

News Notes

Edited by Helen McLaughlin

Adelaide City Council Records and Archives Services

Correspondent: Robert Thornton

Storage Pressures

Adelaide City Council has a mandate from State Records to manage its own records and archives. Therefore, Council made the decision in 1985 to build the City Archives repository at Topham Mall. A Central Records office was established in 1999 by amalgamating the various departmental records officers into an integrated team to provide centralised records management services. A limited amount of shelving space for current records storage was allocated; the assumption being moves to electronic recordkeeping would reduce need for hardcopy records. Despite this, the creation of paper records at ACC shows little sign of decreasing with nearly twice as many hardcopy files being generated than electronic for the period 2006 - 2008.

Additionally, localised storage areas within Council offices have been reduced and 70% of records created by Council must be kept permanently under GDS20 (the local government disposal schedule). All these factors have contributed to the influx of greater quantities of records into Central Records and the City Archives. Conditions required by GDS21 to permit destruction of hardcopy source documents after digitisation are stringent, and it is not anticipated Council will be in a position to retain digitised records only in electronic form in the near term.

The following table summarises the storage issue facing Records and Archives.

	Total Storage Area	Current Total Shelving	Remain-ing Unused Shelving	% of Unused Shelving	Annual Growth Rate
Records	83 sq m	659 m	60 m	9%	55 m
Archives	722 sq m	5,200 m	150 m	3%	70 m

- Note: Archives storage at Topham is for permanent retention records only and does not include the 600m of shelving installed at its offsite warehouse in Sturt Street which accommodates temporary retention records.

A New Archives Repository

It is estimated approximately 1200 metres of compactus steel shelving (equating to almost 50 rows of 2175L x 900H x 400D) is required to accommodate records storage needs for the next 15 to 20 years.

Following consultation, and examination of a range of options, a preferred option was agreed on: an area of 145sqm adjacent to the Archives repositories at Topham car park could be integrated with Archives.

It has been suggested the project (and costs) be spread over several years:

Stage I 2008-9

- internal alterations including removal of partition walls
- installation of mobile compactus steel shelving

Stage II 2009-10

- integration with Archives' temperature and humidification control system
- integration with Archives' security protection monitoring system

Stage III 2010-11

- extension of Archives' gaseous fire protection system

In late 2007 a report was prepared seeking endorsement for the proposal. Management acknowledged the seriousness of the problem and agreed in principle to consider raising a capital works project in 2008-09 for alteration and outfitting the area as part of an overall ACC properties master plan. If the master plan is approved we will proceed with detailed design and costing work, and incorporate the initial alteration costs into Council's 2008-09 capital works budget with the aim of having the initial stage of conversion in place by the end of 2008.

Australian National University Archives Program

Correspondent: Maggie Shapley

A massive hailstorm hit the ANU campus in February 2007. There was minor flooding in the repository when drains became blocked by hail, and water found its way under the front roller doors and then under the front doors to the repository. The Archives has a policy of never storing records on the floor and this stood us in good stead. However, we continued for several weeks to receive calls from various locations on campus where records storage was not ideal. We provided some basic advice on our website about salvaging wet records and also made our large sorting tables available for spreading out affected records.

Material from the Archives has been lent to a number of exhibitions currently showing around the country: *Pioneers of the Inland: Australia's Muslim Cameleers* (SA Museum also showing at Broken Hill and the National Library), *Max Dupain on Assignment* (National Archives of Australia) features photographs Dupain took for CSR Limited, *Scarred and Strengthened: Australians in the Great Depression* (Old Parliament House) and *Sydney's Pubs: Liquor, Larrikins and the Law* (Justice and Police Museum, Sydney) includes photographs from the Tooth and Company records. Exhibitions at the Archives have been based on Unilever Australasia records relating to early soap manufacturers, W H Burford

& Sons Ltd, J Kitchen & Sons Ltd and Lever Brothers Pty Ltd, and CSR Limited's records about sugarcane growing and milling in Fiji from 1881.

New deposits to the Noel Butlin Archives Centre include records of the Armed Forces Federation of Australia, the Grains Council, the Oyster Farmers Association of NSW, Audrey Johnson (author of *Fly a Rebel Flag*, a biography of former Senator and trade unionist Bill Morrow, and *Bread and Roses*, a history of left and trade union women activists) and Liz Ross, author of *Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win! Builders Labourers fight deregistration, 1981-1994*.

The University Archives has been converted to the series system, with series documentation and item lists prepared for 300 series in readiness for transfer to an online database. Additions to the archives include programs of the Canberra School of Music from 1965, original music scores of composer Harold Allen, papers of molecular spectroscopist Dr Ernest Spinner, and papers of the Centre for the Mind and the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing.

