

# Archives celebrates 100 years of Federation



NAA: PP608

The invitation to the inaugural celebrations in Centennial Park, 1 January 1901, showed the new nation and the States as allegorical maidens sailing into the dawn of a new era.

This year Australia celebrates a special anniversary – the Centenary of Federation! Our 100th birthday as a nation coincides with the first year of a new millennium. And the celebrations will last all year long – from the arrival on the east coast of the ‘New Dawn’ message from Uluru on 1 January, to the closing events around the country in December.

At the National Archives, we’ve been planning our birthday gifts to the nation for several years. In 1998 we launched

the guide to Federation records in collections around Australia as well as the *One Destiny!* CD-ROM, and last year we produced a teachers kit on Federation titled *1901 and All That* and a special website on Australia’s key constitutional documents called *Documenting a Democracy* ([www.foundingdocs.gov.au](http://www.foundingdocs.gov.au)).

But we saved the best presents for last – a national touring exhibition called *Belonging* that explores Australians’ connections to place and community

from Federation until today, and a magnificent new Federation Gallery in Canberra featuring the ‘birth certificates’ of our nation (see stories on pages 2–3). Later this year we will also be publishing a book on the development of Walter Burley Griffin’s plans for the national capital over the century.

Through our Federation projects we are opening the doors to a collection that has been called ‘the national memory’, to tell the story of the nation’s first century.

*continued on p. 2*



NAA: A1200, L13365

Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, members of his Cabinet and Governor-General Lord Tennyson. From left to right: (seated) Sir William Lyne, Edmund Barton, Lord Tennyson, Alfred Deakin, Sir George Turner; (standing) JG Drake, Senator Richard O'Connor, Sir Phillip Fysh, Charles Kingston, Sir John Forrest.

### Our Federation collection

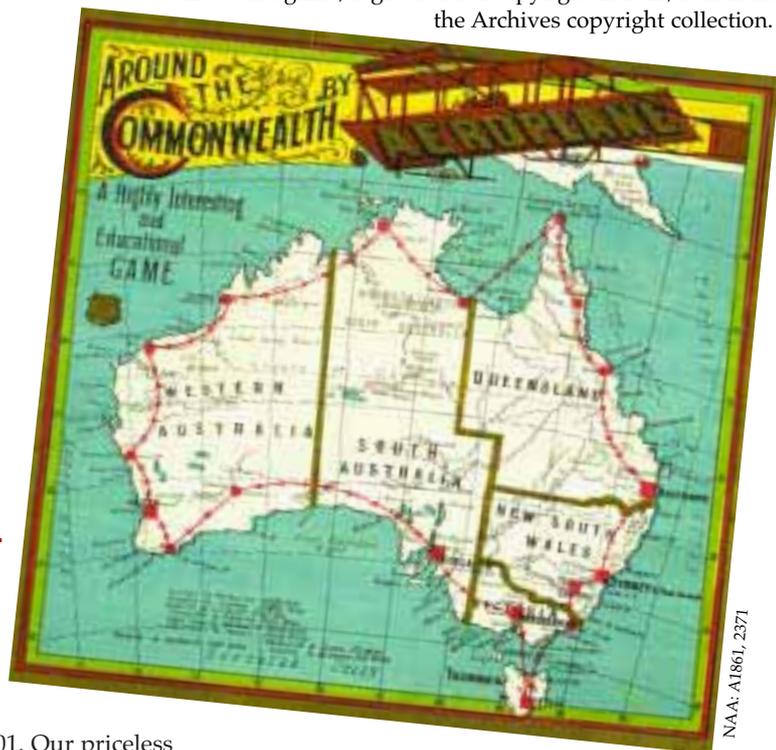
We hold Edmund Barton's 1897 notebook with changes to the draft Constitution in red ink, and the beautiful parchment signed by Queen Victoria on 9 July 1900 that made our Constitution law. The grand days of Federation come alive again in the photographs of the men and women who founded our nation, and in the beautiful invitations to the banquets, suppers and ceremonies that started in Sydney on 1 January 1901 and then started all over again on 9 May in Melbourne for the opening of Australia's first Parliament.

Our collection also contains the oaths of office of the first Governor-General, and photographs of the ceremonial

opening of Parliament in Melbourne's Exhibition Building in 1901. Our priceless collection of glass plate negatives from the 1920s and '30s records the beginnings of the national capital and the opening of Canberra's first Parliament House.

We can show you the original trademarks for Federation Tea and Commonwealth Tomato Sauce, and photos of William Farrer's disease-free Federation wheat. And we also have photos of the eight members of our first Prime Minister's first Ministry, the first three judges of Australia's

The aeroplane offered a new way of imagining the Australian Commonwealth. This board game, registered for copyright in 1911, is held in the Archives copyright collection.



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High Court in their new robes in 1903, and our 23 Governors-General and 25 Prime Ministers. All of these treasures and more are held in our collection, and many of them feature in our Federation gifts to the nation.

Join the Centenary of Federation celebrations and look back at what was achieved a century ago, reflect on what has been achieved since, and imagine what can be achieved in the coming century.

# Original charters on show!

This year will be a very special time for the National Archives, and for the nation, as we unveil Australia's key founding documents – our national 'birth certificates'.

The documents will be showcased in a permanent exhibition, *Charters of Our Nation*, in our new Federation Gallery in Canberra, opening in January.

The exhibition brings together, for the first time, seven key documents in Australia's history. Visitors will see

the original parchment document signed by Queen Victoria, the Royal Commission of Assent, that brought the new nation into being, and the Australian Constitution, the backbone of our democratic system of government.

The gallery has been specially designed to allow all to see the documents while protecting them for future generations. Materials used in the gallery design reflect Australia's rich landscape and cultural identity.

In our Treasures Gallery visitors can enjoy other stories of Federation told through precious historic documents, photographs, seals and the original drawing of Australia's coat of arms.

To view the documents that have shaped the nation, and to learn more about the stories behind them, visit our fascinating Federation exhibition in Canberra from January 2001.

More information is available in the brochure enclosed with this issue of *Memento*.

# 'Belonging' tells our story



State Library of New South Wales

For many Australians a sense of belonging is second nature. While we seldom contemplate the notion too deeply, it's a state of mind shaped by our family, our lifestyle, home or occupation. For some it can also be a spiritual connection with a particular place.

This Centenary of Federation year will provide many opportunities to reflect on the diversity of the Australian experience over the past 100 years and how our feelings of who we are and where we belong have changed.

And to help tell the story, a new exhibition, *Belonging: A Century Celebrated*, presents an array of material from the magnificent heritage collections of four prominent cultural institutions.

The National Archives, the National Library, and the State Libraries of NSW and Victoria have been working together for the past two years to ensure *Belonging* contains the best exhibits from their combined holdings. The exhibition is sponsored by AAMI (Australian Associated Motor Insurers Limited) and supported by the National Council for the Centenary of Federation.

In exploring Australians' sense of place from Federation to today, the exhibition reveals rare photographs and films, paintings, posters, personal stories, letters and interactive exhibits.

Consultations with communities across Australia have informed the exhibition, and comments from participants feature in the exhibition. Consultations with Indigenous communities and individuals helped to shape the section of the exhibition devoted to Indigenous people's viewpoint of their 20th century belonging in Australia.

