



FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

Issue 8: Jan/Feb 2013

A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for 2013, I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, with a bit of time to rest and recharge for another year. 2012 was the first full year for the Find & Connect web resource and we certainly packed a lot in. So for our first issue of the year we decided to do a bumper edition looking back over the year that was. The State Based Historians have each written a year in review column for their State or Territory, Sarah takes a look at the feedback emails from last year, we have an illustrated look at the visitor statistics for the web resource and Cate has written about our priorities for 2013.

Looking back over 2012, we sent out 2 ebulletins and 7 issues of the newsletter. The distribution list continues to grow – currently 443 people. Thanks to those of you who have given feedback on the newsletter, it's always great to hear from you, and encouraging to know that this little publication is read and enjoyed around the country. Don't forget if you have an event you want to publicise or some news you'd like to share you can email me and I'll pop it in the newsletter and on the news blog of the web resource.

2012 also saw the launch of the Find & Connect support service and the introduction of the 1800 number (1800 16 11 09). It has been great to meet and work with the new services since the launch. Next month we're off to Perth for the WA stakeholder meeting and to meet up with the new Find & Connect support service run by Relationships Australia WA. We're looking forward to catching up with our stakeholders in the west and finishing off our round of stakeholder meetings that started in 2012. We will be visiting all the states and territories again later this year so hopefully we will see you again in 2013.

I hope you enjoy this bumper issue and that you all have a good month.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

2012 REVIEW FROM THE CLIENT LIAISON OFFICER

2012 was a big year for Find & Connect feedback emails with over 1300 queries from across the country. April was our busiest month by far with 164 emails.

The mind sometimes boggles at the number of children's institutions and care providers. These are, of course, only the ones we know about. One of the real pleasures of this role is when someone asks us about an institution we've not heard of before, or one we know very little about. The State Based Historians often go to great lengths to answer these questions. For example, a string of enquiries about the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home in South Australia led to Karen and Gary creating a greatly enriched entry about the Home.

This flow of information goes both ways, too, and people contact us to offer details about institutions. Examples from 2012 include a woman whose husband has photos and information from Ohio Boys' Home, a care leaver who told us about the ferry service and brass band at St Joseph's, Kincumber, and the first principal of Chidley Education Centre who responded to our request for information about the centre.



Pictured: Boys Home Kincumber. Source: Gostalgia: local history from Gosford Library (Flickr)

In 2013 I'll be spending half my time as the Client Liaison Officer and the other half as the State Based Historian for Victoria. I'm delighted to welcome Meredith Kiraly as our second Client Liaison Officer. Meredith will be working one day per week through 2013.

This role has so many rewards and it's always good to feel that answering someone's question might help in some small way with their search for records. Thank you to all our stakeholders who helped us to answer those 1300 emails in 2012. Meredith and I look forward to continuing this work in 2013.

Sarah Green

Client Liaison Officer

EVENTS DIARY

NSW

Seminar: Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project

When: Saturday 23 March 2013

Where: the State Library of NSW

Cost: General \$45.00 / Concession \$35.00

Contact: Oral History Association NSW and State Library of NSW

Bookings essential.

Visit the History Council of NSW website for more information: <http://historycouncilnsw.org.au/whats-on/post/forgotten-australians-and-former-child-migrants-oral-history-project>



This newsletter is published by the Find & Connect Web Resource Project Team. For enquiries please email the editor: sorpin@unimelb.edu.au

STATE SNAPSHOTS

2012 REVIEW

by our historians

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

There have been some great developments in the ACT this year. It was wonderful to see everyone working together at the stakeholders meeting in October. A presentation by Greg Barker about his experiences growing up in children's homes added tremendously to the sense of urgency and importance of addressing issues raised. It is clear to me that there has been a major shift this year in the readiness to improve information, records access and support to care leavers in the ACT.

INSIDE Life in children's homes

The exhibition held at the National Museum of Australia *Inside: Life in Children's Homes* provided a powerful forum to begin the year. Marymead has made significant progress simplifying processes and archives and the Find & Connect support service run by Relationships Australia has been established. All existing entries on the web resource have been edited and updated and many new entries have been added to the ACT site, including two archival collections and a number of small hostels and children's homes found in annual reports. Entries for relevant legislation have been created or added to in order to help build a more meaningful picture of the changes that have occurred and what these meant to those who entered the out-of-home care system and their families.

The movement of children across borders into NSW makes up a significant component of the history, particularly as the practice continued after residential care providers began operating. I would now like to turn my attention to this part of the story. While continuing to work on the ACT site, I will also be assisting NSW research in the coming months. This will give me the opportunity to learn more about the first half century of Canberra's history and the places children were sent to. It will also give me a chance to look more closely at the NSW legislation which held such influence over the lives of children in the ACT. I look forward to the next chapter in research and what it will contribute to the larger context of Canberra's history in the year ahead.