The Pacific Research Archives has a new website at <http://pacificarchives.anu.edu.au> which includes the collecting policy and finding aids to Pacific collections in the Noel Butlin Archives Centre and the University Archives. Papers recently received from ANU Pacific scholars include those of Dr Ric Shand, Dr Stephen Henningham, Professor John Ballard, and Dr James Jupp. Journalist Sarah Walls has donated interviews with New Caledonian leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou from 1988. Papers from non-ANU academics include those of Professor Alan Ward, Dr Colin Macpherson, Professor Roderic Lacey and nutritionist Nancy Hitchcock.

Australian War Memorial Research Centre

Correspondent: Tim Roberts

Activities in the Research Centre at the Memorial

Official Records

1. Another series to become available at item level on RecordSearch

Amongst the AWM Official Records team's ongoing projects is the description and entry onto RecordSearch of series at item level. The ultimate aim is that all the folios and files in each series can be completely accessible as digitised records.

One such project is the itemising of individual records in AWM12. This series is titled: 'Australian Imperial Force Headquarters (London) Administrative Registry - Medical personnel administration files'. The records relate primarily to Australian medical staff in London during the First World War, as well as correspondence from medical personnel in the field; there is also documentation relating to their patients. Personal information includes their wartime duties and end-of-war movements, whether that was demobilisation and voyage to Australia or further time in London. They also include correspondence and forms relating to patients of the various Australian hospitals and medical certificates for Australian pensioners, as well as Brits trying to get passage to Australia either as nurses (largely accompanied by polite rejection notes from the head matron) or assisted migrant passage.

Although RecordSearch already has a general entry for AWM12, the 3170 individual items are now getting the detailed attention given to the now-familiar 1st AIF soldiers' personnel records. The project is nearly completed; Official Records staff are aiming to have it all done within the next month.

For an illustrated example of what can be found in AWM12, I recommend this story on the AWM's public blog, posted by Craig Berelle, Assistant Curator of Official Records: <http://blog.awm.gov.au/awm/2008/03/05/how-an-overnight-storm-threw-up-a-relic-of-our-first-vc-winner/>.

2. New AIF unit history project - 56th Battalion

I'd just like to let people know about a new research project that a colleague and I have recently begun - the writing of a unit history for the 56th

Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force during the First World War. This is one of the few remaining infantry units who have never had a history written or published before. The result will be a book published as part of the Australian Army History Series, probably sometime in late 2009.

We have access to all the official papers such as war diaries, general files and personal service records but what we are really interested in as well, is personal stories, especially things like diaries, letters, postcards or photographs. We'd be very keen to hear from anyone who might have information about men who served in this unit. The 56th Battalion was a predominantly New South Wales battalion, drawn mostly from Sydney and the regional districts of southeastern and central NSW.

We've also recently launched a blog for the project where interested parties can keep track of progress or get in contact with the authors.

The blog is at <http://halfhundredweights.wordpress.com/>

Digitisation projects

What do 70,000 images equal? The Official Records series AWM 95! A three year project consisting of 47 shelves, 234 boxes and 2575 files. AWM 95s are the Commanders' Diaries of the Australian Army ranging from 1948 to 1975, covering the Malayan Emergency, Malay Peninsula and the Vietnam War. Most diaries consist of a cover with an index, a daily narrative of events, and annexes. The AWM 95 series is the latest digitisation project to be completed by the Australian War Memorial.

The 95s were prioritised for digitisation due to the poor quality of the paper and the high demand which these files received from the public. The paper, being highly acidic, has a short shelf life. A large percentage of the records were printed on thermal transfer paper which over thirty years has tended to fade and eventually will disappear. Each file has been scanned to a preservation standard of 600 dpi JPG on a flatbed scanner. The images are saved to file and backed up on tape and a second copy, a PDF file, is created for the web. The aim of all these scans is to capture the pages as they appear currently. We try to be as close to the original as possible and so none of the scans we make are digitally enhanced in any way. Therefore, some files may be hard to read. Some diaries contain overlay maps printed on thin plastic. These, folded at the

time, have now become fused into that position and can no longer be unfolded for either scanning or complete viewing. In each case a note has been added to the file online.

With the whole series being digitised we have managed to achieve more than one goal. The files themselves have now been preserved for the future, the original is protected from handling and all the diaries are now accessible to not only those who visit the Memorial's Reading Room but to all those who have access to our website around the world.

All-of-section activities

There was another major collection move in mid-January to mid-February this year, involving transfer of large portions of Official Records, Books and Private Records collections back to storage in main building after the collection area had been refurbished. It was a very big teamwork job, done entirely by Research Centre staff: planning the whole process, loading and pushing trolleys by many various staff working in shifts, re-shelving collection items in the new area and constantly monitoring the process.