The exhibition looks at the past in an engaging manner, and is sometimes challenging, sometimes serious, often amusing and lighthearted. It shows that a sense of belonging can be as complex as family ties or as simple as the smell of the bush or the sound of the sea.

An unusual Australian marsupial lives in the front yard of Frank and Pierina Bastianon, Griffith NSW. Photo by Gerrit Fokkema, 1987

**His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, opened the exhibition at the State Library of NSW on 3 January 2001.**

***Belonging* will travel around Australia to the venues below.**

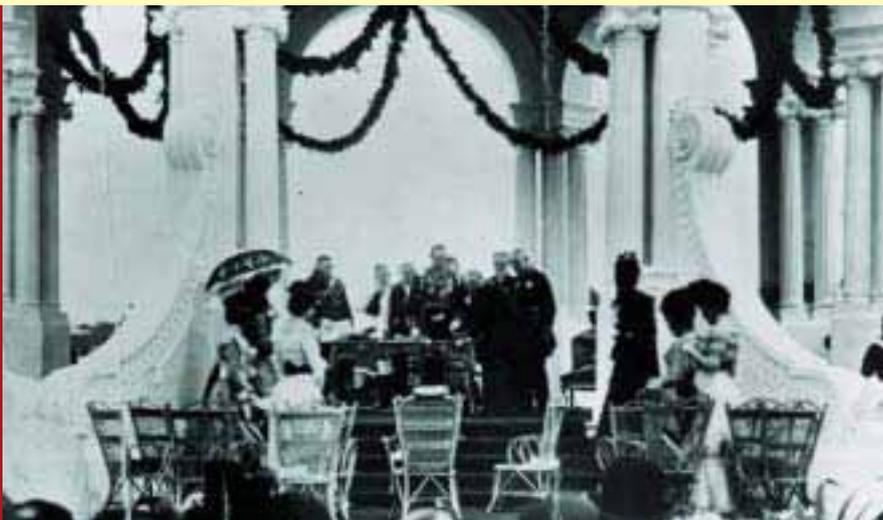
State Library of NSW  
3 January – 1 April 2001

State Library of Victoria  
5 May – 22 July 2001

National Archives of Australia &  
National Library of Australia  
22 August – 11 November 2001

Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery  
8 December 2001 – 4 March 2002

Queensland Museum  
12 October – 8 December 2002



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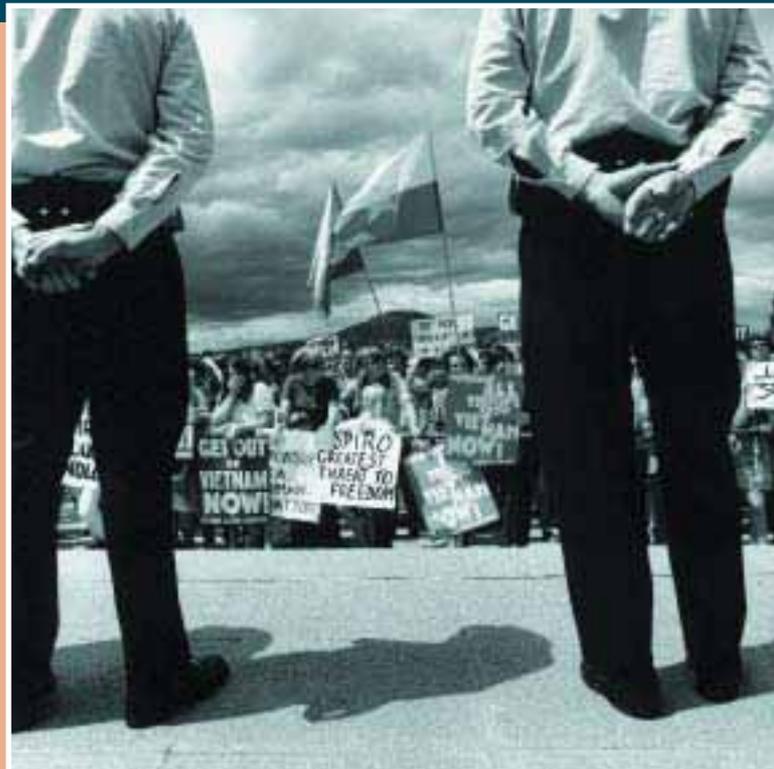
The first Governor-General took his oath of office at the same desk that Queen Victoria used to sign the documents creating the Commonwealth of Australia.

# NEW INSIGHTS INTO GORTON CABINET

In what year did both the Queen and the Pope visit Australia, Australian troops start to leave Vietnam soil, and everyone sing the Beatles hit 'Let It Be'? It was 1970, and the release of 30-year-old Cabinet records takes us back there.

The documents reveal a snapshot of Australia as it was 30 years ago, the issues that consumed us, the events that made us laugh or cry, and the decisions that affect our lives today.

Consultant historian Ian Hancock recently briefed the media on what the Cabinet papers of 1970 revealed to him and recalled the events that made the year memorable.



NAA: A1200, L85635

Pressure mounted to bring all troops home from Vietnam.

## GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE

John Gorton, in his third year of office, was confronted by a formidable body of political opponents and enemies. They included unusual adversaries for a Liberal Prime Minister: members of the Melbourne Club, the Packer press, several mandarins of the Public Service, the State Liberal Premiers, and many leading businessmen.

Two particular initiatives in 1970 focused attention on Gorton's reputation. First, the Prime Minister supported John McEwen's proposal

for an Industry Development Corporation, which aimed to boost Australian export industries and to retain Australian resources in Australian hands. The banks saw the Corporation as unfair competition, Treasury viewed it as an intrusion upon their bailiwick, and Liberal backbenchers thought it would become a socialist monster in Labor's hands.

Secondly, Gorton sought to assert Commonwealth control over off-shore,

non-petroleum minerals. The States regarded the proposed legislation as a fundamental attack on their authority, revenues and sense of self-importance. Liberal backbenchers, acting on behalf of the States, successfully delayed the Gorton strategy.

By the end of the year, when the government won just 38 per cent of the primary vote in the Senate election, the vultures were circling around the Prime Minister.

## AT HOME AND ABROAD

On the defence front, the government agreed not to replace the battalion due to return from South Vietnam in November. It continued to wrestle with two issues thrown up by the Vietnam conflict.

First, it tried – and failed – to find a workable civilian alternative to National Service, thereby avoiding sending draft resisters to jail.

Second, it sought to formulate legislation to deal with violent demonstrations through the Demonstrations Bill. Cabinet liked neither the Bill's title nor its timing,

and further consideration was postponed until early 1971.

Cabinet decided to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty but, fearing that the treaty might be ineffective in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and too effective in restricting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, agreed to withhold ratification.

At home, there were public concerns about the secrecy surrounding the planned nuclear power station at Jervis Bay, while the head of the Atomic Energy Commission said that the power station could produce



Prime Minister Gorton hosted a visit by the Pope.

enough plutonium to build nuclear bombs and that Australia should keep its options open. The government considered creating a tourist facility and a national park alongside the power station to allay public fears about environmental damage.

## UPS AND DOWNS

It was the year when seat belts became compulsory in Victoria, the new international terminal at Sydney and the Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne opened, the first woodchips left Eden for Japan, Margaret Court became only the second woman to win all four tennis majors in the same year, and 35 workers died when a section of the West Gate Bridge in Melbourne collapsed.



