



A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the December issue of the newsletter – the last one for the year. In this issue there's a short report on the Find & Connect web resource workshops that finished up in November and we have our regular report on news from around the country by our State-based historians overleaf.

The web resource team will be out of the office from close of business on Friday 20 December until Monday 6 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 until we've caught up – so please bear with us.

The newsletter will be back next year, with our first issue for 2014 being our bumper Jan/Feb issue. Until then I hope you enjoy the final newsletter of the year and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

FIND & CONNECT 2013 WORKSHOPS

In October and November we ran workshops in every state and territory with the support services and other regular users of the web resource.

The 2013 workshops were small interactive group sessions with initial feedback gathered and discussed at the beginning of the session and a break out session with all the participants looking for information on the site and sharing how they found it. We used these explanations to highlight new features of the site and help the users understand the full functionality of the new interface. We also talked to participants about what kind of information they would like to see in a website induction pack and gathered some final feedback on the session itself.

The workshops proved popular with attendees with positive comments including:

For someone just starting to use Find & Connect website, I found the training very helpful. I can see it is going to be extremely useful. It was also very interesting networking with others working in a similar area.

I found the workshop most interesting. It gave an insight into Find & Connect I didn't previously have.

A good mix of exercises and information sharing.

Learnt some good things about the site eg learning about alternative ways of searching.

Ipads were great to explore raw site and think about questions as we went along.

Task was helpful in seeing multiple pathways for accessing information.

And my favourite comment:

Wasn't death by powerpoint.

In a couple of states we also ran small hands-on sessions with Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants to introduce the new website. The participants explored the website with members from the web resource team on hand to give help and advice as needed.

The workshops highlighted that there are lots of different ways to find information on the web resource and that the key to using the website is to find the route to information that suits you best.

Big thanks to the Find & Connect support services around the country

EVENTS DIARY

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/



Lachie from Lotus Place going to the top of the class in our QLD workshop.

for hosting the sessions and to all those who enthusiastically participated. It was wonderful to catch up with a few familiar faces and meet new staff members for the first time.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

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

I was very pleased to have been able to attend Find & Connect's Canberra workshop in November, and to have met stakeholders from throughout the ACT and the sector, not to mention my coworkers. In addition to getting familiar with what the project has achieved and the concrete ins-and-outs of the website itself, it's become clear to me from the outset that this is a high-stakes historical project. It's not every day you get the privilege of historical research which makes such a difference to the lives of living people.

Liam Hogan

NEW SOUTH WALES

The NSW section of Find & Connect has changed a lot in the last 12 months, due to the new information generated by the RADP project, the close editing we have given the site and the constant bubbling up of new information through questions and research. We are really beginning to get a sense of how big this history is: we now know that nearly every town and most Sydney suburbs had a Children's Home at some stage. I would like to thank you all for your part in helping me tell some of this history, and wish you a safe, happy holiday season.

Naomi Parry

NORTHERN TERRITORY

A successful week in Darwin, ferreting out more information on Missions and later Government Homes at the NT Archives Centre and Department of Health, was capped off by seeing how the archiving and listing of records at the Catholic Diocese of Darwin is progressing. We took some time out to visit and photograph the building on Kahlin Crescent which was Palmerston House, Tambling House and then the Darwin Youth Refuge. We met with representatives from the Archives, Library, Catholic Diocese and the Find & Connect support service to discuss the new web site and its future. Now the job of enriching every page of the NT database, in the short time we historians have left on the project, continues!

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

November kicked off with a Find & Connect two-day workshop at Lotus Place. The team joined care leavers for lunch and then we proceeded to assist people in navigating the new web resource. This exercise was most beneficial, as missing information was brought to my notice and the issue of including a photo for each Home was raised. Care leavers feel that even if a photo is not current, it is better than no image. This means that the same photo might be reproduced for each incarnation of a Home. Thank you to Judy Paton, Lotus Place Townsville, for sending through a history of Townsville Orphanage, along with fabulous photos. This material will help flesh out the entity for Townsville Orphanage/Carramar.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This month we assisted with an episode of the television program, *Who Do You Think You Are*, providing historical background and interpreting records. The episode will be screened next year. We hosted a successful workshop on the new look web resource. Staff from Elm Place, Families SA, State Records, SA Link-Up and the Salvation Army Tracing Service learned clever ways to get the best from the site and provided great feedback. There was valuable discussion about how people receive records through Freedom of Information and improvements that could be made. Families SA and Elm Place will keep that discussion going. We continue to add new information to the site and improve older entries. Keep sending us questions and comments. We love to hear from you!

Gary George and Karen George

TASMANIA

At the moment I'm concentrating on putting up as much information about records on the web site as possible. There will soon be new entries about state child welfare files and patient records from the Royal Derwent Hospital. I'm also putting up entries about records from privately run Homes, so will be contacting all record holders soon. Any information that you have, no matter how small, is

really welcome. Relationships Australia held another successful Reference Group meeting on Tuesday, 26 November and, on Monday, 2 December, ABC local radio interviewed Emma Ryan about their Find & Connect support service.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

Some of you may have seen the newspaper articles in November about the sale of 'Mintaro' mansion in Romsey, which housed a reformatory for girls at the turn of the century. It's always interesting to see how much attention is paid to the fact a historic building once housed children in care. In this case, there was very little mention. Rest assured, Rosemary is hard at work making sure we have details and photos up on Find & Connect. November also saw the release of *Betrayal of Trust*, the report from the Victorian Inquiry, which is now available online (and will, of course, be linked to by us).

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Please see new archival entries for Wanslea www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00591b.htm, the Christian Brothers www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00791b.htm and the Anglican Diocese of Perth www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE01227b.htm.

During my leave in November, Lee Butterworth took me to visit Lotus Place in Brisbane and three former Children's Homes: Riverview and the Challinor Centre in Ipswich; and the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre and Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum at Wacol. Back in Perth, I went up to New Norcia for a meeting of the religious archivists' group and had a rare tour of the monastery archives and library, and later in November gave a presentation on the web resource to the Australian Society of Archivists.

Deb Rosser



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