Acknowledgements: thanks to Kathryn Hicks and Craig Tibbitts for their individual reports and Craig Berelle and Judi Young for advice and information on the AWM12 project.

Edith Cowan University

Correspondent: Mark Brogan

The Edith Cowan University Archives and Records Program ended 2007 with a farewell to Dr Karen Anderson, who leaves ECU to take up a Professorship with the University of Mid Sweden. Karen was inaugural coordinator of archives and records studies at ECU and has been active at both an international and local level in the advancement of archival science. Congratulations Karen! Pending resolution of the staffing issues raised by Karen's departure, graduates Melissa Shanahun and Jill Jones have joined the teaching program as sessional teaching staff. Both have

extensive experience as practitioners in records and archives management.

Other developments in 2007 included the development of a new professional development program that debuted in July with a workshop on Archival Strategies for Databases. This hands on workshop introduced thirty representatives of Government and the private sector to XML databases and XML migration as a long term preservation strategy for relational databases. For further information about this workshop which will be offered again in 2008, check out the web page at <http://www.chs.ecu.edu.au/portals/LIS/courses/short-courses.php#archivaldatabases>. Conversion of teaching materials to video and iPod delivery also commenced in 2007, offering students greater flexibility in how they receive study materials.

Monash University Records and Archives Services Branch

Correspondent: Karen Rogers

With TRIM records management software now being used enthusiastically by 160 staff, implementation is continuing throughout various areas of the University, and it is expected that nearly 500 staff will be using TRIM 6R2 by the end of the year.

The Branch has recently taken over the management of student files. This has been a huge undertaking, and planning is underway for newly created student records to be solely electronic, eliminating the duplication which currently exists between faculties and other areas of student administration.

Events planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Monash University's proclamation have kept the University Archives busy supplying resources and an extensive range of photographs illustrating the University's history.

As part of a study tour, Silvia Nolla, Head of the Organization and Quality Service at the University of Barcelona, visited the Branch to learn about the Branch's operations and services and the University's information management strategy.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Correspondent: Maryanne Larkin

News

The centenary of David Scott Mitchell's death was marked by the publication of 'Magnificent Obsession: the Story of the Mitchell Library, Sydney'. The author, Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher, focuses not only on the collections, but also on the work of the staff, the interaction of readers with the Library and the Library's place in the cultural life of Sydney.

The Unique and Significant Project team is working to ensure that there are computer records for items in the collection which have been identified for valuation purposes as unique and significant. The list includes single items such as First Fleet diaries, large collections like the Macarthur family papers and the records of the Communist Party of Australia and significant paintings by artists including Conrad Martens and Eugene Von Guerard.

Performances of the Gregorian chants in the Rimini antiphonal of 1328 attracted huge public interest and four performances were sold out. The chants were prepared for performance by Dr Neil McEwan of the Sydney Conservatorium and sung by the Singers of St Laurence. The events were organised by Meredith Lawn, the Library's music archivist. The antiphonal, a large illuminated choir book, features the work of renowned fourteenth-century miniaturist Neri da Rimini. The book is now on display in The Medieval Imagination exhibition at the State Library of Victoria.

Warwick Hirst, the acting Curator of Manuscripts, retired in 2007. He was responsible for several exhibitions and books featuring items from the collection. This will be your correspondent's last report. During the year she too will be joining the baby boomer exodus from the workforce.

Collections

Recent acquisitions include ten letters from Edward, Duke of Windsor to his lover Freda Dudley Ward. The Duke wrote to her while he was touring Australia in 1920, giving details of his engagements and his opinions of the dignitaries he met including the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Prime Minister

Billy Hughes and Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of NSW. He describes the difficulties of touring and the places he visited in some detail. Throughout the letters he conveys his passionate love for Freda who had been his mistress since 1918.

The Library also acquired an anonymous diary, 8 Aug. 1821 - Mar. 1824, by a servant of the Scott family. He describes two expeditions with Robert Scott including a trip to the Hunter River region where Scott selected a site for the homestead of Glendon. The diary includes many descriptions of Aboriginal people, some of which may have been added when the servant wrote out the diary several years later.

Pictorial acquisitions include an oil painting by Eugene von Guerard of cabbage trees near the Shoalhaven River, an album of designs for posters advertising the visit of the Great White Fleet in 1908 and a lithograph depicting three of the four natives of Tierra de Fuego who were abducted by Captain Robert Fitzroy of HMS Beagle in 1830.