A royal barbecue in honour of Her Majesty's visit to Australia.

## SPEAKING OUT

Henry Bolte, Premier of Victoria, named Jim Cairns and Bob Hawke as two causes of the permissive society and said he was as opposed to legalising homosexuality as he was to introducing poker machines. Robert Askin declared that 'of course' a few police 'don't do the right thing'. Prince Charles likened the water off Elwood Beach in Melbourne to

'diluted sewage', prompting a local Mayor to say he needed 'a good thump under the ear'.

Billy Snedden described the organisers of the moratorium as 'political bikies pack-raping democracy'. A NSW State Liberal MP declared that the film *Easy Rider* served the cause of Communist subversion. And the female Deputy Secretary of the University of Sydney

Appointments Board, in the same year Germaine Greer wrote *The Female Eunuch*, said that women graduates in economics 'make very good assistants to male economists'.

To enjoy the full flavour of Ian Hancock's briefing about the 1970 Cabinet papers, look under Cabinet in The Collection section of our website at [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au).

# Where to now, Australia?

**'For Australia to move forward with confidence as a cohesive and mature nation we must ensure that all sections of the community play a meaningful role in the nation building process.'**

**John Moriarty**

John Moriarty, founder of the Aboriginal design company Balarinji, was one of three speakers recently invited to share their personal vision for Australia's future in a series of special talks held at our building in Canberra.

John touched on his experiences as an Aboriginal Australian, which are documented in his remarkable autobiography *Saltwater Fella*. He spoke of his life growing up in an 'isolated corner of white society' and of his experiences as one of the many casualties of Australia's stolen generations.

Deputy Chair of the Commercial Development Corporation, John talked of the importance of cross-cultural partnerships to achieve a better future for Aboriginal communities and strategies for moving away from social welfare dependency.



'The year 2001 will be important for all of us,' he said. 'As a nation we need to move forward in a positive way by embracing all Australian people'.

Senator Natasha Stott

Despoja's talk canvassed debate on the Republic, reconciliation and the stolen generations, national identity and Australia's position in the global knowledge economy.

'Australian identity is full of contradictions. This is a largely European culture in South-East Asia. We are a modern nation in an ancient land with an ancient culture, and we are taught the history of a nation where explorers "discovered" a land which was already inhabited.'

The Senator talked of the encouraging level of public support for reconciliation and the importance of this issue to many



Australians in relation to identity. 'How can we move forward as a nation without addressing past injustices?', she said. 'Recognising past injustices is part of showing ourselves as a mature nation.'

Natasha also emphasised the importance of increasing investment in education, research and development to put Australia on an equal footing with other nations in respect to the global knowledge economy.

Her vision for the future involves all Australians.

'Active citizens are what will make all of this happen. Hopefully Federation events and celebrations will act as a catalyst for embracing the Australia depicted in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. These showed a positive, enthusiastic, creative Australia, proud of multiculturalism and confident enough to assert its own diverse and unique identity.'

Jason Yat-sen Li, international lawyer and participant in the Constitutional Convention, took a broader look at the issues of justice in a worldwide setting.

Jason examined fundamental questions of morality, of human spirit and frailty, and the role of law in global society. He also looked at the role of Australia and Australians in that struggle for justice.



*Desert Flower* by Balarinji

'With East Timor; the attempted coup in Fiji and the upheavals in the Solomon Islands, the reality of war crimes has been brought closer to Australian consciousness and Australian soil.'

Jason drew on his experiences at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, to look behind the scenes at the prosecution of war crimes.



In particular, he discussed the case of a 22-year-old man who was forced to take part in the execution of 1500 innocent civilians in the Balkans.

He challenged the audience to imagine themselves in the moral and human dilemmas that often accompany armed conflict. And ultimately to question the meaning of justice in a context where our very understanding of right and wrong is pushed to the limit.

Reconciliation, the Republic, and international justice – all vital issues for Australia as we enter the new millennium. These three eminent Australians left us with great food for thought and an insight into their vision for the nation.

## A time of his choosing

'George, it is a tremendous pinnacle from which to retire', said the Hon. Peter McGauran, Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation, when farewelling George Nichols as Director-General of the National Archives of Australia, and from the Australian Public Service.

The Minister hosted the farewell in the Archives Treasures Gallery in November in the company of 90 senior colleagues and friends.

The Minister reviewed George's achievements, from a distinguished career in the Public Service, notably in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, to his appointment as Director-General of the National Archives in 1990. He spoke of the passion and conviction about the importance of archives that George brought to the position.

Neville Stevens, Secretary of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, agreed with the Minister's sentiment, describing George as an unabashed salesman. He cited

George's nomination of the most important legacy to the new century as being the nation's archives!

The Minister reflected that, in his decade as Director-General, George had crafted a vision and established a leadership role for the Archives. This could be seen in the list of his achievements, including a headquarters building in the parliamentary zone, vibrant exhibitions and programs to increase public access to the Archives, a 300% increase in reference inquiries, innovative approaches to the management of electronic records resulting in the *e-permanence* range of tools for agencies, and a new focus on the management of the Archives national collection.

The Minister concluded his tribute to George's contribution to the Archives by saying, 'It is thanks to you that the Archives is now far better known, appreciated and respected by the public, by government agencies and by the profession.'



George Nichols and the Hon. Peter McGauran, Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation, at the former Director-General's farewell. Helen Cross and Tonia Vincent hold a framed collection of invitations to many Archives exhibitions, openings and book launches, which was presented to George.

*Photo by Steve Keough*



With the Olympics over, staff in our Sydney office are celebrating another important event. We have brought the National Archives back to the city by joining State Records NSW at the refurbished Sydney Records Centre at the Rocks.

Researchers can view on microfilm the full sequence of passenger arrivals for the Port of Sydney from both institutions. These were previously held at separate locations. The centre also holds examples from our photographic collection. Original records are not held in the centre, but these can be viewed at our Chester Hill reading room.

Our staff are on hand from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday to give advice about our holdings and to introduce researchers to the RecordSearch database. Fact sheets and guides to our collection are also available.

For the first time in Sydney, researchers can find information on the records of both Federal and State governments in the one location. Visit us soon at the Sydney Records Centre, 2 Globe Street, The Rocks.



Archives staff at the Sydney Records Centre help visitors search our collection.

## WESTWARD BOUND

Passenger lists show that theologian and social reformer Annie

Besant, writer DH Lawrence and his wife Freda all travelled on the same ship to Fremantle in 1922. Did they cross paths?

As the *Orsova* steamed across the Indian Ocean from Ceylon to Western Australia, perhaps they enjoyed the odd lively discussion over iced tea. Although the records show that Annie travelled first class and the Lawrences bunked down in second, it's not beyond the realms of possibility.

These passenger lists represent only a fraction of the treasures held by the Archives Perth office and described in our latest research guide, *Collections in Perth: A Guide to Commonwealth Government Records*.

The guide covers a fascinating array of subjects from child migration to the administration of the Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Unique Western Australian records found in Perth include incoming passenger lists for the port of Fremantle, Bureau of Meteorology records, and World War I Army Intelligence records.

What damage was caused by the Meckering earthquake of 14 October

1968? At 6.9 on the Richter scale and with a fault line stretching for 35 kilometres, it could have been disastrous. While 16 people were injured, fortunately no-one died. The seismographic details on the Meckering earthquake can be found among the records at our Perth office.

