. At a function held in his honour in the Mitchell Galleries he said that his New South Wales origins had been instrumental in his decision to lodge his papers here despite financial blandishments from archives in the USA. His remarks ranged widely and wittily over word processors and the electronic abyss, national culture and the interpretation, by scholars, of 'the stuff we leave behind us on paper'. An edited transcript of his speech is in the September-November issue of *Upfront*, journal of the friends and supporters of the SLNSW.

The papers of another expatriate, the composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks, have also been acquired. She left Australia in 1932 to study in London and Paris, before moving to New York in the 1940s where she wrote music criticism for the *New York Herald Tribune* and first met the composer and author, Paul Bowles. After the premiere in Athens in 1961 of her opera *Nausicca*, written in collaboration with Robert Graves, she moved permanently to Greece. In 1975 she returned to live in Sydney where she died in 1990. Her papers include manuscript scores of some of her major compositions as well as lesser known early works and a large collection of letters from Paul Bowles with whom she corresponded for more than forty years. Other correspondents include Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Cage, Yehudi Menuhin, Virgil Thomson and Thomas Mann.

Two recent donations of sporting interest are: the papers of Australians most capped rugby player, David Campese, comprising scrapbooks, correspondence — some with other players — and a photographic record of his international career; and the papers of Frank McPhillips who was selected for the Wallabys' first tour of South Africa in 1933 and compiled an extensive photograph album of the team's activities, mostly off the field. A volume of newscuttings compiled by the *Johannesburg Star* about the tour is also part of this donation.

By bequest the Library received the papers of Florence James (1902–93), novelist, editor and reviewer, probably best known as the co-author with Dymphna Cusack of *Come in Spinner*. She worked for many years in England as a literary agent where she acted as a talent scout for Australian and New Zealand writers including Mary Durack, Nene Gare, Maurice Shadbolt and David Martin. The most valuable parts of the collection consist of James' long-running correspondence with prominent writers including Dymphna Cusack and Christina Stead, and many other writers in the formative stages of their literary careers.

Additions to our holdings of papers relating to the writer Hal Porter have recently been acquired and processed. These comprise a lengthy file of letters to Mollie and Herb Godbehear, 1963–81, letters and poems sent to Ann Jennings, 1952–63, and a donation under the Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme of letters from Dame Mary Gilmore to Hal Porter, 1957.

A significant donation, recently processed, is the records of the Gays Counselling Service of New South Wales, which grew out of a parent organisation, Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP), which was founded in 1970 and published the first openly homosexual journal *CAMP Ink*. The records document the organisation's difficult birth and its robust growth and includes hundreds of letters from men and women of all ages seeking support.

Other organisational records acquired recently include the Family Life Movement, 1926–87, which grew out of the Father and Son Welfare Movement of Australia; the Inventors' Association of Australia, 1958–90; and the First Fleet Re-enactment Company, which documents activities leading up to the 1987–88 voyage.

The personal papers of Alex Carey, lecturer in the Department of Applied Psychology at University of NSW from the 1960s until his death in 1987, have been received. They reflect his academic interests and his involvement in left wing circles and the anti Vietnam war movement, and include extensive correspondence with Noam Chomsky. The personal papers of Ron Shand, well remembered for his role as Herb in the groundbreaking and scandalous television soapie *Number 96*, have also been recently received.

An early and previously unknown watercolour of First Government House at Sydney Cove has been acquired after its recent discovery in London. The signed painting by convict artist John Eyre dates from around 1807 and is an accurate and detailed record of the House at the time of William Bligh's term as Governor.

The 1988 bequest of 48 000 black and white and colour images from the Australian Photographic Agency have been transferred to videodisc and checking has begun to ensure all frame numbers match the image numbers. Covering the period 1954–73 the collection includes news photographs, commissions, public and private life, mainly around Sydney, taken by a wide variety of photographers.

The Unseen Utzon: An exhibition of the unbuilt interior of the Sydney Opera House, selected from some of the thousands of working drawings and plans, as well as photographs and architectural models donated by Utzon to the Library has opened recently, and appropriately, at the Exhibition Hall of the Sydney Opera House. Using computer animation a faithful, three dimensional model of the halls from Utzon's original plans has been made. The video presentation of the computer model allows the exhibition visitors to experience for the first time the completed architecture of the Opera House as designed by Utzon.

Journey Through Landscape—Conrad Martens: Life & Art opens this month in the Mitchell and Dixon Galleries. The exhibition features twenty-nine oils, around forty watercolours, sketchbooks, and pencil drawings. The recently located journal of Martens' voyage to Australia, including his time on *HMS Beagle*, is also on display. *Conrad Martens: life and art* by Curator of Pictures Elizabeth Ellis and a transcript of Martens' journal by Michael Organ have been published to coincide with this exhibition.

In March 1995 an exhibition devoted to the settlement and experiences of Italians in New South Wales will open. This will draw upon collections of papers and photographs which have been received, mainly as a result of the Italians in New South Wales Project, now in its fifth year.