In a happy coincidence, two items relating to Jane Penelope Atkinson, daughter of Mary Reibey, were acquired from different sources. One is a beautiful miniature by prolific portrait painter Richard Read Junior. The second item is a letter from Jane to her cousin David Hope in Glasgow. David Hope was so impressed with this letter from his young cousin, that it is believed he proposed marriage to her. Sadly for him, the postal service was very slow. In her next letter Jane informed him that she had married John Atkinson. David Hope died unmarried.

Exhibitions

The exhibition year for 2008 started with Politics and Power: Bligh's Sydney Rebellion (Jan. to April). The theme was given a suitably Sydney twist by contending that 'Bounty' Bligh alienated the New South Wales Corps and other landholders by threatening to interfere in the local real estate market. Other exhibitions include Dockside: Sydney's Working Harbour, 1840-1875 (May to Aug.) and Studio: Australian Painters on the Nature of Creativity which focuses on 61 painters working in their studios (June to Oct.).

The Heritage Gallery continues to feature highlights from the collection. Items displayed in 2008 include Joan Blau's Grand Atlas of 1667, souvenirs of the controversial Burns-Johnson boxing title fight in 1908, a glass bottle with a message dropped into the sea by Charles Smith on the

first flight from Australia to England in 1919 and two sample books of tapa cloth collected on James Cook's Pacific voyages.

National Archives of Australia

Correspondent: Allison Burness

1977 Cabinet records release

On 4 December 2007, the National Archives of Australia held a media briefing for the release of the 1977 Cabinet Documents. Professor Peter Manning from the University of Technology Sydney, a journalist for over 40 years was the guest speaker at the briefing. Historian Dr Jim Stokes, provided an overview of the year 1977, giving context to the issues discussed in Cabinet.

Digital copies of the publicly released 1977 Cabinet records and contextual information are available on the National Archives website, including the papers and pod casts from the opening. The release of the 1977 Cabinet Documents resulted in extensive national media coverage during January 2008.

Shake Your Family Tree Archives Open Day

All National Archives offices participated in the *Shake Your Family Tree Archives Open Day* on Wednesday, 27 February 2008. The event was opened in Canberra's Parkes Office by Senator John Faulkner in his first public engagement with the National Archives since he became Minister.

The Open Day was held to coincide with the SBS broadcast of the family history discovery series *Who Do You Think You Are?*. SBS radio held a live broadcast from the Parkes office in Canberra and author Kate Grenville and family history expert Jeremy Palmer also conducted public lectures as part of Open Day activities.

Federal Election Project

Staff worked hard to provide recordkeeping assistance and attract the personal records of outgoing MPs in the lead up to and after the Federal Election in November 2007. 225 shelf meters of records from 12 current and former ministers were accessioned.

Third International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program

In February 2008, the Third International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program was held in Canberra and attracted over 120 delegates from over 30 countries. The aim of the Memory of the World Program is to promote appreciation and awareness of important documentary heritage materials through the development and maintenance of Memory of the World Registers at international, regional and national levels.

Staff were involved in the Program as Session Chair, Speaker, hosting a Workshop and the closing reception where the latest round of inscriptions on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register were announced, including the Archives of the High Court of Australia. The Director-General, Mr Ross Gibbs, and the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court of Australia, Mr Andrew Phelan, accepted Certificates of Inscription on behalf of the National Archives and the High Court.

Max Dupain: on Assignment

On 13 December 2007, the exhibition *Max Dupain: on Assignment*, developed by the National Archives in partnership with the Noel Butlin Archive Centre, Australian National University (ANU) was launched in the Parkes building in Canberra. Author and co-editor of the catalogue, Mr Frank Moorhouse, addressed attendees at the opening which included Special Minister of State, Senator John Faulkner, and ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Chubb.

Joint Project with Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia and the National Archives have established a formal partnership to examine a significant collection of aerial photography which consists of more than 11,000 film negatives dating from the 1920s to the 1980s. The photographs have been used as the basis for topographic map production and provide a valuable record of the Australian landscape thereby enabling tracking of environmental changes. Approximately 60% of the collection is in the Archives' custody. A Steering Committee will review the physical condition of the collection, determine

preservation and appraisal methodologies, and make arrangements for transfer of the balance of the collection.

Check-up launch and response

In August 2007, *Check-up*, an interactive recordkeeping self-assessment tool for Commonwealth agencies was launched and has received an overwhelmingly positive response with 110 Commonwealth agencies requesting the product.

Positive experiences and feedback has been received at subsequent information sessions and is fostering a valuable inter-agency exchange of information about the product and how it can be used to develop practical records management improvements. Additionally, agencies are being surveyed to find out more about current records management practices in order to enable increased awareness of what is happening in agencies and to offer more practical recordkeeping assistance and will provide in depth information needed to inform future work over and complement the desk officer focus of both the 2007 *State of the Service Report* and the Management Advisory Committee Report, *Note for File: A Report on Recordkeeping in the Australian Public Service*.

