

News Notes

Edited by Helen Morgan

Australian National University Archives Program, Canberra

Correspondent: Mary Paton

Relocation

2004 was another busy year for the staff of the ANU Archives Program. After many months of planning, the Program's offices and reading room moved to a new location. Although still on the campus of the ANU, the Program's new space is very different to its previous space in Acton Underhill. Researchers and staff members are now enjoying newly refurbished facilities in the R G Menzies Building, a much more accessible and spacious building. Whilst some of our most popular collections came with us, such as the early serials and Tooth's hotels yellow cards, most of the collections remain in the tunnel, in significantly extended and improved storage facilities. As a result, the records retrieval system has changed from an 'on demand' service to a twice-daily retrieval. Although requiring significant changes to reference and processing procedures, everything is now running smoothly, thanks to collaborative efforts between Archives staff and the ANU's Facilities and Records Team.

The Program celebrated its new location at a function in the Menzies Building in September. At the same event, Dr John Merritt launched the publication *Light from the Tunnel: Collecting the Archives of Australian Business and Labour at the Australian National University, 1953-2003*. This collection of essays was edited by Friends of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC), Barry Howarth and Ewan Maidment, and is a tribute to past and present NBAC archivists.

Exhibitions

Two exhibitions at Old Parliament House also helped raise the profile of the Archives Program. Both *People's Procession* and *The Petrov Affair* featured items from our collections. *People's Procession - Australian Popular Movements 1880s-1950s* celebrated Australian democracy in action, and used union banners, photographs, union membership certificates, minute books, journals and other records from NBAC to demonstrate popular reactions to social and political movements during this period of Australian history. *The Petrov Affair* (exhibited August 2004 to April 2005) examined, not only the notorious events of April 1954, but also their ongoing impact on Australia's political and social landscape. Items lent from the NBAC collections for this exhibition include pamphlets, newspapers and political cartoons, the latter highlighting NBAC's extensive holdings of political cartoons, photographs and other images.

In April 2004, images from the Program's collections joined the online image database PictureAustralia. This was the result of joint efforts of Archives Program staff and ANU's Digital Resources Program, and showcases over 300 images from union, company and university collections.

New Acquisitions

In addition to relocation and outreach projects, normal processing work continued throughout 2004. We received additions to several collections, including those of the Australian Society of Archivists, CSR Limited, the Jack Kavanagh Papers and the Queensland Teachers Union. Entirely new collections included those of the Sydney Stevedores Association, Merv Macfarlane (trade unionist and political activist), Richard Eves (anthropologist and peace/anti-nuclear activist) and an *Anthology of Radical and Working Class Poems* from the early twentieth century.

Charles Sturt University Regional Archives

Correspondent: James Logan

Since our last report in May 2003, there have been many new developments at Charles Sturt University Regional Archives. Archivist and Collection Manager, James Logan, was seconded to the Faculty of Arts for 50% of his time in 2004 to lecture in Australian history and to

coordinate the redevelopment of two new fully online Australian history subjects at the second year level. It is anticipated that the new subjects will encourage students to make regular use of the Archives' holdings. Mr Logan will continue to work 0.5 at the Archives and 0.5 in the Faculty of Arts in 2005, while Don Boadle's responsibility to the Faculty is adjusted from 0.25 to 0.1.

Project Archivist, Wayne Doubleday, continues to work solidly on the State Records Documentation Project. In 2004, the project focused on the registration of police and court house records that are required as State Archives. In total, 7 agencies, 123 series and 155 consignments were registered on State Records' BOS database. Meanwhile, Mr Doubleday is enrolled in a research degree of MSc (Information Science) at Edith Cowan University and will submit his thesis, 'Assessing the Effectiveness and Validity of Statewide Archival Networks: A Case Study of the New South Wales Regional Repositories System', in 2006.

Sadly, in 2004, the Archives farewelled two staff members, Tom Gibson and Rosalie Grinter. Mr Gibson filled the position of Archives Officer for two years, while undergoing part-time study in a Masters of Information Technology course at CSU. In that time he made valuable improvements to our collection management database and was responsible for revamping the Archives' website <<http://www.csu.edu.au/research/archives>>. The departure of Mr Gibson and Ms Grinter has seen the return of Ms Dietrich to help out on a casual basis. The Archives also receives casual assistance from two CSU history students.

Historians, professional researchers and community users continue to make good use of the collection. Retrievals in 2003 were up nine per cent in comparison to 2002, while search room visits were down for that same period. Although retrievals dropped in 2004, there was a significant rise of 16.95% in search room visits. During the 2003-04 summer vacation, the Archives hosted and funded, with the assistance of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, two Summer Research Scholars. Aaron Pegram investigated 'Wagga Wagga's Vietnam Experience', which formed the basis of his history honours dissertation (completed January 2005), while Jillian Kohlhagen arranged and described the papers of the Walter Campbell Memorial Trust. Walter Campbell was a pastoralist and son of Frederick Campbell of Yarralumla.

Over the summer of 2004-05, the Regional Archives hosted three more Research Scholars. Two scholars, Aaron Pegram and Sally Huckel, were funded by the City of Wagga Wagga's Livestock Marketing Centre to carry out a series of oral history interviews and to select a range of images documenting the history of the saleyards. Research from their project will assist in the production a book and CD comprising of images and excerpts from various oral histories. A third scholar, Kristie-Lee Webb, was funded by the Regional Archives and Faculty of Arts to work on a private collection of papers deposited by author Sue Chesbrough.

In 2003, the Archives received some 48 accessions totalling 64.71 linear metres. Of the more interesting accessions, the Archives received further consignments from Doris and Sue Chesbrough, Beryl Ingold, MBE, AO, Jim Daley, Wagga Wagga stock and station agent, as well as a large collection of nineteenth century records from several Masonic Lodge chapters in the Riverina. In 2004, the Archives received 62 accessions totalling 85.97 linear metres. Notable accessions include: the letter books of RB Wilkinson, MLA and principal of the stock and station agents Wilkinson and Lavender, and further consignments from the Agricultural Bureau of New South Wales, the Wagga Wagga School of Arts and Willis Bros brick works.

In terms of community outreach, last year the Archives conducted an information evening for members of the Wagga Wagga and District Family History Society on resources held at the Archives. The night was regarded as a great success, prompting a future information evening on using convict records. In collaboration with TAFE and the University's Art Collection, the Archives also hosted a series of exhibitions, featuring artworks from several TAFE students. Three of these exhibitions coincided with recitals held at the Riverina Conservatorium. Meanwhile, in 2003, records were made available for copying on behalf of two local historical society microfilming projects: the Hay Historical Society's 'Pastoral Records of the Riverina project' (managed by Caroline and Ian Merrylees, and published on 173 microfiche) and the 'June Historical Society's Records of June Shire Council project' (managed by Margaret Hill and including June Shire Council rate books and admission registers for June High School).