What was the fate of German sailors rescued after their vessel, the *Kormoran*, followed its victims, HMAS *Sydney* and her entire crew, to the ocean floor? The answer lies in a correspondence file held in Perth.

One or two pre-Federation gems glitter in the Perth office collection, but most records date from 1901 onwards. Some records relating to Western Australia and its people are held in other offices of the Archives. Details on all these series can be found in the Perth guide.

The guide is available for \$10.00 (plus \$3.50 postage) by phoning Publications Sales on (02) 6212 3609, emailing [naasales@naa.gov.au](mailto:naasales@naa.gov.au) or visiting any of our offices.



Noted WA historian Geoffrey Bolton launched the guide to our collection in Perth recently.



# The JOY OF

# ILAN PASIN

*Ilan Pasin* is the first comprehensive exhibition of Torres Strait Island art ever seen in Australia.

This touring exhibition from Cairns Regional Gallery opened at our building in Canberra on 1 November 2000. The title *Ilan Pasin*, which translates from Kriol as 'this is our way', refers to a way of life as well as asserting the independence and tenacity of Torres Strait Islander culture.

While many Australians recognise the Torres Strait Islands as the birthplace of Eddie Mabo whose life-long fight for land rights culminated in the 1992 Mabo judgement, many of us are unfamiliar with the culture and history of the Torres Strait Islands and their people.

The distinctive traditions of the Torres Strait Islands have survived colonialism, change and globalisation. As Eddie Mabo argued successfully in the High Court of Australia, this continuity of culture overturned the concept of *terra nullius*.

*Ilan Pasin*, curated by Tom Mosby and Brian Robinson, is very much a world first in bringing together rare historical objects and contemporary art works. Assembled from major Australian public museums and galleries and a range of private collections, the works include sculpture, painting, textiles, works on paper, installations and curious dance machines (modern masks, often with movable parts, used in dance performances). A rare gem is the century-old *Dhoeri* or dance headdress collected along with some 1800 objects as part of Alfred Court Haddon's 1898 Cambridge anthropological expedition to the Torres Strait.

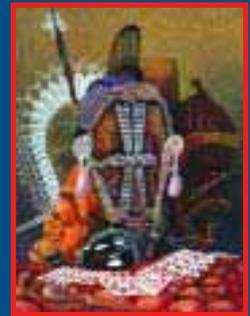
Visitors to the *Ilan Pasin* exhibition were treated to a traditional dance performance by Gerib Sik.  
Photo by Steve Keough



Turtle-shell mask by Victor McGrath, 1991.



Beizam (Hammerhead shark) dance mask by Ken Thaiday Snr, 1994.



Artefacts of Torres Strait before LMS (London Missionary Society) by Richardo Idagi, 1998.

At the opening of the exhibition, former Director of the National Gallery of Australia Betty Churcher praised the artists, curators and funding agencies for bringing this important exhibition to the Australian public. Tom Mosby spoke eloquently about the significance of the exhibition to Torres Strait youth in maintaining cultural pride, continuity of traditions and personal identity.

In a series of events following the launch, Tom Mosby and artist Ellen José shared their insights into the exhibition with an enthralled audience, and a crowd of over 200 people enjoyed a Torres Strait cultural festival which included music, dance, games and film. A highlight of the festival was the attendance of celebrity footballer Mal Meninga.



From left to right: Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Acting Director-General of the Archives, together with Betty Churcher, former Director of the National Gallery of Australia and Tom Mosby, a curator of the *Ilan Pasin* exhibition. Photo by Steve Keough

The National Archives is the final venue in an extensive Australia-wide tour. Don't miss the opportunity to see this fascinating exhibition before it concludes in February.





## e<sup>o</sup>permanence bytes

### New standard for records storage

We have released a new Records Storage Standard to help agencies assess the future storage needs of their temporary value records.

Following changes to our custody policy and the expiry of the common use arrangement Buyers Guide 240 last year, we developed the standard to give agencies much needed direction in procuring records storage services from industry providers and developing in-house storage services.

We reviewed Buyers Guide 240, which expired in September 2000, to gauge its effectiveness during its years of operation and to provide us with agency and industry feedback on associated storage issues.

In developing the standard, we also looked closely at new storage standards from Great Britain, New Zealand and New South Wales and held discussions with representatives of Archives New Zealand and the State Records Authority of New South Wales.

The new storage standard and the Buyer's Guide review are available on our website at [naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/storage/summary.html](http://naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/storage/summary.html).

For further information contact John Bruncker on [recordkeeping@naa.gov.au](mailto:recordkeeping@naa.gov.au).

### So **that's** what you think about recordkeeping

Last year we asked agencies for their views on recordkeeping.

The survey results, totalling over 200 pages of graphs and text, will help us to develop ways of improving recordkeeping in the Commonwealth and to measure our progress against this aim. We won't be analysing the results in detail all at once, but our expert consultants from ORIMA have drawn some general conclusions which will help us assess our existing strategies and formulate new ones.

Their report is available now on our website and makes fascinating reading.

To check out the survey results, see 'What's new' on the recordkeeping section of our website at [www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping](http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping)

A big thanks to all those who participated in the survey!

### International standard on records management

Australia has been in the fortunate position of having an Australian Standard to govern the management of records since 1996.

Australian Standard AS 4390, *Records Management* underpins much of the Archives' e-permanence advice. Now the international community is deciding whether to adopt a similar standard.

A committee of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) has prepared and circulated a Draft International Standard (ISO DIS 15489) drawing heavily from the work done in Australia. Archivists and records managers from Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia have participated in the drafting process, and in the next few months all ISO member countries will vote on acceptance of the draft as an international standard. If ISO DIS 15489 receives unanimous approval it will be published for use throughout the world and adopted by all ISO members.

The international standard will be accompanied by a more detailed technical report that will provide a set of generic methodologies to help organisations implement the standard. Jill Caldwell, Director of Collection Documentation at the Archives, attended a working meeting in Stockholm in November 2000, where an Australian proposal to restructure the technical report was accepted. Countries participating in this work will be asked to comment on the Stockholm draft.

It is hoped that the standard and the technical report will be ready for publication by mid 2001.

## Does your website meet the standard?

The Commonwealth Government's Online Strategy was launched last April. Among other things, it requires Commonwealth agencies to ensure their websites comply with the Australian Government Locator Service (AGLS) metadata standard and the Archives recordkeeping guidelines.

Agencies are required to report on the implementation of the strategy by responding to a questionnaire. The first round of reporting was in July 2000.

Of the 116 agencies that responded, 63 (54%) reported that they expected to obtain our approval to display the AGLS logo on their website, indicating their compliance with the standard. In addition, 65% of respondents expected all online publications to be compliant with the Archives Act by 31 December 2000.

A second reporting round was completed in early October. Of the 118 agencies that responded, 81 agencies

(68%) expected to have AGLS-compliant sites by December 2000, with a further 19 expecting to be accredited by July 2001. It is of some concern that 71 agencies – over one-third of those targeted by the survey – did not respond to the questionnaire.

For further information, contact Andrew Wilson on [recordkeeping@naa.gov.au](mailto:recordkeeping@naa.gov.au).

## Training update

Over the last 12 months we have been developing, presenting and pilot testing a training program for our recordkeeping products.

