

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 the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children

This index is now complete! It is the first indexing project to be completed by our volunteers. State Records acknowledges the volunteers' valuable contribution in making this information more accessible to researchers. The Asylum, which was managed by the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children, operated from 1852-1915. There are 5890 entries in the index. You can view the microfilm copies of the Registers (Reels 1865-68) in our reading rooms.

To search the index see: www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/randwick/search.htm.

For information on the Asylum go to www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/randwick/introduction.htm and follow the links.

To order a copy from the index see: www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/randwick/copyorder.htm.

2. Index to convict exiles, 1846-50



Another index is now complete! State Records' staff have added a further 1357 entries to this index. The original index was generously donated to us by Mrs Joan Reese. The latest entries are from the series CGS 12192 Copies of shipping lists of exiles and transports 1846-48 [4/4546; Reel 706]. There are 3011 entries in the index. This valuable resource may help in tracking down those 'elusive' ancestors.

Convict transportation to New South Wales effectively ceased in 1842. From 1846-50 Exiles were transported. Exiles had served part of their sentence in a penitentiary in Britain and were granted a conditional pardon or ticket of leave on arrival in the Colony.

To search the index see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/convicts/exiles/introduction.htm.

3. Other convict indexes

Make sure you visit our other online convict indexes. The Index to Convict Pardons and the Index to Ticket of Leave Passports are frequently updated. You might find some valuable information on your convict ancestor.

Over 2500 convict names have been added to the Index to Ticket of Leave Passports this year.

To search the index see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/convicts/passports/introduction.htm.

Nearly 2000 extra names have been added to the Index to Convict Pardons since April.

To search the index see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/convicts/pardons/introduction.htm.

For a list of our online convict indexes see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/convicts/convictrecords.htm.

4. Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters Website

Do you have some 'hard to trace ancestors'? Then have a look at this website. Mary-Anne Warner and her team have been transcribing our microfilm reels of CGS 13278 Shipping Master's Office, Inwards Passengers Lists. The main focus of the project is the 1870s and the website is regularly updated. We host this website, as a service to our online users and the family history community, as most of the material on the website is derived directly from the State archives collection.

For further details see: <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/>.

EXEMPTION FROM GOVERNMENT LABOR.

No. *236*
Date *1st January 1828*

Prisoner's No. _____
Name *Daniel M. Carthy*
Ship *Castellorbes (2)*
Master *Or H*
Year *1824*
Religion *Catholic*
Native Place *Limerick*
Trade or Calling *Shoemaker & Barber*
Offence _____
Place of Trial *Wentworth*
Date of Trial *Prisoner No 1823*
Sentence *Seven years*
Year of Birth *1746*
Height *5 feet 9 inches*
Complexion *Fair Sallow*
Hair *Brown*
Eyes *Grey*
Remarks *Scar on left eye grow
with John M. Carthy, per
J. Thomas.*
District *Agency*

*In lieu of N^o 236 dated
30 Oct. 1827, Cancelled.*

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We want your feedback!

We are eager to improve Now&Then in both content and design. We hope to keep providing you with the information you want. In order to do this we are asking for

taking the time to fill it out. Your comments and suggestions will be most helpful.

To complete the survey see:

www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/now&then/Now&Then_survey.asp

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New microfilm available

The following microfilms are now available in both our reading rooms:

- NRS 884 Clerk of the Peace: Registers of Quarter Sessions Criminal Cases heard before the Supreme Court on Circuit 1883-1942 [5/3087-116, 19/13215-13231; Reels 3659-63]

These records show, for each cause heard, the names of Crown Prosecutor, prisoner, Counsel for the Defence, Witnesses for the Crown and the defence (noting days of attendance, and whether bound or subpoenaed) the judge arraigning, judge presiding, date and place of committal, dates of arraignment and trial, defendants plea, verdict, and if applicable, sentence passed, remarks, (such as jury, retrial, judge's remarks accompanying sentence) There is a separate volume for each district. The records are arranged in chronological order of hearing.

- NRS 852 Clerk of the Peace: Registers of appeals form Courts of Petty Sessions to Sydney and Country Quarter Sessions 1903-1922 [19/13160-64; Reels 3663-65]

The registers are handwritten bound volumes arranged in chronological order according to date of hearing. Each entry shows the date to which papers received, the court at which the appeal was heard and the date of the hearing, nature of appeal (description of the offence), names of the appellant and respondent, names of the attorneys or barristers for appellant and respondent, order of court, costs ordered to be paid by court, amount and when received and when sent to the Accountant. Some registers contain comments regarding trials and police statements. There is an index to the names of the appellants at the front of most of the volumes.

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Spotlight on the Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825

Who was the Colonial Secretary?

Next to the Governor, the Office of the Colonial Secretary was the most powerful authority in the administration of the early European colony in New South Wales. The hey day of power for the position lasted well up to 1856 and the introduction of responsible government in NSW.

The most important function of the Colonial Secretary's Office was that it acted as the channel of communications between the Governor, other government offices, and private settlers. While the Office effectively continued up until 1975, the records of the Office of the Colonial Secretary in the period 1788-1825 offer a rare opportunity to witness almost every facet of Colonial government, and its interaction with individuals, through the administration of one office and one collection of records.

What are the Colonial Secretary's Papers?

