On 10 March 1971, the Liberals voted 33–33 on a confidence motion in Prime Minister John Gorton’s leadership. Gorton gave a casting vote against himself, and the party elected William McMahon to replace him.

Surprisingly Gorton nominated for, and won, the deputy leadership. His uneasy relationship with McMahon then came to a head in August when Gorton began publishing articles under the title ‘I did it my way’.

Gorton had referred to the problems of Cabinet ministers leaking information. McMahon decided that Gorton had to go but despite banishing Gorton to the backbench the infighting in the Liberal party room continued.

On the other side of the House, Labor had been in opposition for 22 years. With Gough Whitlam as Labor leader and an adoring media, the party was confident of winning the next election to be held the following year.

In 1971 the economy appeared to be heading into serious difficulty. The collapse of the Minsec conglomerate signalled the end of the mining boom, inflation rose to nearly 7 per cent, and unemployment was rising towards what was then considered to be the politically intolerable level of 2 per cent.

By the end of the year, BHP and General Motors Holden were cutting production, business confidence had hit a new low, and the government seemed unable to decide whether to apply or release the brakes.

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Aboriginal affairs

Although the Gorton government had increased Commonwealth involvement in Aboriginal affairs, it had resisted pressure to alter the long-standing policy of assimilation or to entertain the principle of land rights. Nevertheless, influenced by ‘Nugget’ Coombs of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs, McMahon committed the government to assisting Aboriginal people to preserve and develop their culture.

Four days after that decision, Justice Blackburn decided that the Yirrkala people of the Gove Peninsula in the Northern Territory, who were in dispute with mining company Nabalco, had no legal rights to the land to which they were traditionally associated.

Under public pressure, ministerial and inter-departmental committees started considering the issue of land rights. By the end of the year, Australia and its government were moving towards the recognition of land rights for Indigenous people.

Foreign affairs

The crucial emerging foreign policy issues in 1971 were the formal recognition of China, its possible admission to the United Nations and the future of Taiwan. The Nixon administration had taken the lead in adopting a pragmatic approach to foreign relations with the People’s Republic of China. After years of trading with the Chinese, Australia now had to consider how and when to abandon its policy of non-recognition.

Labor seized the initiative, announcing that a Labor government would recognise communist China. Whitlam led a much-publicised delegation to the People’s Republic. The government, however, was attached to the US policy of protecting Taiwan and sponsored American proposals for recognising ‘Two Chinas’.

The UN rebuffed the ‘Two Chinas’ policy and the McMahon government ended 1971 without having made any real progress in its diplomatic relationship with China.

Quotable quotes

Billy McMahon wrote in the Reader’s Digest: ‘The world has suddenly grown small as it spins furiously down the ringing grooves of change’; Malcolm Fraser said ‘life is not meant to be easy’; and Lang Hancock explained how ‘the greed of capitalism’ was ‘the only driving force there is’.

Gough Whitlam provided the quote of the year when he said McMahon ‘sat there on the Isle of Capri plotting [Gorton’s] destruction – Tiberius with a telephone’.

Other highlights

In 1971 Neville Bonner became the first Aboriginal person to sit in an Australian Parliament; Jack Mundey’s ‘green bans’ saved Kelly’s Bush in Hunters Hill, Sydney; and Clifton Pugh won the Archibald prize with his portrait of Sir John McEwen.

It was also the year that Shane Gould was declared the Australian Sportswoman of the Year and the Springboks toured Australia amid protest.

To read more of Ian Hancock’s briefing on the 1971 Cabinet papers, look under Cabinet in The Collection section of our website at www.naa.gov.au.
Last November, Jack Mildenhall, Aubrey Holmes and Samsudin Bin Katib camped out in the open air on the roof of Parliament House, along with several thousand other figures that formed the Peoplescapes display to celebrate the Centenary of Federation. Jack, Aubrey and Samsudin were our nominees for the display and each have a link to our collection.

As a humble clerk in the Navy Office in 1927, Aubrey Holmes was deeply concerned that key Navy and other Commonwealth government records were being lost or destroyed. In a 16-page memorandum to the Department of Defence, he proposed that Australia create its own Public Record Office to preserve and make accessible our valuable government records. Aubrey Holmes was undoubtedly influential in the eventual establishment of Australia’s National Archives.