There have been several new improvements to the building. In 2002, the Archives' air-conditioner was upgraded with a new electric chiller and stand-alone boiler unit. The replacement was matched dollar-for-

dollar by the University and State Records Authority of New South Wales. The foyer and search room were also repainted, making an enormous difference to the appearance of the building. Last year also saw the upgrade of the building's security system. All exterior doors have been alarmed and fitted with new locks, and alarm sensors have been installed throughout the building.

John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library

Correspondent: Lesley Wallace

New exhibition launched

With 2005 marking the sixtieth anniversary of Prime Minister John Curtin's death, the JCPML has planned a number of significant events throughout the year. In February a major new exhibition was launched by the Governor of Western Australia. *The Art of the Possible: Creating an independent Australian foreign policy* explores Australia's growing independence in the realm of foreign policy from 1935 to 1950. Under John Curtin's skilled and pragmatic leadership, Australia's refusal to see itself as a colonial outpost serving only British interests created the possibility of a new direction in foreign policy.

The exhibition was inspired by the recent donation of records comprising the working papers accumulated in the course of preparing the sixteen-volume publication *Documents on Australian Foreign policy, 1937-1949*. These records were created by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and transferred to the JCPML by DFAT and the National Archives of Australia (NAA) in 2004. The research potential of these records is significant as only about 10% of the working papers were used in the published volumes and the contents and subjects covered are broad. A small sampling of these documents is on display in the exhibition. *The Art of the Possible* will be open to the public throughout 2005.

JCPML contributes to the Western Australian Cultural Heritage Portal

The Western Australian Cultural Heritage Portal is a new website developed to enable researchers to search the contents of a variety of cultural heritage collections in WA simultaneously. A partnership between the University of Western Australia (UWA), Curtin University of Technology and the WA Department for Culture and the Arts, the

portal project is funded by the Australian Research Council's Linkage Infrastructure and Equipment Fund. Professor Richard Nile and Kandy-Jane Henderson from Curtin are both Chief Investigators for this grant.

Cultural heritage materials relating to Western Australia are housed in a variety of public institutions from libraries and archives to museums and galleries. Searching these collections on an individual basis can be frustrating for researchers. The portal brings together the collections of the UWA Library, the State Library of WA, the NAA, the JCPML, the Berndt Museum of Anthropology and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. The portal is the first of its kind for Australia and creates a model for others to follow.

Digital news

The JCPML has continued to expand the range of digital resources freely available from its website. Information on some of these resources are provided below.

ERA Treasure Hunt

The JCPML Electronic Research Archive (ERA) contains many fascinating 'treasures' amongst the personal papers, photographs, oral histories, copies of official records and other archival material relating to the life and times of John Curtin. This ERA Treasure Hunt is designed to introduce young people to ERA through a hunt that's fun for all ages and lead them to discover some of the fascinating and lesser known 'personal treasures' in the archival collection. There are four hunts that reveal quirky facts about the prime minister, including a connection between the wartime leader and Lingford's custard powder! Available at <<http://john.curtin.edu.au/era/treasure/treasurehunt.html>>.

'Doing the best for the country': Behind the scenes of Australia's wartime decision-making 1939–45

Five prime ministers served Australia during the war years – Robert Menzies, Arthur Fadden, John Curtin, Frank Forde and Ben Chifley. The nation's key decision-making bodies, the Cabinet, War Cabinet and Advisory War Council, decided the direction of the war effort in meetings held mainly at Parliament House in Canberra and Victoria Barracks in Melbourne, supported by the hard work and dedication of staff in the Prime Minister's Department and the War Cabinet

Secretariat. This web publication takes visitors inside the walls of the offices and meeting places where the course of the war was directed and invites them to explore the stories of the places and people who worked there. Available at <<http://john.curtin.edu.au/behindthescenes>>.

Aspirations of a Working Class Man: Achievements under John Curtin's leadership

This web resource explores the achievements of the Labor Government under John Curtin's leadership. Believing that 'the peace must be won for the masses', Curtin used his wartime prime ministership to further his lifelong dream of a fair go for all Australians, implementing Labor programs in the areas of economic reform, social services and immigration, education, public broadcasting, and foreign policy, while maintaining confidence in the power of Parliament.

Political cartoons vividly illustrate the achievements that are the focus of the resource. Online educational activities involve analysis and interpretation of some of these cartoons, providing further resources to complement the JCPML educational publication *Cartoon PD in a Package*, launched in 2004. Available at <<http://john.curtin.edu.au/aspirations/index.html>>.

Award of John Curtin Centre Fellowship to Hon. John Cowdell

The Honourable John Cowdell MLC has been honoured for his outstanding and enthusiastic contribution to the John Curtin Centre and in particular the JCPML through the awarding of a prestigious John Curtin Centre Fellowship by Curtin University of Technology. John has been an active member of the John Curtin Centre Appeal Planning Committee since its very first meeting in 1989. He dedicated himself to achieving the fund-raising target to build an appropriately fitting structure to house Australia's first prime ministerial library. He has continued to be a key supporter of the JCPML, not only as a significant donor to the research collection but as an advisor and facilitator.

A definitive guide to archives of John Curtin

John Curtin: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers is a joint publication of the National Archives of Australia (NAA) and the JCPML. It contains biographies of both John and Elsie Curtin and detailed listings

of records on the prime minister and his wife held by the NAA, the JCPML and other institutions in Australia and overseas. At the book launch in Perth, eminent historian Professor Geoffrey Bolton spoke of the value of the publication to researchers interested in John Curtin and the many aspects of his wartime prime ministership, and noted the continuing contribution to Australian history arising from the partnership between the NAA and the JCPML. The guide is available for free downloading (2.5 Mb PDF file) or for purchase as a print publication via the NAA online shop at <https://shop.naa.gov.au/browse_cat.php?cat=41#356>. (Editor's Note: A review of this guide appears in this edition of *Archives and Manuscripts*, in the 'Reviews' section.)

Putting a value on the research collection

With the expert assistance of the Corporate Risk and Compliance unit at Curtin, the JCPML recently undertook the challenge of assigning a monetary value to the research collection. The valuation of realia, books, manuscripts, photographs and audio-visual materials for insurance purposes required significant expertise. In her report, Baiba Berzins, archivist, historian and valuer for the Cultural Gifts Program wrote: 'I do not know of a collection similar to JCPML, in Australia or overseas, which has been valued as a whole. Archives of material relating to politicians are sold on the commercial market, especially overseas, but insufficient information is available to judge how these can be compared to the JCPML'. Ms Berzins spent a week working through the collection at the JCPML as part of the valuation and noted: 'It was very interesting for me to not only see what you had in the collection but also to realise how technology is making accessible materials which once one had to travel to distant places to peruse'.

***Shadow Of The Eagle* wins audience award for regional tour**

The JCPML worked in association with the Perth Theatre Company to develop the play *Shadow Of The Eagle*, which premiered in Perth in 2003, followed by a very successful tour of five states and territories in 2004. The play, which focused on the historical first meeting between General Douglas MacArthur and Prime Minister John Curtin, has earned the inaugural National Touring Award for Excellent Audience Response. The award is a testament to the quality of the production and the response the play generated from audiences around Australia. *Shadow*

Of The Eagle won against a host of national and interstate productions including opera, dance and theatre.

