



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter. At the end of April, we welcomed back Rachel Tropea, our Program Manager, from family leave. Some of you may remember Rachel from the first year of the project and from the Who Am I? Project. She's had a very busy couple of weeks catching up on all the developments from the last year. Thanks to Mike Jones who took the Program Manager role over the last year. He will still have some involvement with the web resource, working on the redesign of the website and the underlying associated technology.

During the last month there's been quite a lot of excitement around photographs, so our cover feature looks at the importance of photographs on the web resource. Also in this issue we have news of the new Lotus Place website. It's the About Time History Festival in SA and you can catch our SA Historians, Karen and Gary George, demonstrating the web resource with a hands-on seminar on Saturday 18th May – more details in our events diary. Of course, no issue would be complete without our historians snapshots, which are over the page.

I hope you enjoy this issue and have a great month.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are an important part of memory and history; they are tangible records of the past. As so many care leavers lack these records of their past, it is no surprise that one of the top three reasons that Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants visit the web resource is to search for photographs.

For this reason one of the key priorities of our historians work is searching for photographs to include on the site and references to photo collections. These can become 'holy grail' items for entities where there have previously not been any pictures in the public record. Just this week Gary George, one of our SA historians, had a eureka moment when he found a long sought-after image of the Children's Welfare Department.

Our stakeholders also play a vital role in contributing images for the web resource. In her QLD spotlight overleaf, Lee Butterworth mentions the important contribution of photographs from stakeholders she visited, including the photo of St Vincent's (Nudgee) Orphanage, pictured above right.

Images are also going to be increasingly featured on the web resource as part of



the redesign with a planned image search function. Often when care leavers are searching for a Home they grew up in, they might not remember the name of the institution but will remember what it looked like, thus images will play an important part in the web resource's success in helping care leaver's trace their past and history.

Thank you to those of you who have helped uncover and make available photographs so far in this project. We welcome any new leads on locations of photographs to include on our site – if you can help us with images please let us know via our 'Does this page need updating link'. Look out for our picture edition of the newsletter later in year, where we will showcase some of the photographs featured on the Find & Connect web resource.

NEW WEBSITE FOR LOTUS PLACE

Lotus Place, home to the QLD Find & Connect support service, recently launched a new website www.lotusplace.org.au

The new site is an excellent source of information about the services available at Lotus Place, background and information regarding Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, plus photos, newsletters and links to related services.

During the design process Lotus Place consulted extensively with Forgotten Australians and the Find & Connect web resource project team also assisted with feedback based on the findings from the usability testing on our own web site.

EVENTS DIARY

SA

Saturday 18 May, 10 am – 11.30 am

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE

This free event is part of the About Time SA History Festival. For more information and bookings visit: <http://abouttime.sa.gov.au/content/introduction-find-connect-web-resource>

NSW

Friday 31 May, 10am – 1pm

WATTLE PLACE OPEN DAY

Meet the friendly staff and check out the services available, includes BBQ lunch. Please call Wattle Place on 1800 663 844 to register attendance.

TAS

8 June and 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, Liverpool, UK. www.britainschildmigrants.com

This newsletter is published by the Find & Connect web resource project team.
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STATE SNAPSHOTS

News from our historians around the country.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The ACT site will be undergoing some close attention from the Find & Connect team over the next few weeks for some intensive editing. My focus is currently on prioritising entries that are in need of work or that are yet to be published on the website. It will also be very important to look at the relationships between entries to make the site run smoothly and be as informative as possible. I will be continuing to assist with research in NSW which I feel will add greatly to the background history of the ACT. While there is much to do, it will be fantastic to have the support of the team looking at the overall picture of how we can improve the site.

Lydia Connell

NEW SOUTH WALES

April was a busy month for Find & Connect NSW. The search for government records goes on, and Naomi is slowly adding information about hospitals, disability institutions and psychiatric hospitals to the website.

As a direct result of the Records Access Documentation Project grants, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart have just advised Find & Connect that they have moved all their historic records relating to children's homes from their base in North Sydney to CatholicCare Adoption Service's Bankstown headquarters. This work, which included indexing, means care leavers can now find all their records in one place, which is a very good result.

Naomi Parry and Lydia Connell

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The nationwide relationships of child welfare in NT were highlighted again this month. Records relating to NT Receiving Homes are providing valuable information about the operation of Homes in states as far away as Tasmania, and a care leaver we met when presenting Find & Connect at the Darwin library has agreed to share his memories of the Salvation Army Boys Home in Kent Town SA. Meanwhile our intrepid researcher Megg met with an advocate for disability services in Alice Springs, to find out more about the first NT disability homes, only to find that she too

had spent time in a South Australian Home. We continue to add material relating to NT detention centres to the site.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

On 4 April I provided an update on the Find & Connect web resource to staff of Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services involved with the project. An outcome of this meeting was the decision to archive Missing Pieces as the link for access information about obtaining records, and replace it with a link to the Find & Connect web resource. In April I also visited Kay Lane (Sisters of Mercy, Bardon) and Colleen Manning (Mercy Family Services, Nudgee). Thank you to Kay and Colleen for allowing me to reproduce some beautiful images of St Vincent's Orphanage and Magdalen Asylum.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This month we caught up with Forgotten Australian, Steven Page, at State Records to look at 19th century Admission Registers for the Industrial School and Magill Reformatory. He will be looking through these to record the names of children who died in care. We applied for access to a collection of photographs of departmental institutions and will be making copies of many images of the exteriors and interiors of government institutions for the site. We are working on the entries for Salvation Army Homes, rewriting histories and refining records listings to make them easier to follow. Some of this work will go live next month. Our mantra nearly every day is 'so much to do, so little time' but this is balanced by the rewards of helping people find pathways into their past.

Karen George and Gary George

TASMANIA

It's been a busy month in Tasmania. Firstly, since I was on leave, Emma Ryan from Relationships Australia, our support service, kindly represented the Find & Connect web resource at Shake Your Family Tree Day on 16 April. The National Archives of Australia held it in their

new home at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. Emma says that she had an excellent day, learned a lot, and enjoyed helping with inquiries. The other important occasion was the first of Relationships Australia's reference group meetings held on 30 April. We had some great discussion and exchanged lots of information. Many thanks to Emma and Relationships Australia for making both events go so well.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

Our presentation at Shake Your Family Tree Day on 16 April went well and the audience had some interesting questions for us. We're now looking at creating two new glossary terms, R.Park and P.Bridge, used on ward records in Victoria. Other highlights included a visit to the University of Melbourne library to look at a series of articles from the 1950s called 'Victoria's Unwanted Children', plus a trip to the State Library to look for articles about a 1950s Protestant girls' Home called "Strathmore Lodge". If you know anything more about this Home, we'd love to hear from you!

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Part of the history of out-of-home care lies in parliament. Why were laws enacted? Why were particular policy directions introduced? WA is now able to get an easy glimpse into the legislators' thinking. The Parliamentary Library has just uploaded online, [searchable Hansards from 1870 forward](#). I've already started using this to confirm operating dates and the purpose of institutions, as well as to give better insight into 'why it was so'. This month, I've also had the pleasure of meeting and sharing with Local Studies Librarians who often get queries from Forgotten Australians. And I've been inputting more information about the system for children with intellectual and physical disabilities who could not live at home.

Deb Rosser



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