

Archives shares its treasures!

In 1902 Australia's first Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton, received a report from Frank Bladen, Librarian of the Public Library of NSW, exhorting him to establish a Commonwealth archives office to ensure that records relating to Federation were preserved for the future.

His wish came true, and the National Archives holds some of the most significant Federation documents.

Long held in vaults, these precious documents are now available for all to see in a remarkable exhibition called *Charters of Our Nation*.

The exhibition was officially launched in our new Federation Gallery in January by Prime Minister John Howard.

In her opening speech at the launch, Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich described the records as 'the essence and evidence of why and how we are the community we are'.

The exhibition is the result of a joint Federation project between the Archives and the National Council



The Prime Minister inspects one of the treasured documents displayed inside the Federation Gallery, with his wife Janette (right) and Kylie Scroope from the Archives (left).

for the Centenary of Federation. Archbishop Peter Hollingworth, Chair of the National Council, talked about how the joint project began as an exercise to conserve the nation's birth certificate – the Royal Commission of Assent. It developed

into a project to give all Australians an opportunity to view the key documents that underpin our political system.

Among the documents that are now on display in the Federation Gallery are the four founding documents: Queen Victoria's *Royal Commission of Assent*, the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900*, the *Letters Patent Constituting the Office of Governor-General 1900*, and the *Proclamation of Inauguration Day 1900*.

In addition, three charters that highlight national milestones – the *Statute of Westminster Adoption Act 1942*, the *Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal) 1967* and the *Australia Act 1986* – are on display.

In launching the exhibition, the Prime Minister spoke about the documents as signposts and expressions of change in Australian history since Federation.



The new Federation Gallery in our Canberra building holds the 'birth certificates' of our nation. In the Treasures Gallery visitors can view other precious historical documents, photographs, seals and drawings that tell the story of Federation.

It's the first time these key documents have been seen together – in fact, several have never before been on public display.

While most of the documents belong to the Archives collection, two are on loan from other institutions – the Constitution from Parliament House, and the Proclamation from the National Library.

In an annexe to the gallery, visitors can view the *Constitutional Alphabet* video. It features well-known Australian personalities Peter Garrett, George Negus, Jackie Kelly and others, who explain the A to Z of our constitutional democracy.



A visitor examines one of the precious Federation documents displayed in a 'floating' glass case.

More information about the charters can be found in a special Federation souvenir booklet, *Charters of Our Nation*, available for sale for \$7.95.

This permanent exhibition is now open for all to enjoy the amazing display of our national treasures.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS



Community organisations wishing to preserve their archives may be eligible for a Community Heritage Grant.

This year, the National Archives joins the National Library of Australia and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts in administering the grants.

Any Australian community organisation that collects and provides public access to its documentary heritage collections is eligible to apply. Funding up to \$8000 is provided for activities such as general conservation, storage and environmental control, disaster recovery, reformatting and copying, reboxing, training of staff and education.

Applications close in June. For more information see the enclosed flier, or contact Ted Ling at the Archives by telephone on (02) 6212 3936 or email tedl@naa.gov.au.



Cold War fears, defence considerations and the state of the economy dominated federal politics in Australia in 1950. This was the year in which the Korean War began, the Communist Party Dissolution Bill was enacted, compulsory military training for 18-year-olds was introduced, wool prices reached record levels, and inflation pushed up wages and prices.

Unlocking the Cabinet

Cabinet discussions on these issues are revealed in the 1950 Cabinet notebooks released early this year.

The nine handwritten notebooks were compiled by Allen Stanley Brown, Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department from August to December 1950. These are the first Cabinet notebooks ever released to the public.

Cabinet notebooks are released after 50 years rather than the usual 30, because they are particularly sensitive. They record the views expressed by individual Ministers, not just the collective decisions of Cabinet.

At a media briefing on the notebooks in February, Dr John Knott, Australian National University historian and historical consultant to the Archives, revealed some of the secrets held by the notebooks.

Dr Michael Keating AC, former Cabinet Secretary during Prime Minister Keating's term of office, talked about the notetaker's role and Cabinet processes in 1950 compared with more recent times.

Dr Knott explained that the notebooks are not a verbatim account of Cabinet discussions, but were kept by the notetaker to help draft the formal Cabinet decisions after a meeting. They provide new insights into the reasoning behind those decisions and a glimpse of the way Cabinet worked.

'We learn what Menzies was prepared to tell, and not to tell, the Australian people about the decision to commit Australian troops to the Korean War. We can

Australian troops to the Korean War was made without Prime Minister Robert Menzies' knowledge, as he travelled to New York aboard the *Queen Mary*.



The fourth Menzies Ministry outside Government House after being sworn in, December 1949.

observe how Country Party manoeuvring stymied Cabinet's attempt to deal effectively with inflation. We have it confirmed that some members of Cabinet thought the main purpose of the Communist Party Dissolution Bill was to cause grief for the Australian Labor Party', he said.