Visiting researchers based at the JCPML

Senator Peter Cook, recently appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Curtin University of Technology, is based at the JCPML for the period of his research. Peter is developing a guide for parliamentarians in Commonwealth countries dealing with the World Trade Organisation, a project for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the World Trade Organisation. The guide will include suggestions on ways parliamentarians can better fulfil their roles as elected custodians of their national interests.

Peter Hugill, Professor in the Department of Geography and Bush School of International Affairs Program at Texas A&M University, is a leading authority on world systems and geopolitics. His interest in Australia around the period of World War II as a case study of the transition from British global hegemony to American led to him basing his research at the JCPML while pursuing these studies. His paper, which includes a focus on John Curtin, Robert Menzies and Herbert Evatt, has the working title 'Multi-polarity to hegemony: the switch from British to American global power through the eyes of Australia'.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Maryanne Larkin

Projects

The Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government 1856–2006 project is continuing. The project commemorates the anniversary of the first New South Wales parliament under responsible government. A project archivist has identified papers for almost two hundred NSW parliamentarians within the Mitchell Library collections and is adding catalogue records for these to the PICMAN database. Digital images are being included. A dedicated website is also being created on the Library's site.

The Mitchell Bequest Project aims to identify all material presented or bequeathed to the Library by David Scott Mitchell. Electronic records are being created and preservation work is being carried out on items,

which include printed books, manuscripts, pictures, maps and pamphlets. The aim is to ensure that all DS Mitchell items have an electronic record by 2010, the centenary of the Mitchell Library.

The Library contributes records to *MusicAustralia* to provide web-based access to Australian music resources. To date, 472 items of nineteenth-century sheet music have been identified and processed; 114 items have received preservation treatment; and 140 items have been selected and digitised for web access. The project is ongoing and involves staff from the Original Materials Branch, Collection Services, Preservation and Digital Library Strategy, and one volunteer.

Digital news

Recently, digitisation has focused on the pictorial collections. Items include sketchbooks by members of the Blacket family, natural history drawings by William Bligh, sketches by Philip Parker King of landscapes and Aboriginal people, and a significant collection of pre-1885 photographs. In preparation are a large number of photographs by George Ernest ('Chinese') Morrison. Morrison's extensive collection includes portraits and views of people and places in China and other parts of Asia. His papers are among those most requested by overseas researchers. Relevant material is also being digitised for the NSW politicians' project. Of particular interest are the many illuminated addresses presented to politicians, which often include beautiful coloured sketches of NSW towns and buildings. Microfilm copies are providing the images for some manuscript collections.

The collections

A significant recent purchase was the log, ship portrait and charts for the 'Marquis Cornwallis'. The ship, under Captain Michael Hogan, left Cork, Ireland, in August 1795 to transport Irish convicts to New South Wales. On 9 September, as they neared Cape Verde Islands, Hogan learned of a plot to seize the vessel. He acted swiftly. Between forty and fifty convicts were flogged and two guards were imprisoned. Seven of the convicts and one of the guards died of wounds. The log starts after the mutiny and records the ship's arrival in Sydney on 11 February 1796 and its subsequent voyage to Calcutta on the way back to England. The painting, by marine artist Balthazar Solvyns, is one of the few known portraits of early convict ships. It is exciting to acquire a work by this

artist, who also produced a large number of lithographed images of the people of India. Two charts by Henry Moor show the track of the ship from Norfolk Island to the northern coast of New Guinea. By a fortunate coincidence, further material about the 'Marquis Cornwallis' was received as a donation. The original charts in the donated collection form part of the series acquired at auction.

Other purchases include two watercolour drawings of a platypus specimen sketched by an unknown artist in Bullock's Museum, London, 1814; four Aboriginal portraits by Henry Turbit, 1820-30s; two illuminated addresses presented to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by spiritualist organisations in Australia during his tour in 1920-21 to promote the cause of spiritualism; and George Augustus Robinson's report of a journey of two thousand two hundred miles to the tribes of the coast and eastern interior during the year 1844. The journey took six months and Robinson's account includes descriptions of the various tribes, and of stations, townships and terrain encountered.

The Library gained some important Australian music manuscripts when the international music publishing company, Boosey & Hawkes, closed its Australian operations in 2004. Most of the manuscripts had been acquired by Boosey & Hawkes when Southern Music Publishing Co. closed its Australian branch. The collection includes the autograph orchestral scores of Alfred Hill's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra* (1940), Lindley Evans' *An Australian Symphony for Chorus and Orchestra* (1933) and a photocopy of Raymond Hanson's *Concerto for Trumpet & Orchestra Op.27* (1948). Also included in the collection are many arrangements of music, probably commissioned by Southern Music Publishing in order to produce sound recordings of their published sheet music. One notable manuscript score in this series is an orchestration by Hal Evans of Mirrie Hill's piano work, *Three Aboriginal Dances* (1950).

Exhibitions

The Library's photographic collections are the focus of the 2005 exhibition program. *An Eye for Photography*, ran from January to 29 May, and showcased many of the icons of the collection, ranging from the earliest known Australian daguerreotype to digital photographs. The exhibition included works by amateurs as well as famous photographers such as Max Dupain and Helmut Newton. A major book by curator

Alan Davies sheds new light on the development of photography in Australia.

World Press Photo 2005 is on show from 13 June to 17 July. This annual, popular and confronting exhibition features images from the premier international competition for press photography and captures moments in people's lives from around the world in 2004. The final show in the year of photography will be works by David Moore, in the galleries from 7 November 2005 to 5 March 2006. This exhibition will feature David Moore's selection of his hundred 'best' images as well as some personal memorabilia, which will be supplied by the Moore family.

Footsteps on the water: in search of La Perouse, 1 August to 23 October, focuses on the ill-fated expedition led by Jean-Francois de Galaup de La Pérouse. The disappearance of La Pérouse rivals the death of Cook as one of the great historical dramas of European exploration of the Pacific. The exhibition will feature a fascinating combination of rare original eighteenth century items from the Library's collections alongside contemporary artworks by two French artists who were inspired by the La Pérouse expedition.

Reclaiming Felix, 2 May to 7 August, highlights the Australian origins of Felix the Cat, which many people believe is the all-American cat. Items in the Heritage Gallery continue to be changed regularly to present a variety of Library treasures.

Monash University Records and Archives Services Branch

Correspondent: Kathryn Dan

New faces

Janet Brennen is the Branch's new records manager. As part of the team which implemented the EDRM system at the Victorian Department of Justice last year, Janet will be drawing on her invaluable experience as Monash moves towards electronic records management. Janet's Department of Justice team was a joint winner of the Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Award in 2004.

Janine Patience is the new assistant records manager. She previously was the Victorian Department of Human Services' archivist and FOI officer.