The 'Training for Commonwealth Recordkeepers' program, which concentrates on sentencing and transfer, has been presented as one and two-day workshops in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Further workshops are planned across Australia this year.

The 'Working with DIRKS – Building Better Recordkeeping Systems' half-day seminar was held in Sydney and, due to popular demand, repeated several times in Canberra. More seminars are planned for other States this year.

Practical workshops on DIRKS Steps A–B, Step C, Steps D–H, the development of a functions thesaurus and a functions-based disposal authority will be held this year.

For further information please see the recordkeeping training program on our website at [naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/training/summary.html](http://naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/training/summary.html) or contact Fiona McInnes on [recordkeeping@naa.gov.au](mailto:recordkeeping@naa.gov.au).



Marian Hoy, Assistant Director, Collection Documentation, at the Archives provided recordkeeping advice at the recent RMAA conference in Sydney.

## e-permanence on the move

Since launching our e-permanence campaign last year, we have taken our message to a wider audience through trade stalls at professional forums around the country and overseas.

These forums have included the annual conference of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) in Melbourne, the annual convention of the Records Management Association of Australia (RMAA) in Sydney, the Institute of Public Administration of Australia's ACT Branch conference and the Australian Computer Society's ACT Branch Conference, both in Canberra, and the International Council on Archives' Congress in Seville, Spain.

Staff have been present at each trade stall to provide advice on our products and to help visitors navigate our website, where most of our products can be found.

At each venue, visitors commented on the comprehensive nature and online availability of our products.

More trade stalls are planned for conferences this year, including the combined RMAA and ASA conference in Hobart in September.

## Postcard from

# Spain

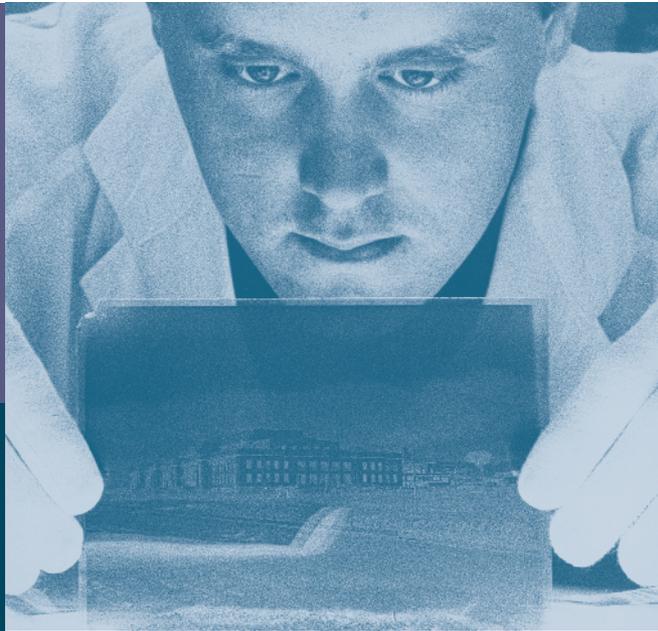


Last September several Archives staff journeyed to Seville, Spain to attend the International Congress on Archives. For the first time, the Archives was also represented in the large trade exhibition accompanying the Congress.

At the trade stand we shared with the State Records Authority of New South Wales, we showcased recordkeeping standards from both organisations, as well as publications and education kits.

A steady stream of conference delegates visited the Australian stand, where staff were on hand to answer questions and demonstrate our website.

# Through a glass darkly



Ian Batterham, head of Conservation at the Archives, carefully handling a glass plate negative from our collection.

**W**hen you're next popping a neat canister of film into your autowinding camera, think about the difficulties faced by early photographers. The negatives they used were made of glass, not the flexible plastic film we know today.

These 'glass plate negatives' were bought in cardboard boxes, generally holding 12 plates. Plates varied in size but were usually quite large by modern standards – 4 by 5 inches (10.2 x 12.7 cm) was common. They were treated with a light-sensitive emulsion to capture an image when exposed to light.

The difficulties of working with glass plate negatives are obvious. They were likely to break if dropped, which could easily happen when working in total darkness. Conservators and photographers today must handle glass plates with extreme care or risk seeing a valuable historic image smashed into hundreds of pieces.

For this reason we have copied our holdings of glass plate negatives onto film, which is then used to make prints. The precious glass plate originals are carefully stored in our cold vault in special cushioned boxes.

Our collection contains a wealth of historical images captured on glass plates, many taken in remote locations and under difficult circumstances. In our vaults we hold almost 8000

glass plates of early Canberra taken by government photographer William James Mildenhall, almost 2000 images of Papua captured by anthropologist FE Williams from 1922 to 1939 and many unique images of the Antarctic by Frank Hurley.

We also hold some very early photographic panoramas of Australian towns and cities in the 1880s taken by BO Holtermann, which were printed from enormous glass plates, up to 22 by 18 inches. Unfortunately, in this case, we do not hold the plates themselves.

Gradually, glass plates were superseded by the first of the flexible film bases, cellulose nitrate, a material which time revealed to be highly unstable. Glass plates on the other hand have proven to be quite enduring – provided you don't drop them!

Before taking a picture, a photographer had to go into a darkroom to load the plates into special 'dark slides'.

To take a shot, a photographer would slip the dark slide into the back of the camera, remove one of the sides and open the shutter to expose the plate.

The lightproof dark slides had removable sides to allow exposure of the negative.

After replacing the side, the photographer returned to the darkroom to remove and process the negative.



NAA: A3560, 737

From *Developing Images*: Adele Mildenhall, wife of the photographer, with Ivo Smith in his Pontiac Roadster, Acton, 1927

# The way we were

Our reading room in Canberra was close to bursting with visitors one morning last November, as guests poured in for the launch of our latest book *Developing Images: Mildenhall's Photographs of Early Canberra*.

The release of this publication, featuring images of early Canberra by government photographer Jack Mildenhall, excited an overwhelming response particularly from local history groups and early residents of Canberra.

Mildenhall's black and white images of Canberra in the 1920s and '30s were recorded on almost 8000 glass plate negatives now held in our collection. Over 90 of these rare images have been selected and beautifully reproduced for all to enjoy in this elegant publication.

The book was launched by Sir Richard Kingsland, former head of the Department of the Interior which administered Canberra before self-government. Sir Richard described some of Mildenhall's lasting images of muddy tracks, scaffolding and tent camps. He noted that the book shows the building of Canberra as well as the people who built it and made it their home.



NAA: A3560, 912

JB Young's Kingston store, 1925.



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Acting Director-General of the Archives, with Sir Richard Kingsland, who launched the book.



Guests who attended the launch of *Developing Images* swamp the sales counter.



Author Mary Hutchison signs copies at the launch.

Dr Mary Hutchison, who selected and captioned the images and wrote an introductory essay for the book, spoke of the insights she gained through interviews with early Canberra residents. Many of their stories about life in the new capital are quoted throughout the book.

When the formal ceremony concluded, guests queued up to purchase their copies and have them signed by the author.

This successful event certainly made a dent in our stock, but copies are still available for \$24.95 (plus \$3.50 postage) by phoning Publication Sales on (02) 6212 3609, emailing [naasales@naa.gov.au](mailto:naasales@naa.gov.au) or visiting any of our offices. Copies are also sold in a number of leading Canberra bookshops.

# PHOTOS AT YOUR FINGER



NAA: A6180, 29/8/80/21

One of our images on PictureAustralia, showing the closing of the arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, 1932.