William (Jack) Mildenhall arrived in Canberra in 1920 to work as Paymaster in the Department of Works and Railways. A year later he was appointed Information Officer with the Federal Capital Commission with the key role of photographing the emerging national capital. Between 1921 and 1935, Jack Mildenhall captured more than 7,700 images of early Canberra on glass plates, now held in our collection.

Samsudin Bin Katib was a pearl shell diver who arrived in Australia as an indentured labourer in June 1937. He worked in Broome until 1942 when he joined the Australian Imperial Forces where he served for four years. After the war he settled in Melbourne, but under his contract was forced to return to Broome. There he founded the Indonesia-Malay Association and led a local campaign to secure minimum pay rates for divers. An order by the Commonwealth Migration Officer for Samsudin’s repatriation to Singapore was appealed by the Seamen’s Union, Kim Beazley (Snr) and the East-West Committee. But the order was upheld by Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell and Samsudin was deported on 3 November 1948.

No doubt, there are many more identities in our files waiting to be discovered by researchers and given their day in the sun.
Raising the international standard

A new international standard on records management is set to revolutionise the way records all over the world are created, managed and kept for future use.

International records management standard ISO 15489 is based on Australian Standard AS 4390. It was developed by members of the International Standards committee on records management, including representatives from Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. At the launch of the world standard in Montreal on 3 October 2001, David Moldrich, Chair of both the Australian and the international records management standards committees, highlighted the very significant Australian contribution to this project. Other speakers included Lew Bellardo, Deputy Archivist of the United States, Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of the Public Record Office in the United Kingdom and Gabrielle Blais, Director General Client Services and Access Branch, National Archives of Canada.

Government, businesses and other organisations will all benefit from the standard. It is designed to help them create, capture and manage their records so they can better manage their business, meet legal requirements and maintain corporate and collective memory.

The international standard was launched in Australia by the Hon. Jim Carlton AO, Chairman of our Advisory Council, at the Melbourne Museum on 16 October 2001. ISO 15489 is available from Standards Australia at www.standards.com.au. It costs around $330 for a hard copy or $300 for an electronic copy. A video of the international launch can be viewed on the website of ARMA International (the Association for Information Management Professionals) at www.arma.org.

ISO 15489 is expected to replace Australian Standard AS 4390 within a few months, which will reduce the price of the standard. We’ll keep you posted on when this happens.

New fellow to study refugees

We are pleased to announce that the winner of our 2001 Frederick Watson Fellowship is Dr Klaus Neumann.

Dr Neumann will be delving into our records for his research on the development of Australia’s refugee policy. He will focus on three case studies: the internment of German and Austrian refugees during World War II, the acceptance of refugees from Trieste between 1953 and 1957, and the acceptance of refugees from Irian Jaya who crossed into Papua New Guinea between 1961 and 1969. The project will provide snapshots of Australia’s treatment of refugees before the formulation of a refugee policy in 1977.

Dr Neumann has been a lecturer or research fellow at the University of Newcastle, the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University and has written on a broad range of topics from post-colonialism in Australia and the Pacific Islands to disaster relief operations following the eruption of the Rabaul volcano in 1994. His most recent book, Shifting Memories: The Nazi Past in the New Germany, deals with public memories of the Holocaust in the postwar Germanies.

The fellowship is named after the historian, librarian and archivist Dr JF Watson who is best remembered for his contribution to the Historical Records of Australia series. We offer the fellowship each year to encourage the use of our collection for scholarly research. Prospective fellows can find more information on our website at www.naa.gov.au under ‘About us’.
After the pomp of the Sydney opening of the Belonging exhibition by the Governor-General and the glitz of the Melbourne launch by the Prime Minister, the backyard barbecue opening in Canberra had a very different flavour.

Supported by the National Council for the Centenary of Federation, Belonging is a touring exhibition that explores Australians’ sense of place from Federation until today. It’s a huge topic but it’s covered in a most informative, entertaining, nostalgic and honest way.

At the Canberra opening, guests enjoyed sizzling snacks from portable barbecues on the National Library forecourt, while inside they mingled around Hills hoists and topiary animals and listened to Can Belto’s fanfare of ethnic songs.