A forthcoming publication of the State Library of New South Wales Press is *The diaries of Miles Franklin*, introduced, selected and annotated by Paul Brunton and John Murphy of the Manuscripts Section, which delves into the private thoughts behind the public opinions of the author of *My brilliant career!*

Louise Anemaat, an archivist in the Manuscripts Section, took up a three month ESSO scholarship in June. She was based at the Geheimes Staatsarchiv in Berlin, where she studied archival practice and researched archival material relating to Australia.

The Library continues to offer its successful series of *Family Findit* seminars. Specialist staff present this series of seminars to help family historians develop their knowledge of the information resources here and to make better use of

essential reference tools. Seminars dealing with the tracing of Irish and Scottish family histories, births, deaths and marriages in Australia, free settlers, New South Wales land records and the Australian Joint Copying Project, are included in this series. A new program began in August.

In response to a grant made available to Randwick City Library Service, a preservation microfilming project was recently completed involving our holdings of Randwick Council Rate and Minute Books, 1859–1930. As a result of the project 120 frail volumes were copied on to almost fifty reels of microfilm.

At a recent preservation microfilming conference held in Adelaide, 4–7 May, Tony Wheeler, manager of the Sydney microfilming agency W. & F. Pascoe Pty Ltd announced details of a new concept that he has patented for the preservation of colour materials. The new development combined an old colour separation technique with archival microfilm and digital imaging technologies to produce a product that should ensure long term preservation and access to colour digital information. Tests involving the copying of a wide range of colour materials from the library's collections are proceeding.

As a result of our manuscripts preservation microfilming program, over 3 000 master negative reels have been produced (over 10 000 volumes copied). A revised *Select list of microfilms for sale* is now available. The catalogue (16 pp.) includes 250 frequently requested, mainly manuscript items of general and genealogical interest. For further information please contact Martin Beckett telephone (02) 230 1502.

Monash University
Department of Librarianship Archives and Records

Correspondent: Frank Upward

In the May 1994 news note in *Archives and Manuscripts* the move of the Department into the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology was mentioned along with our first venture into undergraduate education with the development of first year subjects on the documenting of society. Those subjects proved to be too late in development for introduction in 1994 but will come on-line in 1995 in conjunction with a Bachelor of Information Management run from the Department, but with considerable input across the Faculty and with provision for additional studies from other faculties in the University. The archives and records staff of our Department have had considerable input into the design of the course which will combine elements from traditional librarianship and archives and records disciplines with

systems and information technology components in a manner which we believe makes sense out of that amorphous concept 'information management'. One of the advantages of our new home is that it functions as a true 'faculty' rather than a collection of competing departments, enabling us to teach a genuinely interdisciplinary course. In the first eighteen months the students will utilise existing and new faculty subjects to study the computing environment and business applications, receive elementary education in programming and look at networking and relational databases. They will undertake courses on documentation and information processing provided by our Department, and commence at least a minor course of study from elsewhere in the University. The last eighteen months will involve taking electives to deepen the studies already undertaken, plus compulsory subjects involving project work and further study within our Department.

Enrolment levels in the postgraduate archives and records management courses continue to increase despite Monash's policy of redirecting HECS funding to undergraduate courses which has turned out to be both an opportunity and a threat. The work on the new undergraduate program has caused us to put on hold our plans for further development of the postgraduate courses foreshadowed in the last issue of this journal. Nevertheless the level of interest in those programs provides a strong incentive to continue with their development, although the precise nature and structure of what we will develop is undergoing some rethinking.

In May David Bearman conducted three seminars and workshops at Monash foreshadowing a paper he was preparing on revisions to the landmark text *Archival Methods*, looking at the role of archives and libraries in the near future and the need to reinvent ourselves, and discussing metadata as a means of regulating recordkeeping. In November, in conjunction with Australian Archives and the University of New South Wales we will be hosting a series of seminars at Monash on electronic recordkeeping systems and archival control involving overseas visitors Michael Cook, Margaret Hedstrom and John McDonald and Australian archivists and records managers Chris Hurley, Barbara Reed and David Roberts.

Bruce Smith has completed his thesis surveying archival practices in Victorian Museums. Our complement of overseas students grew by five in 1994 with the addition of Sam Kaima from PNG, Muswa Suuya from Zambia, Esther Karibongi from the Solomon Islands and Sarah McAlley and Meg Morgan from New Zealand.

Livia Iacovino will be on leave of absence in the second semester working on her MA thesis on legal education for recordkeeping professionals in the

context of overall educational requirements. The Department has entered into a joint publication arrangement with Australian Archives for the production of a book of essays titled *The Records Continuum; Ian Maclean and Australian Archives First Fifty Year Anniversary*. Our publication, *Archival Documents*, recently went into its third small print run.

