



FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

Issue 12: June 2013

A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the June edition of the Find & Connect web resource newsletter, I can hardly believe it's June already, time is passing so quickly.

We're over the halfway mark in the project and although we have added a lot of information to the web resource there is still lots to do. New Homes, new record collections and new information is still coming to light, which is all valuable and helps improve the the web resource. So keep the information coming folks.

In this issue, we have news of our new poster packs that we'd like to distribute widely, a short piece on the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in Northern Ireland and a couple of interesting exhibitions around the country and of course no issue would be complete without our round-ups from around the country by our hard-working historians. Happy reading!

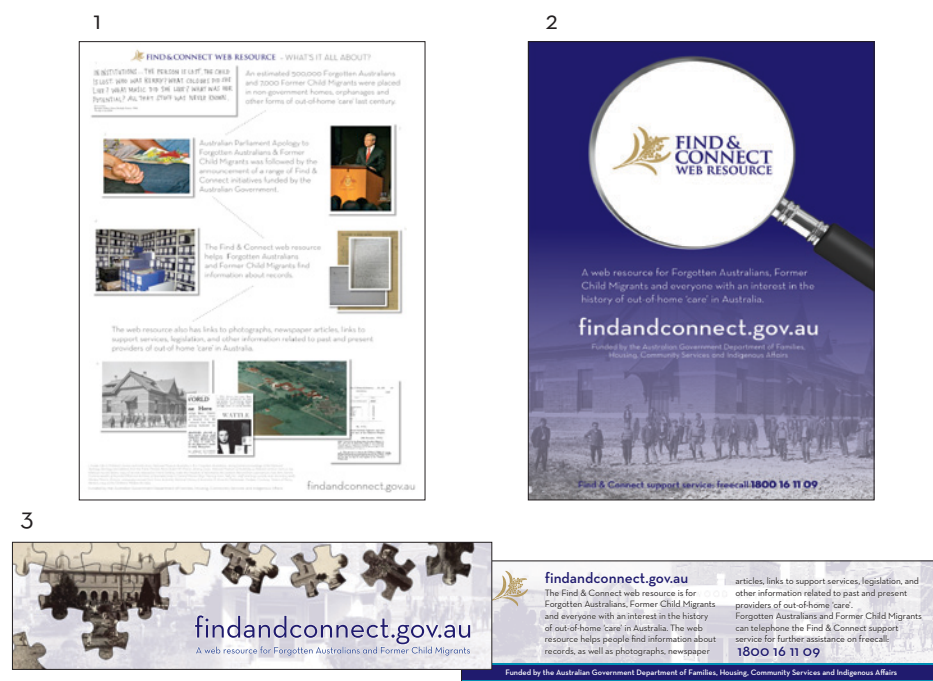
Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE POSTER DISPLAY PACKS

We have recently developed a poster pack to explain and promote the Find & Connect web resource.

The pack contains two A3 sized posters pictured below: (1) explaining the background and purpose of the web resource and (2) highlighting the address of the web resource and the support service number.



Along with the posters we have bookmarks (3) with details of the web resource and support service, plus factsheets explaining in more detail how to use the website. The pack is available in printed format or as digital files that can be printed on demand.

We hope that the posters can be displayed in public libraries, support services, advocacy groups and various public areas to raise awareness of Find & Connect.

The poster packs are available from Sal Orpin, our Communications Officer, if you would like a pack sent to you please email Sal at: sorpin@unimelb.edu.au

NORTHERN IRELAND ABUSE INQUIRY LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in Northern Ireland has launched an international appeal for victims and survivors to come forward.

The Inquiry is covering child abuse which occurred in residential institutions in Northern Ireland over a 74-year period up to 1995. They are aware that some children in Northern Irish institutions during this time were sent to Australia and are anxious to encourage any victims and survivors who suffered childhood abuse in Northern Ireland institutions but who now live in Australia to get in touch.

