

STATE RECORDS NEW SOUTH WALES

Now&Then

News from State Records

ISSN 1448-2118

December 2004 • Number 11

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.

State Records wishes you a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

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Christmas/New Year Opening Hours

Opening hours for the reading rooms over the Christmas/New Year period are as follows:

Saturday	25 December	CLOSED
Sunday	26 December	CLOSED
Monday	27 December	CLOSED

Tuesday	28 December	CLOSED
Wednesday	29 December	Open 9.00–5.00
Thursday	30 December	Open 9.00–5.00
Friday	31 December	Open 9.00–5.00
Saturday	1 January	CLOSED
Sunday	2 January	CLOSED
Monday	3 January	CLOSED
Tuesday	4 January	Open 9.00-5.00

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Enter our Christmas Competition and You Could Win!

This year State Records is running a Christmas Competition for Now&Then subscribers and we are offering FREE copies of the recently released CD of the Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825 along with a FREE copy of a file (probate packet, deceased estate file or divorce case paper) of your choice.

All you have to do to enter the Competition is simply answer 10 questions. The first 10 correct entries will win a CD and a copy of a file! Names will be published in the next issue of Now&Then.

HINT: All the questions can be answered through the information in the articles or by following the links in this e-newsletter.

The closing date for entries is Friday 17 December 2004.

- [Click here to enter the competition](#)

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Christmas Specials

Prices have been reduced this Christmas so don't miss out on these specials

- Sydney Harbour Bridge Poster normally \$6.00 now just \$3.00
- Cazneaux Poster was \$6.00 now \$3.00
- Federation Guide only \$10.00 down from \$49.95
- 2 CDs together for only \$50
The Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825 and the Concise Guide to the State Archives normally \$39.00 each – don't miss out

Home Archive Starter Kit

A very popular kit for family historians. Available at the Western Sydney Records Centre, the Home Archive Starter Kit protects photographs, negatives, letters and documents. At \$28.30 the Kit includes a Slip Cover (protects documents from light and dust), a three-ring binder made of quality polypropylene (acid-free), and pages for postcard sized photos and larger documents. Items are also sold separately. Kits and refills are popular so you may have to place an order.

- [For other Christmas ideas see our publications catalogue](#)
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Online News

1. Index to Police Service Registers

Researchers interested in police appointments in the 19th and early 20th century have been rewarded with the latest addition to our online indexes. It is being compiled from the Registers of Police Appointments c1857-1913 CGS 10943.

The index, which is being progressively added to the website, offers the option of searching by the officer's name, native place or year appointed. The addition of the search option of 'native place' (birthplace) means that researchers can widen their research to explore the widely diverse cultural backgrounds of our early serving police. For example, there were men from all parts of the 'British Empire' - New Zealand, India, Canada, South Africa and Malta - as well as those born in the United States of America, Germany, Prussia and France.

Information in the registers include: registered number, name, mounted or foot, age, height, colour eyes/hair, native place, marital status, calling, religion, general appearance, district, date of appointment to each rank, date of leaving force and cause.

Copies of the registers are available in both reading rooms on SR Reel 3043.

- [Click here for more information and to search the index](#)

2. Index to Colonial Secretary's Letters re Land 1826-56

Compiled from the series Letters Received by the Colonial Secretary re Land, 1826-56 CGS 907, this new index covers the names of people making requests to the Colonial Secretary for leases and purchases of land.

The index marks an important milestone in our long-term project to ensure the preservation and accessibility of the Colonial Secretary's papers. This project is being undertaken through a range of indexing, microfilming and digitisation strategies.

As we so often tell our researchers, the Colonial Secretary's papers are the major primary source for Australian history in the first half of the 19th century. Why? Because the office of the Colonial Secretary dealt with anything to do with the colonial administration of the day. These responsibilities included managing the requests from individuals - former convicts, women, new arrivals and those who had been naturalised (such as Auguste Le Fevre in 1855) - for land.

Microfilm copies of the letters received by the 'Col Sec re Land' are available in both reading rooms. Where indicated in the 'Remarks' column, facsimile (COD) copies are available.

- [Click here for more information and to search the index](#)

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Archives Investigator Update

State Records NSW regularly receives estrays (State records that have left official custody). A recently received stray which is now on Archives Investigator is NRS 17212 Visitors' Book for Nautical School Ship "Vernon" (1886-1892) and "Sobraon" (1892-1910). This will be of interest to those who would like to find out more about how these institutions on ships were run. The book records the date of visit, name of visitor, and any remarks made by the visitor. Most comments are favourable and praise the discipline and cleanliness of the boys and the excellent management and leadership of staff.

as there was no separate boys' reformatory schools until 1895

- [Click here for more information on NRS 17212](#)

We have also been concentrating on registering the records created by the former Aborigines Welfare Board. These records are being microfilmed and it is useful to register them before that happens.