Mortlock Library of South Australiana

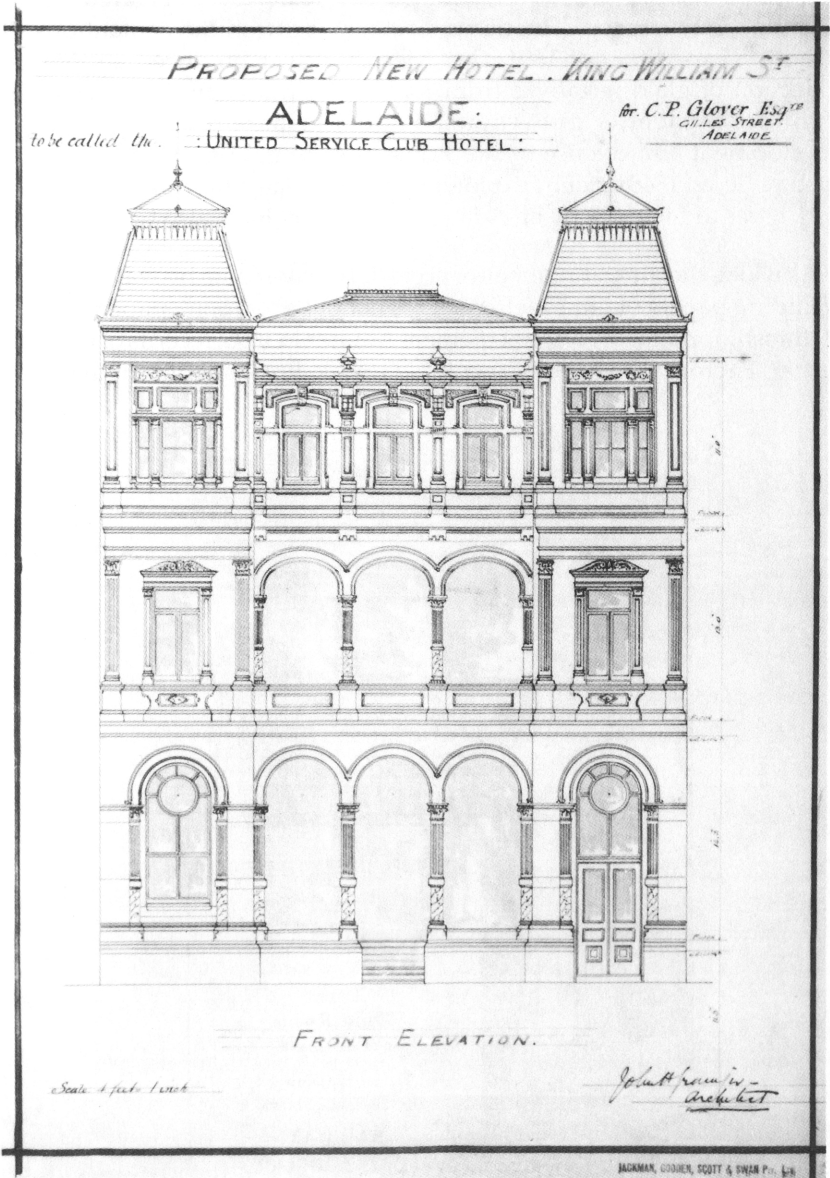
Correspondent: Roger Andre

The J.D. Somerville Oral History Collection has continued to diversify its holdings. The Folk Stories 1993–94 project, organised in conjunction with the Cultural Diversity Services of the State Library, has added forty-five folk stories in thirty-one languages to the collection. Cultural groups in South Australia as diverse as Cambodian, Dutch, Fijian, Greek, Japanese and Zimbabwean were asked to contribute folk stories with a 'nature' theme. Versatile indexing should ensure that the most absent-minded researcher will not miss the rich fund of folk material.

The Goodwood Orphanage Oral History has ended with Oral History Officer Beth Robertson recording an extensive interview with the project's interviewer, Rosemary Willis. Rosemary was herself a former resident of the orphanage. The interview concerns not only her memories of the institution but also her role as an 'insider interviewer', her emotional and intellectual reactions during the course of the project and her perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the interviewing program as a whole. Both found the interview a satisfying conclusion to a very rewarding and stimulating project.

Exhibitions have excited a good deal of interest. *The Barbara Hanrahan Memorial Exhibition*, curated by Barbara Holbourn, has resulted in memorabilia being donated by Jo Steele, Barbara Hanrahan's life partner, and her mother, Ronda Wisbey. Items described in Barbara Hanrahan's first book, *Scent of Eucalyptus*, a semi-autobiographical memoir set in the Adelaide suburb of Thebarton, as well as photographs, certificates and artwork, have enhanced Barbara Hanrahan's archival record group. Following the Barbara Hanrahan exhibition Library patrons were able to wallow in the nostalgia of an exhibition mounted by librarian Andrew Piper to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Beatles' tremendously successful visit to Adelaide.