For more information visit the Inquiry website: www.hiainquiry.org

EVENTS DIARY TAS

8 June - 25 August 2013

ON THEIR OWN – BRITISH CHILD MIGRANTS EXHIBITION

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

This touring exhibition is a collaboration between the Australian National Maritime Museum and National Museums Liverpool, UK. Details of the exhibition in Tasmania are available at:

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

Featuring the words, voices and objects of Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and all those who experienced institutional care as children, *Inside* provides a chance for all Australians to understand something of a history that has affected so many and was hidden for so long.

<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

The ACT section of the web resource is undergoing some important changes this month with the site review almost complete. The review is looking closely at each entry checking key details and relationships between the different entries on the site. The next major priority will be to create more entries for significant events in Canberra's history particularly around the movement of children across borders into NSW. Any ideas or suggestions about historical events that should be included on the ACT site would be very welcome. If you have any thoughts or questions that could be addressed please contact us via the 'tell us about it' or 'ask us a question' links on the website.

Lydia Connell

NEW SOUTH WALES

In the last month the focus in NSW has been locating new children's homes, using a 1971 ACOSS report. This turned up two dozen homes, hostels and disability institutions that were not in Find & Connect, including an Aboriginal mission in western Sydney. This shows how much work remains to be done to capture the full story of children's homes in NSW.

At the end of the month Lydia and I attended the open day at Wattle Place, which was a good chance to meet up with Forgotten Australians and key advocacy groups and spend some time with the friendly staff there.

Naomi Parry and Lydia Connell

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The history of child welfare in the Northern Territory during the middle to late twentieth century seems to be one of children being moved to wherever a placement was available. Megg's research on children placed in NT gaols, because of the lack of an institution for young people, has resulted in a lengthy history of Her Majesty's Gaol in Alice Springs being added to the site. We are gradually creating a new entry on interstate movement of children and working to establish the time frames and reasons for

this movement. We are adding new detail to many of the entries on the site which are overdue for some attention, including a number of the early mission homes.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

My research into children admitted into Queensland mental institutions continues. The entries for these institutions are still in their early stages, but include a statement acknowledging that children were inmates of Queensland mental institutions. The Ipswich Hospital for the Insane built a children's ward in 1933, with another wing being added in 1940. Known as Dagmar House, it was the first purpose built facility in Queensland for children with an intellectual disability. The research work is slow but steady so please continue to revisit these pages to check for updates. If you have information about children in Queensland mental institutions, please get in touch using the 'tell us about it' or 'ask us a question' links.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

We've been getting out and about to demonstrate the website this month and finding that we are learning just as much from our audiences. After our presentation at the City of Charles Sturt Library we met a fellow historian with information on many hospitals and disability institutions, a man who as a child spent time in Northcote Home and a former welfare worker willing to share her memories of a number of SA Children's Homes. We also demonstrated the site to staff at Elm Place and SA Link-up, and after a meeting with Families SA and Relationships Australia SA we are working on a clear step by step guide on how to access personal records in SA.

Gary George and Karen George

TASMANIA

It has been a busy month. The highlights include newly extended entries about Hagley Farm School and Hillcrest Children's Home as well as a new entry

about St Michael's Priory in Rokeby. St Michael's, which opened in 1969, was an Anglican monastic community of three brothers which took in children as part of their wider community work. I also visited the Family History Society's library in Bellerive which is a hive of activity. It has many indexes and other resources that could assist Care Leavers. I would like to thank Joyce Purtscher for showing me around.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

This month we've been busy with trips to the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV). It was great to meet with staff from PROV, FIND and Open Place, to discuss records that are available to people researching their family history. We made another visit to PROV to look at records from the Hospital and Charities Commission, in the hope of finding something about Strathmore Lodge. Finally, we met with Captain Malcolm and Joans Piho from the Salvation Army Southern Territory. In the coming months, we hope to improve information on Find & Connect about records held by the Salvation Army.

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This month, I have added some new entries that begin to chart the history of out-of-home 'care' facilities for children with intellectual disabilities. A useful starting point for this early work is the link to the function, 'intellectual disability institution' (www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa/browse_i_function.htm#FOOOO55). There, you will find a list of Homes and, from the Homes, you can navigate to legislation, glossary terms and other organisations. It's early days and much is missing – so any more information you can add via the 'tell us about it' link (found on each page) will be very welcome!

Deb Rosser



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