The notebooks also reveal the rather strange twist of events by which the decision to commit

To see the handwritten notebooks and transcripts, as well as background information on the notebooks and the events of the day, see 'The Collection' on our website at www.naa.gov.au. And look forward to more fascinating reading when the 1951 notebooks are released next year.

ARCHIVES

In Adelaide in July we move into our new premises in what used to be the Old Colonist Hotel. Although the building dates back to the 1840s, the facilities will be completely updated to house our records and a new reading room.

The building is on the corner of Angas Street and Chancery Lane – an amazing coincidence as Chancery Lane in London was the address of the Public Record Office for more than 100 years!

ON THE

Over the years we have collected hundreds of thousands of shelf metres of records created by government. To house them, we have needed huge repositories in every State and Territory. It is part of sound archival practice to review the collection to make sure that we are keeping the right records, in the right places, and in the best way for all Australians to have access to them.

We've discovered that many of the records deposited with us in the past have no archival value. In Australia we have collected far more records than other national archival institutions, especially



Reproduced with permission from the State Library of South Australia, B9767.

'What I did in the holidays...'

Over the summer, our Canberra building was home to two keen scholars, Kate Fielding and Peter Roberts, the inaugural winners of our summer scholarships. In their six weeks at the Archives, they searched our collection for information on selected research topics – lighthouses and Prime Ministers' wives.

This is what they discovered.

Lighthouses – Kate Fielding

'Lighthouses may seem a rather obscure area of research. I myself was a little puzzled at the outset of my scholarship as to exactly what I might find. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the Archives collection contains many beautiful photos, architectural drawings and documents relating to Australian lighthouses. I pursued a number of themes, ranging from family life and isolation to indigenous people's involvement with lighthouse construction.

'My research was directed towards a proposed Archives exhibition, and it was a great feeling to know that my work would be used. I also had the chance to see the range of material the Archives holds – maps of cities that were never built, personal letters, private investigators reports and old books so huge that I couldn't lift them.

when you consider the size of our population and the fact that the Commonwealth government has existed for only 100 years. In 1998, we held about 250,000 shelf metres

MOVE

of archival records, compared to 577,000 metres held by the National Archives and Records Administration in the USA and 167,000 metres held by the Public Record Office in London.

At the same time, the buildings holding these records are getting older and more expensive to maintain.

We decided we needed to reduce the size of the haystack to make the needle easier to find, without throwing out the needles with the hay. To do this we are reviewing our collection to ensure we have kept the right records, and we are using new approaches to appraisal

to make sure we collect the right records in the future.

And we are moving house. In almost every State and Territory we're relocating to more appropriate buildings closer to the city. We're refining our collection so we only keep the records that are needed, and we're rehousing them in better facilities.

For researchers, this is good news. It means that the collection will be more accessible, better maintained and more fine-tuned to their research needs.

We're also looking to the future and starting to make our records available online. Researchers can already search our databases and view historic documents and photographs on our website. Every day we are scanning more records to add to our databases.

Of course, it's important to know where and when we are moving. The first move will be in July in Adelaide, where we are moving from Collinswood to a building on the corner of Angas Street and Chancery Lane in the central business district.

From the reading room, researchers will be able to access some 3000 shelf metres of records. These are records that relate directly to South Australia, records most used by researchers in Adelaide, and those assessed as most likely to be used in the future.

What happens to the records we cull from our repositories? Some, such as meteorology records, are being returned to the agency that created them. Records with a broad national interest, such as personal records of Ministers and World War I pay files, are being moved to Canberra. Only records assessed as having no archival value are destroyed and this process is conducted by our professional archivists following stringent criteria and procedures.

In Darwin, we plan to move to a new central location later this year. We expect to relocate in Hobart and Brisbane in 2002, and Perth in 2004.

And so the future of Archives research looks very rosy indeed – a collection that is more accessible, easier to search and in better shape for all Australians to see!

'My six weeks with the Archives were challenging and rewarding. Thanks to all who made the time so enjoyable!'

Kate majored in history, creative writing and visual arts (photography) at the University of Melbourne. Her passion is Australian local history, particularly that of south-west Victoria.



Our first summer scholars, Kate Fielding and Peter Roberts, made some fascinating discoveries during their six weeks at the Archives.

Prime Ministers' wives – Peter Roberts

'What struck me most was the level of community involvement of Prime Ministers' wives.

'Enid Lyons' and Elsie Curtin's personal files contain hundreds of letters asking them to become patron or vice-president of numerous charitable organisations. Seemingly regarded as a conduit to their husbands, both received letters asking for assistance or offering advice, obviously meant for the Prime Minister.

'It appears that the ordinary Australian of the 1930s–40s felt much more at ease writing to the Prime Minister's wife than the Prime Minister.'

Peter is an honours history student at Southern Cross University. Father of three, grandfather of two, Peter has had many occupations, from labourer to debt collector. His history interests are mainly in indigenous-settler relationships in his local area, Lismore.