The most notable acquisition to date has been the purchase, using Somerville bequest funds, of 179 architectural drawings, the *Jackman Gooden Collection*, spanning 1874 to 1934, high Victoriana to art deco. Alerted by the Mitchell Library's ever vigilant Paul Brunton, we enlisted the support of the Friends



United Services Club Hotel (now Ambassadors). Elevation by John Grainger (father of the controversial Percy) 1880. Jackman Gooden Collection, Mortlock Library of South Australia, BRG 238/1/15. Photo: Mortlock Library.

of the State Library of South Australia to secure the diary of Alfred Warren at Christie's July auction. The diary casts new light on the contentious Elder Scientific Expedition of 1891. Our friendly dealer produced an interesting collection of glass negatives from Kapunda, an account book, 1859–79, of Hahndorf wheelwright August Pade and papers documenting the development and demise of the Princess Alice gold mine. Manuscripts of bush verse, an 1848 letter by explorer John McDouall Stuart and an informative 1841 letter to Limerick by an Adelaide merchant, have also been acquired.

As usual, the greater number of accessions have come by way of donation, including papers of James Jefferis 'Prophet of Federation', papers of Samuel McIntosh, appointed Village Settlement Adviser in 1895, records of the Yongala Butter Factory 1889–1939 and ANZ Bank Preservation Trust records

Queensland Railways.

THE DEPARTMENT
publishes a variety of
Illustrated Descriptive
— BOOKLETS —
treating of many of the
Choicest
Tourist Resorts
in Queensland.

These will be forwarded
on application to the
— RAILWAY —
INQUIRY OFFICE,
OR THE
INTELLIGENCE and TOURIST
BUREAU, BRISBANE.

*Tourist advertisement from a 1909 Public Timetable.
Photo: Queensland Railways Historical Centre.*

documenting 1970s heritage battles. Possibly on account of 1994 being the centenary of women's suffrage, a stream of records reflecting women's activities has been received, notably records of the Women's Australian National Service (WANS), formed to voluntarily fill jobs vacated by fighting men during World War II, and papers of author and advocate of women's rights, Ellinor Gertrude Walker, 1893–1990. It has been a fruitful year.

National Library of Australia—Manuscript Section

Correspondent: Graeme Powell

Although modern manuscripts have predominated among recent acquisitions, the National Library continues to receive diaries and letters of nineteenth century emigrants from Britain to Australia. In addition, the Library bought a number of logs and other naval records at the Ingleton sale in Sydney in November 1993. Modern acquisitions have included a considerable variety of personal records: the papers of the scientist John Bolton, the economist Sir Leslie Melville, the politician Tom Uren, the music dealer Ken Snell, the crocodile hunter Tom Cole, the theatre historian Eric Irvin, the singer Dame Joan Hammond, and the novelists Kenneth Mackenzie and Nene Gare. Two items of particular interest were a catalogue of Balinese and Javanese bronzes compiled and illustrated by Donald Friend and an early draft of David Malouf's novel *An Imaginary Life*.

For four years work has been proceeding on the conversion of the old manuscript card catalogue to machine-readable form. The task has now been completed, apart from a few problem collections. Collection level descriptions can be searched on the On-Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) within the Library and on the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) in over 1 200 libraries and other institutions throughout Australia. They are also accessible to remote users through the Internet. Work has now begun to make the detailed finding aids for individual collections, including microfilm collections, also available on the Internet.

Good progress has been made on two longstanding publications. The 19th instalment of the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts relating to Australia* was issued on microfiche in April 1994. It contains entries submitted by seventeen libraries and archives. Editorial work has been completed on a new edition of Part Six of the *Australian Joint Copying Project Handbook*. It comprises class and piece lists of nineteen record groups at the Public Record Office in London, including the Treasury, Board of Trade, Cabinet Office, Audit Office and Air Ministry. The Public Record Office microfilm is now reasonably well listed and from now on priority will be given to the Miscellaneous Series microfilm.

In the last two years the Library has devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to trying to resolve the financial and other problems of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. In January 1994 Adrian Cunningham took up his duties as Interim Executive Officer of the Bureau with the special task of seeking additional member libraries. It is hoped that by 1995 there will be two or three new partners which will enable the PMB to resume full-scale operations for at least another three years.

Noel Butlin Archives Centre

Correspondent: Maureen Purtell

This year we launched a new publication, *Parties to the Award*. It is a guide to the pedigrees and archival resources in Australia of federally registered trade unions and employer associations and their peak state and national councils. Conceived in response to radical restructuring of the trade union movement since the late 1980s, *Parties to the Award* records registration, name changes and amalgamations in chart form. It identifies all registered organisations in industry groupings and tells where records are located in Australia. We think its value will be appreciated by individual researchers and as a reference tool for institutions. A positive response from many of the 'Parties' themselves has been encouraging in the production stages. It is to be available at this time thanks to the ideas, persistence and hard work of Raj Jadeja of our staff who has rallied us all to make sure the project was completed. Contact the Archives for your copy.

Another advance was our new edition of the *List of Holdings*. The style represents the beginnings of a grander guide of the future. All major collections are now identified including, for the first time, personal papers and the National Aids Archive Collection.

During the year we contributed material and information for display by Australian Archives, the Powerhouse Museum and the Museum of Australia. The Maritime Museum in Sydney is also using selected records in displays over time.