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. This makes them one of the most useful resources for

anyone studying the formative years of the Colony of NSW whether you are an academic, family historian, local historian or have a particular interest in our shared history. The Papers include letters received and a few drafts of letters sent, copies of agreements, despatches, out-letters, general orders, instructions, ordinary regulations, proclamations, memoranda, reports and returns. While few records survive prior to 1810, the papers were kept fairly systematically after that time. There are a great variety of subjects covered in the correspondence including petitions by convicts for mitigation of their sentences, requests for permission to marry, memorials attesting to the worthy character of potential settlers, applications for land grants or leases, reports on official visits (such as John Oxley's visit to Timor), information about court cases and lists of assigned servants - in fact anything to do with the colonial administration to the day.

Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1825

The online Index to the Colonial Secretary's Papers provides ready access to the wealth of information contained in these important records. The index is arranged alphabetically by surname and subject. You can 'click' on a letter of the alphabet and scroll down the page. If you prefer you can conduct a full text search, for example a search using the term 'sandalwood' gives nine 'hits' where the word appears as a heading or in the text of the description. By comparison there are 154 'hits' under the name Macarthur.



For more information go to: www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/colsec/default.htm.

There is also a microfiche version of the index which is available in the reading rooms and at the 40 community access points.

Indexing procedures

The indexing procedures are explained in detail on the website. It is important to note that this is a text retrieval system and not a database. This means that it operates a little differently from our other online indexes. If you have not used the index previously it is worthwhile checking the information about the procedures that were followed in its development.

Go to: www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/colsec/indexingprocedures.htm.

Highlights from the Index

While the Index is primarily 'name based' there are some interesting, and possibly surprising, subject entries such as 'Piracy'. Included under 'Piracy' is the reference to the letter dated 13 November 1814 concerning the convicts forwarded from Calcutta who had seized the Young Lachlan [4/3521 pp.264-5, Reel 6018].

There are also entries under convicts' clothing, including a reference to a Petition from prisoners employed by Government out of the Barracks in want of clothing, 1822 [4/1759 pp.125a-c, Reel 6054].

Accessing the Colonial Secretary's Papers

In order to make the Colonial Secretary's Papers more generally available they were first published in microform as part of the State Government's Departmental Program for the Australian Bicentenary. They comprise 72 reels of 35mm roll microfilm and 312 microfiche. Microform copies of the Papers are held in both reading rooms and they are also part of the Archives Resources Kit, which is available at 40 community access points across the State.

To find out where the community access points are located see: www.records.nsw.gov.au/accessforall/capsmap.htm.

Copy service

Researchers who are unable to access the Colonial Secretary's papers in person

are welcome to advantage of the copy service. The fee for this service is \$20.00. This includes up to 5 entries/letters, the administrative fee and postage/handling. In instances where an entry is longer than 10 pages you may be contacted to ask if you would like to pay for the additional pages.

To order copies see: www.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/colsec/orderform.htm.

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The Australian Historical Association Conference

State Records was represented by Alan Ventress at the Australian Historical Association in Newcastle 5-9 July 2004.

Over 400 historians attended the conference and there was a wide choice of high quality papers. Alan chaired a session about Technology in Making Histories and papers at this session were presented by Shauna Hicks, Public Record Office, Victoria, Lise Summers, State Records Western Australia and Liz Rushen, Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Full details of the conference are available at www.newcastle.edu.au/school/liberal-arts/news/aha2004/.

Next year's conference will be held at the University of New South Wales as part of the CISH Congres International des Sciences Historiques - International Congress of Historical Sciences between 3-9 July 2005.

Full details of this conference are available at <http://www.cishsydney2005.org>. For those wishing to attend early bird registration is available until 31 January 2005.

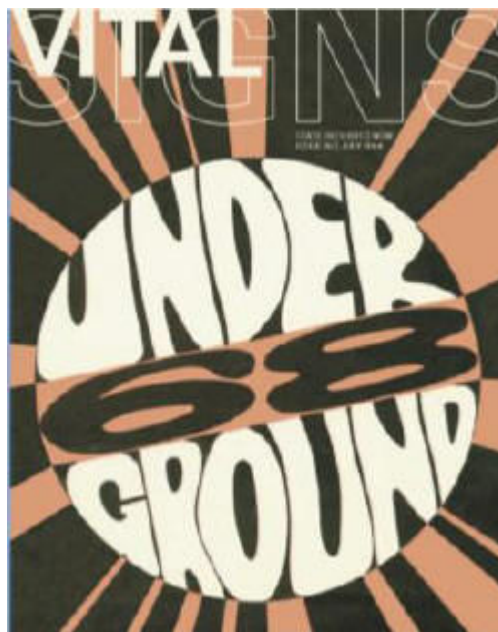
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Vital Signs Magazine

Copies of issue #6 of State Records' magazine Vital Signs are now available from the City and Western Sydney reading rooms or via www.records.nsw.gov.au.

Highlights from the latest issue include:

- background to a new display of censorship records from the 1960s related to Sydney based collective Ubu Films
- State Records' Director, David Roberts, reflects upon the photographs of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib gaol as official government records
- Kirsten Thorpe reflects on her role as Archivist - Aboriginal Liaison at State Records
- Articles on the birth certificate as a symbol of identity and the impact of identity crime on personal records



Vital Signs is published twice a year and is distributed to family and local history societies, local libraries, arts organisations, the media and other groups.

It will soon be available online at: www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/vs/aboutvs.htm.

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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.

A new case study on censorship records related to Ubu Films is on now on display within the exhibition. Ubu Films was a Sydney based collective established in 1965, which produced, distributed and exhibited local and overseas films as well as promoting bands and events. Records related to Ubu in the censorship records include film flyers and program notes, a copy of 'Ubu News', records of police interview and news clippings. (For more about Ubu and why they attracted the attention of concerned citizens and police see our Vital Signs Magazine pp 7-9.)

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.

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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

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, Website Redevelopment 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, Website Redevelopment 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:

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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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