

STATE RECORDS NEW SOUTH WALES

Now&Then News from State Records

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Welcome to the latest issue of Now&Then - News from State Records. Now&Then is a new electronic newsletter for anyone interested in the State archives of NSW. Now&Then provides information about new research tools and resources, services and seminars, exhibitions and other activities.

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Online News

The latest additions to the online indexes and resources on our website include:

1. Index to Orphan Schools records

State Records is indexing a number of series of records relating to the Orphan Schools which were run by the colonial government of New South Wales. This is an ongoing volunteer project and additional series will be added to this index as they are completed. The first series to be indexed is:

- NRS 793, Female Orphan School Admission Books, 1817-32, [Items 1-2]
Reels 2777 and 1477

This records the names of children admitted, age, admission date, time of leaving (if given), parents' name

For more information and to search the index see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/orhpans/introduction.htm

2. Index to Divorce Case papers

At present the index covers the years 1873-1911. Data entry for the years 1904-11 is still ongoing so make sure you visit regularly for updates! The index records the name of petitioner, respondent and co-respondent (if named), Divorce number, year and remarks. You can search by name of petitioner and respondent and year.

To search the index see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/divorce/introduction.htm

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Colonial Secretary's Index now available on CD!

The Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825 is now available for sale. The cost is \$39.95 plus \$3.00 postage and packing.

The Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825, are the most comprehensive surviving collection of public records relating to the early years of European settlement in Australia. The index focuses on the early inhabitants of our nation - the convicts, settlers, indigenous Australians and colonial officials. It also contains many entries relating to ships, subjects, towns and localities.

To order your copy of the Index to the Colonial Secretary's Index, 1788-1825 fill out the order form at:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/microformorder.htm.



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Concise Guide to the State Archives on CD – reduced price!

The Concise Guide to the State Archives of New South Wales is a comprehensive finding aid to the records State Records received up until July 1991. The guide lists and describes some 15 000 series of archives created by over 255 separate colonial and State government agencies over the last 200 years. It also contains administrative histories with details of the development of these agencies.

Previously \$50.00 this has now been reduced to just \$39.95!

To purchase your CD fill out the order form at:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/microformorder.htm.

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Spotlight on the Divorce Case Papers

Supreme Court NSW divorce records open to public access

Recently the Supreme Court NSW made the decision that the divorce records should be open to public access. State Records NSW holds divorce case papers from 1873 (when divorce legislation was first implemented in NSW) to 1930. This is big news because previously the Court's divorce records were closed to the public.

About the Divorce Case Papers

The Divorce case papers are the key record series held by State Records relating

Judicial separations. Divorce case papers, 1873-1930 are held at the Western Sydney Records Centre. The contents of the papers can vary considerably, but may include some of the following documents:

- Petitions for the dissolution of marriage
- affidavits (sworn statements)
- petitions for maintenance
- marriage certificates
- decrees nisi (not always included)
- decrees absolute (not always included), and
- correspondence.

Index to divorce case papers

An index to the divorce case papers, 1873-1974 is available in both reading rooms on microfiche. In addition, as part of the process of making the papers available State Records has also been busy developing the online index to divorce case papers. It is a work in progress so make sure to check it regularly for updates.

Divorce Case Papers Copy Service

You can order copies of the papers via our Divorce Copy Order service. The fee for this service is \$45.00. This includes the copies, the administrative fee and postage/handling. Further information about the copy order service is online at www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/divorce/divorce.htm.

For further information about divorce records

Consult our Archives in Brief No. 77, online at www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/aibs/077/page01.htm. As well as a background to the records, the AIB provides information on how to research divorce records and other NSW State archives relating to divorce.

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Remains held by State archives returned to Ngunnawal people

The State Government has announced the return of significant Aboriginal remains.

And the Ngunnawal people will formally bury locks of hair from eight Aboriginal people taken in the 1850s at the request of an American diplomat.

The hair – held in the NSW State archives - was discovered with a letter, dated July 23, 1857, from the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Binalong to the Surveyor General's Office in Sydney. It was sent in response to a request for specimens of Aboriginal hair made by the American Consul, James Hartwell Williams.



The records do not indicate why the specimens were sought. But the letter says the Aboriginal people " ... have a very strong prejudice against allowing their hair to be taken from them by Europeans, and appear to imagine that they have some sinister motive for wishing to obtain it".

One of the labelled specimens belonged to "Jackey", the famous Wiradjuri man who with his friend, Yarri saved more than 40 people using a simple bark canoe in the 1850 Gundagai floods. It was Australia's worst natural disaster with 89 people dying (Jackey and Yarri were honoured in the Gundagai Flood Sesquicentenary commemorations in June 2002.). The actual specimen read: "Jackey — who saved so many people in the flood of 1852 at Gundagai aged about 50".