Australian Government Recordkeeping Metadata Standard

At the end of 2007, the National Archives conducted consultation on an exposure draft of the new Australian Government Recordkeeping Metadata Standard. The completely revised edition of the standard describes information about records recommended for captured in electronic document, records management and business systems used by Australian Government agencies. The new standard is designed to be used as a reference tool by agency corporate and records managers, IT staff and software vendors. Accompanying implementation guidelines are currently under development for release in early 2008.

The National Archives metadata set will also be used as the basis of the work of the Standards Australia committee IT 21/07. This committee will be developing a broad reference set of recordkeeping metadata which can be tailored to meet different jurisdictional needs.

The National Archives metadata set will be incorporated as a technical specification in the forthcoming draft Archives New Zealand standard

following closer collaboration between the two archives. New Zealand's implementation guidelines are being used by Australia in the development of its implementation guidelines for the Australian Government.

Vrroom: Virtual Reading Room

The Vrroom, or Virtual Reading Room, site is the National Archives online education tool. The website provides Australian teachers and students with an easy way to access archival records that relate directly to school curriculum, and has recently undergone extensive review, including an external educational quality assurance review by The Learning Federation, and an historical assessment by an external Vrroom Academic Review Panel. Vrroom became 'live' again in January 2008 with 89 new records which have learning content, including a written description and education value statement added as digital resources.

The Australian History Teachers Summer School

On 13 September 2007, then Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, announced a consortium including the National Archives had been chosen to deliver a Summer School for teachers of Australian History. In January 2008, 120 history teachers from across Australia attended the Summer School. The National Archives held an education workshop on the use of archival records to engage and motivate learners. A short presentation of Vrroom was delivered as part of a collaborative resource workshop. The Archives 'living archives' program about first person interpretation was also presented in a panel session at Old Parliament House.

Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit

In partnership with the Pacific and Regional Branch International Council on Archives (PARBICA), the National Archives has started rolling out in-country workshops to train public servants and archivists in the use of the Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit. The toolkit is a generic suite of tools that promote universal best practice principles and approaches to good recordkeeping in government administrations. Workshops were held in Vanuatu in November 2007, Palau in February 2008 and Samoa in March 2008.

Stage Two of the project, the development of a file titling system or Record Plan for common administrative files is currently under development and will be adaptable for use by governments around the Pacific. Development and deployment of both stages of the Toolkit has been made possible with funding provided by AusAID's Pacific Governance Support Program.

Census records

In September 2007, Australian Statistician, Mr Brian Pink, presented the Director-General, Mr Ross Gibbs, with the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census Time Capsule representing the 2006 microfilmed census forms. The records will be held by the Archives and released to the public in 99 years.

Information Awareness Month

In 2008 the National Archives will again host the launch of Information Awareness Month in the ACT, working with other information industry bodies, including the Australian Society of Archivists, to promote issues and roles in information management generally throughout the month of May.

Public Record Office Victoria

Correspondents: Allison Hunter and Kasia Zygmuntowicz

Victorian Auditor General's Office Report on Recordkeeping

The Victorian Auditor General's Office Report *Records Management in the Victorian Public Sector* was tabled in Parliament on 12 March 2008. PROV is in the process of reviewing the recommendations made within the report. Where possible, the recommendations will be incorporated into PROV's processes and products. This will include the forthcoming suite of Recordkeeping Standards.

Information Awareness Month

PROV participated in Information Awareness Month, with a number of events scheduled over May:

Web Generated Records Seminar

Based on the recently released PROV Advice 20a and 20b, this seminar covered aspects of web-based records activity, including identifying the record from the mass of information and web-record preservation technologies.

Footprints Book Launch

PROV's newest publication, produced in partnership with National Archives of Australia '*Footprints: The Percy Pepper Story*' presents an insight into Aboriginal life in the 1920s that has rarely been seen, and demonstrates the struggles faced by people who were classified as 'half-caste' under the *Aborigines Act 1915*. The book is available for purchase from PROV Reading Rooms or through NAA.

Sir Rupert Hamer Awards Ceremony

Each year the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) offers the Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards, recognising excellence and innovation in records management in the Victorian public sector. This year new categories have been included to recognise the contributions made by Places of Deposit and government agencies who support them.

The Records Management Association of Australasia, as the professional body representing the records management industry in Australia, is the major sponsor of the awards with additional sponsorship provided by the Australian Society of Archivists. Winning projects are highlighted on the PROV website <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/events/rmham.asp>

Good Records - Good Business - Good Governance showcase

Considering using PROV's *Good Records - Good Business - Good Governance* Recordkeeping Awareness Program to raise awareness of roles and responsibilities of non-RM staff in your own organisation?