Lydia Connell

NEW SOUTH WALES

The last year has been busy for the NSW Find & Connect web resource. We received nearly 400 inquiries from care leavers, Former Child Migrants and their families, and each of these resulted in serious detective work. These searches have turned up organisations I had never heard of, and which had never featured in any of the finding aids. We have also built on the Homes listing developed by CLAN, and have identified hundreds of new photographs from library catalogues, Trove, and private collections. We have around 600 institutions and organisations on the web resource now, and more than 300 photographs, but the most important achievement has been enriching the entries and transforming them from a short sentence in Connecting Kin to a full historical description, with a picture.

In 2012 Sarah and I had the chance to visit CLAN at Bankstown and the Now-Remembered Australians in Lismore, to meet care leavers. We also had the chance to watch some of the website usability tests, and learned a lot about how people use our web resource. I have visited Mittagong, to learn about the Mittagong Cottage and Farm Homes, Narrabeen to learn about Hopewood and Burwood, to see the Sydney Rescue Work Society. I have also met with important record-holders, including the United Protestant Association, the Sisters of St Joseph, and the organisations who received RADP grants, many of whom have already made progress in better preserving and indexing their records. I also enjoyed the broader stakeholders' meeting in November.

With Lydia Connell coming on board in 2013, we are looking forward to digging out information about Department of Community Services institutions, and the private homes they licensed, and finding more pictures and resources for the site. We're starting to receive inquiries from care leavers in relation to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, which we welcome - every care leaver inquiry leads to another detective story, improves the entries, and results in a better experience for web resource visitors.

Naomi Parry

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The NT Find & Connect web resource has grown during 2012. A number of intensive research trips to Darwin combined with the intrepid investigative skills of our Alice Springs based research assistant have allowed us to add new Homes and detailed information about archival records to the web resource. During the year we focussed on writing up histories of the Government-run Receiving Homes and Training Centres in Darwin and Alice Springs because these Homes are barely mentioned in any historical work on the Northern Territory.

In 2012 we were assisted hugely by Kym Muller and Linda Zagorskis who unearthed valuable information for us through their ongoing Department of Health/Department of Children and Families indexing project. We were very happy that letters of support from the Find & Connect web resource helped to ensure the continuation of their work after the change of government. Francoise Barr of the NT Archives has been a strong supporter of the project, making many boxes of records available for our research visits. Ben Heaslip of the National Archives in Darwin helped greatly in locating and making records accessible to us, digitising files where possible. We were also pleased that the Garden Point Resource Centre received an RADP grant to organise and list their records.

We held a successful stakeholders meeting in Darwin in October and spent time with the staff of the Find & Connect support service. The NT Library kindly hosted a talk and demonstration of the web resource. Contact with new stakeholders in Alice Springs has revealed a number of little known Homes in that community.

Our research has uncovered details about Northern Territory welfare policies, particularly the practice of sending children in care to institutions all over Australia. Over the next year we will be looking further into this policy to find more answers for Northern Territory Forgotten Australians.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

QUEENSLAND

Much of 2012 was devoted to establishing contact with stakeholders and record holders, as well as adding to the web resource. I have added 230 entities, 83 images and over 200 published resources to the Queensland Find & Connect web resource, with more to be processed.

Promotional activities were also high on the agenda. In March I gave a presentation on the web resource at the Queensland State Archives and the National Archives of Australia. I attended the 'Unlock Your Past Expo' in Brisbane from 25-27 June which was extremely beneficial in promoting the website. Family history and genealogical societies realised that they can direct people tracing an ancestor who was in out-of-home care to the web resource.

In April the Find & Connect web resource team presented a workshop, *Reconnections: developing rich archival and institutional descriptions*, for record holders. Several record holders received a Records Access Documentation Grant from FaHCSIA to assist them in cataloguing and indexing their records. In August the Find & Connect team ran a training workshop for recipients of the grant. Usability testing of the web resource was conducted at Lotus Place in May and in September a web resource stakeholder meeting was conducted, which presented the opportunity for the Find & Connect web resource team to receive feedback from stakeholders.

On 5 September I attended the Remembrance Day Service for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants at the Museum of Modern Art, South Brisbane. In November the third anniversary of the national apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants was acknowledged.

The year ended in a pleasurable way with me attending the Nudgee Orphanage reunion in November and attending their Christmas lunch in December.

