



FROM THE EDITOR

Hello all, we're back from our trip to WA just in time for our March newsletter. Our WA stakeholder meeting had an excellent turn out, so thanks to all those who attended and contributed on the day. Extra thanks goes to the two AFA ambassadors, Ron Love and Jenny Aldrick, who spoke about the importance of records from a care leaver perspective at the beginning of the meeting. It was great to catch up with some familiar faces and meet some of you for the first time, including the newly opened WA Find & Connect support service.

Since the last issue we have been interviewed by Inside History Magazine along with a care leaver, Greg Baker, for a feature on the Find & Connect web resource in their March–April edition. If you are interested in more information on this publication you can visit the Inside History website at www.insidehistory.com.au.

In this issue of the newsletter we have an article on the launch of the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project, a call out for assistance with evaluating the Find & Connect services, our State Based Historians give us their regular update on their month's activities and we have news of a care leaver reunion in Melbourne from Lentara Uniting Care (formerly Orana). I hope you enjoy this issue and have a great month.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY PRECINCT MEMORY PROJECT

On Monday 11 February the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project was launched. Funded by Arts NSW and more than a year in the planning, the Memory Project is the initiative of a small collective of Parragirls and artists who seek to activate the site as a creative hub for Western Sydney.

Occupied since 1821, the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct contains the last vestiges of a disregarded history. It is inextricably linked with successive generations of incarcerated people: convict women, orphans, people who experienced mental illness, Forgotten Australians and Stolen Generations. It is the birthplace of Australia's welfare and penal systems and bears witness to the evolution of Australia's penal, social welfare and mental health systems. Thousands of years of history are present here too, as Aboriginal clans from across Australia once came to this part of the river to conduct business.



Pictured: Fire damaged buildings of the former Parramatta Girls Home.

The Memory Project is about preserving generations of social history in a relevant, meaningful way and enabling former occupants to create and represent their own history and experience.

The ultimate vision is to create the first Australian Site of Conscience, a place of recognition and understanding for women and children with institutional legacies and for all Australians to reconcile with this past.

www.pffpmemoryproject.org

Bonney Djuric and Lily Hibberd

PFFP Memory Project Co-ordinators

FIND & CONNECT EVALUATION

Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) has been appointed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHSCIA) to evaluate the Find & Connect services. The aim is to gather information from Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants about the effectiveness of the Find & Connect services and to identify areas that may need to be improved. The study has been approved by the FaHSCIA Human Research Ethics Committee.

For completeness, the views of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants who are using the Find & Connect services and those who are not using these services need to be obtained.

A brief survey has been developed to ask those using the services about their experiences of the services provided. In the case of those not using Find & Connect services, the survey focuses on the reasons why not.

To ensure a broad range of views are included in this evaluation, **help is needed in promoting the survey**. You can do this by circulating details of the survey to your service users and to other Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants with whom you may have contact.

Anyone interested in being involved in the evaluation can complete an online or print version of the survey. The online version of the survey can be accessed through the following link: http://ahaconsulting.com.au/FaC_User.aspx.

A printable version of the survey can be downloaded from the following link www.findandconnect.gov.au/news/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Service-User-Survey_120313.pdf and returned by post (reply-paid). For general information about the evaluation, please ring 1300 788 667 or visit the AHA website at www.ahaconsulting.com.au

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.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The task of reviewing annual reports and commissions of inquiry to find Department of Community Services homes continues. Recent additions are Garth, in Willoughby and the Riverina Welfare Farm for Boys at Yanco, which CLAN has also been researching. We keep finding new private institutions, such as Junior Red Cross Homes. These cared for the children of sick veterans, particularly those with tuberculosis (TB), so tie in with another new page on the state TB hospital, Waterfall Sanatorium. It's sad to realise how many children were separated from family because of the physical and psychological effects of war, and disease.

Naomi Parry

NORTHERN TERRITORY

This month our research has centred on institutions for people with leprosy. We have greatly expanded the entries for the Channel Island and East Arm Leprosariums, and have added a new entity for the Mud Island Leprosarium 1885-1931, also known as the 'living hell Lazaret'. Children as well as adults were isolated in these places. Megg continues to explore the complicated story of juvenile detention revealing the regular practice of detaining children and young people in adult gaols. Although children in need of care were systematically transferred interstate, it appears that children in trouble with the law rarely were. This aspect of children's history in the NT has not previously been documented.

Karen, George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

During February I researched two existing entities on the Queensland Find & Connect web resource that contained limited information. Consequently, I have created three new entities that represent Peirson Memorial Homes. Henry Pierson donated land at Goodwood, on which 'Redcliffe' and 'Heytesbury' homes were built. Another Peirson home operated in Bundaberg. I have also gathered information on Westbrook Youth Detention Centre, which

has a long and diverse history. Established as a boys' reformatory in 1872, Westbrook Youth Detention Centre occupied four separate locations and underwent eight name changes between 1872 and 1994. These updated entities will be uploaded during March.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A lot of our work this month has been user driven. Thanks to *Ask Us* emails we have been privileged to 'see' inside the Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital of the 1950s through a child's eyes. We have also have learned about the shortcomings of the records links for Seaforth Home. News that a reunion was being held for former residents of St Francis House precipitated a special research focus on that institution. This led to the inclusion on the site of the predecessor of St Francis House, the Church of England Hostel for Inland Children. A much updated history for St Francis House with new links to resources and records recently went live.

Karen & Gary George

TASMANIA

This month I have been researching Public Health Department annual reports. The Department ran the Mothercraft Home which looked after babies with disabilities or who were about to be adopted. In addition, it managed the Royal Derwent Hospital which unfortunately housed a number of children with intellectual and physical disabilities. Sometimes children who absconded from institutions spent time at the Hospital. I have also been researching the archival records of the Mental Deficiency Board, which was closely associated with the Public Health Department. Many children who were wards of state or in institutions came under the auspices of the Board.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

February was my first full month as one of the Victorian historians and it certainly reminded me how much work our State Based Historians do! It was lovely to see them all in Melbourne on 22 February. Another highlight this month was a trip

to the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) to look at newly released records from the Children's Courts. It made me think about the care that goes in to describing an archival series on the Find & Connect web resource. I also enjoyed a visit to OzChild. It was great to hear about their progress with the RADP indexing tool.

Sarah Green

(Rosemary Francis is on leave).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We've been sweltering over here in the west, so it has been a good time to get into the cool comfort of the State Records Office and find some new records for the Find & Connect web resource. Instruction manuals and Boarding Out Committee minutes have given useful background information about 'why it was so'. Head Teachers' Journals actually give a glimpse into children's lives and the (sometimes rocky) relationship between a children's Home and the local primary school. Our readers have also contributed information and photos for the WA site over summer. These will be 'live' within the month.

Deb Rosser



EVENTS DIARY: THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2013 ORANA CARE LEAVER'S REUNION

Lentara Uniting Care (formerly Orana) is holding the Annual Orana Care Leaver's Reunion on Anzac day, Thursday 25 April 2013, 12:00-4:00pm at Rentoul Hall, 16 Livingstone Close, Burwood. Lunch will be provided. All family and friends welcome.

For catering please R.S.V.P. to Cassie by 10 April 2013 on 0417 952 381 or clocke@lenteraoc.org.au