PROV presented the *Good Records* program for those keen to see what it looks like 'in action'. The presentation included the opportunity to ask questions of the program's designer about how it can be used to meet

particular recordkeeping training needs. More information and links to the downloadable program are available at http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/records/training/GR%20Program/GR_main.asp

Law and Order - Helen Hart strikes a blow for women's suffrage

Helen Harris OAM presented the Festival Address in which she linked the Festival theme of Law and Order with the issue of women's suffrage. It commemorated both the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria and an attempt by a pioneer suffragist to horsewhip a local newspaperman in 1886, resulting in legal action.

Standards Update

PROV's current Standards have had their expiry date extended until 2011 and work is well underway to develop a new suite of Standards to replace them.

PROS 97/004 Specification 4 Access, is being updated to reflect new closure provisions for records within Section 10AA of the *Public Records Act 1973*. This recent amendment to the Act was inserted to support the *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003* and permits closure of records which may pose a security threat to the people, realm or government.

The two Standards projects currently underway include a new Storage Standard and Disposal Standard (formerly referred to as the Appraisal Standard).

UNESCO Memory of the World

In February 2008 two PROV records were inscribed onto the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register at a ceremony in Canberra: the 1862 Land Act Map (PROV, VPRS 7664/P3 Unregistered Maps and Plans (Legislative Assembly), Unit 1) and the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition (VPRS 3253/P0 Original Papers Tabled in the Legislative Assembly, unit 851).

Exhibitions: Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Signature Stories

Judy Maddigan MLA launched the 'Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Signature Stories' exhibition at the Victorian Archives Centre in March 2008. The exhibition is on display until 14 June 2008 and includes the 1891 Women's Suffrage 'Monster' Petition, recently inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

Local History Grants Program (LHGP)

Lynne Kosky MP, the Minister for Arts awarded 79 Local History Grants at a special event in Stawell on 22 April. The LHGP is administered by PROV and funded through the Community Support Fund. For a complete list of recipients please visit: <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/lhgp/2007-8grants.asp>

Reading Room

The VAC celebrated the 60,000th researcher to the Reading Room. First time visitor Debbie Smith from Campbell's Creek, in regional Victoria took the opportunity to visit VAC as part of the combined NAA/PROV 'Shake Your Family Tree' day to take advantage of the seminars, tours and undertake some family research. The 'Shake Your Family Tree' program saw 153 researchers visit the VAC Reading Room on the day with around 350 participating in various seminars and tours!

Santa Maria College, Attadale, Western Australia

Correspondent: Roberta Cowan

The 70th Anniversary Year for Santa Maria College

In 1936 the religious leaders of Perth decided to open a training college for teachers which was to open on the site of the Victoria Square College Boarding School in Perth, a Sisters of Mercy school for girls. Thus, the Victoria Square boarding students needed a new 'home'. The Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy at the time, Mother Brigid McDonald, launched an architect's competition for a new college to be built in the bush land of Attadale, an area on the south bank of the Swan River between Perth and Fremantle. The winning design was created by the

Perth architect Mr E. Le Blond Henderson and named *Teresa*. Foundations were laid by Archbishop Prendiville on 26 September 1937 and on 10 December 1937 the Victoria Square boarders left for the last time. Santa Maria College officially opened 6 February 1938 with sixty boarders and thirteen day girls.

Sr Mary Bertrand (Sr Hilda Corbett) was the first Principal of Santa Maria College from 1938 to 1960 and was also one of the first women to receive a Masters Degree in Western Australia. In 1939 the building of a Chapel at the western end of the College was commenced but the war prevented completion of this building. The Chapel was finally completed in 1955 and today is extremely popular for weddings.

The first classroom extension occurred in 1958 with a three storey wing of five classrooms and a Science room. Many additional buildings were erected in the 1960s: a four storey wing completed in 1964, a two storey building built near the swimming pool in 1967 and the Chapel was remodeled in 1969. The first full time Librarian was employed in the late 1960s and by the early 1970s the Sisters of Mercy ratio to lay Staff was 1:2. The first College Open Day for Santa Maria was held in 1979.

The closure of boarding in central Perth occurred in 1937 which increased the pressure on boarding facilities at Santa Maria. On Sunday 25 October 1981, the new Santa Maria Boarding House was opened by Bishop Peter Quinn. In the 1980s the Convent at Santa Maria was closed and the Sisters of Mercy moved into housing across the road from the College. The Sisters' old Convent was converted into a Music Department and the former cultural centre, built in the 1970s, was developed into a gymnasium. The Sisters' former Dining Room was converted into a Theatre Arts area. Mr Frank Owen became the first Lay Principal in August 1989 and was followed by the present Principal Mrs Anne Pitos in June 2000.