Big projects require big lead times, so, as the Sydney Harbour Bridge will be 75 in 2007, we are also registering all of the State archives we hold that relate to the Bridge. There are a very large number of these as you would expect, so it is going to take some time.

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Use of Digital Cameras in the reading rooms

Researchers are welcome to bring their own digital cameras to photograph original or microform copies of records. Any copying of original items is subject to the records being in good condition and the use of a flash is not permitted.

The use of scanners may also be allowed in certain circumstances. You should however, contact the Senior Archivist, Access and Information before you visit to confirm that this will be possible. Researchers are reminded that there are no facilities for researchers to do their own photocopying of original records.

- [For more information on copying of State archives see Archives in Brief No. 75](#)
- [Guidelines for the care and handling of archives are included in Archives in Brief No. 13](#)

If you planning to use your digital camera to copy material from the State archives for use in a publication you should refer to [Archives in Brief No. 11](#) for further information.

- [Click here to contact the Senior Archivist, Access and Information at the Western Sydney Records Centre](#)

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New Microfilm available

Gaol Photograph Description Books

The next installment of microfilms of Darlinghurst Gaol Photographic Description Books NRS 2138 are now available in the reading rooms. The microfilm (Reels 5102-5106) cover the years 1885-1897.

Gaol Photograph Description Books are an invaluable source of information and include details such as a photograph of each prisoner, name, aliases, date of photo, native place, year of birth, details of arrival in the colony, trade or occupation, religion, degree of education, colour of hair and eyes, marks or special features, where and when tried, offence, sentence, remarks, and details of previous convictions (where and when, offence and sentence).

- [Click here to search the index to the Gaol Photograph Description Books](#)

Crew records

The Genealogical Society of Utah spent several months at State Records microfilming a large quantity of previously unfiled records. This major project allows greater accessibility to these records as they will now be available in both reading rooms. The final installment includes Certificates of Competency, Indexes and Registers of seamen engaged before the Shipping Master.

- [Archives in Brief No. 21 has been updated to include these microfilm](#)
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Refurbishment of the Sydney Records Centre

State Records has downsized at The Rocks. Previously occupying two floors, as of Monday 20 December all staff from Public Access, Government Recordkeeping and Administration will be located on Level 2 of Foreshore House at 2 Globe Street. This is the reading room level. The reading room remains unchanged. There will be no access to the computers in the reading room from December 13-15.

The new seminar room will be available for hire from January 2005.

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John and Patricia Ward History Prize

The John and Patricia Ward History Prize has been established by State Records as a lasting memorial to John and Patricia Ward for their significant contribution to history and archives in NSW. It is intended to encourage the use of original materials, rather than relying on secondary sources, in the research and writing of history. The Prize is part of the NSW Premier's History Awards. It encourages the use of archives in the writing of history.

The winner of the State Records John and Patricia Ward History Prize 2004 was Associate Professor Bain Attwood, from Monash University in Melbourne, for his book *Rights for Aborigines*, Allen & Unwin, 2003

The judges had the following to say about the book:

The arrival of colonists from Europe left the Indigenous people without rights as human beings. Bain Attwood charts how the dominance of racism in Australian colonial contexts has been contested ground for over two centuries. The book is divided into five parts. In the first two parts it presents how people from both the Indigenous and the white community tried to bring about change and some justice.

Attwood draws on a wide range of sources, incorporating government documentation, the records of political organisations of widely ranging views, newspapers and the oral record and personal accounts of many people involved in trying to bring about a change in perceptions and actualities.

... His research breaks new ground in documenting the close relationship that developed between Indigenous political leaders, white activists and humanitarians on both sides in the struggle against racial discrimination.

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New South Wales Mounted Police, 1825-1850

David Murphy has compiled his detailed research on the New South Wales Mounted Police, 1825-1850 and the Governors Body Guard, 1801-1834. His work includes background on those serving in the mounted police and extensive tables. The tables give details of mounted policemen's service, including previous regiments, and mounted police deaths. His sources include records held by State Records, the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of the United Kingdom (formerly known as the Public Record Office).

State Records thanks Mr Murphy for his generosity in making his research

Records' reading rooms at 363.2 MUR.

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Exhibitions

'In the Realm of the Censors' closes on Saturday 30 January 2005. Last chance to enter the world of New South Wales censorship authorities between 1955 and 1982. The exhibition 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 first half of next 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 – *Researching the Railways* - which will focus on accessing the State Rail's archives held at the Western Sydney Records Centre (WSRC). It will be held on 10 December 10.30-12.30 at the WSRC . 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 webdev@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 webdev@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 webdev@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:

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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 webdev@records.nsw.gov.au

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