

## Community Seminars & Exhibitions

State Records and several Sydney community organisations have combined their resources to present an ongoing series of seminars and exhibitions which explore the histories of migrant settlement in Australia. Both the Lebanese and Sinhalese communities have taken part in seminars on records related to their communities held at State Records and provided cultural artefacts for display. An Italian Family History Group seminar and exhibition, commencing on 31 August, is next in the series.

enquiries: Christine Yeats, Manager, Public Access  
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## Volunteers Help Out

Volunteers are a great support to cultural organisations, often contributing to the realisation of special projects. State Records launched its own volunteer program in December 2001 with its first group of 10 volunteers, under the guidance of Volunteers Coordinator Deborah Sims. A second group was inducted in February. The volunteer program will assist State Records to convert its existing hard-copy guides to collections, photographs and original documents into formats which are accessible via the Internet. The volunteers' first project is a database of convict pardons dating from 1826-70. They are assisting with the transcription, proofing and indexing of many of these original documents before they are loaded onto State Records' website later this year.

enquiries: Deborah Sims  
ph: (02) 9673 1788  
email: [volunteers@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:volunteers@records.nsw.gov.au)  
website: [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

## We're Back Bigger & Better Than Ever

Western Sydney reading room at Kingswood has reopened with twice the space and more resources. New features include interview rooms, a Garavanta lift for wheelchair access and an expanded range of material on open access, including 'Government Gazettes', 1856-1900. Come and visit us soon. Western Sydney Records Centre, 143 O'Connell St, Kingswood

enquiries: Emily Hanna ph: (02) 9673 1799  
email: [accinfo1@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accinfo1@records.nsw.gov.au)

## Archives in the Bush

**The NSW Government's 2001 Budget provided funding for the first time for the care of official historical archives in rural and regional NSW. The funding, totalling \$950 000 over three years, is available through grants to regional archives centres under a program being administered by State Records. The first round of applications allocated funds to Charles Sturt University Regional Archives, Wagga Wagga; Outback Archives, Broken Hill; University of New England and Regional Archives, Armidale; and University of Newcastle.**

**The archives in these centres are heavily used for research in rural history, social history, business and administrative history, politics, historical sociology, genealogy, educational history, geography and environmental science.**

**They represent an important part of the cultural heritage of country NSW.**

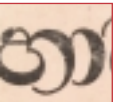
enquiries: Richard Gore ph: (02) 9673 1788  
email: [arconman@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:arconman@records.nsw.gov.au)

## State Records – John and Patricia Ward History Prize

The John and Patricia Ward History Prize (\$15 000), will be presented in September 2002 as part of the 2002 NSW Premier's History Awards. The prize honours historian John Manning Ward and his wife Patricia, who were among those killed in the Brooklyn railway accident in 1990.

Professor Ward, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney and keen advocate of the use of archives in the study of history, was a foundation member of the Archives Authority of NSW from 1961 and its Chairman from 1979-83. Patricia Ward was Secretary of the Action Committee on Local Government Records, formed in 1981 to encourage local government authorities to make proper arrangements for the preservation use of their archives.

The prize encourages the use of original materials in the research and writing of history.



## Website updates

*Around The Rugged Rocks*, an online exhibition showcasing the history of The Rocks, is now available via State Records' website. The Rocks, the oldest area of European settlement, continues to be a focal point for the cultural life of Sydney. The new online gallery explores this fascinating area of the city, using the raw material of history — the State's archives. You can explore various themes, follow a timeline tracing key events in The Rocks' history and select significant documents that recall these events.

### *Around The Rugged Rocks*

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/public/gallery/rocks/rocks.html>

## Also check State Records' website for new additions to assist you with your research

### *Index to the Colonial Secretary's correspondence, 1788–1825*

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/colsec/default.htm>

### *Surveyor General's Select List of Maps and Plans*

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/surgen/introduction.htm>

### *Index to the 1841 Census*

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/1841census/introduction.htm>

### *Index to the Bench of Magistrates*

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/benchofmag/introduction.htm>

# Join us for our inaugural Open Day

10.00am – 4.00pm Saturday 18 May 2002  
Western Sydney Records Centre  
143 O'Connell Street Kingswood

- Tour 'behind the scenes'
- See 'treasures' of the State archives (everything from convicts to the Opera House)
- Learn how to trace your family history and organise your own records
- Enjoy a sizzling sausage!

Visit our website for further details:  
[www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

## Heritage Week

### *Tour of NSW Central West in conjunction with National Archives of Australia*

During the Heritage Festival Lindsay Allen from State Records and Fiona Burn from the National Archives of Australia will be visiting five regional centres in the Central West of NSW (Mudgee, Dubbo, Forbes, Orange and Bathurst). They will be speaking to community groups about the records held in the State and Commonwealth archives and showing samples of their collections.

Monday 22 – Saturday 27 April 2002

enquiries: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613  
email: [accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au)

## Heritage Week

### *Bridging the Divide: a celebration of the 70th anniversary of Sydney Harbour Bridge*

To celebrate the 70th birthday of one of our most famous national icons, we will be highlighting the State's archives relating to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Presented by Gail Davis.

### Sydney Records Centre

Tuesday 23 April, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

### Western Sydney Records Centre

Friday 26 April, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613  
email: [accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au)

## Records Relating to Aboriginal Education

A seminar on records relating to Aboriginal education, including early records of the Council of Education, Department of Education records and files, and records related to Aboriginal Schools in NSW and the Native Institutions at Parramatta and Blacktown.

### Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 11 May, 10.30 am – 4.00 pm

FREE

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613  
email: [accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au)

## Our Reel Past

A screening and talk about those quaint and informative government films of the 20th century

### Sydney Records Centre

Tuesday 11 June, 1.00 – 3.00 pm

### Western Sydney Records Centre

Wednesday 19 June, 1.00 – 3.00 pm

FREE

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613  
email: [accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accinfo2@records.nsw.gov.au)