The College celebrates its 70th Anniversary from 6 February 2008, and has employed a trained Archivist. A number of College publications are available from the State Library of Western Australia. *Reflections* is the College Annual, and *De La Vida* is the College magazine which is published bi-annually for all College community members. The College website is a great source of information and includes archival updates and the latest on the 70th celebrations <http://www.santamaria.wa.edu.au>.

State Library of South Australia

Correspondent: Mary Ryan

Late in February, the State Library of South Australia received the news that UNESCO had given recognition to three of the Library's collections. The papers of Adelaide's designer Colonel William Light, visionary artist Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski and ethnographer Charles Mountford have been added to the Australian Memory of the World register. Congratulations go to Neil Thomas who, along with staff from the Adelaide City Council, worked on the Light nomination, to June Edwards for the Ostoja-Kotkowski nomination and Susie Russell, Denise Chapman and Margaret Southcott for the Mountford nomination.

Recent additions

Reminiscences by Magdalen McConville (1890-1973) recall her childhood on Angipina [Angepena] Station near Leigh Creek. In them she refers to various members of the Aboriginal community who worked on the station, the endeavours of her grandfather Henry McConville (1832-1903) after arriving in South Australia in 1854, dealing with illness and injury, and daily activities.

Further papers of Doug Mackenzie comprise an extensive research paper on 'Glenelg and the Patawalonga' including photographs, a concept drawing and his reminiscences of growing up near the 'Pat'.

Private Record Group 1452, Noack family records. Errol Wayne Noack had the dubious distinction of being the first Australian conscript to be killed in the Vietnam conflict. He was shot and killed within days of his arrival in Vietnam. This small group consists mostly of letters and photographs, (many of Errol) uncovered when the contents of his father's house were cleared following the father's death.

A recently completed oral history project is OH 811 Interviews of veterans who participated in the Vietnam War. The project was supported by the RSL SA branch and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Interviewees were sought from a range of experiences so that as broad a perspective as possible of the Vietnam War was recorded: Jock Statton - Army Infantry, Graham Nybo - Army Artillery, Wendy Nybo - point of view of a wife at home, Brian McNamara - RAN, Norm Goodall - RAAF gunship crew,

Marie Boyle - Red Cross, Frank Owen - Army RAEME, Colleen Thurgar - Nurse, John Barton - a National Serviceman who stayed in Australia, and Fred Bowden who was wounded in Vietnam. The recordings of Suanne Prager OH 798 who was a Vietnamese war orphan and Geoffrey Barnes OH 801 who was in the medical corps were interviews done prior to this project. OH 836 is an interview with Peter Hicks who was a draft resister in the Vietnam War. The project highlighted how the experience changed everyone's life and still has an influence on their lives today.

The Oral History Association held a wine tasting at the State Library in February. David Armstrong who is a retired winemaker who worked for wineries such as Penfolds, Saltrams and Seppelts gave us a truly wonderful explanation of how to assess different wines. We tasted a few and thought about how our senses reacted to each of them. David is interviewing people in the Barossa Valley to document how life has changed in the Valley over the past 50 to 70 years. He gave an animated talk with some lovely anecdotes about life in the Barossa. A story about a butcher carting his meat on a dray from town to town put health regulations into perspective and another about the contribution made to the wine industry by Ray Beckwith highlights the early contributions made by Australians to the development and improvement of wine throughout the world.

And finally, a belated welcome to Jane Thimke who has filled the position left by Kate Filsell's departure from the team. Jane's fresh outlook and considerable expertise make her a very welcome addition to the archival team.

State Records NSW

Correspondent: Annette Finch

Exhibition

The official government apology to the Stolen Generations has generated considerable interest in our current exhibition, *In Living Memory*, featuring photographs from the Aborigines Welfare Board from 1919-1966. State Records received requests from the City of Sydney and SBS television for images from the exhibition to create audiovisual productions of events

and honouring the apology. The Sydney Morning Herald created a five minute slideshow which can be viewed on their website. The exhibition has been extended to 31 January 2009.

A touring version of the exhibition will open in Nowra in May. The official opening will be 23 May, the day before the 100th anniversary of the nearby Bomaderry Children's Home.

Digital Records Strategy

Last December the approved *Policy on digital records preservation*, along with a supporting discussion paper, were published on the State Records website. Work has also begun this year on a number of key projects including the digital records brand/marketing project (aimed at having a recognisable brand for the digital records strategy and products), the review of guidance on digital records preservation and development of a new standard on digital recordkeeping.