The stream of visitors and users included student groups from Modern and Economic History at ANU, several groups from the University of Canberra, and scholars participating in the Federated PhD Scheme—Housing and Urban Studies, organised by the Urban Research Program at ANU. For the latter we used the City of Newcastle as a theme for a display of records illustrating the development of an industrial, port city. In-house displays have

included one entitled *Peace on Earth—goodwill to men*, and another on records of arts and entertainment in trade unions.

Processing of the large Australian Conservation Foundation collection is well in hand and work has begun on records of their Canberra National Liaison Office. Both collections currently support major research endeavours, one of which is a political history of the ACF. Records of another recently listed collection—the Institute of Public Affairs have attracted use, including research on the formation of the Liberal Party.

Overseas researchers have used our collections consistently and in the last year CSR Limited records have been a valuable source for information on sugar industry technology. Early building and investment company records have provided evidence for a Canadian study of land markets in settlement colonies. The records of the Haemophilia Foundation have proved valuable for assisting policy work for a Commission of Enquiry on the blood system, also in Canada. It is heartening to find these almost contemporary records from the National Aids Archive Collection being put to good use already.

Ewan Maidment, our Senior Archivist, supported by the Archives proved useful for understanding the trade union movement in the Pacific and, as a result of his work, good lists of records held by Trade Union Archives in the Pacific will be made available.

Recent collections include personal papers from Nick Origlass, Edna Ryan, Joan Corbett, Meredith Burgmann, John Garland, Ted Roach, Michael Easson and the late Margaret Jennings. The latter documents well the professional life of a working archivist in Australia since the beginning of the ASA. Records of organisations came from CAPE (Churches AIDS Prevention and Education) the Australian Federal Police Association's National Office and the Australian Population Association. Most of the 100 deposits received in 1993 were additions to continuing collections. This inevitable situation continues strongly to date. However, many state branches of now defunct trade unions have added new dimensions to accessions of 1993–94.

Northern Territory Archives Service

Correspondent: Don Brech

The backlog of records in government agencies awaiting transfer has been cleared. Over 1 500 shelf metres of records were taken into secondary storage at Nightcliff and Winnellie in the year ending 30 June 1994.

The 1994 Northern Territory History Awards promoting the study and writing of Territory history were announced in July. A total of \$29 500 was distributed between nineteen projects. Seven of the recipients were from interstate and one from London, this being John Strehlow who is working on a biography of his grandfather, Carl Strehlow, a Lutheran missionary in the Territory in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and father of Theodor Strehlow, the linguist and writer.

A seminar and workshop on oral history was organised by the Oral History Unit in Darwin in April and attended by more than forty people. Ronda Jamieson from the Batty Library in Perth and Francis Good of NTAS presented the sessions. During the past year the Unit has received ninety-seven recordings, totalling 140 recorded hours and has completed 1 752 hours of transcription.

It is anticipated that the vacancy created by the departure of Don Brech at the end of August will have been filled by the time this note appears in print. Don has resigned from the NTAS to return to Hong Kong and conduct an international consultancy practice in records management and archives.

Public Record Office of Victoria

Correspondent: Ian MacFarlane

PRO's Head Office relocated in late June to level 3, Rialto South Tower, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000. All correspondence should be addressed to PO Box 1156, City Road Post Office, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205. The Head Office telephone number is (03) 628 4555, facsimile (03) 628 2028. The new accommodation is more spacious and offers pleasant surroundings. This accommodation is temporary, but the move to a permanent location is at least two years away.

Current statistics show that the holdings of the Public Record Office are now 55 635 shelf metres. Transfers to the Laverton Repository during 1993–1994 totalled 3 265 shelf metres including accessions from Melbourne Water (formerly the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works; 605 shelf metres), Victorian Regional Magistrates Courts (220 shelf metres) and the Department of Health and Community Services (600 shelf metres).

During 1993–94, more than 53 500 records were issued (an increase of 11% over the previous financial year). Of these requests, 42 425 were from researchers and other members of the public. Analysis of the most requested records issued to search rooms, between July 1992 and June 1994, showed

that probates (29.3%) were highly used, followed by inquests (7.5%), education records (7.6%) and lands records (7.4%). Search room visits during the past financial year totalled 27 372 visitors, of whom 20% were first time users.

In 1993–94, authorised destructions increased by 50%, or over 5 000 metres. The Office received 176 proposals for destruction authorities. Of these, 148 proposals were processed and 138 destruction authorities were issued. Together with the implementation of disposal schedules, a total of 15 400 metres of records were actually destroyed.

Several new services will be offered for a trial period until the end of 1994–95. These include a toll free number for the Office's Laverton Search Room for users living outside the Melbourne Metropolitan area (1800 657 452). Same day or overnight delivery of records to the City Search Room will be available shortly as a priority service, for a small fee. The new service will operate Monday to Friday. The existing free delivery (next day) service will remain and be extended to five days a week instead of the present four. Saturday opening of the Laverton Search Room will commence soon, also as a new service initiative. The Search Room will be open on the last Saturday of each month (except during the Christmas Holiday period—December and January), from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Legislative changes to the *Public Records Act 1973* have been passed by the Victorian Parliament with bipartisan support as part of the *Arts Institutions (Amendment) Act 1994*. The most significant changes are the introduction of a twenty-five year records transfer requirement and a form of thirty year rule. Copies of the relevant amendments are available on request.

The *Immigration to Victoria Indexing Project* has just published *Register of Inward Shipping and Index (Overseas and Intercolonial Ports) 1846–1852* on ten fiches for \$40 per set plus \$5 postage within Australia. Four other sets are currently available. Further details about these releases are available from the Public Record Office.

This year is the 140th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade, and the Public Record Office will be presenting displays of official documents in Ballarat. One display will be in association with the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, between 21 October – 4 December 1994. For the first time historic treasures like the original Eureka flag, Bakery Hill 'Monster Meeting' poster and the State Trials map exhibit will be displayed together. At the same time, another display will be mounted outside the Office's Ballarat Search Room in the State Offices, Doveton Street, Ballarat. The purpose of the latter display is to further publicise PRO facilities in Ballarat in the Central Highlands region.

As a long-term special project, the Office is planning a centenary display to celebrate Federation. The holdings of the Public Record Office contain considerable documentation, but apparent culling of the Premier's and Chief Secretary's inwards correspondence, sometime after the turn of the century, means the documentary record is far from complete.

The computerisation project currently being undertaken in the Laverton Repository is proceeding to plan and is expected to be operational by the end of August. Work has commenced on the next stage of the project which will enable researchers to make direct on-line requests.

Queensland Railways Historical Centre Archives

Correspondent: Del Cuddihy

Information and recordkeeping systems have always played an important part in the running of railways. In fact, the combination of information and transportation systems developed by the railways in the nineteenth century revolutionised business and led to the creation of the modern business world.

Queensland Railways was initiated as a government enterprise in 1863 to utilise this revolutionary technology as 'absolutely necessary for the encouragement and development of inland settlement and for the prosperity of the Colony'.

The Railway Historical Centre is located in a restored 1870 railway building near the site of the turning of the first sod at Ipswich. It was established in 1990 and comprises an archives and a planned museum. A professional archivist and a resources officer work in the archives. It is open to the public from Tuesdays to Fridays by appointment only. It also offers a paid reference service. The Centre was incorporated into the Heritage Unit when it was established in 1993. A Heritage Manager was appointed and activities undertaken include plans for a luxurious tourist 'heritage train' and restoration of Roma Street Station, the original Brisbane Terminus Station from the 1870s.

Archives clients include historians (family, local, social), internal Queensland Railway clients, railway enthusiasts and other members of the public with a need for railway images or information. Holdings include a large photographic collection and family history section.

A seminar and display entitled 'Exploring Railway Records' was conducted successfully in conjunction with the Queensland State Archives in March and attracted eighty participants. David Bearman's exhortation to 'understand

the link between the history and culture of an organisation and its management of information' was taken as a starting point. The origins and types of railway records in Queensland were explored and the various uses that they can be put to were described. Speakers included a mix of archivists, historians and railway officers.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: Nola Fulwood

Cabinet has given formal approval for the new Queensland Archives legislation to be drafted. It is not anticipated that it will go before parliament until next year.

Recent staff appointments now have QSA with a full complement of staff after last year's restructuring. Managers of the following sections have been confirmed—Anne Birgan to Technical Services, Shauna Hicks to Public Access and Bronwyn Self to Arrangement and Description. In addition Lisa Poulier and Monika Skladowski have been appointed archivists. Provision was made in the 1994–95 budget for a number of temporary staff to assist with the backlog in arrangement and description which has been exacerbated by the influx of transfers. The additional staff will be appointed for twelve months.

A display on railways in Queensland was mounted to complement a seminar which was given in conjunction with the Queensland Railways Historical Museum. This has been replaced by *Blending the Cultures* which was the theme of the 7th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History held in Brisbane in early July. The next exhibition is to complement the *One Family—Many Histories* conference on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history to be held in Brisbane in September. It is expected that the first volume of the guide to records relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders currently being prepared by Kathy Frankland will be launched at the *One Family—Many Histories* conference.

Staff in Preservation Services recently watched with interest as the textile conservator from the Queensland University of Technology used our facilities to wash a two hundred year old dress for the Queensland Women's Historical Association. No major disaster occurred to mar the event, and most staff found reason to visit conservation during the process.

State Archives of Western Australia

Correspondent: Tom Reynolds

The State Government chose the Annual General Meeting of the Records Management Association to respond to issues regarding accountability and public records, raised by the Royal Commission into 'WA Inc.' (November 1992) and the Auditor General (May 1994).

At the July meeting the Minister for the Arts (and Archives), Peter Foss, announced that the Government will establish two statutory authorities: an independent regulatory body called the Public Records Commission, and a Public Records Office that will replace the State Archives. A starting date for these changes was not announced by the Minister. At present the management and disposal of public records (and archives) are administered under a 1974 amendment to the *Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951*. The State Archives operates as a directorate within the Library and Information Service. The Minister intends the Public Records Commission to be a separate agency with responsibilities for setting and monitoring records management standards and reporting directly to Parliament. Although the Public Records Office will have a legislative basis the Minister envisages that for administrative purposes it will remain within the LISWA structure.