The new Chairman of the Library Council, Sir James Gobbo AC welcomed everyone to the Library, which was hosting one half of Belonging while the other half was in the Archives’ gallery. Our Acting Director-General, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and Director-General of the Library, Jan Fullerton, spoke of the cooperation that went into Belonging. Robert Belleville, Chief Operating Officer for sponsors AAMI, said how pleased his company was to support such a significant exhibition.

Without doubt, the highlight of the evening was the inspirational speech given by international lawyer Jason Yat-Sen Li. Jason talked about the notion of belonging and not belonging, recalling humorous and touching incidents from his childhood in the outer Sydney suburb of Bexley. Jason’s way with words left everyone in the audience nodding in agreement.

After its Canberra showing, Belonging has moved to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery where it will continue until 4 March 2002. It then travels to the Queensland Museum, where it will be on show from 12 October to 8 December 2002.

Peter Read spoke on the topic of belonging during the Tracking Kultja festival last year.

Last October, Peter Read talked to a captivated audience in our Canberra building about what it means to belong. Peter gave insights into why Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians have a different sense of belonging.

Peter is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research at the Australian National University and author of Belonging: Australian’s Place and Aboriginal Ownership.

Peter’s talk was one of the highlights of our program for Tracking Kultja, a new and exciting national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural festival held in Canberra in 2001.
Latest developments to our collection database RecordSearch mean that from 2002 government agencies will be able to send transfer proposals, request loans of items and track their progress – all electronically. For updates on the progress of these new services, look under ‘Lending and Transfer’ in the Recordkeeping section of our website at www.naa.gov.au.

Launched in March 2000, our Designing and Implementing Recordkeeping Systems (DIRKS) Manual was developed to provide Commonwealth government agencies with practical advice on how to improve their recordkeeping and information management practices. Since then we have revised the manual, drawing on the experience of Commonwealth agencies and consultants in using the manual and aligning it with the new international standard ISO 15489, Information and Documentation – Records Management. The revised version incorporates material from the Appraisal Guidelines for Commonwealth Records, previously a separate publication, together with advice on developing a records disposal authority as an appendix.

The revised manual, called DIRKS: A Strategic Approach to Managing Business Information, is now available on our website at www.naa.gov.au under ‘Recordkeeping’. The PDF version can be downloaded and printed for those who want to read it cover to cover.

Another new recordkeeping tool for Commonwealth agencies is the DIRKS Documentation Database, which can be used to manage and analyse information collected during the DIRKS process and to develop a records disposal authority. A CD-ROM containing the database and user manual is available free to all Commonwealth agencies. The database will be available from mid-February in Microsoft Access 97 or 2000.

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

In an exciting development Standards Australia has asked the AGLS Working Group to form a subcommittee of IT-21, Records Management Standards, to develop the AGLS metadata element set as a national standard.

The AGLS User Manual will be rewritten as two separate documents (the standard and a usage guide) and distributed for public comment. The process of refinement and eventual adoption should take about 6 months.

The AGLS Working Group includes representatives of Australian government agencies, research and academic institutions, State and Territory governments, and the private sector. To become a subcommittee of IT-21, the membership of the working group will be broadened to include representatives from local government, the museums community, and relevant peak industry bodies.

People who visit our reading rooms, search our website, view our exhibitions and use our records may rarely, if ever, have met the government staff who care for the wonderful archival treasures that become part of our collection.

The retirement of the Attorney-General’s Department archivist, Gay Shorter, is an opportunity for us to acknowledge her contribution and those of other agency staff in ensuring the survival of their agencies’ records for future use. We thank Gay for her great contribution over many years and all those who continue this valuable work.
While working on a research project I recently came across an interesting file title that I thought might refer to a relative of mine. The file called ‘Verses and sketches by Miss Francis Sherman’ was part of a series of general correspondence of the Press Division, Department of Information, dated 1939–46. Opening the file, I expected to find some wartime verses and sketches penned by my great-aunt! Imagine my disappointment when all I found were two letters referring to the enclosure of Miss Sherman’s verses and sketches of ‘Schmitt the Spy and Saboteur’, but the items themselves were missing. If you’ve undertaken research in archives, you may have had a similar experience of not finding what you expect or finding items in places where they don’t belong.