Currently I am researching children who were held in adult mental institutions. Entities for each of these institutions will be uploaded to the Queensland Find & Connect web resource in the near future. Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Pictured above: St. Stanislaus House, prior to being demolished in 2012, as seen on google maps and the foundation stone rescued from the demolition site.

2012 was a very busy year for SA. We built up the web resource, updating histories, adding new pictures and lots of new information about records. We added eleven new Homes including Queen Victoria Convalescent Home for Children, Cann Cottage, Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Babies Hospital at St Peters, Kalyra Sanatorium and the town of Carrieton. And there are still more new Homes to come in 2013.

2012 wasn't all spent with our heads buried in our computers either. We were out and about promoting the website at libraries, archives and at history events. We made contacts with family history and genealogy organisations and had productive meetings with government and non-government records holders.

We have been to archives to view and describe admission registers, visitors' books, punishment books and all kinds of reports. We have also been privileged to meet with former residents and staff who generously shared their memories and photos of some of SA Homes.

Finally, we hit the road, camera in hand, to capture current images of Magill Training Centre, the graves of the Methodist Children's Home, the empty lot that was St Stanislaus House and, happily, the rescued foundation stone from that orphanage.

Gary George and Karen George

TASMANIA

2012 has been a wonderful year in Tasmania. It has been great working with stakeholders and being able to extend the web resource, often with their assistance.

This year I have expanded many of the entries about the better known institutions. I have also been trying to track down the histories of receiving homes (which later became family group homes) run by the government. There are new entries on institutions for children with disabilities such as the Blind Deaf and Dumb Institution, Rosebank Cottage, Wingfield House, and St Giles Home for Crippled Children. Many children were placed in adult institutions such as Risdon Prison, St John's Park, formerly the New Town Infirmary, and the Royal Derwent Hospital, formerly Lachlan Park. I have now included all of these on the website. There is work to do providing information about the whereabouts of records. I'm looking forward to visiting the north and north-west of the state this year to learn more about this.

One of the best parts of the Find & Connect project is meeting and working with the myriad of people who are associated with it. Inquiries from care leavers further my understanding of how the child welfare system worked and send me looking for more information about Homes that greatly improve the web resource. The Department of Health and Human Services, successor organisations to former children's institutions, and fellow historians have provided new sources and alerted me to Homes such as the St Vincent de Paul Boys' Hostel in Launceston and the short lived Glenorchy Infants' Orphanage. Archivists and librarians at LINC Tasmania have been unfailingly helpful. Homeowners of former receiving Homes provided permission in a most generous way for me to photograph their homes and this has greatly enhanced the web site. Late last year, Relationships Australia Tasmania became the support service for Find & Connect here. We are already developing a productive relationship. I'm looking forward to being in touch with you all again in 2013.

Caroline Evans

STATE SNAPSHOTS

VICTORIA

In 2012 we – Nell Musgrove and Rosemary Francis – built upon the sound work done in the Pathways project and continued to enrich the existing information on the Victoria Find & Connect web resource.

We made a number of visits to organisations which hold records of care leavers to understand the nature and extent of the records and the access conditions associated with those records. We visited the Mackillop Family Services, Connections UnitingCare, the University of Melbourne Archives, Bethany Community Care in Geelong and Melbourne Citymission. Other activities included a workshop at the Public Record Office (PROV) to gain further insights into the records available there.



St Joseph's Babies Home, Broadmeadows. Image courtesy of MacKillop Family Services.

We were also helped by Natasha Story who assisted with research at PROV into the hulks used to house state wards in Victoria during the nineteenth century.

Nell and Rosemary shared the State Based Historian position until the end of 2012, when Nell left to work on an Australian Research Council-funded project with Dee Michell about the history of foster care in Australia. Nell's new project will offer a great contribution to our understanding of foster care in the 19th and 20th centuries. Rosemary will now share this position with Sarah Green who is also the Find & Connect web resource Client Liaison Officer.

In 2013 Sarah and Rosemary will continue to make the Find & Connect web resource a useful tool for care leavers. One of our top priorities, as ever, will be stakeholder engagement. We look forward to establishing connections with record-holding organizations that weren't involved with the Pathways project and further strengthening the valuable relationships we've already built.

Rosemary Francis and Sarah Green

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

'Your visit was enormously encouraging to me. It makes me feel that my work is worthwhile'. This was a lovely comment to receive after a visit to one of the many archivists in WA who are struggling under the weight of inadequate resourcing to identify, collate and preserve valuable historical records for people who were in out-of-home care in institutions in WA. Their task is made even more difficult by an equal, if not greater, number of records that never needed to be kept but which now have to be sorted through. It is gratifying to interact with these people, get a glimpse of their collections, and receive their help in bringing some of this information onto the Western Australia Find & Connect web resource.