A discussion paper was released by the CEO, Library and Information Service, shortly after the Minister's speech. The paper outlines the scope and content of a proposed 'Public Records Act' that will replace the archival provisions of the current legislation. The new proposals supersede those outlined in an earlier discussion paper released by LISWA in September 1992, when an omnibus Library and Archives Act was under consideration.

Apart from the establishment of two statutory authorities the new Act will incorporate most of the elements proposed in the 1992 paper. New features of the 1994 proposals include recognition that ministerial records are public records, and specific provision for the disposal of records of privatised agencies.

The discussion paper was released immediately prior to the deadline for News Notes. Readers of this Journal and the *ASA Bulletin* will receive updates of future developments.

State Library of Victoria

Correspondent: Shona Dewar

The Australian Manuscripts Collection has now settled into its new home in the State Library of Victoria's North-East Wing.

A number of interesting collections have been acquired in the last six months. In February, we purchased the George Mercer papers which contain about 250 letters from the 1830s and 1840s. Mercer was a member of the Port Phillip Association, the group which John Batman represented when he explored Port Phillip in 1835, and subsequently settled here. The correspondence is rich in letters from Charles Swanston, John Holder Wedge and Thomas Learmonth, all of whom played an important part in the settlement at Port Phillip. Mercer remained in Britain during this period, and acted as the Association's representative in its dealings with the Colonial Office. Ruth Trait, one of our much valued volunteers, is transcribing the letters. We have also purchased a letter addressed to Antoine Fauchery, the gold fields photographer.

As usual, most of our acquisitions are donated by the generous people of Victoria. We have received, for example, the papers of Major C. J. Goddard, including a large number of letters written by him during the First World War; a volume of documents recording the foundation of the St John Ambulance Association in the 1880s; and some papers of George Russell, a nineteenth century pastoralist who held the 'Langi Willi' property near Skipton. Forty diaries of the Richardson family of Orbost have been copied for the collection. The Richardsons have lived in this part of East Gippsland since the 1870s and the diaries record their day-to-day activities from 1878 to 1936. We were particularly pleased to receive the papers of the late Stuart Sayers, former literary editor of *The Age* and, more recently, a dedicated volunteer in the Manuscripts Collection. Stuart's death last year was a great blow to us.

We were also very grateful to receive, via the Australian Science Archives Project, the papers of Lawrence Percival Coombes, the first Director of the Aeronautical Research Laboratory, and of Philip Crosbie Morrison, the naturalist and science journalist. Both collections were accompanied by an expertly prepared descriptive list.

Gerard Hayes and Sandra Burt have been industriously preparing entries for the National Library's *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts relating to Australia*. It is some years since we contributed to the *Guide* so there is a good deal of

catching up to do. Sandra is also putting her knowledge of Australian literature to good use by arranging and describing the papers of Ken Gott, a friend and contemporary of Stephen Murray-Smith. The collection reflects Gott's involvement in the Australian literary and political worlds as well as his business activities in Asia. During a three month secondment to Manuscripts, Judy Macdonald of the Library's La Trobe Research Section arranged and described the latest donation of McCrae family papers. Judy is particularly knowledgeable about the McCrae papers, having worked on the earlier donations as well. Brenda Miall's biography of Georgiana McCrae will be published later in the year. It makes extensive use of the papers.

We are also assisting staff from the Collection Management division who are reorganising the Library's off-site store at Abbotsford. This should result in some improvement in the storage of the manuscript collections housed there.

The Library's new professionally designed brochures arrived from the printer in May. There are nine in the set. They provide information about the Manuscripts, Picture, Newspaper, Map, and Rare Book Collections, the Art, Music and Performing Arts Library, and the Australian Art and Artists ephemera collection. In addition, there is one describing the work of the Field Historian and one giving advice to people wishing to make a bequest to the Library.

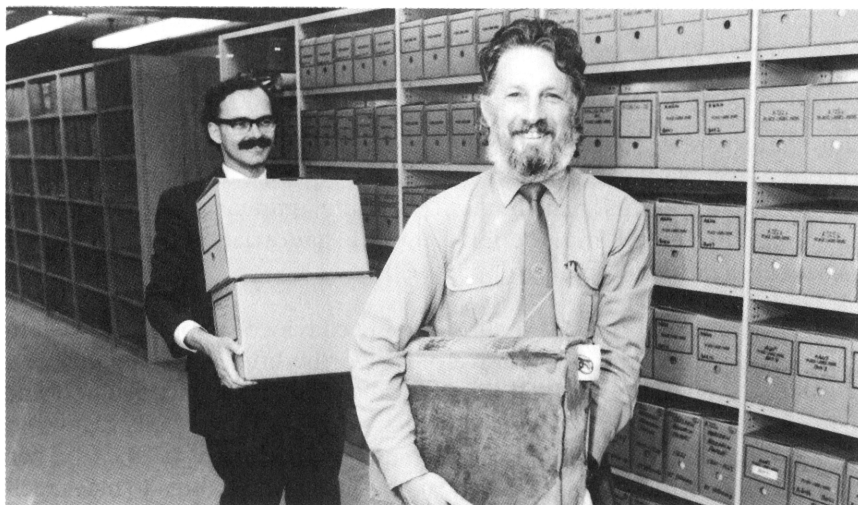
The Library does not have much exhibition space while the redevelopment is underway. However, we did manage to put on a display in The Queen's Hall earlier this year which celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Robert Hoddle.

