

## 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. Probate Packet Copying Service

Due to the rapidly increasing demand for probate records at the Western Sydney Records Centre (WSRC) we are offering a new probate copying service. So if can't visit the WSRC you won't miss out!

At \$45.00, the service includes photocopies, postage/handling and an administrative fee. We provide copies to the value of \$30.00. If the number of documents in the packet exceeds this amount we contact you to see if you want to have the remainder of the packet copied at an additional cost.

For more information see: [www.records.nsw.gov.au/services/probate.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/services/probate.htm)

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/services/probateorderform.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/services/probateorderform.htm)

## 2. New digital gallery available

As part of Law Week (16-22 May) this year, State Records produced a new online gallery called 'Attempted Murder and Conspiracy: The Lemon Syrup Case'. The 1895 case involved George Dean attempting to poison his wife. He was found guilty, then granted a free pardon, and later his lawyer admitted that George Dean was guilty.

The saga of George Dean and Richard Meagher has continued to capture the public interest. On 26 February 1983 the ABC television broadcast a dramatisation of the events in *Verdict: The Dean Case*. We have selected documents from our collection relating to the case and made them available online.

To view selected documents and images see:

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/public/gallery/lemonsyrup/title.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/public/gallery/lemonsyrup/title.htm)

## 3. Photo Investigator

Photographs of the Sydney Harbour Bridge are gradually being added to Photo Investigator. State Records holds 14 photo albums documenting the construction bridge from the turning of the first sod to the final steps of construction, the official opening and the early use of the bridge by the public. There are currently 759 images available.



It will take some time to add all the images to Photo Investigator so make sure you check regularly for updates!

For more information and to browse the photographs see:

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/public/gallery/photo/photolist.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/public/gallery/photo/photolist.htm)

You can now search our photographic collection through **PictureAustralia!** PictureAustralia allows you to search many collections at the same time. The collections come from libraries, universities, museums and archives all over Australia (one from New Zealand).

To find out more and to search PictureAustralia see:

[www.pictureaustralia.org/index.html](http://www.pictureaustralia.org/index.html)

## 4. The latest Archives in Brief

These information leaflets are an excellent starting point for any type of research. They are designed to provide concise information on particular topics or groups of records. Archives in Brief are available online and in both our reading rooms.

The latest additions are:

- [No. 90 Government publications](#)

Government publications provide background information to State archives as well as a useful entry point to identifying government agencies and records relevant to your research.

For a list of our Archives in Brief see:

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/inbrief.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/inbrief.htm)

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# State Records' contribution to Archives and Records Management Week

As part of Archives and Records Management Week this year, State Records held its second Open Day on Thursday 27 May at the Western Sydney Records Centre. A variety of talks on genealogy and conservation were presented as well as behind-the-scenes tours of the building. The day was a great success, with over 200 people attending, many of whom were newcomers and stayed the whole day to make a start on their own family history.



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## **William Augustus Miles and the Registry of Flashmen**

The Registry of Flashmen is a journal documenting underworld life in the 1840s, by William Augustus Miles, Superintendent, then Commissioner of Sydney Police, 1840-1848.

Miles made notes in the Registry of Flash Men on persons of interest to the police. He makes reference to their aliases, appearance, known associates, places of residence, occupation, character and temperament, sightings, details of previous convictions, incidents in which they were known or suspected of being involved, and their circumstances. Miles also included newspaper clippings relating to persons he was watching. The volume lists criminal groups, including the Flash Mob (a gang of eight who committed robberies and assaults), the Norfolk Islanders (previously imprisoned at the Norfolk Island Penal Establishment) and Sydney Bullies, Brothel Keepers and Thieves.



Since the time of its creation, the journal has become more than an official record. For present day readers it presents an extraordinary tableau of life, played out in the city's streets, pubs, shops and houses.

On 15 June, Alan Ventress, Associate Director, City is presenting a talk on William Augustus Miles and the Registry of Flashmen at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts.