Colonial Secretary's records

The Colonial Secretary's papers are the most important series of records documenting the very early history of NSW. The index to the period 1788-1825 is available on our website and the correspondence was microfilmed and made available in the reading rooms at The Rocks and at Kingswood. Preparation work is currently underway for the copying of the 1826 papers. This represents the commencement of a long-term project aimed at preserving and making these early colonial records more accessible.

Archives Investigator 2 (AI2)

In October 2007, State Records released a new version of the online search tool Archive Investigator, which provides access to our primary archival control system. Enhancements include more flexible search options, additional on-screen help information, a more user-friendly presentation of search results, and integration of information on Access Directions made by public offices.

Digital Gallery

A recent addition to our Digital Gallery is *Purging Pestilence - the Bubonic Plague*. The Bubonic Plague appeared in Sydney in January 1900. Starting at the waterfront it spread throughout the city. During 1900 more than 100 people had died. This slideshow features photographs taken during the cleansing period.

University of Newcastle

Correspondent: Gionni DiGravio

At the University of Newcastle we have been experimenting with blogs, You Tube and Flickr for getting our holdings and news out there. I'm a complete convert to the seamlessness of the new technologies, they are so easy to update. See the links below.

We had the Governor of NSW launch a regional history fund for archives and handover 4 nice reproductions of the full version of Barrallier's 1801 survey of the Hunter Region:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2008/02/07/barrallier-plan-1801-handover-and-launch-of-regional-history-fund/>

(Look over the work of the Coal River Working Party while you're there)

We also do regular radio broadcasts on our archives treasures on our local ABC radio, which we also blog with links to digitised materials. Past stories have included:

The 1704 magical Manuscript

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2007/07/10/magical-manuscript-1704/>

The Stone Book:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2008/02/07/barrallier-plan-1801-handover-and-launch-of-regional-history-fund/>

Alexander Galloway (1876 - 1945) - Newcastle Composer

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2007/08/01/alexander-galloway-1876-1945-newcastle-composer/>

Our blog home page is here:

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/>

Our Coal River Working Party blog page is here:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/>

And our home site:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/>

University of Melbourne Archives

Correspondent: Jane Ellen

Projects

Our principal project for 2008 is a major review of our holdings. We have undertaken a temporary freeze on accessioning, complemented by a comprehensive reappraisal and possible de-accessioning of collections, and the disposition of University records which have previously been accepted prior to sentencing regimes. In order to achieve this amongst existing staff we have temporarily reduced our reference service. Our Reading Room opening times for this year only are from Wednesdays to Friday and one Saturday a month.

Concurrent with the review we are designing and implementing an Integrated Archival Management & Access System (IAMAS), and converting the current cataloguing accession-based system to the series system. The commencement of this project is an additional factor in implementing a pause to accessioning and processing activities, as well as data clean up of collection documentation prior to migration to the IAMAS. We have recently appointed a part-time archivist to manage this project.

Other projects include the arrangement and description of the archives of University leaders. The latter are the papers of five University chancellors and vice-chancellors. We have continued with our program of digitising photograph collections and have recently concluded digitising two collections of glass negatives: the Avery collection, (images

of, mainly, gold mining) and the photos of the Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Construction Co., the business founded by John Monash.

Outreach

In a rearguard action against the trajectory amongst students towards using digital sources and search engines in their research, we have, in recent years, been more proactive in fostering archival research amongst undergraduate students. In addition to giving regular presentations to students introducing them to the Archives, we have integrated the Archives into at least one history course, *Writing and Publishing History*, a 4th year subject wherein the students research and write on a theme and then edit and publish the anthology of essays themselves. In 2007 their subject was the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria (taking place this year) and in 2008 it is the inner-city suburb of Fitzroy. In each case the students base much of their research on UMA collections.

Exhibitions

In January the University hosted the 32nd Conference in the History of Art, the most prestigious art history conference in the world. To coincide with it, UMA co-sponsored an exhibition titled 'Joe Burke's legacy : the History of Art History at the University of Melbourne', which celebrated the foundation of the Art History Department in 1947 (the first in Australia) and the academics who taught there, many of whom were compelled to leave Europe before or after the war. Much of the material displayed came from our collections of their personal papers and of the Department records.

New accessions

Since last reporting in *News Notes* we have accessioned records from:

Malcolm Fraser (continuing transfers)

Una Fraser and Neville Fraser

Ian Potter & Co.

Foy and Gibson Pty Ltd

National Mutual/ AXA

Cultural Studies Review

Meanjin records of editor Ian Britain

Lucy Kerley (comprising the archive of Victoria's National Gallery School)

Victorian Chamber of Mines

And personal papers of academics: Yvonne Aitken, Laurence Course, John Lovering, Val Noone, Gretna Weste and academics/poets, Chris Wallace-Crabbe and Evan Jones.