Projects

In 2004, an Information Management Steering Committee, with membership from across the University, developed a strategy to identify good practice principles and projects to improve information systems and practices.

The Records and Archives Services Branch will soon be a contributing agency to PictureAustralia, an internet-based service which allows users to search many image collections simultaneously. By joining a diverse range of agencies such as the National Archives, the National Gallery of Australia, CSIRO and the Nolan Gallery, approximately 5000 images from the Monash University Archives online image database, MONPIX, will be available to a wider audience.

National Archives of Australia

Correspondent: Maggie Shapley

International Congress on Archives 2004

Four National Archives' staff presented papers at the International Congress on Archives in August 2004 in Vienna, Austria. The Archives also coordinated a combined Australian trade stand, and was joined by Public Record Office Victoria, the State Records Authority of NSW, the State Records Office of Western Australia and the Australian Society of Archivists to showcase Australian archival achievements.

Digital records

The *Managing Digital Records for Access (MADIRA)* project has been established as a cross-Branch project which aims to deliver integrated procedures for all areas of the Archives to manage and preserve digital records from the time they are transferred to Archives' custody to their delivery to clients for agency business needs or for public reference purposes.

A packaged CD of Xena v. 1.0 was produced for distribution at the 'Advances in Digital Preservation: An International Working Meeting' convened by the National Archives in September 2004. Work has now commenced on Xena 2.0, which will include normalisers for websites, PDF and Microsoft Project, and is planned for release in early 2005.

Audiovisual preservation

The ABC has released a DVD of *Seven Little Australians* with in-screen and cover acknowledgement of 'Restoration by the National Archives of Australia'. The work was undertaken as a preservation project but the results so impressed ABC Marketing that they decided to issue it as a commercial product.

Electronic Load Module for RecordSearch

A new module of RecordSearch has been successfully implemented. The Electronic Load Module (ELM) makes it possible to download information about individual items from agency recordkeeping systems onto hard media, and then to upload that information onto RecordSearch. ELM also includes a Microsoft Access database that can be used by agencies and staff to collect item information for loading onto RecordSearch.

Disposal authority

A disposal authority has been issued for the Department of the Treasury. The authority covers all non-administrative records of the Treasury.

Ministerial records

We have collected the records of several current and former Ministers as a result of the recent Federal election. The Prime Minister John Howard and the Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock both transferred additional records, and former Speaker Neil Andrew, former Ministers David Kemp, Daryl Williams, Jackie Kelly, former Parliamentary Secretaries Trish Worth and Chris Gallus, and former Keating Ministers Bob McMullan, Laurie Brereton and John Faulkner have also deposited records.

Awards

The Archives awarded the 2005 Frederick Watson Fellowship to writer Frank Moorhouse, to conduct research into the early days of the Commonwealth Literary Fund, which assisted many of the established names in Australian writing. The Frederick Watson Fellowship is named after the historian, librarian and archivist Dr JF Watson, who is best remembered for his contribution to the *Historical Records of Australia* series.

The Margaret George Award, named after a young Australian historian, was won by Dr Christina Twomey of Monash University and Dr Nicole Moore of Macquarie University. Dr Twomey will use the grant to complete her research for a book provisionally titled 'Australia's Forgotten Prisoners: Australian Civilians Interned by the Japanese in World War II'. Dr Moore's award will assist her in researching and writing a monograph about what was considered socially unacceptable in twentieth-century Australia.

Standard price photocopies

New photocopy charges and arrangements were introduced on 1 September 2004. A two tiered charging system for large and small files replaced, for remote researchers, the system of charging based on a count of the number of pages in each file. This provided the opportunity for the Archives to establish a link from our RecordSearch database to an E-shop online order form, allowing researchers to order and pre-pay for copies online.

Publications

The *Our History* website <<http://ourhistory.naa.gov.au>> was completed and launched on 15 September 2004. The site celebrates the history of the National Archives from 1944 to 2004 and features key documents and publications, some now out-of-print, that trace the Archives' innovative approaches to the challenges we have faced. Two new online publications were produced for the website: *Looking Back to the Future: 30 Years of Keeping Electronic Records at the National Archives of Australia*, by Simon Davis and *Changes and Choices, 1994-2004* by Hilary Golder, the sequel to her book *Documenting a Nation*.

Our latest guide in the Prime Ministers guides series, *John Curtin: Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers*, was launched by Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton at the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library on 4 November 2004. The guide is a joint publication of the National Archives and the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.

Exhibitions

Our major exhibition, *Just Add Water*, opened in Canberra in March 2005, before embarking on a national tour. We received development funding

from Visions of Australia, which enabled us to include regional museums, Hay Museums, the Museum at Home Hill on the Burdekin River in Queensland and Queen Victoria Museum and Gallery in Launceston, in developing elements of the exhibition including oral histories about local approaches to water matters. The aim is to provide the regional museum staff with experience in curating exhibitions in a national institution. Sponsorship has also been provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Caroma Industries, water authorities in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, South Australia and Queensland, and CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country program.

'Grandkids Day' on 19 January 2005 provided a promotional opportunity for the exhibition, with one of the events a community 'rain dance'. It is one of the biggest events on the Archives' calendar with attendance estimated at 3000 visitors.

Beacons by the Sea: Stories of Australian Lighthouses opened at the Queen Victoria Museum and Gallery in Launceston, Tasmania on 25 September 2004, and then proceeded to Burnie Regional Art Gallery. It coincided with the *Tasmanian Lighthouse Trail*, a first time collaboration between 13 of Tasmania's cultural institutions, historical societies and regional museums and galleries, showcasing their lighthouse records and artefacts.

Education

Vrroom, the new virtual reading room that delivers the Archives' collection online to teachers and students at their desktop, was soft-launched at the History Teachers' Association national conference in Melbourne in September 2004. It will be released to teachers, curriculum developers, academics and educators for user testing in the classroom in early 2005.

New structure

In October 2004, the National Archives adopted a new structure, with five branches: Access and Communication, Digital Government, Collection Preservation and Management, Corporate, and National Coordination. All State offices now report to a Deputy Director-General heading the new National Coordination branch, which also includes Corporate Governance and a new National Leadership section.

New Norcia Archives, Western Australia

Correspondent: Wendy G McKinley

Since our last contribution to 'News Notes', in May 1995, the Archives of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia in Western Australia has had a low profile, but it is still functioning, still gathering records, the collections are being used, and email enquiries continue to keep us busy. To reintroduce ourselves, New Norcia was founded in 1846 as a mission to the Aboriginal peoples of the area and subsequently became a farm with large pastoral leases and satellite missions. In the 1860s it had the care of people within a one hundred mile radius. Two schools for Aboriginals, one for girls and one for boys, two colleges, local businesses, a hotel, trading post and roadhouse were also established over time.