The NSW Government has a formal policy of supporting the return of the Aboriginal remains to their people when found in State collections. In March, the Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr participated in a ceremony at the Australian Museum, where the remains of a 12 year-old girl who died about 150 years ago were returned to the Gamilaroi in the Northern Tablelands.

'We believe the remains of Aboriginal people should be buried in their ancestral soil, not in the State archives'," Mr Carr said.

"They deserve to be buried with dignity by their own people."

The State Records Authority handed the hair, discovered among the NSW State archives, to Eric Bell, an Elder from the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Mr Bell said that the Council was pleased to see these remains returned to their people. It was most important to Indigenous Australians, he said, that their long-separated ancestors should be reunited with their country.

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In the Realm of the Censors Exhibition – Lunchtime talk

Join exhibition curator Susan Charlton 'In the Realm of the Censors'. Susan will provide fascinating background to the research, development and presentation of this exhibition about publications that caught the attention of New South Wales censorship authorities between 1955 and 1982 and are now part of the State archives.



FREE

12.30 - 1.00 pm, Thursday 21 October 2004

State Records Gallery

Sydney Records Centre

2 Globe Street (off George Street)

The Rocks

Bookings essential: (02) 8247 8660

Some people might be offended by material displayed in the exhibition.

Children under 18 years of age should be accompanied by an adult

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Child Migrants: Accessing records held by Commonwealth and State archives

The online guide *Child Migrants: Accessing records held by Commonwealth and State Archives* can be accessed via the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA) website at:

www.caara.org.au/publications/child_migrants.htm. The guide includes a list of relevant records held by State Records.

The guide was developed and is maintained by CAARA's Reference and Public Access working Group, in response to the Senate Inquiry on *Child Migration titled Lost Innocents: Righting the Record*. It is intended to help child migrants and their families access records that may relate to their experiences.

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Exhibitions

'In the Realm of the Censors' provides a unique opportunity to enter the world of New South Wales censorship authorities between 1955 and 1982. The exhibition, which continues until January 2005, features Australian and international publications and official records which are now part of the State archives collection.

State Records Gallery

Sydney Records Centre

2 Globe Street (off George Street)

The Rocks, Sydney

Enquiries (02) 8247 8660

Some people might be offended by material displayed in the exhibition Children under 18 years of age should be accompanied by an adult

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Upcoming talks, tours and seminars

As part of our services to the public, we offer a wide range of talks, tours and seminars at our two locations. Further details of the activities planned for the second half of this year are available at:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/events/eventsap.htm

State Records' staff also participate in external activities with other organisations, including displays, talks and advice. For further details of where you'll find us in the upcoming months see: www.records.nsw.gov.au/services/activities.htm

This month we are presenting a seminar - *We don't talk about...* - which will explore the records about the 'forgotten ones' who 'disappeared' into 19th century mental health facilities. It will be held on 14 October from 10.30-12.30 at the Western Sydney Records Centre. Free but bookings are essential.

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About Now&Then

Now&Then is published in two ways:

1. as an email message containing short news items, plus pointers (including a URL/hyperlink) to new material on our website or elsewhere
2. as a page on our website with identical content to the email version, plus images in some cases.

Publishing Now&Then this way means that you can:

1. read it on-line, following the links to other resources as you go
2. print it to read at your leisure or distribute to others in hard copy or
3. forward the e-mail version to other people.

We will be seeking to improve Now&Then and welcome any feedback on its

content or design. Comments or suggestions should be directed to the Project Officer, Web Development 02 9673 1788 or marketing@records.nsw.gov.au

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Subscribing to Now&Then

If you have received Now&Then by email then you are already on our subscription list. Subscribing to Now&Then is easy - and it's free!

Simply send an email containing your telephone number and a request to be subscribed to the Project Officer, Web Development at marketing@records.nsw.gov.au.

As a matter of course, we send Now&Then to all holders of reader's tickets current from the last two years. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email the Project Officer, Web Development at marketing@records.nsw.gov.au. If we do not hear from you, we will automatically continue to send Now&Then to you.

Please also note that we only accept requests to be placed on the Now&Then mailing list from the person who sends us an email message.

That is, we do not accept nominations to be added to the list for people other than yourself.

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Contacts Directory

Don't forget that there are contact details for relevant personnel, on our website at www.records.nsw.gov.au/about/directory.asp

Now&Then is a publication of:

State Records Authority of New South Wales
Telephone: 02 9673 1788

Email: srecords@records.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.records.nsw.gov.au

Post: PO Box 516, Kingswood NSW 2747

If you wish to be removed from the Now&Then e-mailing list or wish to have your details altered, please contact the Project Officer, Website Redevelopment on 02 9673 1788 or marketing@records.nsw.gov.au

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