



A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April edition of the newsletter. I hope you all had a good Easter break. This month the National Archives are hosting open days across the country, which many of our stakeholders will be involved with as visitors and exhibitors – more on this in the article below. Also on this page we have news of developments for current practitioners in out-of-home care, that have grown out of lessons learned from the experiences of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. We have news of a Find & Connect web resource event as part of the About Time SA History Festival; and of course no issue would be complete without the round up from our historians from around the country.

On the event front, a reminder that the Orana Care Leaver's Reunion is being held on 25 April in Burwood. For more information and rsvp details visit: www.findandconnect.gov.au/news/2013/03/28/orana-care-leavers-reunion-thursday-25-april-2013

I hope you enjoy this issue and have a good month.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants often express the hope that their experiences will help improve the outcomes of children currently in out-of-home care.

The Who Am I? Project has carried out extensive research in this area and this has led to the publication of a set of online resources to guide record-keeping practices for today's practitioners: *Who am I? Making Records Meaningful*. The resource starts from care leavers' experiences, and are built around several videos of care leavers and researchers from the Who am I? project. The resources include tip sheets for carers, workers and organisations, including information to assist people to access their records.

They are now available on the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare website (www.cfecfw.asn.au/know/research-and-evaluation/sector-research-partnership/partnership-projects/out-home-care/who-am-i) More information on this pack is also available on the Find & Connect web resource (www.findandconnect.gov.au/vic/bib/P00000993.htm).

EVENTS DIARY

SA

Saturday 18 May, 10 am - 11.30 am

An introduction to the Find & Connect web resource

Presented by Karen and Gary George, the web resource's State Based Historians for SA, as part of About Time, South Australia's History Festival.

This is a free event. For more information and bookings visit:

<http://abouttime.sa.gov.au/content/introduction-find-connect-web-resource>

This newsletter is published by the Find & Connect web resource project team. For enquiries please email the editor: sorpin@unimelb.edu.au

SHAKE YOUR FAMILY TREE 2013

The National Archives of Australia are hosting *Shake Your Family Tree* 2013 events in their local offices around the country on Tuesday 16 April. This year's theme is immigration and will include sessions on how to find records related to migrants arriving and settling in Australia.

The Find & Connect web resource will have a stand at the Melbourne event and our National Editor, Cate O'Neill, will be running a seminar: *Finding and Connecting – ancestors who were in 'care' as children* at 2pm. This seminar is a free event; however bookings are essential and can be made at <http://profile.eventarc.com/profile/NAANorthMelbourne>

Emma Ryan from the Tasmania Find & Connect support service will be demonstrating the web resource in the reading room at the Hobart event.

The National Archives hold a number of collections relevant to care leavers including many relating to the child migration schemes from the last century, records from out-of-home care providers



Your story, our history



and records related to child welfare.

Family history research has become increasingly popular in Australia. And for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants it goes beyond a hobby – it can be an important part of the search for their own narrative.

The web resource is an excellent source of information for people whose family history

features periods of institutional 'care'. In addition the 'Family Tracing' page (www.findandconnect.gov.au/australia/family-tracing.html) has information on where to start and links to useful resources and organisations that can help people trying to research family history.

Full programs and locations for each of the *Shake Your Family Tree* events are available on the National Archives website: naa.gov.au

Bookings for some the events are essential. See the program for your state for more details.

Shake Your Family Tree is sponsored by MyHeritage.com

STATE SNAPSHOTS

News from our historians around the country.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Research for the ACT has taken an exciting turn this month as I begin working through annual reports of the State Children's Relief Department (1881-1923) in NSW. The reports give insight into the roots of decision making and policies which ultimately determined the experiences of children from the ACT. While fascinating from a research perspective one cannot escape the sadness of the material which outlines a history of persecution, incarceration and abuse of children and families who were in most need of help. Although I have only just begun to work through the reports I feel that my perspective and understanding has evolved greatly along with my sense of purpose. It is a valuable opportunity to uncover more about the realities of life in institutions and the ideas that built the foundations of the child welfare system.

Lydia Connell

NEW SOUTH WALES

We are still unearthing new institutions in NSW, both state-run and private, which shows how complex the systems of 'care' in this state can be. Family history has been a big focus of the last month - Naomi visited the Botany Bay Family History Society in Gympie, to speak about child removal in NSW. Family historians are also regularly using the site, looking for their relatives in government-run mental hospitals and disability institutions. The annual reports of government agencies show that many state wards were actually moved from foster care and institutions into hospitals or asylums, so we are beginning the work of adding places like Callan Park, Gladesville Hospital and Peat and Milson Islands to the site.

Naomi Parry and Lydia Connell

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The detention of children has remained a focus for the Northern Territory historians this month. We have added a history of the Don Dale Detention Centre and related it to other secure institutions in the Territory. We are currently putting together material on children placed in adult gaols such as

the Fannie Bay Gaol in Darwin and the HM Prison and Alice Springs Gaol. New histories will be added to the site in the near future. The Mud Island, Channel Island and East Arm Leprosarium entries are now live, giving voice to a group of isolated and marginalised Forgotten Australians.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

During March I created entities for archival records related to the various incarnations of Westbrook Youth Detention Centre, held at Queensland State Archives. I also amended all youth detention centre entities to reflect the change in management of records from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to the Department of Justice and Attorney General. On 26 March I visited Silky Oaks Children's Haven. Thank you to Darren, Julie, Brett, Jackie and Margaret for the lovely welcome and the guided tour of the facility. The information provided will result in an updated Silky Oaks entity.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This month we have been researching births and deaths of children in care. We have added entries for the Queen's Home, the first Maternity Home in SA, and the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital where many mothers from the Kate Cocks Home had their babies. We also met a Forgotten Australian who would like to honour and remember children who died in care in South Australia through an online database. If anyone would like to assist him in this endeavour please let us know. We had already started putting together a list of names from early archival documents, newspaper articles and cemetery records so we were able to provide those to him. He hopes that this may lead to a national database in the future.

Karen George & Gary George

TASMANIA

This month, an Ask-us e-mail prompted me to carry out more research into the Weeroona Girls' Training Centre, a

government run institution in Latrobe between 1959 and 1979. I knew there had been a Public Service Commissioner's inquiry in 1965, but my search turned up newspaper articles and archival documents about two more that took place in 1973 and 1978. In all, there seems to have been about ten inquiries but as yet I haven't found out anything about most of them. The other Tasmanian news is that Find & Connect will be at the National Archives of Australia's *Shake Your Family Tree* day on 16 April.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

This month we've done a lot of work on photos and newspapers. Highlights include photos of the Antonian Children's Home, plus articles about child welfare which featured in *The Sun* newspaper in the 1950s. We're looking forward to putting this material on the web resource. Sarah also visited the Victorian Mental Health Photograph Collection and saw a fascinating selection of photos of disability institutions that housed children, such as Janefield and Kew Cottages.

On 16 April we will be presenting at *Shake Your Family Tree Day* at the Public Records Office of Victoria. Hope to see you there!

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In WA, we've been compiling a list of terms that people might see when they access their records. Here is a link to those entries: http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa/browse_t_function.htm The list is in its early stage of development. I would be very grateful if any record-holders would get in touch with other terms that they come across! If you have a definition, that's even better. But if not, please let us know the term, the years it was used (if possible - approximate is okay) and I'll track down a definition. Please send us your suggestions via the [Ask us a question](#) section of the WA web resource. Many thanks.

Deb Rosser



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