The archivist is employed for four days (30 hours), spread over five days, and an assistant archivist takes the fifth weekday in a block of four days a month. There are some volunteers who have specific jobs, such as indexing a collection of PAX, a small newspaper that was published by the Benedictine Community from 1954–68. A group of four women come from Perth several times a year to organise and accession the artworks on paper – a large collection of drawings, lithographs, etchings and reproductions collected over the last 160 years by the monks. Another volunteer has been sorting and inter-filing our duplicate photographs and organising others into groupings. It is hoped that eventually these others will be copied and become more accessible. Visitors staying in the Monastery guesthouse occasionally ask for passive work and are employed in the archive with small duties.

An extremely important group of volunteers are our translators. As more and more records are being translated and/or summarised (Mission archives were written in Spanish until the 1950s) we gain in knowledge of our history. The recent death of Dr Mary Chamberlain in the USA has cut the number by one, but retired Professor Ron Keightley, Dr Teresa de Castro and Kathy Hackett are all currently working on translating and summarising material. Since March 2000, Margaret Pember, Lecturer in Archives and Records Management at Curtin University, regularly brings her students to New Norcia for a week of hands-on archival experience. This week of intensive and enthusiastic work does wonders for the backlog of records here at New Norcia. The records have been cleaned, sorted, listed and walled, making easier

the job of cataloguing into the collection database we have created. The Curtin University students have cut the main backlog considerably over the years, and we are now turning our attention to the records left behind when the colleges closed in 1991.

Another great activity at New Norcia is the annual New Norcia Studies Day, when researchers and others who have used the archival records



Wendy Mckinley and Dr Teresa de Castro working from microfilm.

or written something pertaining to the Benedictine Community and/or New Norcia deliver papers to a mixed audience of interested friends. This year, New Norcia Studies Day will be held on Saturday 4 June. We expect to attract our usual 150 participants, with papers concerning the 'landscaping of New Norcia for the future' by Taylor Cullity from South Australia, 'Wyening past and present' by the present owners of this

previous 'out station' of New Norcia, and the 'Kalumburu Mission conservation plan' by the writer of the plan, John Taylor.

Researchers sometimes find that a visit to New Norcia is therapeutic, as well as useful. The peace and quiet of the guesthouse and daily routine of the monks can be very calming. Some researchers visit for one day only and others for longer, depending on their needs, staying at the Monastery guesthouse. Some researchers never come to New Norcia and are supplied with information by the archivist; most of these are genealogical enquiries. A large number of enquiries come from relatives of individuals who lived in and around New Norcia from the mid-1800s, and students who attended the schools that operated at New Norcia from 1908 to 1991.

As New Norcia was an Abbey Nullius (an independent diocese answerable directly to Rome) with 20 000 square miles of territory subject to Rome's spiritual jurisdiction until 1982, when it was finally absorbed into the Perth Archdiocese, many Catholic churches have their roots and records in this archive. Consequently, the writers of Parish histories are frequent enquirers. You might notice that there are many aspects to the New Norcia archives that have only been touched on in these notes.

Queensland State Archives

Correspondent: Jenny Kidd

Recent transfers to Queensland State Archives

Recent arrivals to Queensland State Archives' collection include correspondence files from the Office of the Governor, 1977-84 with more court records expected mid-year. These will include some early Townsville District and Supreme Court records dating back to the 1870s, and the Brisbane Supreme Court ecclesiastical files, 1996-2000.

Transfers from late last year include Rates Cards from Johnstone Shire Council, 1939-53 and Kilcoy Fire Brigade Minutes of Meetings, 1957-90. These items will be arranged and described before being made available to researchers.

New appointments

There are two new senior appointments at Queensland State Archives. Christine Ianna, formerly Senior Conservator with Queensland Museum, started as Manager Preservation Services in November while Acting Manager Agency Services, Michael Rogers, is now the Manager for Agency Services.

Two new reference archivists, Eileen Dwane and Elizabeth Hawkins, both from State Library of Queensland, started in Public Access in September and November respectively on a job-share basis.

Agency services – Appraisals

Appraisal staff continue to work with government clients in developing and reviewing retention and disposal schedules. Disposal Schedules reviewed in the past few months include the schedules for the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Ambulance Service, and the Commission of Inquiry into the Integrity of the Racing Industry.

Recordkeeping news – Implications of sugar industry restructure

Due to amendments in legislation, the management and direction of the sugar industry has been reviewed and restructured. Several government agencies have either been privatised or dissolved or will be defunct by early 2005.

The sugar industry has played a valuable role in Queensland, both economically and historically. It is important, therefore, that the public records remain in or be returned to the custody of the State. Queensland State Archives' staff are working proactively to make sure this happens.

New public records alerts

These recently released public record alerts can be downloaded from the Queensland State Archives website <<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au>>:

- What is a Public Record
- What is an eDRMS?
- What is Microsoft Information Rights Management?
- Archival Education and Training Opportunities in 2005

- Batching of Records.

Public Records Review Committee regional meeting

In November 2004, the Public Records Review Committee (PRRC) of the Queensland State Archives held its inaugural regional meeting in Toowoomba. The Committee met in the heritage chambers of City Hall, courtesy of the Toowoomba City Council and launched the Capacity Development Strategy and Framework in the evening with Mr Kerry Shine MP. The following day, the Committee hosted a lunch for local and family history groups in the area.

The Committee is keen to hold further meetings in other regional areas of the state as the work of the staff at Queensland State Archives in preserving the state's history affects all Queenslanders, and information management reforms underway to improve government recordkeeping are of widespread interest.

Launch of the *Capacity Development Framework and Strategy*

At a special launch during the PRRC's visit to Toowoomba, Mr Kerry Shine MP unveiled a new framework and strategy aimed at helping government employees understand and respond to their information management responsibilities under Queensland's public record legislation.

Mr Shine launched the Capacity Development Framework and Strategy on behalf of the Hon. Robert Swarten MP Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing.

'The Capacity Development Framework and Strategy will help all government employees across the State understand and meet their legal information management requirements by addressing three key areas - attitudes, awareness and skills,' Mr Shine said.

'For everyday Queenslanders it means they can have greater confidence that government employees are basing their decisions on complete and accurate information.'

Copies of the Capacity Development Framework and Strategy can be obtained from Queensland State Archives on +61 7 3131 7777 or downloaded from the website <<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au>>.

State Library of South Australia

Correspondent: Mary Ryan

Senior appointments

As previously reported, the departure of the former Library Director, Bronwyn Halliday, created a vacancy that has now been filled by Alan Smith. The announcement of Alan's appointment by the Executive Director Arts SA, Greg Mackie, noted that 'Alan's qualifications for the position include a Bachelor of Arts (History and English) from La Trobe, Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from RMIT and a Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies. He ... will bring to the position excellent people skills and strong marketing flair developed over several years in management positions'.

Margaret Allen, former Associate Director of the Library, has taken up the position of CEO and State Librarian with the State Library of Western Australia.

Also of note is the reopening, late last year, of the Mortlock wing of the Library, formerly the home of the Mortlock Library of South Australia. The main chamber of the Mortlock Wing is now an exhibition space to open a window on the history and culture of South Australia. The bays feature people, places, issues and events that shaped the state and contributed to its development. The exhibition shows the richness and breadth of the Library's South Australian collections.

