



## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter. We've had quite a momentous start to the month with the new-look website going live, more on this in the article below. I hope you can check out the new site, if you haven't had a chance to visit it yet.

Last week we started a round of consultations and workshops to introduce the new-look site to the support services and government record holders around the country. Our first session in Tasmania went well, big thanks to Emma and the Tasmania support service hosting the session.

In this issue we have news of the extension of the Find & Connect evaluation survey, a farewell from our ACT historian Lydia Connell and our usual round up from all our other historians around the country.

I hope you enjoy this issue and have a chance to visit the new-look website this month.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

## FIND & CONNECT EVALUATION SURVEY EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER

The Find & Connect evaluation survey being conducted by Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) has been extended until December. If you can help with promoting the survey, please circulate 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://aha.bradallica.com/FaC\\_Survey.php](http://aha.bradallica.com/FaC_Survey.php)

A printable version of the survey can be downloaded from the following link <http://www.ahaconsulting.com.au/Our-Projects/Community-Services/Community-/Find-and-Connect-Services.aspx> 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](http://www.ahaconsulting.com.au)

## LYDIA'S FAREWELL

It brings me sadness to say that this will be my last month working on Find & Connect. It does seem fitting though, that I will be leaving in order to spend more time with my 18 month old. This project is a reminder of the significance of childhood, and I know I'm making the right decision, however much I'll miss everyone.

I've been moved by the dedication, the heart and quality of work of the team. I've been assisted by the support services and 'quiet revolutionaries' in archives and libraries. I have been surprised and delighted by the commitment of many working in the out-of-home care system to improve its accountability, policies and practices.

The fire for change coming from care leavers has made the greatest impression on me. Their mission to change the trajectory of loss for so many is something truly magic. It has given me hope to see how walls can move when people come together with the consensus that change is needed.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me personally or been in anyway involved with the project - it has been amazing. I look forward to crossing paths with you all again.

Lydia Connell - ACT historian.

## THE NEW FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE

Last Friday we launched the new-look Find & Connect web resource. The new site is a result of many months of research and development, prompted by the results of our usability testing in 2012. The usability tests revealed that our core audience, Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, found the website difficult to navigate and use, so we have built our new site around four key usability priorities:

- Meeting the needs of 'care' leavers
- Simplifying navigation
- Making contact details easier to find
- Improving functionality

As with the previous site, this is still a work in progress with further enhancements to be added in the coming months. We welcome feedback from visitors to the site via our *Send us a question or comment* feedback link.



The site has three main search functions:

- Look for Homes - searches for orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions.

- Look for photos - searches for photos of orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions
- Look for records - searches for information about archival records.

The quick search function on the Browse Find & Connect page allows a search of everything on the site - these results can be filtered by state, type of organisation, type of entry and date to narrow down the results.

We hope you enjoy the new-look site with its new functionality and look forward to hearing your feedback via the site in the coming months.

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

# STATE SNAPSHOTS

News from our historians around the country.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The highlight of September for me was the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct symposium, which was held at the University of Technology and the Precinct. Parragirls, Bonney Djuric and Lily Hibberd are working to get the site, which includes the former Parramatta Girls Home, listed as an International Site of Conscience. Historians, archaeologists, artists, museum studies and heritage professionals, support services, artists and people who grew up in care and state wardship gathered to learn from each other and a book of the papers is due to be published next year.

Naomi Parry

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

The database review for the Northern Territory, in preparation for the launch of the new-look website, has begun. Already it has led to further research and the addition of new information on many Mission Schools and Dormitories. This work will not appear immediately when the website is re-launched, but look out for new content in the weeks and months ahead. Meanwhile we have also been collating information on NT Homes for the NT Department of Health as they prepare for the Royal Commission. On the ground in the Territory, Megg has started looking into the history of Homes for children with disabilities, including the Harry Giese Centre.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

## QUEENSLAND

In October I travelled to Tasmania for a two week holiday. I visited the site of Point Puer Boys Prison, located on a peninsula across the harbour from Port Arthur. The site provided a secure and isolated location for the prison that operated between 1834 and 1848. Up to three thousand boys passed through the reformatory. Following the Heritage Trail north I was surprised to come across the protected Historic Site of the Female Factory at Ross, of which I knew nothing. The prison incarcerated female convicts from 1848 to 1855. Two large nurseries, located in the middle of the compound, housed the babies born to the inmates.

The children remained in the prison with their mothers. Visiting and learning more about out-of-home 'care' sites in another State was a bonus to my holiday.

Lee Butterworth

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It has been all hands to the database this month as we have been reviewing every Home entry in preparation for the launch of the new-look website. While there is still work to be done, many changes and corrections have been made and new material has been added to a large number of Home histories. Doing especially well out of the review were many government and non-government Cottage Homes and Units about which minimal evidence was available. Clear information about changes of name and location of these facilities will hopefully assist more recent care leavers when the new site goes live.

Gary George and Karen George

## TASMANIA

Editing the entries about Homes for the new website has made me realise how important it is to be able to say where their records are. This means that any information record holders can give me about their records is very welcome. Even if it is limited, it would enable me to give a brief description and contact details for Care Leavers to use. I'm more than happy to offer advice and perhaps help with the description. Any assistance would be completely confidential, and as you know, we don't put personal information up.

Caroline Evans

## VICTORIA

This month we have been on the hunt for photos. We visited the Salvation Army Heritage Centre and were very pleased to find photos of the Glenroy Girls' Home in the War Cry newspaper plus a photo of Heidelberg Boys Home which opened in 1893 and closed in 1895. Over the next few weeks, we are also going to look at creating an online display for Find & Connect about annual reports. They can be a goldmine of information - the trick is knowing how to use them! We'll look at annual reports from both government



Photo of Heidelberg Boys Home from the Salvation Army Heritage Centre.

departments and care providers. If you want to share any tips or suggestions about how you use them, please feel free to get in touch.

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO) holds regular Lunchtime Seminars throughout the year and kindly invited me to present the Find & Connect web resource at the September seminar. Participants included staff from the SRO, State Library, and the Department of Culture and the Arts. Volunteers from the WA Genealogical Society were also present, along with some interested members of the public. Most of my work during September has been finding and collating information about Salvation Army Homes in WA. This new information will be uploaded onto the web resource in the coming months.

Deb Rosser

## EVENTS DIARY

### VIC

29 Aug 2013 - 27 Jan 2014

**INSIDE: LIFE IN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS**

Melbourne Museum

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



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