

# News Notes

Edited by Helen Morgan

## Australian National University Archives Program

*Correspondent: Maggie Shapley*

### Public programs

Professor Stuart Macintyre of the University of Melbourne presented the Third Annual Lecture on the topic *The History Wars Continued?* He spoke about the 'Three Cheers' view of history versus the 'Black Armband' view with particular reference to his debate with Keith Windshuttle, author of *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History*. The Fourth Annual Lecture delivered by Humphrey McQueen, Australia's leading Marxist author and commentator, in May 2005 drew on research undertaken at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre to speak about a neglected body of Australian journalism, over 1000 trade journals produced between the 1880s and 1960s by employer organisations.

*In the Service of the Company: Letters of Sir Edward Parry, Commissioner to the Australian Agricultural Company, Volume I: December 1829 - June 1832* published by ANU E Press was launched by the former Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Tim Fischer, a current Director of the Australian Agricultural Company in November 2005. Archives staff transcribed and edited the original volume which contains copies of hundreds of letters to correspondents in the New South Wales Colony including Governor Darling, Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay, and the Principal Superintendent of Convicts.

A recent exhibition featured records about the development of the labour movement in Canberra including minute books of some of the earliest unions established in Canberra, such as the United Operative Bricklayers

Trade Society and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners. The exhibition celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canberra branch of the Australian Labor Party established in 1930. The *Archives in Action* exhibition displays some of the many products resulting from research at the Archives. There are company anniversary histories, pastoral histories and union histories, general works of social and economic history, as well as calendars, dictionaries, and even a jigsaw. The exhibition also refers to documentaries, websites and the poetry and songs from the collection performed at the National Folk Festival.

The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, Canberra Region Branch and the National Institute for Social Sciences and Law at the Australian National University offer a scholarship for students undertaking their honours year who wish to use the Noel Butlin Archives Centre. The scholarship is intended to assist with travel expenses involved in doing research and honours Dr Eric Fry, Senior Lecturer in History from 1959 and Reader 1967–86 at the Australian National University, and co-founder of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History in 1961. Last year's scholarship holder was William Newland from the University of Melbourne, who wrote his thesis on Archbishop Mannix.

### **New accessions**

Company deposits to the Noel Butlin Archives Centre include records of the Adelaide Steamship Company, Sugar Australia, and Elders Ltd, including a series of watercolours by John C Goodchild of Elders buildings in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, and London, and lithographs by Ferguson and Mitchell of Goldsbrough & Co warehouses in Melbourne and Sydney. Transfers from organisations include audiovisual records of the Waterside Workers Federation film unit, and records of the Australian Federation of Air Pilots, Firemen & Deckhands Union of NSW, the Textile Footwear & Clothing Union of Australia, the Federated Brick, Tile and Pottery Industrial Union, the Australasian Coal and Shale Employees Federation, and the Federated Mining Mechanics Association of Australasia. In two recent inter-repository transfers, the records of the Cattle Council were received from the National Library of Australia and Kenneth Rivett's papers relating to immigration from the University of NSW Archives.

The University Archives has received over four hundred metres of records from University Records including Council and committee minutes,

central files and senior staff personnel files, followed up by a large quantity of photographs of University people, places and events from the Marketing and Communications Division. Professor Frank Fenner of the John Curtin School of Medical Research donated his many medals and certificates to the Archives, and a large collection of personal and research material was received from the bequest of linguists Professor Stephen Wurm and Dr Helen Groger-Wurm. The ANU Choral Society (SCUNA) recently donated its collection of programs and audiotapes.

## **Australian War Memorial Research Centre**

*Correspondent: Tim Roberts*

### **Research Centre moves to new building**

During February and March this year, the staff of the Australian War Memorial's Research Centre moved from the lower ground floor of the old main building to space in the new CEW Bean Building. This building has been made specifically for staff-only areas and collection storage. It is located between the outdoor cafeteria known as 'The Outpost' and Treloar Crescent at the back of the Memorial. The official opening was scheduled for mid-April.

Research Centre staff share the building with the Education and Visitors' Services people, Workshop crew and the Multi-media section. We are quickly becoming used to crossing between offices and the reading room through a new tunnel. We're also becoming used to new workstations, the general layout of the building and are continuing to work on how to best accommodate and balance the needs of work areas and collection storage. As a section, we have been pleasantly surprised to find the move was much less stressful than expected.

### **Disruptions to service**

There are plans for some temporary closure of the whole reading room and temporary restrictions of various services during the year, due to demands of major re-modelling of the reading room area itself and to accommodate the moving of large collections. From early May the number of files on hold for each client may be limited. Items will be re-shelved immediately after use. Interlibrary loan will not be available when construction in the main building begins.

There will be construction in the reading room and at this time the reading room will close. It is expected that this will occur in September to October for four to five weeks. Where possible any delays will be kept to a minimum and alternative arrangements, including reading areas, will be made for researchers. At certain times an appointment to view records may be required.