**I**f a picture is worth a thousand words, then PictureAustralia must be worth zillions.

PictureAustralia is a website that offers a single point of access to some of Australia's largest pictorial collections, including that of the National Archives. The site, which is hosted by the National Library, also contains images from the Australian War Memorial, University of Queensland Library, National Library, and the State Libraries of New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria.

PictureAustralia was launched in September last year and has been heavily used since then. In its first month, and probably boosted by the Olympics, almost 100,000 visitors

## Digitising opens access

We are currently looking at new ways of sharing our collection of treasures with all Australians, wherever they are.

Over the last 12 months we've been trialling different ways of digitising records in our collection. We're especially keen to find ways to make our collection more widely accessible via the Internet.

To decide which digitisation methods work best for our collection, we selected a range of records and formats for our trial. These included items listed in fact sheets and guides, World War I dossiers, correspondence files created by various Commonwealth agencies, and Papua and New Guinea registers dating from the late 19th century. The methods we used for digitising these records were flatbed and overhead scanning, and conversion from microfilm to a digital form.

As a result of our trials, we've decided to use a digital camera to capture records. The records will be saved as low resolution digital images that are legible on screen. This will meet the needs of most of our researchers and enable us to digitise a large number of images quickly.

Attached to the digitised records will be metadata about the item from our online database, RecordSearch, as well as metadata which is automatically produced through the capture process.

From January researchers can see a selection of digital records in RecordSearch and can either download a digital copy or order a photocopy.

And this is just the beginning. In the future we hope that access to the nation's historical records will be no further away than people's homes, offices or local libraries, no matter where they live or work.



Karan Oberoi (right) demonstrates overhead scanning to visiting Pacific archivists.

# TIPS



accessed the National Archives online picture collection, PhotoSearch, through PictureAustralia.

To find images through PictureAustralia, users search a central metadata index for their subject of interest. The results are shown as small images, known as thumbnails. By clicking on a thumbnail image, they can view a larger version of the image and order a high resolution copy through the website of the participating organisation. Researchers can easily navigate between PictureAustralia and the participating institutions' websites.

Finding the right picture from a large number of possible sources is now

much easier. It can be done from a web connection anywhere in the world and without visiting the institutions themselves.

PictureAustralia began in 1998 as the ImageSearch Project with five contributors. Following the very strong initial reactions to the prototype, the service was expanded to include more libraries, galleries, museums, and archives. And it continues to grow. The website recently won the Arts category of the 2000 *Australian Financial Review* Australian Internet Awards.

Explore PictureAustralia at [www.pictureaustralia.org](http://www.pictureaustralia.org).

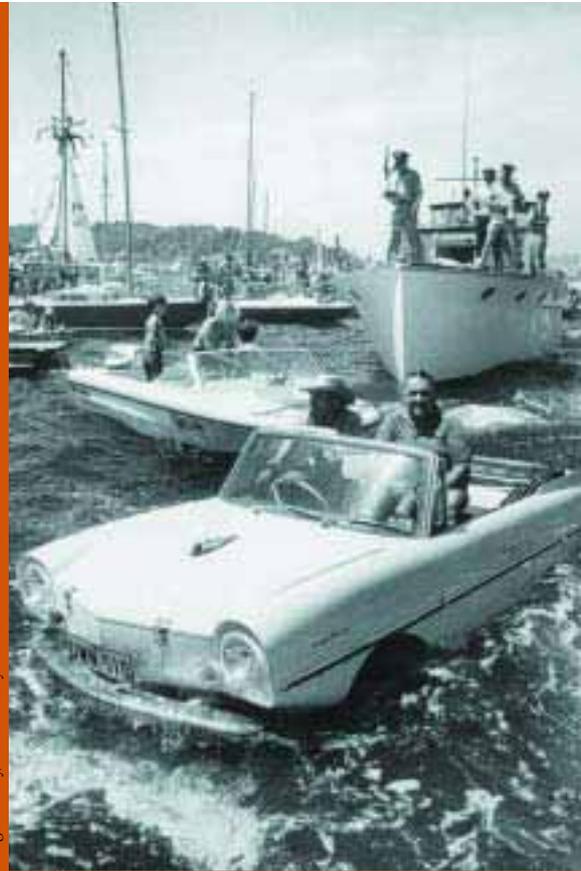


Image Library, State Library of New South Wales

Another image on Picture Australia – an amphibious car among the spectator fleet at the start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, 1971.

## Let's drink to *wine*

'In a climate so favourable the cultivation of the vine may doubtless be carried to any degree of perfection' – *Captain Arthur Phillip, First Governor of New South Wales*

Australia's wine industry is as old as its European settlement – the first vine cuttings came with the First Fleet. Since then, different groups of migrants have introduced a host of new varieties and styles.

Our next touring exhibition, *Wine! An Australian Social History*, looks at the influences that have shaped the industry, such as Federation, war and immigration.

This intriguing exhibition draws on our extensive collection of wine records, as well as personal

recollections of people who have worked in the industry.

A focus on four individual wineries located around Australia explores how regional wine varieties have developed over the last 120 years. Items from the Noel Butlin Archives' Lindemans Collection help to show how the wine industry has changed and promoted its produce.

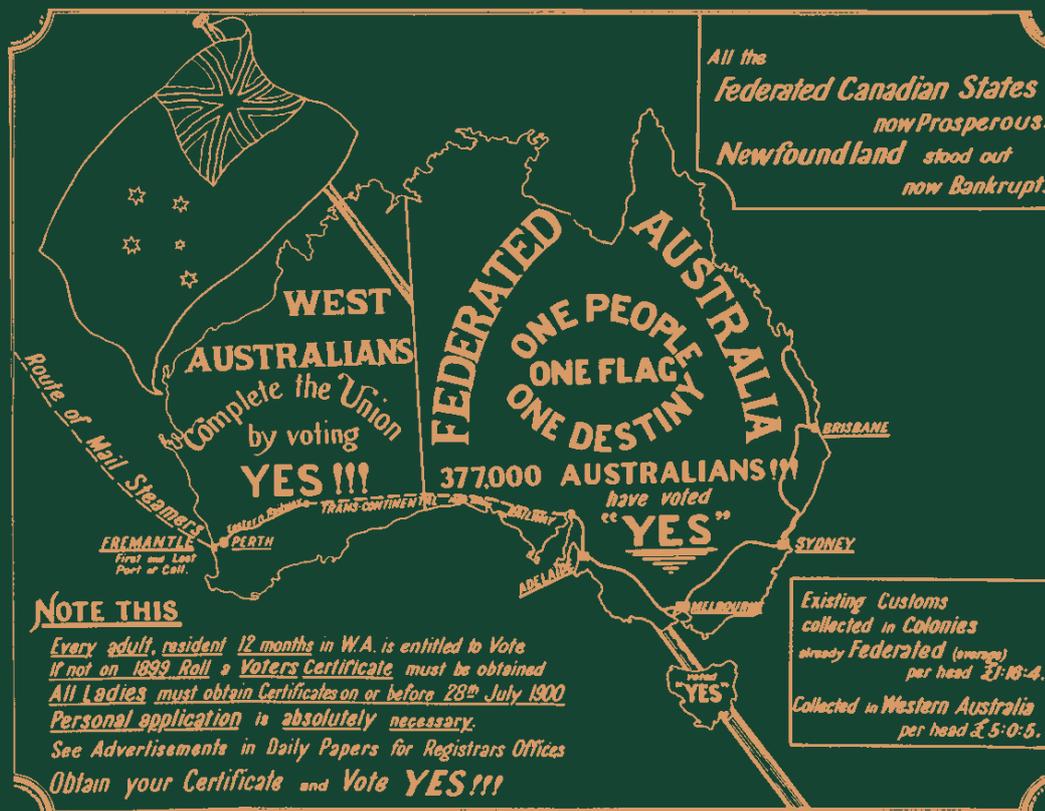
Innovative and interactive displays such as the life-sized 'Vine Forest' and 'Wine Cellar' are bound to tantalise the senses.

Curated by Lisa Williams, *Wine! An Australian Social History* opens in Canberra in March 2001, before touring nationally.



NAA: A1200, L81070

An Italian migrant farmer examines grapes for winemaking in his vineyard at Stanthorpe, Queensland, 1969.



A federation campaign leaflet encouraging West Australians to join the union.

## The eyes finally have it

Western Australia has an unusual distinction when it comes to the Commonwealth Constitution. It is the only State not mentioned in the opening of the Act that established the Constitution.

When Western Australia held a referendum on joining the Federation in 1901, the Act had already been passed by the British Parliament.

To celebrate the centenary of the vote for Federation, the Archives in Western Australia and the Western Australian Constitutional Centre held a two-day program of special events for school students. Over 400 students took part in the program, which included educational activities on running a referendum, Federation quizzes and games, and an exercise in campaigning for a federation.

Students also discovered why Western Australia was the last colony to vote for Federation.

By the end of 1899, Australia's other five colonies had all voted to accept a draft Constitution which had emerged

from the Federation movement.

The draft needed only enactment by the British Parliament to become law. However, Western Australia continued to balk at holding a referendum on the proposal, fearing that a federated Australia would lead to a loss of its powers. The government wanted more changes to the draft Constitution, including control over the colony's tariffs for a further five years and a federal intercolonial railway.

Despite reservations within the British Government about agreeing to a federation without Western Australia's vote, its Parliament passed the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, which received Royal Assent on 9 July 1900.

Although Western Australia was missing from the opening paragraph of the Act, provision was made for the colony to be included in the Commonwealth of Australia once 'Her Majesty is satisfied that the people of Western Australia have agreed thereto'. As an inducement to Western Australia to join the

Federation, the Act also included a section allowing the colony to retain tariffs for five years on a reducing sliding scale.

With federation all but a *fait accompli*, the WA Government finally gave way and agreed to put the draft Constitution to the vote in a referendum. Western Australians voted on 31 July 1900 – 22 days after the Commonwealth Constitution was given Royal Assent – and agreed by more than two to one to join the federation. This was just in time for Western Australia to be classified as an 'Original State', which meant it was guaranteed five seats in the House of Representatives and equal membership with the other States in the Senate. The intercontinental railway was also achieved, but not until 1917.

Western Australia's path to Federation is just one of the many stories to be told in this Centenary of Federation. Those with a thirst for more can visit our exhibitions, join our events or explore our website!

# Quirky bits from the

## Old Dart

The true identity of Henry Handel Richardson is no longer a secret, but she remains an intriguing figure in Australian literary history.

*Maurice Guest*, *The Getting of Wisdom* and *The Fortunes of Richard Mahoney* are just some of the titles published under the well-known pseudonym adopted by Ethel Robertson (nee Richardson).

By good fortune, we hold correspondence relating to her manuscripts in our files on Australia House, London during the 1960s.

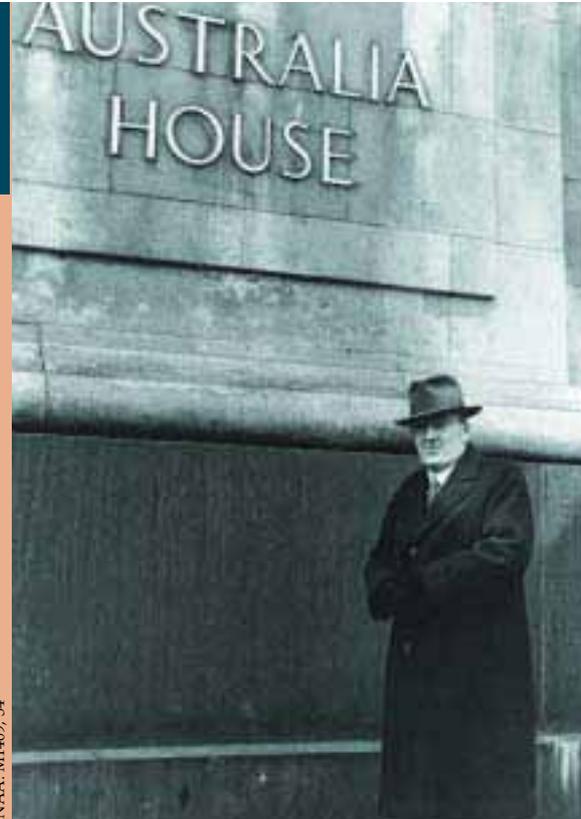
This Australia House series (A3211) contains almost 20 years of correspondence, from High Commissioners Jack Beasley to Alexander Downer, father of the current Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Correspondence detailing the purchase and transfer of Richardson's manuscripts from London to Canberra is amongst these papers. In original manuscript and typescript letters from Richardson's executor, Olga Roncoroni, to National Library representatives in London we find matters relating to the manuscripts themselves as well as personal descriptions of Richardson's health.

It's not surprising that this series contains a wealth of gems, considering Australia House has been the home of the Australian High Commission in London for over 80 years.

Other unusual documents in this series relate to the filming of a Barry McKenzie film in Australia House, and the donation to Australia of William Longstaff's painting *Midnight at Menin Gate*. Files on topics ranging from art shows to nuclear energy may be found throughout this series.



High Commissioner JA Beasley meeting the British Rugby League team before they depart for Australia, 1946.



High Commissioner JA Beasley in front of Australia House, London, 1946.

**A number of records from Australia House provide a rare insight into the values of the time. They include recruitment files showing different wages for males and females for exactly the same work; a query as to whether a scholarship student may be admitted to Australia because 'she is from Nigeria and of fully non-European descent'; and an application form to attend the Queen's garden party which asks, together with the usual personal details, whether applicants have ever been involved in any divorce proceedings.**

Major and minor trade issues are covered here, from GATT negotiations to the question of whether a British market existed for Australian snap-frozen kebabs.

Like precious gems, these fascinating records have been carefully examined and valued through our ongoing collection review process.

It's clear that the surprises in our collection come in all shapes and sizes. Whatever your interest, you're bound to find some treasure at the Archives!

# RECORDS IN TRAIN

We regularly receive into our care Commonwealth government records that have been selected as national archives. Such records are transferred to us when they are no longer being actively used by the government agency that created them. The transfers we receive often constitute only part of a series.

The following list of recent arrivals provides a broad description of the record series, the date range, the Commonwealth agency that manages the records, and a description of the contents. The number in brackets is the series number, which is used for requesting the records.

## CANBERRA

### Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, Head Office

*Black and white photographic negatives, 1969–79 (A11459)*

These negatives document a wide range of activities relating to the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme.