For more information on the talk see: [www.sydneymsa.com.au/lectures.htm](http://www.sydneymsa.com.au/lectures.htm)

To view our online version of the Registry see:  
[www.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/book.asp?3406/a001](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/ebook/book.asp?3406/a001)

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## **Administrative History of NSW Government 1901-1960**

State Records recently received a grant from the NSW Sesqui-Centenary of Responsible Government 1856-2006 Committee to write the second part of a three part work on the administrative history of the NSW Government. During 2003/04 Dr Hilary Golder wrote the first volume 1788-1900 which is now being prepared for publication by the University of NSW Press. Dr Peter J Tyler was appointed in May 2004 to write volume two which will cover the 20th century to 1960. It is anticipated that a third volume will be published after 2006.

State Records also received funding to write a guide to the archives relating to the decade of the 1850s and to the various celebrations surrounding the proclamation of responsible government in 1856 and the subsequent anniversaries in 1906 (fiftieth) and 1956 (one hundredth).

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## **Australian Women's Archives Project**

The Australian Women's Archives Project was established in 2000 by the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW) to support the preservation of Australian women's records and provide access to them. The NFAW has developed a national strategy to achieve these aims and one of the initiatives is the Australian Women's Archives Register - a browseable database providing details such as:

- a brief biographical note on each individual, organization or event;
- career or life highlights of the individuals
- any published resources about each individual, organization or event
- any archival or heritage collection in which their records are to be found, and
- any related or online links to other sources of information about them.

Christine Yeats, Manager, Public Access represents State Records on the Sydney committee. The overall function of the committees is to resolve particular local issues concerning access, confidentiality, ownership, and the like, and as well, to assist in raising any funds necessary as a contribution to the costs of indexing the particular collection.

For more information on the Australian Women's Archives Project and the Register see: [www.womenaustralia.info/register\\_home.htm](http://www.womenaustralia.info/register_home.htm)

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## **Genealogy talk**

Renowned author and broadcaster Nick Vine Hall will be giving a presentation on genealogical research in Sydney on Sunday 8 August - 2pm at WEA, Arthur Street, Sydney for the Huguenot Society of Australia. The title of his talk is "The Elusive Roubels of Charents, Nimes and London". He will be discussing research techniques and using the internet in particular.

For more details email Robert Nas at [robhug@optushome.com.au](mailto:robhug@optushome.com.au)

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## **75th Anniversary of the Opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge Joint Exhibition with Museum of Sydney and the RTA**

State Records is a partner with the Museum of Sydney and the RTA to present an exhibition at the Museum between December 2006 and March 2007 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Harbour Bridge. Curators Caroline Mackaness and Caroline Butler Bowden are currently examining the vast quantities of archival plans, pictures and documents prior to choosing items for conservation and display.

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## **Australia on the Map 1606-2006**

State Records is working with the Australia on the Map 1606-2006 NSW Committee which was established in February this year to raise the profile of the European discovery and exploration of Australia from 1606 onwards. The main

event planned for 2006 is a circumnavigation of Australia by the small replica sailing ship 'The Duyfken' (Litte Dove), other events will include lectures, exhibitions and community celebrations.

For further information contact: David Lewis Convenor NSW Australia on the Map Committee email: [executive@rahs.org.au](mailto:executive@rahs.org.au) or phone: 02 92478001

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## Macquarie 2010

Alan Ventress, Associate Director, City is representing State Records on a newly established committee formed to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1810. Marie Sullivan (email: [marie.sullivan1@bigpond.com](mailto:marie.sullivan1@bigpond.com)) is convening the committee which includes representatives from the State Library, Macquarie University, Macquarie Bank, NSW Department of Education, Westpac Bank, National Trust, NSW Parliament, Royal Australian Historical Society and Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

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## Exhibitions

The exhibition '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 features Australian and international publications and official records which are now part of the State archives collection.

For the last 20 years these novels, pictorials, magazines, newspapers, manuals and catalogues have been closed to the public within the State archives. State Records opens the contents of this cultural time capsule for historical reappraisal within the exhibition.

For further details see: [www.records.nsw.gov.au/whatsnew/intherealm.htm](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/whatsnew/intherealm.htm)

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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](http://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](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/services/activities.htm)

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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 Marketing & Web Development Officer on 02 9673 1788 or [marketing@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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 Marketing & Web Development Officer at [marketing@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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 Marketing & Web Development Officer at [marketing@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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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## Contact Directory

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

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Now&Then is a publication of:

State Records Authority of New South Wales

Telephone: 02 9673 1788

Email: [srecords@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srecords@records.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

Post: PO Box 516, Kingswood NSW 2747

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