The staff of the Manuscripts Collection have been pleased to welcome two Library staff members to permanent positions here, namely Sandra Burt, formerly a librarian in the Picture Collection, and Lois McEvey, formerly a library technician in the Reference Library. Both had been acting in their positions for several months.

University of New England Archives

Correspondent: Christopher C. Buckley

The relocation of the UNE Archives has happened. An intensive exercise in shifting many metres of material was achieved over ten days. The New England district has been in sore need of rain and we got some during the shift. The quantity of rain was not useful for relieving drought but it gave the



Archivist Chris Buckley and Assistant Archivist Dr Edward Bridle in the relocated Archives, University of New England, Armidale. Photo: Chris Buckley.

removalists a few rest days. Our new location is in what was the C. B. Newling Library behind the Armidale Teachers' College building in Mossman Street.

While the Archives is being reorganised, planning is proceeding for the Heritage Centre which will be situated in the same building as the Archives. A director is to be appointed for the Heritage Centre and preparation for the filling of the position is a high priority.

The Records Management Office, also under the control of the Archivist, is busy with organising a records control system. The current system is not only ancient but it is going to be retired at the end of the year. Work has been steady for nearly a year in getting a basis for replacement. It is expected that a good replacement system will be soon available. The benefits from the groundwork are that we will get a system that suits the workings of Archives and the Records Management Office and it will be able to cope with demands from user groups throughout the organisation. Special thanks go to Crispin Trueman from the Records Management Office for his outstanding work on the system. The efficiencies achieved show that a good system can be best achieved through a capable records manager who is a computer crank. Crispin was assisted ably throughout by the Beta-testing of Bill Oates. A basic aim of the system is to manage all records from creation to disposal or archiving and then through their archival life.

In July, board members of the Australian Country Music Foundation had a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bruce Thom, the Registrar, Mr. Rod Davis and Archivist, Mr. Chris Buckley, to discuss possible associations with the University in archival matters. The University has agreed to supply a senior staff member to the ACMF Board and for the use of the University Archivist as a consultant. The main purpose for the liaison is to establish an archival collection of Australian music. The country emphasis will be extended to categories such as folk and Aboriginal music to gain a database of Australian music for historical and research purposes.

An interesting project is one that is trying to convince people that a visit to Armidale in the middle of winter is well worthwhile. The Archivist is a member of the committee attempting this tall order. The principal aim of the tourist enticing project is to get those interested in local and family history to have a holiday with an array of events suiting their interests. By 1995 we expect to have a variety of resources available in a localised area to meet such demands. The weather is seen as immaterial or conducive to research or sitting near fires studying documents rather than pandering to sybaritic tastes offered by the sun, surf and six brands of beer venues.

University of Sydney Archives

Correspondent: Tim Robinson

The start of the year saw a number of changes in the University Archives. Staff numbers have dropped from four to two, due to a retirement and departure of a seconded staff member, Dr Margaret Dwyer. Temporary, but valuable, assistance has been found with the appointment, on a casual part-time basis, of Andrew Wilson.

The functions of the University Archives have also been substantially affected by the appointment of the Assistant University Archivist as the University's Freedom of Information Coordinator and Privacy Officer. Despite the additional work involved, the new responsibilities fit well with the Archives in that they are all related to the issue of institutional accountability.

Despite the effective reduction in staff, the various pure archival functions continue. Further inroads have been made into the processing backlog of personal archives. Experiments are also being carried out in making some of the guides to the University Archives available through AARNet in the University's Gopher. Anyone with access to AARNet will find the guides easily by pointing their Gopher Client at the University of Sydney. We would be interested in comments and suggestions. The prospect of producing

hypertext material for the World Wide Web (accessed through Mosaic on most systems) is also tempting, but would involve far more preparation than for the Gopher server.

Following the higher education amalgamations of 1990 a number of former Colleges of Advanced Education became part of the University of Sydney. Amongst them was the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The first series of records from the Conservatorium had been transferred to the Archives, being student files created prior to 1974. A survey of other administrative records is under way and more series should be transferred in the near future.

Heavy use of the Archives by external researchers has continued, and we are pleased to claim there has been no diminution of service in this area despite the other demands in the Archives. Several intra-University projects have also placed heavy demands in the reference service. Three publications are in the course of preparation which rely heavily on the resources of the University Archives: volume two of the history of the University, a pictorial history of the University as a companion volume to the two volume history, and a history of Sydney Teachers' College, which became a part of Sydney CAE and subsequently the University.