### *Personal history files, 1949–98 (A11394)*

This series documents each employee's personal details, medical reports, employment history, work-related qualifications, probation and increment reports and OH & S matters.

### *Employee history cards, 1949–91 (A11395)*

These cards record each employee's service number, surname and given names, date and place of birth, date commenced and date ceased employment, and address of next of kin.

### *Glass plate negatives of the Snowy Mountains area, 1949 (A5670)*

These glass plate negatives show the early history of the Snowy area.

### **Cabinet Office**

*Register of Chronology of Meetings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees for Seventh Menzies (second series), Eighth Menzies, First and Second Holt, and McEwen Ministries, 1962–67 (A5822)*

### **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Head Office**

*Papers tabled at meetings of the Executive Committee, 1916–20 (A11759)*

The papers cover a wide range of research topics such as alcohol fuel and engines, fuel economy, the introduction of metric coinage, forestry and papermaking.

### **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office**

*Unregistered papers on East Timor accumulated in South East Asia Branch, 1974–94 (A11443)*

*Copy of the Taylor Report of 26 May 1976 on visits to Balibo in April and May 1976, 1975–76 (A11697)*

*Colour photographic negatives and contact prints of East Timor, 1976 (A11692)*

*Tape-recordings and transcripts of interviews with East Timorese witnesses about the deaths of Australian-based journalists in 1975, 1976 (A11683)*

The above four series were transferred to the Archives as part of the accelerated release of East Timor papers on 19 September 2000. Most of the items released were already in Archives' custody.

## BRISBANE

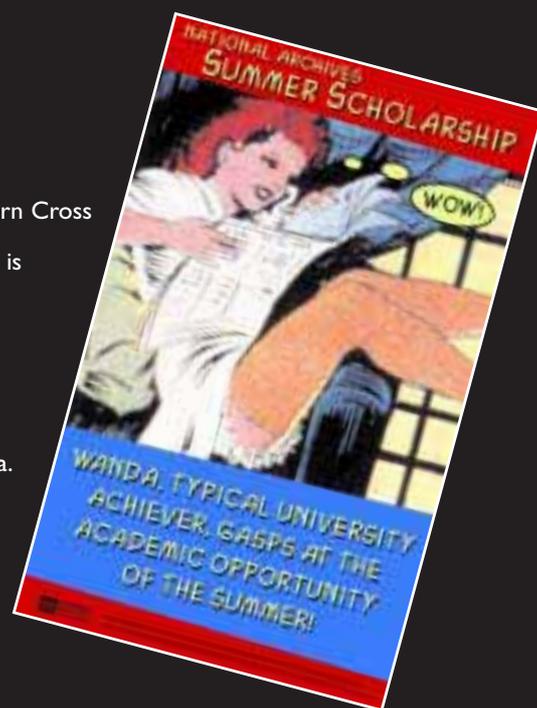
### **Collector of Customs, Brisbane, Queensland**

*Correspondence files, 1903–73 (J1799)*

This series contains files of a policy nature relating to the Customs outpost at Rockhampton, Queensland. The files deal with matters such as detentions, exports, imports, refunds and seizures.

## STOP PRESS!

Our first two summer scholars have been chosen! Peter Roberts from Southern Cross University at Lismore is majoring in Australian history and cultural studies and is interested in the local history of northern NSW, particularly as it relates to the Aboriginal community. Kate Fielding is a student at the University of Melbourne, majoring in history, creative writing and visual arts (photography). Kate's passion is Australian local history, particularly that of south-west Victoria. Peter and Kate will take up their scholarships at the Archives during the summer break.



# P R A M J A M !

The Queen's motorcade passing a 'wailing wall'  
of young Australians during her visit to Australia in 1954.



NAA: A1200, RV970

This intriguing image comes from our extensive photographic collection and features in the *Belonging* exhibition that opened in January this year.

The exhibition explores the question of Australian identity since Federation.

For more details, see page 3.

# Archives exhibitions near you

## Charters of Our Nation

### Federation Gallery

National Archives, Canberra  
Opens 17 January 2001

**Ilan Pasin: This is Our Way –  
Torres Strait Art** (a touring exhibition  
from the Cairns Regional Gallery)

National Archives, Canberra  
28 October 2000 to 18 February 2001

## Wine! An Australian Social History

National Archives, Canberra  
21 March to 23 July 2001

## Caught in the Rear View Mirror with Roy and HG

Parramatta Heritage Centre, Sydney  
3 November 2000 to 28 January 2001

Orange Library, Orange  
7 February to 7 March 2001

Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery  
7 April to 20 May 2001

## Signed, Sealed, Delivered: When the Post Office Was King

Newcastle Regional Museum, Newcastle  
8 September 2000 to 27 February 2001

Pinnacles Gallery, Townsville  
12 March to 11 April 2001

# Archives events

## Looking back at 1970

Our summer speakers look back at  
politics, food and TV in the '70s.

### Australia: Home and Away

Michael McKernan 9 January 2001

### Food, Glorious Food

Margaret Fulton 16 January 2001

### On the Box

Rod Quinn 23 January 2001

All talks will be held in our Canberra  
building on Tuesday at 7 pm.

For bookings, phone (02) 6212 3624.

## Federation talks and events

To be held in our Canberra building  
from February to November 2001.

Look out for newspaper ads.

Contact (02) 6212 3933.

## Family History Fair

A day of presentations and displays, held  
in conjunction with the Heraldry and  
Genealogy Society of Canberra.

1 April 2001, 10 am – 4 pm.

Contact (02) 6212 3933.

### Darwin

Tel: (08) 8948 4577

Fax: (08) 8948 0276

### Hobart

Tel: (03) 6244 0101

Fax: (03) 6244 6834

### Melbourne

Tel: (03) 9285 7999

Fax: (03) 9285 7917

### Perth

Tel: (08) 9470 7500

Fax: (08) 9470 2787

### Sydney

Tel: (02) 9645 0100

Fax: (02) 9645 0108

### Canberra

Tel: (02) 6212 3600

Fax: (02) 6212 3699

TTY: (02) 6212 3689

### Adelaide

Tel: (08) 8269 0100

Fax: (08) 8269 3234

### Brisbane

Tel: (07) 3249 4222

Fax: (07) 3399 6589

# CANBERRA CONTACTS

## Reference inquiries

Telephone (02) 6212 3900

Facsimile (02) 6212 3999

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

## World War I records and dossier information

Telephone (02) 6212 3400

Facsimile (02) 6212 3499

## Recordkeeping inquiries

For advice on recordkeeping standards  
and guidelines including DIRKS, appraisal  
and metadata:

Telephone (02) 6212 3610

Facsimile (02) 6212 3989

Email: [recordkeeping@naa.gov.au](mailto:recordkeeping@naa.gov.au)

Website: [www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/](http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/)

## Archives Advices and Fact Sheets

You can find Archives Advices and Fact  
Sheets on our website under 'Publications'.

## Preservation and disaster recovery inquiries

Suellen Bailey (02) 6212 3420

## Lending

Telephone (02) 6212 3407

Facsimile (02) 6212 3472

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NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
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Editorial inquiries:  
(02) 6212 3923

Address: PO Box 7425,  
Canberra Mail Centre,  
ACT 2610

Internet: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

Email: [archives@naa.gov.au](mailto:archives@naa.gov.au)

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