Looking back at the 1970s

Do you remember when bell-bottoms and bikinis were in fashion, peace protestors sat down in the streets, and the campaign slogan 'It's Time' heralded a win to Labor in the federal election?

In January we invited three speakers to talk about Australia in the 1970s to coincide with the latest release of 30-year-old records.

Australia, home and away

Historian Michael McKernan looked at what was happening on the political scene. The 1970s saw the beginning of

questioning of authority at all levels, land rights debates, protests against the Vietnam War and the start of a new feminist movement.



In 1970 Australia hosted a number of important international visitors, including US Vice-President Spiro Agnew, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and the largest ever entourage from the royal family to visit Australia.

It was also the year that Australia was blessed with its first papal visit. Pope Paul VI arrived amid debates about banning contraceptives and priests forming their own union. The Pope made a strong impression by announcing during public appearances that he supported youth and their peace protests.

Food, glorious food

Described as a 'national treasure', Margaret Fulton talked about how our cooking changed in the 1970s.

She recalled a Sunday drive in the 1960s from Bowral to Wollongong NSW when the smell of roast lamb dinners wafted from houses in every country town along the way.

The 1970s, however, brought a culinary revolution!

'We discovered smoked salmon from tins, we thought avocado was an exotic creature, we learned to have satays and we discovered melonballers.'

Cocktail parties were all the rage. But people didn't seem to go home, they just stayed and drank. 'So we learned to make quiche!'

The 1970s was a time when the Magimix was introduced, crème caramel became a popular dessert, and 'Kenny' entered women's lives – the advent of the Kenwood Chef mixer was a great help in making home-made bread.

Guests to Margaret's talk savoured her reminiscences as well as samples of her famous recipes – salmon canapes, stuffed eggs and persian mint cup! All from her famous 1968 cookbook.



OS

On the box



ABC radio Canberra personality Rod Quinn looked at what TV offered us in the '70s. The audience was treated to fragments of some old favourites, including the famous ABC show *Bellbird*, once a novelty because it was in colour, and the immensely popular police drama *Homicide*.

In 1970, John Laws made his debut as compere of a comedy show, Vanessa Redgrave uttered four-letter words on Channel 7, and one million Australians watched a brain operation on their TV sets.

It was during the '70s that television became the most believed medium for news, Don Dunstan posed the question 'Can TV win an election?', and the Internet, video and cable TV were first predicted.

What will the records show 30 years from now?

Between Two Worlds comes home

The re-launch of the *Between Two Worlds* exhibition in Darwin in February was very much a homecoming and a family affair. The exhibition draws on records held at the Archives about the removal of Aboriginal children of part-descent in the Northern Territory. It has been travelling around Australia since 1993, and was recently updated in the light of developments such as the Bringing Them Home inquiry and the Stolen Generation court cases.

At the launch, Bill Risk welcomed guests to the Larrakia country on behalf of the traditional Aboriginal land owners. Speakers included Kathleen Sullivan, Director of our Darwin office, and Barbara Cummings, well-known Northern Territory Indigenous author. Herbie Laughton, who features in the exhibition, sang some of his songs and spoke of his experience at the Bungalow. Kim Hill, ATSIC Northern Territory Northern Zone Commissioner, launched the exhibition.

Among the guests were Daisy Ruddick (pictured here), Alec Kruger and the Bray family, whose stories are told in the exhibition. Others attending were from Kahlin compound, the Bungalow, Croker Island Mission home and Retta Dixon home. Many came with their families.

Guests were openly moved by the exhibition. They commented that it is certainly a story that had to be told and that the Archives did an excellent job in doing so. The exhibition continues in Darwin until 31 May.

A book based on the exhibition, with the same title, is available from the Archives for \$14.95.



Daisy Ruddick whose story is told in the *Between Two Worlds* exhibition.

Slip-way embrace



NAA: M3613, 13

Former Prime Minister Sir Joseph Cook and his wife, Dame Mary, enjoy an intimate moment on a rainy Southampton day. The Cooks were attending the 1926 christening and launch of the first Australian submarine-napier amphibian flying boat, the 'Seagull', one of six ordered by Australia from the Southampton Submarine Aviation Works. Sir Joseph, who was High Commissioner for Australia in London from 1921 to 1927, was a passenger on the flying boat's inaugural flight.



This photograph is just one of the many fascinating items in our collection of Prime Ministers' papers. Through our Prime Ministers' Papers Project, we aim to make the personal papers of former Prime Ministers more visible and accessible by improving their documentation, creating a Prime Ministers website and producing a series of research guides.

In for the count!

SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY NINE
THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINE
AND COUNTING

You'll find that the 2001 census is a special one. For the first time all Australians can elect to have their census details kept in a time capsule and made available for research in the next century.