A number of the past providers of out-of-home care received FaHCSIA's Records Access Documentation Project grants, so there has been a lot of collating and indexing activity in the sector in WA during the latter half of 2012.

Some key national and state events have prompted me to create or update entries on the WA pages of the web resource. Most notable among these are:

- The Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa/biogs/WE00816b.htm
- The 'On Their Own' child migration exhibition, prompted me to update our child migration pages (I will input the material relating to the Maltese child migration experience this year) www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa/biogs/WE00473b.htm
- The conclusion of the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project, started in 2009, made it possible to bring the collection onto our site www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa/biogs/WE00471b.htm
- Out-of-home care and adoption experiences frequently intersect in WA, as the Department responsible for child protection has always played a lead role in adoptions. So the pages relating to Adoption legislation were updated in 2012 www.findandconnect.gov.au/wa/biogs/WE00438b.htm

Deb Rosser

2013 PRIORITIES



We've come such a long way since we launched in November 2011 - I sometimes wish that our historians weren't quite so productive! There really is an amazing amount of content in the website, and it keeps growing every month.

One of the biggest priorities for the 2013 year is to make the website more useable – with so much great content, we need to ensure people can find what they are looking for. We start work with our designer and usability consultant soon so stay tuned.

We're now close to having a more or less complete 'skeleton' on the website – some basic information about most of the Homes and organisations - this year will be about getting some more flesh on these bare bones! Photos and other resources can really bring the history of child welfare to life, and make this history relevant and meaningful to our audience. We also hope to add some online exhibitions to the site this year.

This year, I am looking forward to linking our web resource to the National Library's oral history collection about Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. For those of you who haven't seen it yet, I highly recommend the NLA's publication, [*'You can't forget things like that'*](#).

I hope that this year we continue to get new information from all our stakeholders around Australia about what records exist 'out there'. Having up-to-date and accurate information plays such a huge role in helping Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants to access their records and learn more about their past – which is the primary aim all of us working on the web resource try to keep in mind. So keep in touch! We love hearing what people have to say.

Cate O'Neill
National Editor

2012 VISITOR STATISTICS: FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE

How many people visited the web resource in 2012?



119,664 PEOPLE

27.19% of these people came back to the web resource more than once.

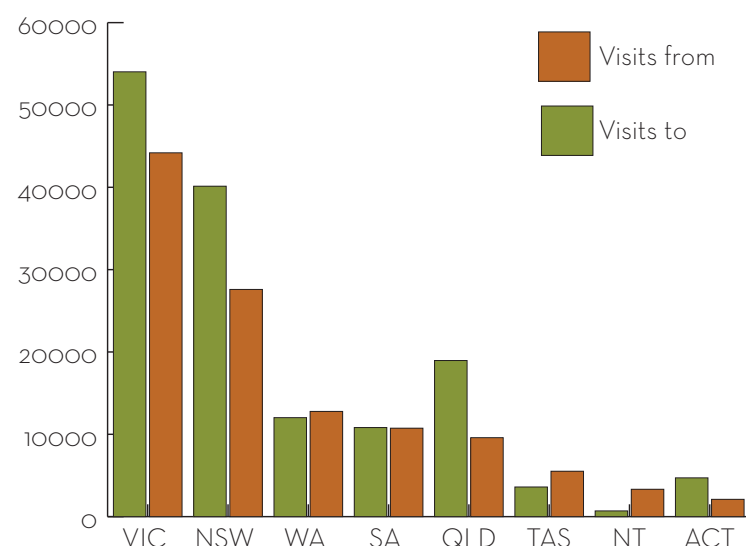
Giving a total of 163,810 VISITS

Where in Australia were people when they visited the web resource?

TOP 25 CITIES AND TOWNS:

	City	Visits
1	Melbourne	49927
2	Sydney	37810
3	Brisbane	17583
4	Perth	11858
5	Adelaide	10774
6	Canberra	4712
7	Hobart	3304
8	Cranbourne	1385
9	Richmond	786
10	Darwin	676
11	Craigieburn	656
12	Gold Coast	541
13	Newcastle	462
14	Geelong	446
15	Ballarat	423
16	Melton	308
17	Launceston	288
18	Victoria Point	272
19	Bendigo	245
21	Dubbo	180
22	Wollongong	173
23	(not set)	146
24	Central Coast	106
25	Redcliffe	103

How many visits to each state and territory and which state or territory were these visits from?



How did people find the Find & Connect web resource?

TRAFFIC SOURCES:

