



A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the September newsletter. Not much space for the editorial this month so I'll get straight down to business. In this issue we've got a feature article from Cassie Locke from Lentara UnitingCare and a short piece on the preview of the Inside exhibition, which recently opened in Melbourne. On the flip side we have the snapshots from our historians around the country and the events diary.

Thanks, Cassie for your contribution to the newsletter. If any of you would like to share news via the newsletter please email me: sorpin@unimelb.edu.au

I hope you enjoy this issue and that you all have a blooming lovely month (excuse the spring pun).

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

INSIDE

LIFE IN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS

On Wednesday 28 August, there was a preview of the exhibition Inside: Life in Children's Homes at Melbourne Museum. There were many care leavers and their families present, including some who had their words and stories on display in the exhibition. The opening speeches from the museum and from the exhibition's curator, Jay Arthur, gave special thanks to those who shared their memories.

The exhibition contains many photos plus other items from children's Homes, ranging from banners and badges to punishment tools. It is a moving and powerful exhibition, which provides an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the experiences of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. The exhibition is at Melbourne Museum until 27 January 2014.

Sarah Green

Client Liaison Officer & VIC Historian

LENTARA UNITINGCARE - "OPENING THE ARCHIVES AND PRESERVING THE MEMORY"

Lentara UnitingCare, formerly Orana UnitingCare, is one of the recipient organisations of the Records Access Documentation Project (RADP) grants. In this piece Cassie Locke, Lentara's Care Leaver Support Worker, explains how the grant money has assisted the organisation in preserving and cataloguing their records and making them accessible.

Lentara UnitingCare is a community service agency of the Uniting Church, with a history dating back to 1888.

The Lentara records collection includes material from Orana in Burwood and the Methodist Homes for Children in Cheltenham. The collection is largely intact and includes:

- over 3,000 individual client files and admission cards (1930's-2012) and numerous earlier entries (1888-1930's) as recorded in the admission and discharge registers.
- contextual records such as: annual reports, minute books, superintendent records and a correspondence collection; and
- the Orana images collection containing approximately 20,000 images consisting of photographs, 35mm slides and film featuring children in the home, staff, volunteers, visitors, events and buildings.

With the assistance of an initial RADP grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and a substantial financial commitment from the Lentara Board of Governance, this important collection is being arranged, described, imaged, and preserved to archival standards. The photographic collection has proved popular with our care leavers who have also contributed their time, knowledge and expertise with the tasks of: project planning, describing the collection including the provision of provenance information, and spending long, intense sessions with Lentara staff and imaging personnel to identify people, places, dates and events.



To date, six naming and dating events have occurred, including one at the Orana annual reunion which featured a slide show and on-demand photo search and print service.

Lentara UnitingCare welcomes requests from care leavers regarding this important collection of records. The collection can be accessed by contacting me (Cassie) on 0417 952 381 or by email: clocke@lentarauc.org.au

Lentara UnitingCare offers supported release of information to our care leavers and while some information may be subject to privacy protection (third parties), we will do our utmost to provide information in its entirety where possible including providing information that would assist in facilitating family reunification.

Cassie Locke

Care Leaver Support Worker

Lentara UnitingCare

For more information on Lentara UnitingCare visit:

www.findandconnect.gov.au/vic/biogs/E000820b.htm

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

STATE SNAPSHOTS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Lydia Connell is on leave.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Over the last month I have been finalising the edits for the New South Wales section of the Find & Connect web resource. With that process complete I have the chance to get out and about again so will travel to CatholicCare at Bankstown to see the records that have recently been transferred there. I will also attend the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct symposium at UTS and the Parramatta Girls Home site.

Naomi Parry

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Due to the kindness of the current resident of the former Receiving Home in Alice Springs, Bradshaw House, we now have photographs which we can put up on the website. Recognising the value of photographs to people who spent time in a Home as children, the resident allowed Megg Kelham to take a number of exterior photographs. It was quite amazing to see the small size of the Home, knowing that at times up to 17 children lived there together.

The NT database which underpins the website has now been reviewed by the National Editor and over the next few weeks we will be checking, editing and updating every Home entry on the site.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

August has been a busy and productive month in Queensland. In August, I met with Tanya Smith, Assistant Minister for Child Safety for the purpose of explaining the Find & Connect web resource. Ms Smith is supportive of the project and is willing to lend assistance in any way needed. I attended an enjoyable luncheon with former staff of the Challinor Centre which was part of the Ipswich Special Hospital. In relating stories of their work with the residents, which included young children, a social worker stated, 'It wasn't just a job. It was a way of life'. I think this statement is a lovely reflection on this worker's attitude towards the residents under her care.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

We understand the huge value of photographs to anyone who spent time in a Home or in foster care as a child.

This month we have worked with the Glandore Community Centre and the Find & Connect Support Service to arrange for men who spent time at the former Glandore Boys Home to view a set of photographs at Elm Place. We are thankful to the City of Marion for assisting us in this endeavour and allowing the photos to be viewed in an environment where the men feel supported. We hope that other agencies holding photographs can look beyond risk management and find compassionate and innovative ways for Forgotten Australians to access images of themselves as children.

Gary George and Karen George

TASMANIA

In August I finished editing the entries for Tasmania's homes. They are now up on the web all ready for the soft launch of the new Find & Connect website in September. I also attended a Find & Connect reference group meeting with representatives from Tasmania's Forgotten Australian community, CLAN, the Alliance for Forgotten Australians and the Department of Health and Human Services. It was held by the Tasmanian Find & Connect service provider, Relationships Australia Tasmania. One of the items on the agenda was drop in centres for Care Leavers similar to those in the rest of Australia. They would be located in each region. We discussed various ways of funding the centres.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

The highlight of August was the preview of the Inside: Life in Children's Homes exhibition on Wednesday 28 August. In other news, we've been researching the many hostels that were opened in Victoria during the 1960s and 1970s for young people leaving care. We have also continued our work with the Salvation Army to improve our information about what records they have available. And finally, like all the Find & Connect historians, we've been working hard to

News from our historians around the country.

prepare the Victoria site for the new web design. It's been another busy month!

Sarah Green and Rosemary Francis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

August's highlight came via the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS). Thanks to their generous cooperation, we are able to display digital versions of the Annual Reports of the departments responsible for child welfare (1882-1928; 1984-2005). These will complement the online holdings of WA's State Library, Parliament, and DCPFS website. These reports, albeit written from departmental and institutional perspectives, are rich in historical detail and will make a significant, accessible contribution to our nation's understanding of the systems, policies and practices of child and family welfare. They will be available soon on the Find & Connect web resource.

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/

NSW

26-27 September

TRACE, PLACE, IDENTITY: WOMEN, CHILDREN AND INSTITUTIONALISATION IN AUSTRALIA
UTS Broadway and at the Precinct.

This public history symposium will explore the institutionalisation of women and children in Australia.

This is a free event. Symposium seating is limited and bookings are essential.

www.pffmemoryproject.org



Except where otherwise noted, this content is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Australia License.