Only those who agree to be part of the project – the Centenary of Federation Time Capsule – will have their census return scanned then microfilmed, stored in the Archives' security vaults, and released after 99 years.

People who might be interested in this information in the future include genealogists, historians, academics, social analysts, journalists, and fiction and non-fiction writers.

All the original census returns will be destroyed as usual after the Australian Bureau of Statistics has completed its analysis.

Mr Nick Vine Hall, a prominent genealogist and chairman of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations, has pledged the support of his organisation for this project.

To explain this year's census and how it has been done in the past, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has produced a video for the public called *2001 Census – An Overview*, and a CD-ROM for schools called *A Tale of Two Worlds*.

By contributing to the time capsule, people will be making a valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations.

So, if you want to be part of the 2001 snapshot, tick the 'Yes' box!



Where will you
be on census night,
7 August 2001?

Grape expectations



NAA: D4477, 673

Young vineyard worker, Adelaide, 1906.

- How were the first vine cuttings brought to Australia?
- Which famous explorer was also the first Australian winemaker?
- Who said 'Besides the commercial benefits ... a wine-drinking population is never a drunken population'?
- Which doctor set up one of the most successful vineyards in the lower Hunter Valley in the 1840s?

The answers to these intriguing questions can all be found in our latest exhibition, *Wine! An Australian Social History*.

The exhibition features a host of items such as labels, advertisements, photographs and letters from our own collection as well as that of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at the Australian National University.

Also on display are precious old wines and rare prize medals for award-winning wines from wineries around Australia.

Wine! was officially launched in Canberra by Winemaker of the Year 2000, Vanya Cullen from Margaret River, WA, on 18 April.

The exhibition will tour nationally after it closes in Canberra in late July.

Searching for General Heintzelman

They were 'sturdy', 'bronzed' and 'eager'. Arthur Calwell described them as 'a choice sample'. They were the 839 Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian displaced persons who arrived from Germany on board the USAT *General Stuart Heintzelman* in November 1947. Many thousands more were to follow in their footsteps.

After the guns fell silent at the end of the Second World War, millions of people all over Europe found themselves dispossessed and far from their homelands.

At the beginning of 1946 more than a million 'displaced persons', as they were officially labelled, remained in refugee camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. Repatriation for these people was either impossible or undesirable – mainly because their homelands lay in Eastern Europe and were now occupied by the armies of the USSR.

Between 1947 and 1953, more than 170,000 displaced persons were brought to Australia, most travelling by ship from Germany and Italy.

Today the personal papers of perhaps every single one of these people are in our custody. We have embarked on a long-term project to enter them by



NAA: A434, 1949/3/16408

Maira Kalnins, aged 7, arrived in Australia with her family aboard the *Fairsea* in August 1949. Of Latvian origin, she was the 50,000th migrant brought to Australia under the plan to resettle displaced persons after World War II.

name into our RecordSearch database.

One researcher who is taking advantage of improved access to the records is Ann Smith, who is particularly interested in the voyage of the *General Heintzelman*, the first 'DP ship'.

During her research, Ann found details about how these postwar immigrants were recruited and what they faced in their first two years of contract employment in Australia.

'While many have gone on to very successful lives in Australia, some found it hard to settle', she said. 'Behind the positive gloss which helped to ensure the ready

acceptance of the displaced persons by Australian employers and most members of the public was the great sadness of the upheavals in Europe during World War II. They may have been suffering from what we now call post-traumatic shock syndrome and possibly from other illnesses. Files in the Archives record some of the early difficulties as well as successes.'

Ann had a very personal reason for pursuing her research topic.

'When my mother died two years ago, I knew that she had come to Australia in November 1947, and I knew that the *Heintzelman* had brought some of the first postwar migrants to Australia.'

Between 1947 and 1953,
more than 170,000
displaced persons were
brought to Australia,
most travelling by ship from
Germany and Italy.

Frederick Watson

Fellowship

Ann was amazed to find that no commemorative publication of this important ship and its special passengers had ever been written. So she decided to write it herself. Her research revealed a surprising fact.

'In keeping with the views of the times about the employment of women, all women coming to fill shortages in fields such as nursing, typing and waitressing were to be single. At least two of the women from the *Heintzelman* presented the authorities with an unexpected problem.

'Despite the medical examination before being accepted for settlement in Australia, a further medical after their arrival at Bonegilla, described on a Department of Health file, showed that two women had been pregnant before they left Germany.

'My mother was one of them. When she and the other woman gave birth in 1948, we children must have been the first to be born in Australia to non-British migrants sponsored by the Federal Government.

'Not quite the first children born from the First Fleet, but a milestone nonetheless.'

As more of these records are sorted and details entered on our database, we hope more researchers will find their own family connections. Ann can be contacted by email at asmith@asiaonline.net.au.

To encourage research and promotion of our collection, each year the National Archives offers two fellowships in honour of Frederick Watson. Watson was editor of *Historical Records of Australia* from 1912 until 1925. He was also a firm advocate of the public use of government archives.

We are looking for applicants with scholarly credentials in 20th century Australian history, politics, social studies or a similar subject. Applicants should have a postgraduate degree, an established record of publication or a well-established knowledge of the workings of the Commonwealth government.

Fellows are provided with office accommodation, a grant-in-aid and reimbursement of some research costs while they undertake a research project using the Archives collection. In return, they must actively promote the Archives and the collection.

Our collection is extensive and varied. Our first Fellow, Dr Michael McKernan, researched the postwar

experiences of survivors of Japanese prisoner-of-war camps. He was later to say that the element of personal material he found in the collection not only surprised and delighted him but gave him an additional insight into the sufferings of families of prisoners and significantly shaped and indeed altered his approach to his project.

Towards the end of his Fellowship, Dr McKernan recounted some of the prisoners' experiences in a very moving public lecture. The book based on his research will be published later this year.

Prospective applicants can find more information about the Fellowship under 'About Us' on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

Before lodging an application it is very important for prospective applicants to contact Ted Ling at the Archives on (02) 6212 3936 or email tedl@naa.gov.au to discuss their intended research proposal.

Applications close on 29 June 2001.



e^opermanence bytes

DIRKS documentation database

Are you doing DIRKS?
Are you drowning in
documentation?

Up to your armpits in appraisal?
Surrounded by sources? Bugged
down in business analysis?
Don't despair – the DIRKS
documentation database is
on its way.

Doing a DIRKS project generates
a lot of documentation. We are
currently developing a database
to help agencies manage their
information and meet their
documentation needs.

This database will soon be available
to all agencies on our list.

The documentation database will
help agencies gather information
from the preliminary investigation
phase. It will also help them to
prepare a business classification
scheme and thesaurus, record
functions and activities to identify
recordkeeping requirements and
formulate disposal classes.

For more information, contact
recordkeeping@naa.gov.au.

International Records Management Standard

The international records
management standard
(ISO 15489) is edging closer to
publication. Countries which are
national member bodies of the
International Standards
Organisation's (ISO) records
management committee
approved a draft in late January.
The international standard draws
heavily on the Australian
Standard, AS 4390, *Records
Management*. The standard is
designed to help government,
business, professionals and
non-profit organisations to
create, capture and manage
adequate records to manage
their own businesses, meet
legal requirements, and
maintain corporate and
collective memory. It also
supports the well-known
international quality standards
in the ISO 9000 series.

Review of DIRKS and the Appraisal Guidelines

We are reviewing the
DIRKS Manual, which
outlines a best practice approach
to recordkeeping, and our
*Appraisal Guidelines for
Commonwealth Agencies* which
enable agencies to develop
disposal coverage for their
records.

We would like to hear from
people who have worked with
DIRKS or the guidelines, and
will hold forums to discuss the
project. To make comments or
for more information, contact
Rowena Crossman at
recordkeeping@naa.gov.au.
Both reviews will be completed
by the end of June.

Meeting of the minds in Madeira

The Dublin Core Advisory
Committee provides guidance to
the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative
(DCMI), an international
organisation formed to develop
online metadata standards that
operate across different countries
and can be used by government
and business. In February, Andrew
Wilson attended a meeting of the
Dublin Core Advisory Committee
in Funchal, Portugal. Among other
things, the meeting discussed
progress on the project to turn the
Dublin Core metadata element set
into an international standard.

Training

Canberra

Working with DIRKS

Wednesday, 16 May 2001,

9.00 am – 12.30 pm

Menzies room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes ACT

Training for Commonwealth Recordkeepers

Wednesday, 30 May to Thursday,

31 May 2001, 9.15 am – 4.00 pm

Menzies room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes ACT

DIRKS workshops

This series of practical workshops covers the design and implementation of recordkeeping systems (DIRKS) and the development of a functions thesaurus and a records disposal authority. The workshops are particularly aimed at agencies undertaking recordkeeping developmental projects. Please contact us if you are interested in attending.

Melbourne

Training for Commonwealth Recordkeepers

Tuesday, 8 May 2001,

9.00 am – 4.40 pm

National Archives of Australia, 31 Vision Drive, East Burwood

Perth

Training for Commonwealth Recordkeepers

Wednesday, 16 May 2001,

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Venue to be advised

Please see our current training calendar under 'Recordkeeping' at www.naa.gov.au.

Contact us on (02) 6212 3610 or recordkeeping@naa.gov.au for further information.

Moving government online

As part of its Government Online Strategy, the Commonwealth Government wants agencies to deliver all appropriate Commonwealth services online by December 2001.

Our recordkeeping guidelines and standards are an integral part of this strategy and have been mandated by the Government for use by agencies to meet their online obligations.

Recently we discussed current recordkeeping issues with our colleagues at the Government Online Conference held in Canberra. Delegates included senior

government managers, records managers and IT professionals.

Many questions were raised: Are emails and websites records that need to be saved? What are the legal implications of conducting business online? And how can agencies capture records of online transactions so they can be used as hard evidence in court?

Fortunately, our guidelines and standards address many of the questions facing recordkeeping professionals in the electronic age. All can be found on our website at www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping.

Metadata matters across the water

The New Zealand Government recently adopted the Australian Government Locator Service (AGLS) metadata standard as the basis for a whole-of-government metadata standard for resource discovery. AGLS was endorsed by the Australian Online Council of Ministers in November 1998 and was mandated for use by Commonwealth Government agencies in April 2000. In August 2000, Andrew Wilson of the National Archives was invited to speak at a New Zealand government seminar on AGLS which led to its adoption across the Tasman.



The Australian Bureau of Statistics is the first agency to develop a functional disposal authority using the new e-permanence standards. Kerrie Duff, Assistant Statistician ABS (right), receives the new authority from Kathryn Dan, Archives Assistant Director-General, at the signing ceremony on 28 March.



Canberra's birthday celebrations

Historical figures from our records sprang to life in a re-enactment of the 12 March 1913 naming ceremony of Canberra. King O'Malley, Australia's Minister for Home Affairs in 1913, led the way as Governor-General Lord Denman, Lady Denman and Prime Minister Andrew Fisher arrived at the National Archives in Canberra.

This special Centenary of Federation event was held at the Archives on 12 March 2001 when rain prevented use of the site of the original foundation stones on nearby Capital Hill. But the weather did not deter the hundreds of people who converged on our Canberra building to join in the celebrations arranged by the Canberra and District Historical Society and the ACT Government.



A souvenir booklet containing rare photographs of the foundation of the national capital in 1913, and the text of the 2001 Toast to Canberra written by Marion Halligan, is available for \$10 from the National Archives.

Safekeeping our heritage

How do you protect 100-year-old documents in a public gallery?



Queen Victoria's *Royal Commission of Assent* and Australia's *Constitution Act*, two of the precious 100-year-old documents displayed in a glass case under strictly controlled environmental conditions in our new Federation Gallery.

Displaying precious old documents safely was the issue our conservation staff faced when planning the *Charters of Our Nation* exhibition in our Federation Gallery (see story pp 1-2).

The best way to preserve collection items is to store them in cool, dark, environmentally stable conditions. Our aim in the Federation Gallery is to mimic these storage conditions as closely as possible, while allowing everyone to see the precious items.

Gallery lighting is kept at the lowest level possible to protect the documents from fading. Lights above the display cases are activated only by the movement of people in the gallery. In addition, blue wool indicator strips placed in each display case will warn of any potential fading.

The gallery is airconditioned at all times, and temperature and relative humidity are strictly controlled to maintain the stability of the materials used in the documents. These include

parchment, tin, silver, wax and shellac in the seals, colour pigments, silk ribbon and wool.

Silica gel cartridges in the base of the display cases maintain relative humidity inside the cases. Each case is fitted with its own temperature and humidity probe linked to a data logger, providing an hourly read-out of conditions inside the case.

The materials used in the cases, such as paint finishes, cloth lining, hoop pine support panels and metal case frames, have all been tested to ensure that they do not chemically react with the documents.

Essentially, like any good storage area, the Federation Gallery provides a cool, stable environment lit to minimum possible functional levels. The bonus is that we can now all see for ourselves these wonderful documents without compromising their continued survival.

IN FIFTY YEARS TIME,

or perhaps even just five, how will researchers or anyone who needs to know what was published on a government website be able to find the information? Will it be lost in cyberspace?

Not if our latest recordkeeping guidelines on archiving websites are implemented by government agencies.

Archiving Web

Resources:

Guidelines

for Keeping

Records of Web-

based Activity in the

Commonwealth Government

offers practical advice on how to keep archival copies of websites.

The same fundamentals that apply to paper-based recordkeeping apply to websites and other electronic records. These include developing clear policies, determining requirements for records, capturing and maintaining records, applying

metadata, formulating a records preservation plan, and assigning and documenting responsibilities.

LOST IN CYBERSPACE?

The guidelines encourage recordkeepers in government agencies to assess their needs and select the right technological options to capture and maintain their web resources.

They also provide advice on how to store and preserve websites, while dealing with technological obsolescence, access and security issues, and varying environmental conditions.

Capturing records of web-based activity over time will help agencies ensure that they are accountable to Parliament and the public, retain their corporate

memory and

meet legal

obligations.

Doing so will

also preserve a vital part of the documentary record of Australia.

The guidelines are a companion document to our policy statement on archiving web-based resources, released last March.

Both documents appear on

our website under

'Recordkeeping'

at www.naa.gov.au.



All the Fun of the Fair

Were you at the Family History Fair this year?

This popular annual event was held on 1 April in our Canberra building as part of the ACT Heritage Festival celebrations.

The usually hushed tones of the reading room were set aside for the day as visitors swarmed to display stands of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra, the Canberra Museum and Gallery, the Canberra and District Historical Society and businesses catering to family historians.

Our reference staff were there to help visitors surf our website and use the RecordSearch database to locate family history information.

Many much loved family records were brought to the conservation clinic for advice on preservation and storage, and a talk by our conservator Ian Batterham on caring for family records was well attended.

Guided tours of our new exhibitions *Wine! An Australian Social History* and *Charters of Our Nation* were very popular.

By day's end over 800 visitors had listened to talks about family history records held by the Archives, participated in a lively discussion with genealogist Nick Vine Hall on the retention of the



Alex Sloan from 666 ABC Canberra broadcast her radio show live from the Family History Fair held at the Archives in April. June Penny from the Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra was one of her guests on the show.

2001 census records, and met ABC radio personality Alex Sloan, whose Sunday morning program was broadcast from the Archives.

If you missed it this year, look out for our next Family History Fair in April 2002!

When you think of government files, four-letter words and indecent language are not the first things to spring to mind.



In fact, we have a whole group of files that deal with just that. The files come from the Department of Customs and Excise in the 1960s. One of the department's functions was to decide whether books should be banned from import into Australia under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations.

The most interesting files deal with widely known works, which came to Customs' attention because they were considered to include obscene language or depraved imagery.

In 1963 the *Penguin Book of Modern Australian Verse* was

referred to Customs by the Queensland Police on the grounds that the poem

**GINGER,
YOU'RE BARMY**

The files contain detailed analyses, by the department's Literature section, of publications that had been imported or seized from people arriving in Australia. Government Ministers, police and members of the public also referred publications to Customs. A file was opened on each publication and these records (but not the publications themselves) are now held in our Canberra office as part of series A425.

Ginger, You're Barmy was a novel on the life of conscripts in the British Army by David Lodge. It survived a brush with Customs in 1963 because its use of 'coarse' language was considered realistic.

Many of the publications relate to sex and the examiners dutifully worked their way through hundreds of publications with titles like *Sexbound*, *Perverved Orgy* and *Carnal Cage*. Their comments were often scathing: 'This is a weak story of a seductive lass who disrupts the uninteresting lives of some American swamp dwellers'.

'Imperial Adam' by AD Hope was obscene. After police inquiries, the book was withdrawn from use by Roman Catholic schools in Queensland. But this time the Literature section was not on the side of the censors. The examining officer conceded that Hope was perhaps the 'enfant terrible' of Australian literature, but did not regard the poem as obscene.

Translations of Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* also attracted Customs' attention in 1963, the book being initially withheld and then released. Debate turned on the number of occurrences of 'the FLW' (four-letter word). The examiner wrote: 'The use of the FLW in books of literary merit is becoming more and more common particularly with American editions and it is very hard to decide where the borderline in the quantity of its use should be drawn.'

The records in this series are available to the public and, needless to say, make for fascinating reading!



Allegations of graft, corruption, intimidation and 'Chicago-like gangsterism' leap from the records of the Privileges Committee, released for the first time on 1 January 2001.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee of Privileges was established to inquire into and report on complaints of breach of privilege – the special rights, powers, immunities and protection granted to Federal Parliament, its committees, members and senators.

One of the infamous cases investigated by the committee between 1944 and 1965 ended in the jailing of the proprietor and editor of the *Bankstown Observer*.

In April 1955, the *Bankstown Observer*, owned by Raymond Fitzpatrick and edited by Frank Browne, published an article alleging that the Honourable Member for Reid, Mr Charles Morgan, had been involved in an immigration racket before World War II. Morgan had earlier accused Fitzpatrick, a former business associate and political rival, of graft in connection with government and municipal contracts.

Order in the House!

Claiming that the article impugned his personal honour and challenged his fitness to be a member of Parliament, Morgan asked the House to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee.

After questioning Morgan, Fitzpatrick and Browne, the committee concluded that a breach of privilege had occurred and recommended that the House take appropriate action.

Browne and Fitzpatrick were summoned to the House on 10 June 1955 to answer the charges brought against them. After hearing statements from both men, the House, on a motion from Prime Minister Robert Menzies, voted that Browne and Fitzpatrick be jailed for 90 days. Appeals

to the High Court and the Privy Council failed, and the sentences were served in the Canberra police lock-up and Goulburn Gaol.

The records on this intriguing case can be viewed in our Canberra

reading room. Fact Sheet 203 about the Privileges Committee records and Fact Sheet 204 about the *Bankstown Observer* case are available in our reading rooms and on our website.



Newspaper clippings are among the minutes and reports of the Privileges Committee records

Dark days on the dole

The Great Depression only lasted a few years, but its impact on Australia was long and devastating. The Scullin Government was two days old when the crash of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929 heralded the start of unemployment and misery for many people. The political ramifications were just as dramatic and led to the defeat of the Scullin Government two years later.

Our latest research guide, *Working for the Dole: Commonwealth Relief during the Great Depression*, lists and describes records in our collection that document the effects the Great Depression had on Australia, its people and its governments.

Compiled by Don Fraser, a historian with a special interest in the social history of working people, the guide deals with the response by the Scullin Government, and later the Lyons Government, to the crisis caused by profound economic depression.

The Scullin Labor Government was committed to a policy of 'good business practice', which gave greater priority to ensuring the continued solvency of the Australian economy than to resolving the unemployment woes of the nation's people. Response to the policy was dramatic, with rioting in the streets of Darwin and Adelaide, Western Australia's attempt to secede

from the Federation, and the refusal by JT Lang, Labor Premier of New South Wales, to pay interest on loans raised on overseas money markets.

Working for the Dole is available for \$10.00 (plus \$3.50 postage) by phoning Publications Sales on (02) 6212 3609, emailing naasales@naa.gov.au or visiting any of our offices.



Road building was one kind of relief work offered to the unemployed during the Depression. This scene, captured by government photographer Jack Mildenhall, shows workers building roads in the national capital, 1929.

NAA: A3560, 5122



MEMENTO NOW ONLINE!

If you're connected to the Internet, you can now view *Memento* online. By the time you receive this printed copy, an electronic version of *Memento* will be available on our website. You may also subscribe to an email service which will alert you when each new issue is posted on the site. Of course, for those who prefer it, we will continue to print issues of *Memento* as usual. Check out the electronic version of the January and May issues under 'Publications' on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW



NAA: A1200, L44371

All we know about this photograph of a women's ten-pin bowling team called 'Devils' is that it was taken in Mount Isa, Queensland in July 1963. It belongs to our series of photographs from the Australian News and Information Bureau, and features in the touring exhibition *Belonging: A Century Celebrated*. Developed for the Centenary of Federation with support from AAMI, *Belonging* presents treasures from the National Archives, the National Library, and the State Libraries of NSW and Victoria. The exhibition explores Australians' different experiences of belonging from Federation to the present day. *Belonging* opened at the State Library of NSW on 3 January 2001, and will travel around Australia. It opens at the State Library of Victoria on 5 May, and continues there until 22 July.

Archives exhibitions near you

Wine! An Australian Social History

National Archives, Canberra
31 March to 23 July 2001

Belonging – A Century Celebrated

National Archives and National
Library of Australia, Canberra
22 August to 11 November 2001

Federation Gallery – Charters of Our Nation

Federation Gallery, National Archives,
Canberra. Permanent exhibition housing
the founding documents of the
Commonwealth of Australia

Caught in the Rear View Mirror with Roy and HG

Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery
7 April to 20 May 2001

Eye to Eye: Observations by FE Williams, Anthropologist in Papua 1922–43

Bundaberg Art Centre, Bundaberg
10 July to 12 August 2001
Rockhampton Art Gallery, Rockhampton
18 August to 23 September 2001

Archives events

CANBERRA

Focus on Federation talks

Listen to talks on Federation, the
Constitution and our nation.
To be held at 3 pm one Sunday
each month in 2001 in our Canberra
building. For dates and bookings
phone (02) 6212 3624.

Looking forward, looking back: Open Day

Parliament House,
Old Parliament House and the Archives,
5 May, 10 am – 5 pm
Explore our collection through talks,
videos and tours of our exhibitions.

SYDNEY

Society of Australian Genealogists Showcase, 25–26 May 2001

Visit our display stand, alongside those of
other archival institutions and historical
societies, for advice and information on
family history records. To be held at
Glover Cottages, 124 Kent Street, Sydney.
Contact Fiona Burn on (02) 9645 0141.

Wir sind gefahren, 20 June 2001, 10 am to 12 noon

Join this seminar on German migration
to NSW during the 19th and 20th
centuries. Speakers from State Records
NSW and National Archives of Australia.
To be held at the Sydney Records
Centre, 2 Globe St, The Rocks.
Contact Emily Hanna, State Records
NSW on (02) 8276 5613.



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

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 CONTACTS

Reference inquiries

Telephone (02) 6212 3900
Facsimile (02) 6212 3999
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

World War I service records and inquiries

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

Website: 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

Shelley Jamieson (02) 6212 3422

Lending

Telephone (02) 6212 3407
Facsimile (02) 6212 3472

memento

is a free publication of the
National Archives of Australia.

It is issued three times a year in
hard copy and online.

To subscribe, fax, phone or email
us (see details below).



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
OF AUSTRALIA

Subscriptions:

(02) 6212 3609 (tel)
(02) 6212 3914 (fax)

Editorial inquiries:

(02) 6212 3923

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

Internet: www.naa.gov.au/publications

Email: mementosub@naa.gov.au

Print Post Approved PP255003/04321

ISSN 1327 – 4155