



# openARCHIVE



Welcome to issue #3 of *Vital Signs* magazine. Since it was launched by State Records just eight months ago *Vital Signs* has developed a lively approach to contextualising the role and collection of the State archives. The focus of the magazine's stories and pictorial spreads has ranged from State Records' own projects to the archive's wider engagement with the cultural life of the community.

*Vital Signs* has also taken an important role in providing background to the State Records' new exhibition program, which has developed in tandem with the magazine. The exhibition year began with [art meets archive] and continues with *Sydney: Resort of Thieves*, which has just been extended beyond its original November closing date to March 2003.

Both exhibitions have invited contemporary artists to be involved in the interpretative life of the archive. [art meets archive] juxtaposed the work of local artists with features of the State archives collection, whilst *Sydney: Resort of Thieves* has created a cityscape installation space to help bring to life the criminal underworld of 1840s Sydney, as observed by Commissioner of Sydney Police William Augustus Miles in his journal *Registry of Flash Men*.

The exhibition and publication program will mature in 2003 with *Vital Signs* being published twice a year and the *Open Archive* exhibition being developed for launch in March. *Open Archive* has invited citizens with their own collecting and recordkeeping practices to become visiting 'record keepers in residence'. Exhibition highlights include Newtown resident Megan Hicks' photographic documentation of local street texts (see page 6) and Mareé Delofski's film *The Trouble with Merle* (page 4) about the contested biography of 'Tasmanian' Hollywood actress Merle Oberon.

*Sydney: Resort of Thieves*  
extended until 2003

Open Archive  
opening March 2003

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