One of these tools for agencies is called DIRKS – Designing and Implementing Recordkeeping Systems – a step-by-step methodology that guides Commonwealth government agencies in setting up systems for managing records, from creation to custody. Researchers of the future should be spared some of the trials we have experienced. If agencies follow the new methodology, the files we view in the future will be titled consistently and accurately. Crucial documents will be retained on file and other records, such as duplicate copies, will be disposed of when no longer required.

Unfortunately for me, the Department of Information in the 1940s was not renowned for good recordkeeping. In his book The Government and the People 1942–1945, Sir Paul Hasluck described this department as ‘by far the untidiest and administratively the most incompetent Department in the Public Service if the state of its files can be taken as evidence. It fell far below the usual standard both in recording what it did and in the custody of its records’.

If only they had DIRKS back then – I might have found my great-aunt’s literary endeavours.
We’re delighted to again be a sponsor in the National History Challenge for school students (years 5 –12). The History Challenge gives students a chance to be a prize-winning historian by investigating their community and exploring their own past.

‘Journeys and voyages’ in Australian history is the theme of the 2002 Challenge. Students can submit their research, individually or collectively, as a research paper, three-dimensional museum display, performance or multimedia presentation.

Every year we sponsor a special category prize for the best use of primary sources. Prizes of $100 are awarded to each State and Territory winner and $200 to the national winner. A set of four publications also goes to the national winner’s school library.

Last year’s winner of our prize was Samantha Goyen, a year 7 student of Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney. Samantha wrote about her great-great-great grandfather Samuel Sowden, whose biography makes an enthralling story titled ‘From ruin to respectability’. Drawing on official sources such as certificates of birth, marriage and freedom as well as genealogical indexes, government gazettes and Supreme Court documents, Samantha trawled State Records NSW, family archives and published diaries spanning the 1820s to the 1890s to produce her award-winning entry.

For details about the 2001 winners or the 2002 Challenge, visit the website of the History Teachers’ Association of Australia at www.historyteacher.org.au.

The 2001 Community Heritage Grants winners were presented with their grants by the Minister for the Arts and Centenary of Federation, the Honourable Peter McGauran at the National Library of Australia last October.

The grants are a joint initiative of the National Archives, the National Library and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. They provide financial support up to $8,000 for preservation projects by community organisations. Local historical societies, public libraries, local archives, and Indigenous and ethnic groups are able to care for their collections as a result of the financial assistance this scheme provides.

In the 2001 round there were 199 applicants, 45 of which were successful. For information about this year’s grants, contact Ted Ling on (02) 6212 3936.
An innovative project is underway at the Archives. We are opening access to original documents on Australia’s Prime Ministers with special research guides and a brand new website. We are digging deep into our vast collection of papers and photographs, and discovering some fascinating facts about our former leaders.

Here are a few Prime Ministers we’d like you to meet.

**ALFRED DEAKIN**
An able negotiator, conciliator and broker of compromises, Alfred Deakin used his influence and political skill to make and break governments. Three times Prime Minister – from 24 September 1903 to 27 April 1904, from 5 July 1905 to 13 November 1908, and again from 2 June 1909 to 29 April 1910 – Deakin was known in Parliament as ‘Affable Alfred’. This image from a 1904 postcard reveals the forgotten origins of the Australian flag, when the Union Jack and the red ensign were the official flags.

**GEORGE HOUSTOUN REID**
At 15 years of age George Houstoun Reid joined the Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts debating society, and went on to become a witty orator and a superb cross-examiner at the Bar. In power for just under 12 months, from 18 August 1904 to 5 July 1905, Reid was the first and only Free Trade Party Prime Minister of Australia. Described as ‘perhaps the best platform speaker in the Empire’, Reid was just as well known for always having a bag of sweets handy, wherever he went.

**FRANCIS MICHAEL (FRANK) FORDE**
Prime Minister for only a week, Queenslander Frank Forde served the Australian Labor Party as deputy leader for 14 years. An experienced Cabinet minister and a loyal deputy to James Scullin, John Curtin and Ben Chifley, Forde was Prime Minister after the death of John Curtin on 5 July 1945. We have just acquired a small, forgotten collection of Forde family papers which highlight the role of prime ministerial wife Vera Forde. These papers include some family portraits as fresh as the day they were taken, half a century ago.
The Centenary of Federation certainly gave us all the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come and where we are going as a nation.