In December, the Archival team farewelled Cheryl Dalling who retired after ten years with the unit. Originally appointed in a Donor Liaison/ Local History Officer role, Cheryl's expertise and knowledge will be greatly missed. Cheryl's replacement is Kate Filsell who has recently joined the team as part of the new graduate program.

New acquisitions

Recent additions to the State Library's archival collections include a small collection of interesting papers relating to Frederick Fairweather and his wife Mary Abercrombie. Married in Ireland in 1851 and leaving immediately for South Australia, the couple lived firstly at Mitcham. Frederick went to the Bendigo goldfields during 1852-53, from where he wrote letters home to his wife. He kept lists of the food and supplies he needed at the 'diggins', and the amount of gold he found.

Also processed recently are the personal papers of Dr Laura Margaret Hope (1868–1952), daughter of George Swan Fowler. In 1893 she and her husband Dr Charles H S Hope went to India as medical missionaries. During World War I they served with the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia. When German and Austrian forces overtook Serbia, the Hopes and other hospital staff were taken prisoner for two months. The Fowler family papers include Dr Laura Hope's diary of her Serbian experience.

Mrs Sheila Wesley-Smith has donated her papers relating to her work as a children's ABC radio program presenter for *Kindergarten of the Air*, 1960–65. Perhaps the most interesting part of the collection is the letters Mrs Wesley-Smith received from parents and teachers. Listeners to Radio Australia from other countries, families living in isolated areas and city children were all entertained by this lady and her program.

Another group relating to children is the collection of 41 drawings initiated by Macquarie University researcher Dr Ute Eickelkamp in her work with Aboriginal children and the Ernabella Community Council. The theme of her anthropological research project was 'Playing for Life: a case study in childhood, culture and transition'. The accompanying documentation has information on each child, and descriptions of the content and context of each child's representation of the theme 'My Family'.

Also now available for research are the records of the South Australian branch of the Australian Red Cross, including minutes of state, regional and local groups and committees.

Many oral history interviews or transcripts have been processed. These include a series about the Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science, with a range of people interviewed by the late Dr Bernard Nicholson in 1986. Max Lyle, Victorian-born sculptor and lecturer appointed to the North Adelaide School of Art in 1963, and Kym Bonython, art gallery owner and jazz enthusiast, were interviewed for the National Library as part of the continuing series about Eminent Australians.

Don Dunstan project

The State Library has joined the Don Dunstan Foundation in partnership with Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, the SA History Trust, and the National Library in organising a major project around

the life and public achievements of Don Dunstan, former Premier of South Australia. The project's components include a series of oral history interviews with people important during the time that Don Dunstan was either the leader of the Labor Party in South Australia or Premier, one or two volumes of selected essays on major fields of endeavour, and a major biography addressing the extent, nature, people and factors shaping Don Dunstan's work and achievements as a radical reformer. The project will encompass South Australian, national and international aspects of Don Dunstan's work. Three oral history interviews have been completed so far.

State Records, New South Wales

Correspondent: Alan Ventress

Review and amendment of State Records Act

A report on last year's review of the *State Records Act 1998* was tabled in the NSW Parliament in September 2004. The review, a statutory requirement following five years of the Act's operation, had involved wide consultation with the community and the public sector.

At the same time, the *State Records Amendment Bill 2004* was introduced into the Legislative Assembly to give effect to the Government's decisions resulting from the review. The Bill includes provisions to strengthen the right of public access to records in the open access period (more than 30 years old), including an explicit presumption in favour of public access and ministerial review of access directions. The Bill also extends from two years to six years the period in which a prosecution for unlawful disposal of a State record can be initiated, and makes a number of other, minor changes. At the time of writing, the Bill was before the Legislative Council (the Upper House).

Reading room services

The availability of major series of records of the Supreme Court of NSW, notably probate packets 1817-1943 and divorce case papers 1873-1930, have been the main contributors to increases in the use of reading room services. Original record items issued in the second half of 2004 increased by 39% compared with the same period in 2003, while requests for copies increased by 104% during the same period.

Program for secondary students

In partnership with the Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre, State Records has been involved in developing and implementing a program for secondary students in Year 9. *Getting to the Point* has been developed for the compulsory strand of the history curriculum 'Australian Social and Political Life to 1914'.

The program consists of a visit by the students to the Sydney Records Centre where they learn about a typical family and the life and working conditions in nearby Millers Point from the 1890s to just after World War I. The students use edited documents from the State archives collection and, afterwards, visit sites in the Millers Point area that would have been frequented by the family.

Online resources

The publication online of an index to the Colonial Secretary's Letters re Land (requests from individuals for the lease and/or purchase of land), 1826-56, represents the first fruits of the long term project to improve the accessibility of the collection of the Colonial Secretary's papers covering the same period. The papers from 1788 to 1825 are already available on microfilm, and an index is available online and on CD-ROM.

Other new online resources include:

- an index to the Nominal Roll of the First Railway Section, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces (AIF), prepared by State Records' volunteers
- an index to insolvency records, 1842-1887
- an index to divorce case papers, 1873-1911.

All of these indexes can be accessed from the State Records homepage <<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>> by clicking on 'Search our online indexes'.

Evil weevils, bugs and blights

A new exhibition, *Natura Morta: the Scientific Illustrations of EH Zeck & Margaret Senior*, runs from 5 March to 25 June 2005 and featured in the program of 'Discovery After Dark', an open house which involved Sydney's art, history and heritage venues on the evening of 2 April 2005.

Natura Morta features hauntingly beautiful watercolours depicting insects, mites and plant diseases by Australian illustrators EH Zeck and Margaret Senior.

Zeck and Senior brought the art of illustration to the scientific task of identifying agricultural pests and diseases. They worked closely with specialist plant pathologists and entomologists from the former NSW Department of Agriculture to produce drawings of the principal pests and diseases of their times. The illustrations are part of the Department of Primary Industries' Agricultural Scientific Collections normally held in Orange, NSW.

State Records Office of Western Australia

Correspondent: Damien Hassan

Archives Explored Online

On Tuesday 30 November 2004, Mr Alastair Bryant, Director General for the Department of Culture and the Arts, officially launched the State Records Office of WA's new online archives database AEON (Archives Explored Online). AEON is accessible through the homepage of the State Records Office: <<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au>>.

Approximately 75% of the archives held by the State Records Office are currently listed on AEON at the item level (ie individual file, volume, map). The database refers to all records transferred to the State archives collection since 1987 and also includes some earlier transfers. The State Records Office is currently overseeing a large-scale work experience project to add remaining listings to the database during 2005 so that the whole archives 'catalogue' will be searchable online at the item level.

As well as listing individual records, AEON also includes contextual information that documents who created these records, why they were created, and how they were managed. AEON also supports digitised images of archives – a feature that the State Records Office hopes soon to exploit.

Under Section 73(d) of the *State Records Act 2000*, the Director of State Records is required to maintain a register of all State archives, including those which are identified as such, but which are still held by government

agencies. AEON will provide a suitable facility for the registration of all State archives, irrespective of location.