### **Collections update**

From June 2006 some research centre collections will be packed and transferred to holding areas. This will mean lengthy delays, possibly up to two weeks, for retrievals from these collections. Once relocated it is expected these records can be made available within two days. Serials, some maps, plans, some oversize official records and private records have already been moved to offsite locations and access is limited. All collections will be available from late 2006. Researchers are advised to contact the enquiry line prior to visiting on +61 (02) 6243 4315 or email via the website at <<http://www.awm.gov.au/request>>.

### **Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School Archive, Bunbury WA**

*Correspondent: Margaret Paterson*

Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School was established in 1972 as a co-educational day and boarding school catering for both primary and secondary students. Situated on thirty-three hectares of bushland in the south west of Western Australia, the natural environment is a special feature of the school.

The School first established its Archives in the 1990s and moved into a purpose-built facility in 2003. Arrangement and description is still very much a work in progress but along the way an effort is always made to mount displays of interest to staff, students and the boarder community.

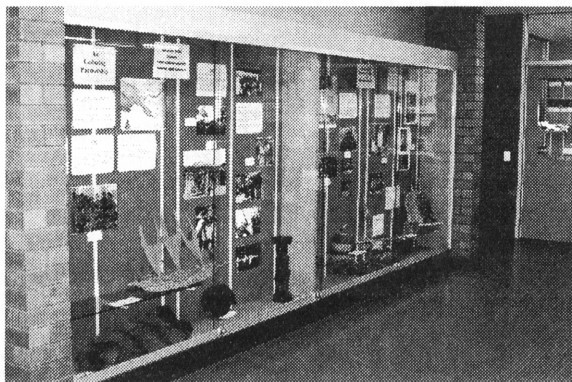
Currently, *An Enduring Partnership, 25+ Years of Community Service* is featured as our major archival display, documenting a mutually beneficial relationship between Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School and Wesley High School on Fergusson Island in Papua New Guinea. We are fortunate enough to have some stunning Papuan artefacts on loan from John Jeffreys, a former staff member who was been the instigator of the relationship and the projects that continue to this day. The artefacts range from lime pots and basketware through to a model of an outrigger canoe.



Complementing the artefacts are photographs stretching back to the original visit of our students in 1981. Labels and text explain the various projects, which include the construction of an ablution block for students who, up until that time, had to walk close to five kilometres to wash and fetch water for daily use.

On 30 March 2006, John Jeffreys came to inspect the display and speak to students, who were captivated by this inspirational man and the eye-catching display. Links were made to the year 8 and 9 SOSE curriculum and student leaders contemplated new fundraising projects including exciting prospects for projects into 2007 and beyond. In May 2006, John Jeffreys returned to Fergusson Island and the story continues.

Staff, students and community members are invited to view the display. Any enquiries should be directed to School Archivist, Margaret Paterson, <margaret.paterson@bcgs.wa.edu.au>.



*An Enduring Partnership, 25+ Years of Community Service, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School Archival Display. Photograph taken by Margaret Paterson.*

## **Firbank Grammar Archives**

*Correspondent: Melissa Campbell*

Firbank Grammar (previously known as Firbank Church of England Girls Grammar) opened in 1909. The school was the first of the Anglican schools initiated by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Henry Lowther Clarke. The school was named Firbank after a small village in Westmorlan, the

birthplace of Archbishop Clarke. The School Council purchased another local school, St Andrew's, and its students moved to the new site in Middle crescent, Brighton.

Firbank now consists of the senior school, and the junior school called Turner House, and Sandringham House (now a co-educational junior school), which was formerly known as Atherston before amalgamating with Firbank in 1932.

### **The Archives**

Ann Tovell initiated the archives project in the 1980s with the support and assistance of the then Principal Miss Patricia Turner. Patsy and Ann had been friends during their school years at Firbank and were active members of the Firbank Old Girls' Association. The archives project was a labour of love, with Ann and Patsy working in a voluntary capacity collecting significant archival material. Information collected was used in the development of the publication of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sketchbook.

Ann Tovell was an active member of the Archives Committee that was formed in the early 1990s. In the interest of maintaining the archives collection Ann made a donation to the school to employ a professional archivist. Marian Turnbull was employed during the years of 1993-97. Marian developed policies and procedures and worked closely with the Archives committee. The collection was accessioned on manual accession sheets and stored in acid free boxes.

The Archive project recommenced in 2004. In the intervening years since Marian Turnbull's appointment the collection was moved many times and stored in many places throughout the school. The collection was brought together again and is being reappraised and catalogued by project archivist Melissa Campbell from Archival Systems. The collection is currently being relocated into the one storage area with a new compactus and shelving. The centenary of Firbank will be celebrated in 2009 and the Archives collection will be a significant source of information for the new History of Firbank book and exhibitions held throughout the year.