Our speakers in the ‘Where to now, Australia?’ lecture series provided witty and insightful commentary on this theme in their chosen field. The last seven speakers in the series were psychologist and author Hugh Mackay, cartoonist Judy Horacek, media personality Peter Wilkins, a panel of historians comprising the Hon. John Bannon, Dr Helen Irving and Dr Lenore Coltheart, and cartoonist Bruce Petty.

Hugh Mackay assured audiences that Australians generally want a simple life, more time with the people they love, and a free and innocent childhood for their children. Yet most Australians feel their lives and those of their children are actually becoming more complex, stressed and scheduled. Hugh said that members of the full-time workforce in Australia are now working such long hours that their overtime alone absorbs about 500,000 extra full-time jobs!

Judy Horacek mused that while funny people mightn’t always have the facts at their fingertips, they do a good line in interpretation. She talked about the serious business of being a cartoonist concerned with feminism, social justice, the environment, and how things could be better. ‘If we saw other people as being at least as important as ourselves, at least as deserving of our respect and our duty of care, and of our help when they are in trouble, then the world would be a better place’, she said.

Media personality and sports commentator Peter Wilkins hoped that his children would have the desire and security to seek the truth in whatever they do. He hoped for truth in journalism and wished that the books would be opened on where natural ability in sports ended and where science cut in, so that ordinary Australians could make up their own minds about what was a truly amazing sporting performance.
Love and art, politics and the economy, footy and music – Bruce Petty explores all these themes in our latest exhibition, *A Mad Century*!

Born in Melbourne in 1929, Bruce Petty is one of Australia’s most influential political satirists and cartoonists. His cartoons and drawings have appeared in *Punch* (London), the *New Yorker*, the *Bulletin*, *Daily Mirror* and the *Australian*. Today he is a regular contributor to the *Age* newspaper in Melbourne.

His exhibition brings together a suite of etching and drypoint prints, films and sculpture that invite us to contemplate the everyday alongside the madness and brilliance of the social and political events of last century in Australia.

Bruce Petty brings to his subject matter an energetic commentary balanced by an infinite wisdom and a humane dignity. His work provides challenging observations on Federation, the monarchy, communism, capitalism, globalisation, the Republic debate, Wik and the Olympics.

Visitors to the exhibition can also explore a selection of papers, sound recordings and photographs from our collection, which document the government policies that shaped the episodes depicted so sharply in Petty’s works.

This outstanding exhibition is on show in our Exhibition Gallery in Canberra until 24 March 2002.
Canberra Following Griffin: A Design History of Australia’s National Capital is a fascinating, in-depth account of what happened to Walter Burley Griffin’s vision for Canberra, and the later developments that created the Canberra we know today. A design masterpiece in itself, the book contains over 200 architectural plans, drawings and maps, many of which have rarely been seen before. The original drawings that Griffin submitted for the Federal Capital Design Competition will be on display in our Canberra building from April until September in an exhibition called A Vision Splendid: How the Griffins Imagined Australia’s Capital.

Canberra Following Griffin is essential reading for professional town planners, architects, historians and all those interested in the design of our national capital. To purchase a copy of this limited edition book priced at $90, telephone (02) 6212 3609 or email naasales@naa.gov.au.

Despite a degenerative illness, Paul continued working on his critical account of Canberra’s development with great enthusiasm and commitment. He worked closely with our publishing team to finalise his manuscript and was able to see the first proofs.

Paul Reid helped shape Canberra as we know it today. He was director of architecture at the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) from 1968 until 1974 when he was appointed chief architect, a position he held until 1983. It was during this time that Paul rediscovered Walter Burley Griffin’s plan for Canberra and became an enthusiastic supporter of Griffin’s design.

As NCDC chief architect, Paul worked with such leading architects as Philip Cox, Romaldo Giurgola, Colin Madigan and Harry Seidler and was responsible for the design briefing and management of such Canberra icons as the National Gallery, the High Court of Australia and new Parliament House.

Paul was professor of architecture at the University of NSW from 1985 until his retirement in 1998. It was during this time that Paul worked on the Canberra Following Griffin manuscript, a project that took 10 years to complete. In this remarkable publication he has left behind a legacy of his contribution to Canberra’s development and the architectural profession. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.
Walter Burley Griffin's drawings of Canberra are a cherished and highly valued part of our collection, but they did not always enjoy the same level of care they now receive. In fact for a long time no one really cared at all.

The story of these drawings since 1912 is one of neglect, chance and strange disappearances, but it has a happy ending.

Walter Burley Griffin’s plan of Canberra was submitted to the 1912 Federal Capital Design Competition in the form of watercolour drawings by his wife Marion Mahoney. When the drawings arrived in Melbourne from Chicago, they passed into the custody of the Department of Home Affairs. After Griffin was declared the winner of the competition, the drawings were purchased by the Commonwealth.

Photographs taken at the time reveal that even at that early stage some of the drawings, which were on cotton material, had already been torn. In late 1912 the drawings were moved to Canberra for use by the Federal Capital Commission. In 1913 they were back in Melbourne, in the basement of Government House.

For storage, they were removed from their stretchers, rolled up and placed in galvanised cylinders, each time risking being creased, scratched or otherwise damaged.

Later in 1913 the drawings were cleaned and stretched on frames for a town planning exhibition held in Sydney. In 1917 a set of slotted, zinc-lined chests was constructed to house the drawings. The same year the drawings were transported to Adelaide for exhibition at the Australian Town Planning Conference and Exhibition.

In 1925 Mr CS Daley, Secretary of the Federal Capital Commission, pointed out the historical significance of the drawings and stated that they should be stored with the archives of the Commonwealth. There is no documentary evidence about what happened next and it was not until 1953 that they were heard of again. In November of that year the drawings were ‘rediscovered’, packed in five wooden crates in a Department of Works workshop in the Canberra suburb of Kingston. They were taken into the custody of the Archives Division of the Commonwealth National Library on 6 November 1953.

In 1961 the Commonwealth Archives Office was established as an autonomous unit and the drawings became part of its holdings. During the 1960s the drawings were sent away twice for expert conservation treatment. The treatment they received, in hindsight, was far from ideal, leaving the drawings adhered to sheets of chipboard with starch paste.

Finally, in the early 1990s the drawings received the conservation treatment they deserved. Our conservators carefully cleaned the drawings, removed them from the chipboard, mended tears and edges and placed them on new stretcher frames.

And so, 90 years after leaving Chicago, the drawings have found a permanent resting place in Canberra. You can see the full set of these well-travelled drawings in the exhibition about Griffin’s competition entry in our Canberra gallery from 12 April.
Our research throws light on how government operated in the past and how some of its services were provided. When appraising shipping registration records recently, we were surprised to find that until 1981 all Australian ships were registered under the *Imperial Merchant Shipping Act 1894* and therefore carried British nationality on the high seas. The Australian red ensign, the flag flown by Australian merchant ships, is described in this Act as the ‘British Ensign defaced with stars!’ During the debate for the *Commonwealth Shipping Registration Act* in the House of Representatives in 1981, Member for Shortland Mr Morris declared ‘I would have rather described it as the British flag embellished by the addition of the stars of the Southern Cross’.

In fact, as for most other Commonwealth countries, there was a great deal of Imperial legislation still in force in Australia well after Federation. One of the effects of the *Statute of Westminster, 1931* was the repeal of the *Colonial Laws Validity Act 1865* – an Act that disallowed colonial legislation ‘repugnant’ to Imperial statutes.

Not only are shipping registration records a gateway into the history of Australia’s legislative development, they also provide a launching point for genealogical and other research on the various ships that have plied the seas over time.

Shipping registration records can lead researchers to lists of passengers or crew. Researchers will also find information on the fate of particular ships, numbers and types of ships, and at which ports they were registered.

The records detail the size of a ship, who built it, where it was built, if it had been registered under another name previously, who owned it, its home port, when and sometimes why its registration closed – lost at sea, sold to an overseas party or perhaps not eligible to be registered in Australia.

Whether you are interested in historical context or genealogical research, our records can set you off on all sorts of voyages!
PAPUA

Dr Tim Flannery, Director of the South Australian Museum, travelled to Canberra last December to launch *An Anthropologist in Papua: The Photography of FE Williams, 1922–39*, co-published by the National Archives and Crawford House Publishing. This handsome book features over 200 black and white images taken by FE Williams, an Australian government anthropologist who devoted 20 years of his life to observing the societies of Papua. The book includes Williams’ personal commentary and a substantial introductory essay by social anthropologist Michael Young and historian and curator Julia Clark. Copies of the book can be purchased for $69.95 (plus $5.00 postage) from Publications Sales on (02) 6212 3609, via email at naasales@naa.gov.au or by calling into one of our offices.

Pictures of Papua

Three girls newly emerged from puberty seclusion. *National Archives of Papua New Guinea, FE Williams papers, Album no. 7, 96.*

ARCHIVES IN THE GROOVE

Our latest guide on sound recordings in our collection should prove a great boon to researchers.

*Sound Recordings in the National Archives* lists and describes the fascinating array of records captured on gramophone disc, tape, cassette and even CD, held in our collection. Dating back to the 1930s, these records include historical broadcasts such as Prime Minister Chifley’s declaration of peace in 1945, interviews with famous Australians such as Albert Namatjira, and music by noted Australian composers.

Written by Helen Cross and Margaret Chambers, the guide includes an historical overview of sound recordings in Australia by Dr Susan Marsden. At the launch of the guide, ABC radio personality Alex Sloan noted how times had changed since the 1950s when the Department of Immigration broadcast radio advertisements welcoming British migrants to Australia.

Guests listened to recordings of the opening ceremony of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme marked by a blast of exploding gelignite, a description of the Queen’s attire as part of the coverage of the Bicentennial ceremony, and Don Bradman’s speech on reaching his 100th century. These recordings are all held in our collection, mostly in Sydney.

Copies of the guide can be purchased for $10.00 (plus $3.50 postage) by phoning (02) 6212 3609, emailing naasales@naa.gov.au or visiting any of our offices. It is also available online on our website at www.naa.gov.au.
Did you know that the first displaced persons to emigrate to Australia in the late 1940s and early 1950s were Baltic? These Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian refugees from communist rule in their native lands were among the mass of people languishing in camps in Western Europe before Australia and other countries took them in.

On the instructions of Arthur Calwell, Minister for Immigration and architect of the great post-World War II immigration scheme, Baltic people were the first to be chosen. He and his Cabinet thought that their white skin, blonde hair and good looks would favourably impress an Australian population that might otherwise object to the large-scale immigration planned by the government.

As the number of potential Baltic immigrants diminished, refugees from other countries were accepted. On arrival in Australia they were all called Balts regardless of their origins, so the government invented the term ‘New Australians’.

In our May 2001 issue of Memento, we told the story of researcher Ann Smith who found details of her mother in our files of displaced persons brought to Australia after World War II. She discovered that her mother arrived in Australia on 28 November 1947 on board the USAT General Stuart Heintzelman, the first of many boats used to transport immigrants to Australia. Ann was keen to make contact with others searching for family members amongst these displaced persons. Our story was spread by the broader media, and Ann has been amazed by the number of people who have answered her call.

At the same time, Ray Tarvydas has been researching the history of Baltic settlement in Australia, especially in Tasmania. In 1998, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first postwar Baltic immigrants in Tasmania, he published a book titled From Amber Coast to Apple Isle – 50 Years of Baltic Immigrants in Tasmania, 1948–1998.

Ray is currently poring over our passenger lists of boats arriving in Australia during 1948–52, with the aim of compiling a database of all Baltic immigrants to Australia.

Every day we come closer to entering the names of all of these displaced persons into our database RecordSearch, to facilitate the task of researchers like Ann and Ray!
Visitors to our Hobart office may already have discovered the rich collection of maritime records stored there. Our shipping collection includes docking books for the ports of Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie during 1923–53 (P2808). These volumes were used to record surveyors’ observations and directions for repairs after an annual survey of a vessel. They contain sketches and illustrations and are a fine addition to other maritime records from this era.

