



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the August newsletter. For the participants of the Records Access Documentation Project (RADP) things are drawing to a close and we have received records descriptions from 27 out of 29 organisations. In this issue we have an update from Aviva Gulley at the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) about who to contact regarding the project. Also we are highlighting the campaign to save Ballarat Orphanage from demolition and redevelopment. If you would like to sign the petition, a link is provided below – as someone pointed out recently buildings are records too! Our events diary has a reminder for those in Tasmania that the Child Migrants Exhibition is in its' closing weeks and for Victorians the much-anticipated opening of the Inside Exhibition in Melbourne is this month. Finally on our flipside we have the updates from around the country by our ever-diligent historians. I hope you enjoy reading this edition, enjoy August – and if you're in Victoria or Tasmania – why not visit an exhibition!

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

RECORDS ACCESS DOCUMENTATION PROJECT (RADP)

Following John Munro's departure from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the new contact people for RADP are:

- Kathy Voss – kathyvoss@fahcsia.gov.au
tel (02) 6146 4458
- Aviva Gulley – aviva.gulley@fahcsia.gov.au
tel (02) 6146 2078

Final reports for RADP are due with FaHCSIA by 15 September 2013. Kathy or Aviva can assist with any queries regarding RADP, including the final report.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE BALLARAT ORPHANAGE

Former residents and other community members are campaigning to save the remaining buildings of the Ballarat Orphanage following a planning application submitted by Victoria Street developers to demolish most of the buildings on the site.

The original double-story gothic style building (pictured right), built in the 1860s, was demolished more than 40 years ago, however many of the other buildings still remain on the site including the school rooms, built in 1918 and the toddlers block, first established in 1928.

Deborah Findlay who lived at Ballarat Orphanage for 14 years is one of the past residents campaigning for the protection of the orphanage school rooms. She has stated that "The significance of the site is the fact that over 4,000 children once lived here." Ms Findlay went on to say "Many former residents say it's wonderful to have memorabilia but it's not until you actually see the buildings that that's the connection...it brings back a lot of childhood memories."

The City of Ballarat held a mediation meeting with objectors and developers on Tuesday 23rd July hoping to reach a compromise that might respect the stories of the Forgotten Australians.



The meeting was attended by former residents, neighbours and the stakeholders, City of Ballarat officials, Child and Family Services Ballarat (CAFS) and members from Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN). Those involved in the campaign hope the next step is that this issue will go to the City of Ballarat council meeting.

CLAN are campaigning for the School to be turned into a heritage centre for care leavers. CLAN's Phylliss Cremona says that the school is an important site for the former residents because it represented a safe place from the cruelty of life at the orphanage.

CLAN have an online petition to save the Orphanage, this can be signed online at: <https://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/ballarat-council-save-the-ballarat-orphanage-from-the-developers>

EVENTS DIARY

TAS

8 June – 25 August 2013

ON THEIR OWN – BRITISH CHILD MIGRANTS EXHIBITION

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

This exhibition tells the stories of children who were transported across the world as part of the Child Migration Scheme.

www.tmag.tas.gov.au/whats_on/exhibitions

VIC

29 Aug 2013 - 27 Jan 2014

INSIDE: LIFE IN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS

Melbourne Museum



Inside shares the experiences of some of the half a million children who spent time in institutional 'care'.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/coming-soon/inside/>

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

STATE SNAPSHOTS

News from our historians around the country.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Lydia Connell is on leave till September 10

NEW SOUTH WALES

My focus in NSW is editing the database as part of the website review, but even in the middle of editing, I'm finding new Homes. The latest addition is St Christopher's Home in Young, opened by the Anglican Church in 1927 – I wonder if every country town had a children's Home tucked away somewhere.

St Christopher's cared for 'motherless children' with the help of older girls who received 'vocational training' by teaching, nursing and cleaning.

Unpaid labour turned the wheels of many children's Homes, so I am also preparing additional information about children's work for the web resource.

Naomi Parry

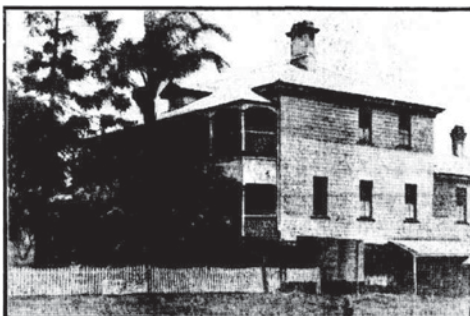
NORTHERN TERRITORY

This month we have been researching some of the Homes on the site which only have limited histories. A more detailed history of the Retta Dixon Home will go live soon. The recent 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Kahlin Compound inspired us to work on a more comprehensive history of that institution as well as of the Myilly Point Home. As we investigate these places, the interconnections between government policies and the development of institutions is becoming clearer. We continue to research the interstate transfer of children and the placement of young people in detention. We are planning a research trip to Darwin in September.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

During July I found another Home to add to the Queensland web resource. The Brisbane Industrial Home, which housed "fallen women" and infants, was run by a Committee of private citizens. Lady Musgrave, the Governor's wife, was patroness. The Home was opened in 1883 in Warry Street, Fortitude Valley and relocated to Rochester Street, Kelvin



Grove in 1887 (pictured above). An onsite laundry, operated by the residents, generated an income for the institution. In 1922 the building was converted into an aged people's Home. Both of these buildings still exist and have been remodeled into units.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This month we parted with the database which underpins the SA website. Although this meant that we have not been able to add much new material over the past month, the process has been positive. While our database holidayed in Melbourne, each Home entry on the site was checked by the national editors for consistency and accuracy. We are now reworking and improving each of the entries. This month we've also been rewriting the 'What to expect when accessing records' part of the site to make it more specific to South Australia, as well as locating records of children placed in institutions for people with disabilities.

Gary George and Karen George

TASMANIA

The Tasmanian website will soon have entries about the records of Clarendon Children, the St Giles Society, Roland Boys' Home, the Salvation Army, and the Fairbridge-Drake Society as well as Wybra Hall's Admission and Discharge Register which is held by the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. In a wonderful stroke of luck, the former manager of Bethany Boys' Home unexpectedly found its Day Book after she thought it was lost so there will be information about that too. I am currently tidying up the entries about the Children's Homes for the launch of the new website later this year.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

A trip to Lentara Uniting Care was the real highlight of July. We met with Mimi Morizzi and Cassie Locke who showed us the fascinating work they're doing with digitising records. They also kindly provided us with digitised copies of annual reports. Sarah is now using these, cross-checked with Departmental annual reports, to see if we need to add any more Homes to Find & Connect Victoria. And on a related note, Rosemary has been working closely with Frank Golding from CLAN to help prepare a list of children's Homes in Victoria for the Inside: Life in Children's Homes and Institutions which we're looking forward to seeing in Melbourne soon.

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

July was a busy month in WA, with great digital support from record-holders. The State Library of Western Australia has confirmed that digitisation of the annual reports of the Child Welfare and subsequent departments (1929-1983) will proceed. The Nedlands Library has allowed us to display some images of the Salvation Army Boys' Home and Hollywood Children's Village on the Find & Connect web resource. Global Mission Partners has given permission for us to use images from their digital collection relating to Churches of Christ facilities in WA. The Anglican Diocese of Perth Archives has provided rare images of one of the Homes at Coogee. The Mental Health Museum of WA has provided images and some de-identified historical admission forms. Also in July, the History Council of WA and the Department of Information Studies of Curtin University hosted a debate, 'Digitisation will be the death of history', which I attended. I think our stakeholders are proving that, in fact, digitisation is the *future* of history.

Deb Rosser



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