## Fryer Library and University Archives, University of Queensland

*Correspondent: Deborah Stumm*

### News from the Fryer Library

The Fryer Library continues to acquire interesting manuscript collections. The papers of Australian poet Laurie Duggan are a recent highlight. Duggan has published ten books of poetry and is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal 2004 and the Age Book of the Year, Poetry Award 2003. His collection includes poetry notebooks, handwritten drafts and journals from 1967 to 2003 detailing his research, travel and correspondence from Australian academics, poets and editors of literary magazines.

A collection of bookplates by artist David Frazer has been acquired. The Fryer Library has collected bookplates since 1967 with the acquisition of the Hayes collection. This collection includes signed wood engravings presented as bookplates for Australian individuals including many well-known artists, writers, academics and people associated with the arts, book arts and book collecting.

For speculative fiction fans the papers of Kim Wilkins will be very interesting. The collection includes drafts, research material and correspondence for her novels *The Infernal*, *Grimoire*, *The Resurrectionists* and *Angel of Ruin*, as well as drafts of the young adult fiction Gina Champion series and juvenilia.

Fryer has also added some important historical collections. A University researcher recommended acquiring records from the National Council of Women of Queensland (NCWQ) (1906–2004) on microfilm as the Council wished to retain the originals. The NCWQ was one of five main suffrage organisations in Queensland. No known records survive for four of the organisations.

The NCWQ records were added as part of Fryer's 2005 collecting initiative targeting papers and records from women and women's organisations to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage and the fortieth anniversary of the indigenous vote in Queensland. There is also a display from the women's collections in the Fryer Library until December called 'Worth Fighting For! Women in Queensland Political Life' and online at <[http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/worth\\_fighting/](http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/worth_fighting/)>.

And on a more quirky note, the records of the *Cane Toad Times* (1983–90) complement the holdings of a complete set of this irreverent magazine. The *Cane Toad Times* was published in Brisbane and is remembered for its tongue-in-cheek political humour and activism. Two of its aims, taken from the handwritten minutes of the first meeting on 20 April 1983, were 'To wipe poetry off the face of the earth' and 'To undermine the family and totally destroy western civilisation as we know it'.

Another collection now available is the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. Assembled by Dr Peter Cahill from material donated by members of the Association, it contains photographs, typescript articles, correspondence, diaries, notes and ephemera which document personal experiences of colonial administration in Papua New Guinea, mostly from the period 1930 to the 1950s.

Friends of Fryer continue to offer a program of events. The most recent was 'What Oh, Tonight! Stiffy and Mo and the Nat Phillips Collection', available online at <[http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/Stiffy\\_and\\_Mo/](http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/Stiffy_and_Mo/)>.

### **News from the University Archives**

The University of Queensland (UQ) Memory Website <<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/archives/uqmemory/>> is now online, showcasing founding documents of UQ, promotional films from the 1950s and 1960s, oral history recordings with early staff and students, and historic images of staff, students and the university.

A recent addition to the Archives is material relating to the Univations Pavilion, a joint initiative of the University of Queensland, James Cook University and Griffith University at World Expo 1988, Brisbane. The collection contains files and images on areas of scientific interest such as 'Space and Communication – Scram Jet information', and 'Marine Environment – birth of Coral Reefs' and correspondence, administrative and opening and closing ceremony files.

During a recent refurbishment, the original cashbooks of the University were rediscovered and transferred to the Archives. They date from the establishment of the University in 1910 to 1921 and contain monthly cash payments and receipts, including staff wages. In 1910 the Professor of Engineering was paid £67 for the month of June, while the Janitor received just over £10 and a female administrative staff member £4.15.

A surprising donation which surfaced in some personal papers recently was a small booklet entitled *Queensland University Extension. Recognised by the University of Sydney, 1901*. The Queensland University Extension was formed in 1893 and its affiliation with the University of Sydney and later the University of Melbourne enabled it to provide facilities and opportunities for higher education in Queensland. It also sought to gather public and parliamentary support for a university in Queensland. Its 1893 opening lecture 'The Elements of Natural Science' was so popular that many people were unable to obtain admission. The booklet lists lectures held in Brisbane and Ipswich, charts the progress of the Extension 1893–1900 and lists its constitution, regulations, and council members.

Another significant addition is a large collection of photographs from the office of the University Architect. These document the development of the UQ St Lucia site from the late 1800s when it was farmland up to the present. The transfer was timely as the University Archives and Fryer Library are currently putting together a display on the history of UQ at St Lucia, with emphasis on its physical development and social history. It is planned that the permanent display will be erected by the end of the year.

## **Loreto Province Archives, Ballarat**

*Correspondent: Robin Scott*

Loreto Province Archives is the central Archives for a religious order, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), more commonly known as Loreto. Loreto was established in Australia in 1875 as a teaching order but has widened its portfolio to include social welfare missions. The Loreto Archives have always been valued by the Institute, which has provided resources and trained IBVM personnel for many years. With the imminent writing of a history of the Institute, however, it was found necessary to employ a professional archivist last year.

The core collection is housed at the founding institution in Ballarat, with shared custody of Archives in the various Loreto schools and communities around Australia. As with many religious archives defining and determining custody of archives where the schools that were founded by the Institute have become largely autonomous is a problem. This is being addressed by the development of a guide documenting our archival

resources and locations, and by the maintenance of close links between the custodians of the collection.

Most of the collection documentation has been input into an archives database. This has been a challenging job of arrangement and description but the advantages of improved collection management and access make it well worthwhile. We are currently working on the records management end of the continuum with the development of a Retention Schedule that will define our collection into the future.

## **Monash University Records and Archives Services Branch**

*Correspondent: Karen Rogers*

TRIM Context (version 6) has been chosen as the university's new records management software. Implementation of TRIM is due this year. This is the first phase in moving towards electronic records management.

The University Archives contributed records and photographs to a permanent exhibition of computer development at the Monash Museum of Computing History, located at Caulfield campus.

Photographs, publications and ephemera were provided by the Archives for a display at the Back to Caulfield Campus Reunion, held in November 2005. The reunion encompassed more than eighty years of the history of the campus, including its previous lives as Caulfield Technology School and Chisholm Institute of Technology. Alumni who attended the reunion have given the Archives more memorabilia to build on its history of the Caulfield campus.

The Alexander Theatre and the George Jenkins Theatre have also added to the Archives' holdings recently with a transfer of photographs, posters, scrapbooks and programs.

The Archives' membership of PictureAustralia has brought images from MONPIX, the Archives' online image database to a wider audience, and resulted in a significant increase in requests to the Archives from the public for images.

## National Archives of Australia

*Correspondent: Mark Semmler*

### **Records and Archives in a Global Age Conference**

In November 2005, the Director-General of the National Archives, Ross Gibbs, attended the 38th International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA). The conference, entitled *Records and Archives in a Global Age*, was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. In addition to the conference, Mr Gibbs attended the CITRA Bureau Meeting as the delegate for Asia and Oceania and the International Council on Archives (ICA) Annual General Meeting on behalf of Australia.

The work of all Australian archival organisations was commended at the conference. The message Mr Gibbs brought home with him from Abu Dhabi was that it was an expectation of the world's national archives and archive professional organisations represented at the conference that anything innovative that was being done, and being done well, in national archives was likely to be happening in Australia.

### **1975 Cabinet Papers release**

The embargoed media release of the 1975 Cabinet papers took place in December 2005. Forty-six media representatives attended, including representatives from all leading newspapers, television and radio stations. Former Prime Ministers Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser were invited to attend the preview, but only Mr Whitlam was able to attend.

Available to media representatives on this day were the entire set of Cabinet Papers for 1975. To augment these documents, a full listing of submissions, decisions and supporting Cabinet files was made available, together with a 'quick-reference' booklet containing a selection of copied documents that related to key Cabinet issues for that year. A set of images relating to key events in 1975 was also available upon request.

As of 1 January 2006 all documents were available digitally on the National Archives website, together with key non-Cabinet records and a range of 'Fact Sheets' relating to significant events and political figures of 1975, including:

- International Women's Year, 1975 – Fact Sheet 237
- The 'Balibo affair', East Timor, October 1975 – Fact Sheet 238

- The loans affair, 1974–75 – Fact Sheet 239
- The dismissal, 1975 – Fact Sheet 240
- John Robert Kerr, Governor-General of Australia, 1974–77 – Fact Sheet 241
- John Malcolm Fraser – Fact Sheet 242

The Archives had anticipated high demand and interest in the political events of 1975, and undertook a major access examination and digitisation process to have many other thirty-year-old records made available to researchers at the start of 2006. Records included those of Sir John Kerr, Malcolm Fraser, Sir Clarrie Harders, and files of the Treasury, Attorney General's Department, and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### **Whitlam biography**

In December 2005 the Director-General, Ross Gibbs, signed an Industry Partnership Agreement between the Archives and Monash University to fund a three-year project to research, write and publish Gough Whitlam's official biography.

The National Archives and the National Library of Australia are the two industry partners to this Australian Research Council funded project, which was initiated by Dr Jenny Hocking, Associate Professor at the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash. Dr Hocking will contribute to the project by updating the 'Whitlam pages' on the National Archives' *Australia's Prime Ministers* website, provide text for an Archives research guide to Whitlam's records for the Prime Ministers Guides series and present a public talk at the Archives on release of the biography scheduled for 2008.

### **Launch of Vrroom – The National Archives' Virtual Reading Room**

Vrroom was officially launched by the Minister for the Arts and Sport, The Honourable Senator Rod Kemp at the National Archives National Office, in October 2005. Vrroom is a collaborative project developed in partnership with Swinburne University.

In addition to the event held in Canberra, a series of events were held in Melbourne in November 2005 to formally introduce Vrroom to the



education sector held in conjunction with the History Teachers Association of Victoria annual conference in Moorabbin, Victoria.

A key representative from the National Archives at the Melbourne events was the Chairman of the National Archives Advisory Council, Mr Paul Santamaria, SC. The Archives also hosted a function at the conference venue at the end of day one of the conference. President of the History Teachers Association of Victoria, Richard Smith was the master of ceremonies, and media personality, Ms Megabyte, was the guest speaker. Ms Megabyte demonstrated aspects of the Vrrroom website on a large screen and shared her insights on the role of technology in education.

Available via the Internet, Vrrroom can be accessed from <<http://www.naa.gov.au>> and is the National Archives' new interface with the education sector designed to deliver the Archives' collection to teachers and students at their desktops.

Vrrroom is designed in such a way that teachers can set projects for students encouraging them to work independently by researching and writing their own histories using primary sources from the National Archives' collection. The content of the website will be updated regularly in response to curriculum needs and at the request of teachers. Also, subject matter relevant to current affairs will be made available. One such example relates to the Avian Flu epidemic, where a selection of records relating to the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-19 is to be made available in anticipation of strong interest in the topic.

### **Australianscreen Online**

The National Archives has confirmed that it will be partnering with the Australian Film Commission, the Curriculum Corporation and the Australian Broadcasting Commission to provide content for a major new website - 'Australianscreen Online'. The project will result in over two hundred film clips from the National Archives being made available online over the next three years.

### **Preserving Aunty Jack**

The ABC Enterprises DVD release of *The Aunty Jack Show* was successfully launched on 1 December 2005, following comprehensive preservation treatment by the National Archives. Work is currently progressing on

treating components from the second television series, to enable a follow up DVD release.

### **Preserving World War I dossiers for better access**

One of the more significant preservation projects initiated by the National Archives was to preserve and digitise the World War I service dossiers. These records, which provide personal information and service details for all of Australia's WWI servicemen and women are among the National Archives' most highly valued and frequently used records.

The project is one of the largest records description, repackaging, and digitisation projects ever undertaken by the National Archives, and has resulted in the preservation of 392 000 original record items and the production of more than twelve million digital images for online access. The project is exceptional in Australia, as very few other projects have been undertaken to digitise such a large quantity of fragile historical records.

The process work of repackaging, item description, data capture and scanning took just under three years to complete. The last of the dossiers was digitised in December 2005, and the images are scheduled for final loading onto the National Archives' catalogue *RecordSearch* for access via the Internet.

### **Iron gall ink research**

In early 2006, National Archives' employee Caroline Whitley attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Iron Gall Ink Meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne (UK). Ms Whitley is the National Archives' staff member most closely involved in a current Australia Research Council (ARC) funded research project on iron gall ink degradation.

Degradation of iron gall ink is of critical interest to the National Archives, as it is the primary recording media used on most of the Commonwealth's founding documents on display in the Archives' Federation Gallery (such as the *Royal Commission of Assent*), and is very vulnerable to light induced fading and other deterioration problems.

The work that has been done by the ARC grant team is groundbreaking and constitutes the first major study on the behaviour of iron gall ink on parchment. The importance of this work has been recognised internationally, resulting in the conference organisers making a request

for Ms Whitley to present an outline of the work being done in Australia. Ms Whitley also had the opportunity to obtain the most up-to-date information on the subject; especially relating to new non-aqueous treatment methods for iron gall ink degradation developed in Europe.

### **International visitors**

There has been a notable increase in visiting delegations from overseas archival institutions to the National Archives in recent times. Particular interest has been shown in the Archives' digital preservation project, but many other aspects of the Archives' work have been attracting attention. These include: our traditional preservation methods; the storage, release and access to Cabinet records under the thirty-year rule; the general processing of records; building design, operation and facilities; and the Archives' digitisation processes.

In recent times, the Archives has welcomed visitors from many countries including Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Bhutan, China, Samoa and Malaysia.

### **Assistance to Solomon Islands**

Following a request from the Permanent Secretary of the Solomon Islands Department of Culture and Tourism, and with the support of AusAID, the National Archives has provided an officer to work in the Solomon Islands for twelve months. Ms Danielle Wickman left for the Solomon Islands in February 2006.

Ms Wickman's objective is to provide technical advice and practical support to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Culture and Tourism on processes and systems to improve recordkeeping in all Solomon Islands Government departments and to provide advice in relation to the recruitment of permanent staff to the National Archives of Solomon Islands.

### **Digital preservation**

The preservation of digital records has commenced with the successful processing of two transfers from government agencies into the Archives' digital repository. The records were first treated in the Quarantine Facility, and then moved to the Preservation network where the software application Xena converted the records into standardised archival file formats, after which the records were stored in the digital repository. In

early 2006, a further eight digital transfers were scheduled for processing with some already in quarantine.

Ongoing digital preservation software development has been focused on strengthening workflow capability and tightening integration of the three key software applications that complete the preservation process to deliver maximum efficiency. This development strategy is delivering good results and will eventually benefit external users of Xena.

### **Australasian Digital Recordkeeping Initiative Plenary Meeting**

Australasian Digital Recordkeeping Initiative (ADRI) is an undertaking of the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA), the peak body of government archives and records institutions in Australia and New Zealand.

The primary objective of ADRI is to pool resources and expertise to find better ways to ensure that digital records are preserved and made accessible. All the national, state and territory public records institutions in Australia and New Zealand have agreed to collaborate on the development, articulation and implementation of a common set of strategies for enabling the making, keeping and use of the digital records of governments.

The National Archives hosted the second ADRI plenary meeting in Canberra in December 2005. In addition to receiving reports on recent digital recordkeeping activities and developments in each of the jurisdictions, the meeting agreed to progress the following collaborative projects:

- A standard for the transfer of digital records to archival custody (called a 'Submission Information Package Standard').
- Generic business cases for digital recordkeeping; training modules on digital recordkeeping for archives staff; generic specifications for records management software functionality.
- Generic specifications for digital archive hardware and software functionality; guidelines for managing digital recordkeeping metadata in archival systems.
- Digital recordkeeping case studies.

The meeting also discussed the global positioning of ADRI, given the high levels of international interest in Australasian approaches to digital recordkeeping. The National Archives will develop a Communications Plan for the consideration of ADRI during the middle of 2006.

Following the New Zealand launch of the ADRI website the December 2005 Australian launch of the website was held in conjunction with an e-government seminar in Canberra. The website was launched by Ann Steward, the CEO of the Australian Government Information Office and the Australian Government's Chief Information Officer.

### **New Records Disposal Authorities**

The Director General has endorsed and issued new Records Disposal Authorities to the following agencies:

- Australian National University (for student progress and student services records).
- Australian Communications and Media Authority (for audiovisual records submitted for classification).
- Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (all functional records).
- Department of Finance and Administration (Capital works and Commonwealth property management records).
- Geoscience Australia (all functional records – revised version).

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

*Correspondent: Graeme Powell*

An extraordinary exhibition, *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries*, opened in the National Library on 3 December 2005. Over the next two years it will travel to each of the State capitals. It brings together 170 items from the National Library and the eight State and Territory libraries. Manuscripts form one of the largest categories, ranging from the journals of James Cook and Joseph Banks on the 1768-71 *Endeavour* voyage to letters, diaries and literary manuscripts of contemporary figures such as Patrick White, Tim Winton, Shane Gould, Lindy Chamberlain

and Eddie Koiki Mabo. A side-benefit of the exhibition is that most of the items have been digitised and are now available on the Web.

Nineteenth-century travellers were often good diarists and three recent acquisitions deserve mention. Robert Wrede arrived in Sydney in 1837 and spent two years travelling in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land and South Australia. His detailed diary records his business activities, selling pianos and other musical instruments, as well as his sporting and social activities and his romantic encounters with several young ladies. A less racy but very informative series of diaries were kept by Fred Mackie, a Quaker missionary who travelled through eastern Australia and New Zealand in 1852–55. Another Quaker, John Hodgkin, visited the Australian colonies in 1896–97 and his diaries are not only very detailed but contain numerous small sketches, maps and photographs.

The Library continues to acquire the personal papers of notable Australians in many walks of life. Acquisitions in 2005 have included the papers of the pianist Geoffrey Parsons, the composer Richard Meale, the dancers Ross Stretton and Meryl Tankard, the painter Nora Heysen, the poets Robert Gray and Gary Catalano, the arts administrator Jean Battersby, the art historian Joan Kerr, the film and television producer Robert Raymond, the soldier Geoffrey Solomon, the scientist Gordon Hallsworth, the social scientist Fred Emery, the diplomat Noel Deschamps and the politician Brian Harradine. Helen Garner has presented the papers relating to her book *Jo Cinque's Consolation*, while Don Watson has transferred the diaries that he kept while on the staff of Paul Keating in 1992–96. They formed the basis of his celebrated book *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*.

The eleventh and final part of the *Australian Joint Copying Project Handbook* was published in 2005. It lists the various classes at the Public Record Office in London which were microfilmed in the last years of the Project. The *Handbook*, which first appeared in 1972, now covers all 10 419 reels produced by the AJCP between 1948 and 1993. Other recent publications based on the Manuscript Collection have been the third volume of the diaries of Donald Friend, the 1855–84 diaries of the Melbourne prison governor JB Castieau, and Ann Moyal's short biography of the war correspondent and historian Alan Moorehead.

Two long-serving staff have left the Library. Valerie Helson, who worked in the Manuscript Section for almost thirty years, retired in October 2005.

Graeme Powell, who was the Manuscript Librarian in 1969–75 and 1987–2006, retired in March 2006.

## **Powerhouse Museum Archives**

*Correspondent: Helen Yoxall*

The Museum celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005. A history which made extensive use of the Archives was published – *Yesterday's tomorrows: the Powerhouse Museum and its precursors 1880–2005*, edited by Graeme Davison and Kimberley Webber, Sydney, Powerhouse Publishing in association with University of NSW Press, 2005. The Archives were also drawn on for a series of historical articles in our magazine *Powerline*, one of which was written by assistant archivist Jill Chapman on Charles Laseron, geologist, Antarctic explorer and Gallipoli veteran who was also the Museum's first decorative arts curator. Archives also assisted in the research for the revamping of the Loco No. 1 exhibit and for the exhibition, *Animal Vegetable and Mineral*, which looked at the Museum's early collections and which were intended to explain the science of everyday life.

In 2004–05 the Museum moved seventy percent of its collection from rented premises in the city to new purpose-built storage facilities at Castle Hill. The PATH Project (Powerhouse at the Hills) was one of the largest museum storage relocation and consolidation projects ever undertaken in Australia. The opportunity was used to introduce portable computing into the stores (personal data assistants connected to a wireless link enabling 'live' updates using barcodes on the objects and the shelving) and to add digital images of all objects to the collection database. Archives participated in the Project by locating archival records to assist in the identification of unnumbered 'mystery' objects and by initiating and coordinating the documentation of the Project, done by video and still photography. The documentation produced not only an historical record of the move, but a resource for current Museum promotion and staff training.

A public access version of the institutional archives database (Tabularium Version 2, supplemented with a user 'front-end' devised by the Museum's Web team) is now available on the Museum's website <<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/archives/index.asp>>. This provides

searchable descriptions of all Museum records open for public access under the State Records Act 1998.

A new compactus (providing 428 linear shelf metres), three plan cabinets, five fridges and a freezer have been acquired and work has begun on improving the storage of the archives, particularly the large quantity of drawings in the design archives and audiovisual records.

### **Acquisitions**

Recently acquired collections include the papers of Eileen Bowker, secretary of Dr JJC Bradfield during the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge, papers of designer Richard Haughton James, and papers of Linda Vogt concerning the history of flute playing in Australia.

The Museum's Lawrence Hargrave Archive was successfully nominated to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register. The citation reads: The aeronautical journals and drawings of Lawrence Hargrave have historical significance as the primary research material in his lifelong project to develop a practical flying machine and powerplant. His ideas were highly influential to many of the world's aviation pioneers, acknowledged by experts such as Santos Dumont, the Voisin brothers and Chanute.

### **State Records NSW**

*Correspondent: Adrienne Severi*

#### **New websites**

State Records launched its new group of websites on 31 August 2005. Instead of a single site trying to meet the needs of all our audiences, there is now a website for each major audience/client group: 'The State Archives' <<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/>>, which is for anyone wanting to explore the NSW State archives collection and associated resources; 'Recordkeeping' <<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/recordkeeping/>>, which is for NSW public sector bodies subject to the *State Records Act 1998*; and 'Government Records Repository' <<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/grr/>>, which is for existing and potential customers of our fee-based records storage services. There is also a small corporate site <<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>>. The sites have been completely redesigned



with a strong emphasis on intuitive navigation and quick access to the most commonly sought services and resources.

### **Convict records on UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register**

In a ceremony on 20 February 2006, former Senator Chris Puplick AM announced the inscription of the convict records of New South Wales on the UNESCO Australian *Memory of the World* Register. As Dr Shirley Fitzgerald, Chairperson of State Records' Board, noted, these records document 'a vast social experiment [where] an attempt was made to create a whole new society using forced labour ... The brutality of life in the late eighteenth century and the outcomes of the social experiment of establishing new societies in new places contain a profound debate about the nature of humanity. That is why these records, however valuable they are to our local and national historical understanding, contain within them the raw material to address some of the largest questions of all'. The Tasmanian convict records were inscribed on the Register at the same ceremony. For details see <<http://www.amw.org.au>>.

### **New publications**

Former Premier Bob Carr launched *Politics, Patronage and Public Works: The Administration of New South Wales 1842-1900*, by Dr Hilary Golder, on 17 August 2005. State Records commissioned the work to provide people undertaking research using nineteenth-century State archives with a better understanding of the context in which they were created. Dr Golder's achievement goes far beyond this goal, representing a highly readable and engaging study of how government worked in New South Wales in that period. A second volume to cover 1901-60, written by Dr Peter Tyler, will be published later in 2006.

State Records' newest guide covers State archives relating to the establishment of responsible government in NSW in 1856, including the constitutional, political, social and administrative processes that led to it, along with the impact of this fundamental change on the political and administrative machineries of government. The 312 page guide provides a detailed and comprehensive description of the archives and their context. Its preparation was funded by a grant from the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government 1856-2006 Committee, and it was launched by the Committee's Chairman, Mr Rodney Cavalier AO, on 7 March 2006.

