



### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the December newsletter! I'm the guest editor while Sal's on leave. Despite the year drawing to a close, things are still moving quickly. No doubt all of you will have heard the announcement of the Royal Commission, which is the focus of one of our articles this month. Also in this issue is an update on our usability review, plus the regular state snapshots from our historians.

The web resource team will be out of the office between Monday 24 December and Wednesday 2 January. The inbox for our feedback emails will not be checked during this time and there may be a delay in responding in the new year.

We look forward to working with you all in 2013. Until then, we wish you a safe and happy holiday period!

Sarah Green

Client Liaison Officer/Historian

### ROYAL COMMISSION

On Monday 12 November 2012 the Prime Minister announced that she will be recommending to the Governor-General the establishment of a Royal Commission into institutional responses to instances and allegations of child sexual abuse in Australia.

The government released a consultation paper to seek the input on issues such as the scope of the Terms of Reference and the form the Royal Commission may take. You can read this consultation paper [here](#).

In the past few weeks we have received a few emails from care leavers who have mentioned the Royal Commission. We would be interested to hear if record-holding organisations have seen any increase in enquiries.

People who want more information about the Royal Commission, or to register their details with the Secretariat, can contact:

Phone: 1800 099 340

Post: Secretariat, Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse  
PO Box 6555  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Website:

<http://childabuseroyalcommission.dpmc.gov.au/getting-in-touch>

For information about support services for people affected by the Royal Commission, please visit this [page](#).

### USABILITY UPDATE



FIND & CONNECT AUSTRALIA

Those of you who attended our recent round of workshops will have heard about the usability review we undertook in the first half of the year. This involved us working with Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and support services to find out which parts of the web resource are easy to use and which parts need improvement.

The company we worked with, Web Usability, gave us a list of recommendations to work through. Most of these focussed on simplifying information, which is challenging given the complex nature of the information on the web resource.

We're looking forward to tackling this challenge in the new year and have already started brainstorming ideas. One of our immediate priorities will be to make finding contact details for record-holders as easy as possible. We hope that this, along with other improvements, will make the web resource even more useful for all our stakeholders.

Sarah Green

Client Liaison Officer/Historian

### CHRISTMAS HOURS

Whilst Find and Connect support services will be closed during the Christmas/New Year Public Holiday period, calls to 1800 16 11 09 in each state and territory will advise of emergency support services available in each jurisdiction to assist people.



This newsletter is published by the Find & Connect Web Resource Project Team. For enquiries please email the editor: [sorpin@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sorpin@unimelb.edu.au)

# State Snapshots

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

I have felt incredibly fortunate to work with a wonderful team on a project which has brought many minds together to understand and challenge some of the ideas and practices that have been fundamental in our history.

In the coming year I will be adding greater detail to the site about the way in which organisations have changed and the events that may have influenced these changes. I will also be looking at historical connections with regional New South Wales, Jervis Bay and Sydney.

Thank you for your support. I wish you a lovely summer and a bright New Year.  
Lydia Connell

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Find & Connect NSW has been busy in the lead-up to Christmas, ensuring that new information provided by stakeholders is included on the site. We have further developed our pages on child migration by adding more information, plus new institutions and organisations.

The list of children's homes continues to grow: a recent example was discovering a girls' home called Wanslea, in Bexley, that was set up by the Women's Australian National Services during WW2.

Most NSW queries come from people who have spent time in government homes so, in 2013, we will use annual reports, parliamentary and ombudsman's inquiries to write histories for as many government homes as possible.

Naomi Parry

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

This month we began working through research notes and copies of archival documents gathered during our October research trip to Darwin. We will gradually use this information to write more detailed histories of NT institutions.

Megg Kelham has unearthed background information on Alice Springs institutions, particularly the Receiving Home in Warburton Street, Bradshaw House and Giles House. We are still eager to find any photographs of these Homes and any other NT government institutions.

We are really pleased that Kym Muller

and Linda Zagorskis have been given the go ahead to continue their indexing program at the Department of Health. They constantly provide us with valuable information about many institutions.

Karen & Gary George

## QUEENSLAND

On Sunday 11 November I attended a reunion for former residents of St Vincent's Orphanage at Nudgee. It was clear that people appreciated the opportunity to view photos and share stories. I was greeted by many care leavers who I have come to know over the last year.

I also visited the honorary curator for the RSPCA, and was given access to annual reports and other important historical resources. Many people may not realise that the RSPCA was involved in the welfare of children from 1892 to 1976.

Another important event was the anniversary of the apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants on 16 November.

Lee Butterworth

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This month we were honoured to be invited to the Lentara, Methodist Children's Homes, reunion at Uniting Communities on the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the original Greenslade building. We would like to thank those who shared their very moving stories.

Inspired by these stories, and several Ask Us emails, we have extended our research into hospitals and 'consumptive homes' including the Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Morris Hospital and Kalyra Sanatorium. A number of children had extended stays in these institutions.

We also met the man who saved the Foundation Stone from St Stanislaus House who generously shared his memories and allowed us to photograph the stone.

Karen & Gary George

## TASMANIA

This month there are fuller entries on Barrington Boys' Home, the Boys' Training School, Risdon Prison, the Catholic

News from our historians around the country.

Church, the Big Brother Movement, the Charitable Grants Department, and the Magdalen Home.

There is a new entry about Annie Kenney Young Women's Refuge which opened in 1978. I carried out the research for that on the same day that I read Merlene Fawdrey's moving account in A little mongrel, of living at the Magdalen Home in the early 1960s. The contrast in approaches could not have been greater. Whereas young women and girls at the Magdalen Home had no say over their lives, those at Annie Kenney took part in the collective management of the refuge.

Caroline Evans

## VICTORIA

The absolute highlight of this month was attending the re-opening of the Kenny Memorial Avenue, which commemorates the World War One service of over 100 men who grew up in the Ballarat Orphanage. The memorial avenue was established by Arthur Kenny - Superintendent of Ballarat Orphanage from 1884 to 1925 - but has been forgotten for a long time.

The ceremony was a powerful reminder of the many ways in which Care Leavers have contributed to the nation. We want to thank the many people who have been involved in the Kenny Memorial project. We'll include more about this on Find and Connect soon.

Nell Musgrove

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Throughout 2012 I continued to build our framework of information pathways. I added information about most of the significant Inquiries relating to out of home care, along with many (not yet all!) submissions from people who were in or ran the institutions.

What's visible on the web resource is only part of the research activity. I also have a work plan that identifies a list of potentially-relevant archival and historical sources held in the State Records Office and State Library of WA. Bringing new sources of information on board should make the web resource even more helpful by the end of 2013.

Deb Rosser