Recent arrivals of maritime records include photographic collections created by the Tasmanian Division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and photos by Stanley Fowler who retired as principal research officer of the Fisheries Division in the CSIR in 1948. Fowler’s images show the Australian fishing industry and coastline, captured during his 21 years of fisheries work for the Commonwealth government.

These records are just a few of the treasures you can expect to find in our Hobart holdings!
The personnel records of 1.4 million Australian women and men who served in the armed forces in World War II are gradually making their way to the National Archives. This historic transfer of records is the result of a landmark agreement between the National Archives, the Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

As many of you know, we already hold the personnel records of those who served in World War I. Over the next 12 months, they will be joined by the war service records of all those who served in World War II, in the Army, Air Force and Navy. The Army and Air Force records include enlistment papers, records of service, discharge information, and information about the issue of medals. The Navy records consist of cards, which provide a summary of the wartime experience of servicemen and women.

Initially we will enter brief descriptions into our RecordSearch database, so you will be able to search by name, service number, next of kin, place of enlistment and place of birth. After the records have come into our custody they can be viewed in our Canberra reading room or photocopies can be purchased. Digital copies of the records can also be made available on our website. To arrange access, contact us on 1300 886 881 or ww2@naa.gov.au.

The campaign for the transfer of World War II service personnel records has just begun, but over time all will be listed and accounted for at the National Archives.

Volunteers for WWI service

In the International Year of Volunteers last year, we were lucky to have the help of a band of volunteers from the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra.

In a joint project, HAGSOC volunteers helped us to continue the much needed task of rehousing and listing our collection of World War I personnel service records, estimated at over 420,000 dossiers.

After volunteers have rehoused the dossiers, details recorded on the wallets are added to our database RecordSearch.

By November 2001, our volunteers had processed more than 1100 boxes, or over 23,380 individual dossiers. We are now up to dossiers with the surname Hawke.

Thanks to the volunteers, we can now claim a total of 203,023 names of World War I servicemen and women listed on RecordSearch. By rehousing the dossiers in acid-free wallets the volunteers have also helped to ensure that the original records will be preserved for our future generations.

To all involved in this project, many thanks for your helping hands!
It’s 50 years since this photograph was taken at a NSW south coast tuna packing plant where there certainly seems no shortage of merchandise. We don’t know anything of the employee in sensible shoes, but it’s quite possible she had nightmares about nets, was often followed home by cats and her favourite saying was ‘Oh well, plenty more fish in the sea’.
Archives


A Mad Century! Works by Bruce Petty
National Archives, Canberra
30 November 2001 to 24 March 2002

A Vision Splendid: How the Griffins Imagined Australia’s National Capital
National Archives, Canberra
12 April to 1 September 2002

Belonging: A Century Celebrated
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tas
8 December 2001 to 4 March 2002
Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Qld
12 October to 8 December 2002

Caught in the Rear View Mirror with Roy and HG
Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, WA
10 December 2001 to 10 February 2002
Pinnacles Gallery, Townsville, Qld
27 February to 23 March 2002
Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Qld
1 April to 28 April 2002
Stanthorpe Art Gallery, Qld
3 May to 4 June 2002

Wine! An Australian Social History
Mildura Arts Centre, Vic
4 March to 7 April 2002
National Wool Museum, Geelong, Vic
16 April to 10 June 2002

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Email: ref@naa.gov.au

World War I service records
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World War II service records
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Facsimile 1300 886 882
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Facsimile (02) 6212 3989
Email: recordkeeping@naa.gov.au
Website: www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/

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Archives

CANBERRA

Summer Speakers
Our summer speakers look back at politics, music and advertising in 1971.
‘Life Wasn’t Meant to be Easy ...’
Michael McKernan, 15 January

‘71 Rocks!
Shortis & Simpson, 22 January

AdFab!
Jon Maxim, 29 January
All talks will be held in our Canberra building on Tuesdays at 7pm.
Bookings: (02) 6212 3624

Where’s the Passion?
A series of talks to be held monthly in 2002. Look out for newspaper ads or call (02) 6212 3956.

Family History Fair
A day of presentations and displays, held in conjunction with the Heraldy & Genealogy Society of Canberra.
14 April, 10am – 4pm
Contact (02) 6212 3956

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