AEON is a customised version of Archives Investigator, which was developed for the State Records Authority of New South Wales. The backend system from which AEON is linked is called BOS (Business Operations System) and was also procured from NSW and customised for use in WA. The State Records Office is very appreciative of the assistance given to this project by David Roberts and his staff at the State Records Authority of NSW, and also work done on the implementation phase by PK Information Systems (Sydney).

During the course of this project, the State Records Office examined the issue of which archive listings should not be made publicly accessible in an online environment. The State Records liaised with archival institutions in other state and territories about this matter and many other institutions expressed an interest in the resulting policy. A copy of the State Records Office's policy on this matter is now available at <<http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/pdfs/SRO-Policy-State-archives-catalogue.pdf>>.

Recordkeeping update

Under the terms of the *State Records Act 2000*, all Schedule 1 government organisations were required to submit to the State Records Office by 8 March 2004 a Recordkeeping Plan that sets out how each organisation is managing its records. Although a small number of plans were not received until June, compliance was otherwise met for this requirement and the State Records Office received a total of 307 Recordkeeping Plans. During the course of 2004, the State Records Office dedicated all available resources toward assessing these plans. Assessments were completed by December and the State Records Commission has provided approval, or clearance pending further development, for all plans received.

As approval for Recordkeeping Plans is only granted for a set period (up to a maximum period of five years), the clock is already ticking for further development and revision.

However, one of the main priorities for the State Records Office in 2005 is to ensure that all government organisations in Western Australia have in place an approved Retention and Disposal Schedule (which forms

part of the overall Recordkeeping Plan). The major recordkeeping focus for the State Records Office this year will therefore be to achieve this aim.

Digital Records Working Group

In late 2004, the State Records Commission approved the formation of a Digital Records Working Group (DRWG) that will advise the Commission (and the State Records Office) on ways to meet the challenges of properly managing digital records. In addition, the State Records Office committed to work with the Australasian Digital Recordkeeping Initiative, which is a collaborative venture across the major public archival institutions throughout Australasia. Through these ventures, the State Records Office is confident that sustainable, cost effective solutions will be developed.

Sydney Archdiocesan Archives

Correspondent: Pauline Garland

Sydney Archdiocesan Archives is at present housed in the fifth level of a building at the back of St Mary's Cathedral called Cathedral House. I commenced work as the Archdiocesan Archivist in April 2002 as the first civilian professional employed in this position. I succeeded Brother Trevor Hall CFC who, for ten years, had laboured to store and list the archive material into suitable storage and inventories. This was achieved through the assistance of two part-time employees and a number of dedicated volunteers.

Similar to many other complex organisations, this archive has been a poor, neglected part of the organisation, with a very sad history of lack of care and overuse. Much work has been done, and is being done, to set priorities and incorporate methods of archival science, and eliminate time-wasting and unnecessary processes and practices. An initial step was the upgrading of computer equipment and the writing of a management plan. Archive Manager has been installed and a process of entry of data is progressing slowly.

The collection consists of at least 2000 archival boxes containing administrative files, correspondence and documentation of the Sydney Archdiocese from its beginning in 1842, with records of early priests dating back to 1820. We have a unique resource of Catholic newspapers

reaching back to 1839 in both hard and microform format, together with photographs, history books, theses, illuminated addresses and parish histories.

As a unique collection of Australian Catholic historical material dating from the beginning of the Church in this country, this pre-eminent archive houses a major Church resource. There is frequent use by researchers from all over Australia, such as academics, architects, historians, lecturers, authors and scholars.

Problems being dealt with include the need for qualified staff and the organisation of the collection according to archival principles – while facilitating efficient and beneficial access to this resource for genuine and serious researchers – together with the conservation of the collection through scanning and digitisation.

A recently completed project has seen the publishing on CD-ROM of 29 volumes of the Australasian Catholic Directory, commencing with the first edition of 1841. This publication is the official year book of the Catholic Church and contains unique records of the growth of the Catholic Church in the southern hemisphere, including New Zealand and Oceania, also within the domain of the Australian Church. With lists each year of clergy, dioceses, parishes, church buildings, religious institutions, guilds, associations, schools and religious congregations, this is a comprehensive and authoritative source of information.

To meet the needs of the Catholic Diocesan Archivists of Australia permission was sought in 2002 from the Australian Bishops Conference to convene a meeting of Diocesan Archivists in Australia. This would provide a forum and pool of information, with the goal of writing common procedures and guidelines. Since then, two very successful meetings have been held involving Catholic Diocesan Archivists from all around Australia: the first in 2003 in Sydney, and then in 2004 in Melbourne. A third meeting is planned in Adelaide.

University of Melbourne Archives

Correspondent: Sue Fairbanks

Last year was a difficult but successful one for the University of Melbourne Archives.

At the end of the audit of our holdings in 2004 we had a much greater appreciation of our collections and had improved our control of them by reconstructing our location information. We also had a greater appreciation of the issues we face in managing our holdings. These will be addressed in a systematic and planned way over the coming years.

We had the lowest number of accessions since 1996, as well as very respectable advances in arrangement and description on collections which form part of our processing backlog.

Arrangement and description projects

The gains in arrangement and description were made by volunteers working within specific collection categories (business, peace and community activism; Bright Family papers; Victorian Women's Liberation & Lesbian Feminist Archives). We were successful in raising funds for specific collections (Melbourne University Sports Union, Australian Psychological Society, Melbourne City Mission). Collections which are high use were reprocessed (the Vera Scantlebury-Brown and Kathleen Fitzpatrick collections). We made good use of archive practicum students (Matthew Lennard and Teresa Wardell collections). The RioTinto Archivist, Trevor Hart, made significant progress in creating, updating or verifying usable lists for fourteen collections. In total, thirty-seven collections had arrangement and description completed or significantly progressed.

UMAIC

We continued to develop our image database, UMAIC, by digitising a further 1800 photographs, and we now have professional cataloguers working with us to complete the process. Photographs from the Russell Grimwade and Broken Hill South Ltd collections make up the bulk of these images, with additions from the Armytage family collection, the Sargood family collection and the artist, Norman Macgeorge.

In general we were successful in raising funds to augment our budget from both internal University sources, and externally from donors. These funds were spent on photographic and audio digitisation, and preservation packaging, as well as arrangement and description of collections.

Archives' staff also found time to mount exhibitions and write articles. Our outreach coordinator, Jason Benjamin, arranged promotional displays in the foyer of the Baillieu Library on campus, and two in University House. Our major exhibition was *Rush to Rebellion: Victorian Gold Rushes 1851-1854*, held to coincide with celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade. The exhibition used the holdings of the Archives and the Library's Special Collections, and was co-curated by Lesley Caelli of Special Collections. The university archivists of the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University, Michael Piggott and Sigrid McCausland, published 'The Australian business archives scene: comments and comparisons', in *Business Archives Principles and Practice*, no.87, May 2004, pp.1-15. Sue Fairbanks, Deputy University Archivist, delivered a presentation on the website Australian Trade Union Archives (ATUA) to the Reference and Public Programs Day, Australian Society of Archivists annual conference in Canberra, and wrote a chapter on the Noel Butlin Archives Centre in *Light from the Tunnel; collecting the archives of Australian business and labour at the Australian National University 1953-2000*. Senior archivists Jane Ellen and Trevor Hart made it into print with 'Making archival choices for business history,' *Australian Economic History Review*, vol.44, no.2, July 2004.