**New records storage building**

The newest addition to the Western Sydney Records Centre complex was opened by the Hon. Bob Debus, Attorney General and Minister for the Arts, on 9 December 2005. Known as 'Stage 6', the building was self-funded by State Records' off-budget business unit, the Government Records Repository. It has a storage capacity of 137 linear kilometres, or 750 000 Type 1 boxes, and provides archival standard environmental conditions. To reduce operating costs and the impact on the environment, the airconditioning uses geothermal technology with 15 kilometres of piping penetrating underground to a depth of 100 metres, using the earth as a heat sink and source. Together with the building's advanced insulation and energy efficient lighting, this is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 500 tonnes annually.

**Digital recordkeeping survey**

In the second half of 2005 State Records conducted a survey of a range of NSW public sector bodies on digital recordkeeping. The aim of the survey was to gain a better understanding of how digital recordkeeping is being implemented and managed within the NSW public sector. A sample of public sector bodies were surveyed, including local councils, universities, State owned corporations and Government departments. An analysis of the survey responses has highlighted a number of specific areas of concern, notably the management of email and the continued accessibility of digital records that need long term retention to meet agencies' business and evidential requirements or as part of the State archives. The report of the survey is available on the State Records' website.

**University of Melbourne Archives**

*Correspondent: Sue Fairbanks*

Our last 'News Notes' covered the major restructure within the University of Melbourne's Information Division (now called Information Services), and its impact upon the University of Melbourne Archives. We are now part of the Cultural Collections Group, Information Management Program, within Information Services, under the leadership of Michael Piggott, Manager of Cultural Collections and University Archivist.

Major staffing alterations are underway. The new Principal Archivist, who will report to the University Archivist, is Helen McLaughlin, who

has been Manager, Business Records at Victoria Police since 2001. Helen's formal qualifications include a BA from Monash majoring in anthropology and history, and a Graduate Diploma in Information Management (Archives and Records) from the University of Melbourne. She has also trained in electronic records, OH&S and TRIM, and studied leadership policy and change at masters level. Her previous appointments included archivist or records manager roles at the University of Melbourne, Victorian WorkCover Authority and the Aeronautical and Maritime Research Laboratory. She is a member of the Australian Society of Archivists, the Institute for Information Management and the Records Management Association of Australasia. The Principal Archivist is based at the Dawson St repository, and commenced work in May 2006.

As a consequence of the restructure, two new positions have been created into which senior staff are currently being placed: Senior Archivist – Collection Management and Senior Archivist – Reference and Outreach. These positions signal the concentration of effort of senior staff along functional lines, especially as larger changes within the University mean that our ability to build wider relationships with academic teaching staff and to promote the use of our collections by undergraduate students is vital to our future. Two examples of such use in train are our assistance to history students currently studying the fourth year subject, Writing History for Publication; and in Architecture, where students of Dr Derham Groves have been asked to design a hypothetical museum to house and display the work of the Victorian architect William Arthur Purnell, whose records are held in the University Archives.

On a sadder note, we announce the retirement of Dr Mark Richmond from the staff of Archives at the end of 2005 after thirty-two years service. Mark commenced at Archives in 1973, although he was party to many collecting expeditions around country Victoria with the late Frank Strahan in the 1960s. Mark will be missed by the staff for his deep knowledge of the collection and for his fair-mindedness in all matters; and by researchers for his exhaustive research service and patience. A farewell function was held for Mark on 17 February 2006, where many impromptu expressions of gratitude were offered by colleagues, researchers and friends.

Beyond these changes, we have again been lucky in receiving project funding for several initiatives. In 2005 we acquired the private papers of former Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcolm Fraser in a joint project

undertaken with the University's Faculty of Law. Records covering Mr Fraser's family and post-parliamentary career have been acquired from Mr Fraser's office and from the National Archives of Australia. As part of the transaction with the NAA, we have agreed to set up complementary and linked websites to ensure that the total holdings of Mr Fraser's parliamentary and personal papers are known and so that a certain number can be available via the Web. The University's Law Faculty have provided the services of a project archivist, Dr Caitlin Stone, to develop the website with the assistance of Web designer Mr Andrew Stephenson from the Cultural Collections Group. The University's trial site has been shown to Mr Fraser who has made constructive suggestions and expressed approval of work so far. The website is not yet public as a launch is planned with an appropriate event at the Law School where Mr Fraser's library of over 3000 books will also eventually be housed.

In other initiatives, the University's Miegunyah Trust has funded a one year project to arrange and describe the archives of the Grimwade Family and their associated business and philanthropic interests, as well as a Web-guide to them. Benalla & District Family History Group has become our partner in a project to identify and digitise the photographic glass plate negatives of Benalla photographer, William John Howship. Howship established his studio in 1904 and ran it until 1932. The Archives acquired the collection from his successors in 1964 and limited use has been made of them since. In 2005 the partnership was set up to maximise their exposure and use. Identification of photographs of local people and scenes will be coordinated by the Benalla & District Family History Group, and images will later be available on the Archives' photographic database, UMAIC, and for sale through the Group.

Finally, a year-end review of projects undertaken by our volunteers, placement students and casual staff shows once again that they are of wonderful assistance to our small permanent team, and we thank them for their participation.