University of Sydney – Archives and Records Management Services

Correspondents: Anne Picot and Julia Mant

Fiftieth anniversary

The University of Sydney Archives celebrated its fiftieth Anniversary in 2004 with a range of activities to mark its commencement in September 1954, the first university archives in Australia. The main event was an exhibition held in the Macleay Museum, located at the University, *On the Record: Fifty Years of University Archives*, which was opened on 4 November 2004 by the Registrar, Dr William Adams.

The jubilee exhibition showcased the range and flavour of University records, examining their varied uses, and explored both administrative and memorial influences on the establishment of the Archives. There were a wide variety of records of student life on display, from the 1851 Register of Undergraduates to student autograph albums from 1906 and Protest Newsletters from May Day 1969. Items of both historical

and legal importance included records from the personal archives of Professor AP Elkin (Professor of Anthropology, 1934–56) and Sir Tannatt Edgeworth David (Professor of Geology, 1891–1924), architectural plans, photographs and oral history recordings.

A bumper edition of the in-house journal *Record* provides an overview of the establishment of the Archives. It includes articles recognising the contributions made by the Honorary Archivists, Maude Yeomans Fitzhardinge, (University Union) and George E Hall and Arthur Cousins (Senate War Memorial Committee), and the first three University Archivists, David Macmillan, Gerald Fischer and Ken Smith. The journal also recognises all staff of the Archives over the past fifty years. Gerald and Ken have both written articles for the journal.

The Archives also held an essay competition for students, with the winner receiving a prize of \$500 for the best original piece of research work based on the records held at the University Archives. Lara Hall, a second year Faculty of Arts undergraduate, was the winner, with her entry on the influence of A P Elkin's religious views on his advocated policy of assimilation. She received her prize at a special afternoon tea the Archives held at the Macleay Museum in December 2004. Her entry is printed in the 2004 edition of *Record*.

Records online

Over the past twelve months Archives and Records Management Services of the University of Sydney has created the infrastructure to form the platform for undertaking electronic recordkeeping across the University.

All registered users through a web interface – known as Records Online – can search the records management system, TRIM Context, to retrieve file details and electronic documents, where they are attached to those files. Records Online's functionality will be extended to enable users to update locations of (paper-based) files and progressively, to capture electronic documents and email, and to register files for themselves.

We have developed an interface between the records management system and the principal business system, the student records system, FlexSIS, which enables student files to be registered and electronic documents generated by FlexSIS to be captured and attached to the relevant student files automatically. This is the beginning of electronic

student files which also raises the issues of storage and disposal of electronic records as an immediate task.

The next phase of our project includes developing an interface between the archival control system and Records Online to manage electronic records over time. This includes provision of public access to file information, and heralds the possibility of public access to the files themselves and to other electronic records managed on the University website through the archives interface.

Archives reference services

There has been a change in the opening hours to the reading room. The Archives is now open to researchers by appointment Monday to Thursday, 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. Julia Mant is Acting Reference Archivist, while Suzy Nunes is on maternity leave until September. Last year, we had over 400 researchers in the Reading Room who accessed 1590 items. In addition, we received 319 email, telephone and written reference enquires. The Archives website provides an overview to the administrative records and personal archives, and has links to many of the available finding aids: <<http://www.usyd.edu.au/arms/archives>>.

University of Wollongong Archives

Correspondents: Michael Organ and Susan Jones

The University of Wollongong Archives supports the research and teaching programs of the University. It holds approximately 2km of material, ranging from University administrative and historical records, through to local and regional heritage collections such as manuscripts, photographs, maps, posters and films.

The collections are housed in the main campus Library building and in nearby on-campus storage. Details of the collections are accessible via the University web site, with individual PDF listings available for the majority of collections: <<http://www.uow.edu.au>>.

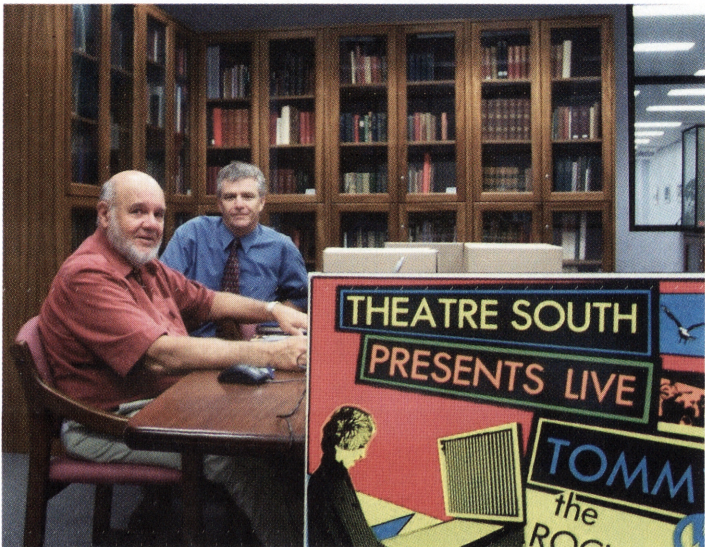
Projects

Since our last 'News Notes' report in 2000 the Archives has been engaged in a number of projects.

On the administrative side these activities have included involvement in the implementation by the University of the CanoCentral digital records management system, subsequently replaced by the ImageREAL system, alongside culling of selected administrative files following on from the finalisation of the State Records of NSW university disposal schedule.

Ongoing liaison with various New South Wales regional university archives has taken place as part of the ARC Unlocking Regional Memory Project. Archives staff continue to play an active role in supporting researchers both on-campus and off, with the latter increasingly facilitated by the digitisation of guides to the collections. Investigation into issues and options for digitising individual collections on demand is also taking place.

On the local and regional side, the Archives is currently involved in a project to digitise some 600 glass plate negatives from the early 1900s, for incorporation into the Wollongong City Library Illawarra Images database, which in turn is one of the partners of the National Library's PictureAustralia database.



Des Davis, founder of Theatre South, working with Michael Organ on the company's records.

In late 2003 the Archives was able to acquire the archives of Theatre South, which was the major regional theatre company in the Illawarra. Once accessioning is complete this collection (comprising play scripts, production notes and other material) will be of significant research value to the University's Creative Arts and Arts faculties.

During 2002-04 the archivist, Michael Organ, was elected to the Commonwealth Parliament as the Federal Member for Cunningham. During this period Susan Jones managed the Archives, and continues in this role. Michael is currently working on a University digital repository project.