

Where were you in 1972?

Each January, Cabinet records that have reached 30 years are made publicly available. The records reveal the issues that consumed us three decades ago and offer insights into our recent past. In his December briefing to the media, our consultant historian Ian Hancock interpreted the Cabinet records of 1972.

Following are excerpts from Ian's talk in which he sketched the social, economic and political landscape of the time.

Government in crisis

The reverberations of the leadership change from Gorton to McMahon in March 1971 continued to affect the government's stability and unity throughout 1972.

There were four obvious problems: McMahon did not look or sound like a Prime Minister, there were strains in the Coalition hanging over from the devaluation crisis of late 1971, the Democratic Labor Party was proving to be a fractious ally, and the Liberal Party was disunited and unhappy.



The visit of renowned feminist Germaine Greer in 1972 spearheaded a year of social action for women. Achievements included the formation of the Women's Electoral Lobby and rulings on equal pay.

McMahon was ridiculed by the press and effectively deserted by some of his Liberal ministers during the election campaign.

Meanwhile, the Labor bandwagon, rolling along to the theme of 'It's Time', looked unstoppable.

NAA: A6180, 1973/75/5

More excerpts from Ian Hancock's talk*

Around the globe

Abroad, there were signs of optimism. President Nixon's visit to China and the Soviet Union appeared to herald a new era in the Cold War, the new state of Bangladesh emerged out of East Pakistan, and Britain was preparing to enter the European Economic Community.

On the gloomier side were Idi Amin's decision to expel most Asians from Uganda, the massacre of 25 civilians at Lod airport by three Japanese terrorists, the IRA's launch of 'Bloody Friday' in Belfast after the British government imposed direct rule in Northern Ireland, and Black September's killing of 11 Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics.

Australia had its own experience of what the Liberal Attorney-General called a 'world-wide problem' when two bombs exploded in Sydney in September and letter bombs were intercepted by authorities on their way to Israeli destinations within Australia.



NAA: A6180, 5/12/72/6

Gough Whitlam delivers an election speech with the campaign slogan 'It's Time'.

Foreign affairs

Except for the continued deployment of a small advisory team, the McMahon government completed Australia's military withdrawal from South Vietnam.

While defending its refusal to recognise China, the government moved towards establishing closer relations with Japan and Indonesia, further belying claims by later Labor Prime Ministers that their governments 'discovered' another side of Asia. The Australian government was regarding Asia as less of a threat and more of an opportunity for economic development.

When the McMahon government failed to support a New Zealand-Peru resolution opposing French nuclear tests in the Pacific during a meeting in Stockholm, a public outcry at home forced it to take a stronger stand.

Indigenous issues

Indigenous matters gained more attention in 1972, partly because of the appearance of the Tent Embassy in front of Parliament House and the government's attempts to close it, and partly because of the issue of land rights.

According to McMahon's Australia Day statement, the government fully understood 'the desire of the Aboriginal people to have their affinity with the land with which they have been associated recognised by law'. But it refused to embrace a concept that smacked of 'separate development'.

The new Whitlam government

On 2 December Gough Whitlam led the Labor Party to election victory. Three days later he and his deputy, Lance Barnard, were sworn in as a two-man ministry and announced 40 decisions in advance of the Caucus elections for the ministry (though after consultations with shadow ministers).

These decisions included freeing draft resisters, excluding racially selected sporting teams, and re-opening the equal pay case. Elizabeth Evatt was appointed to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, and a judicial inquiry was established as the first move towards the legal recognition of Aboriginal land rights.

The hectic pace of these two weeks further overshadowed the record of the McMahon government while adding to the excitement of those who had backed Labor's victory.

Economic issues

The Treasurer, Billy Snedden, considered that the major economic problems in 1972 were 'intolerably' high inflation, at around 7 per cent per annum, and subdued consumer spending, despite a rise in average weekly earnings of 9 per cent.

The government tried three times during 1972 to promote growth and consumer spending by providing funds for the States and for rural relief, increasing social service benefits and reducing personal income tax.



What made the news

1972 was the year when John Gorton told McMahon he could 'go to buggery' when asked to sit with him during a division. Gorton also declared that if he ever said anything in line with government policy 'it would be purely coincidental'.

Joe Cocker was deported for drug possession, Helen Reddy recorded 'I am Woman', *Don's Party* was produced in Sydney, and *Alvin Purple* became Australia's most popular film since 1932.

The Rev. Ian Herring declared that ordaining women would be analogous to consecrating a meat pie on God's altar, Billy McMahon said that it was legitimate to pray for an election victory, and the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane wanted to canonise Don Chipp, the Minister for Customs, after he denounced the *Little Red School Book*.

When McMahon set the federal election date for 2 December, the anniversary of the battle of Austerlitz, Whitlam noted that while not wanting to assume 'the mantle of Napoleon' himself, the victor on that day in 1805 inflicted a crushing defeat upon 'a ramshackle reactionary coalition'.

★ You'll find Ian Hancock's briefing, together with a list and digital copies of the 1972 Cabinet papers, in The Collection section of our website at www.naa.gov.au.



Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich explains some features of the website to the Prime Minister.

Meet our 25 Prime Ministers

Last November Prime Minister John Howard launched our new website on Australia's Prime Ministers. The website features biographical information, fascinating facts, timelines and research maps for records about Prime Ministers and their wives. There's something for everyone from school student to researcher. Check it out at

primeministers.naa.gov.au



Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and Prime Minister John Howard meet at the launch of the *Australia's Prime Ministers* website, together with Heather Henderson, daughter of former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

New England collection in good company



Another former Minister has joined the ranks of Prime Ministers, Ministers and senior government officials whose personal and official records are held in our collection.

Ian Sinclair, a lawyer, farmer and politician, represented the people of New England in Parliament for over 30 years. During his career, he held a number of ministerial posts and served as Leader of the National Party and Speaker of the House. More recently he is known for his leadership of the 1998 Constitutional Convention.

Before Ian Sinclair left his historic property 'Glencair' in New England, he called us to discuss what to do with his large collection of records. Together with the University of New England and Regional Archives, we set about the huge task of sorting 200

boxes of his personal copies of ministerial correspondence, committee records and constituent correspondence.

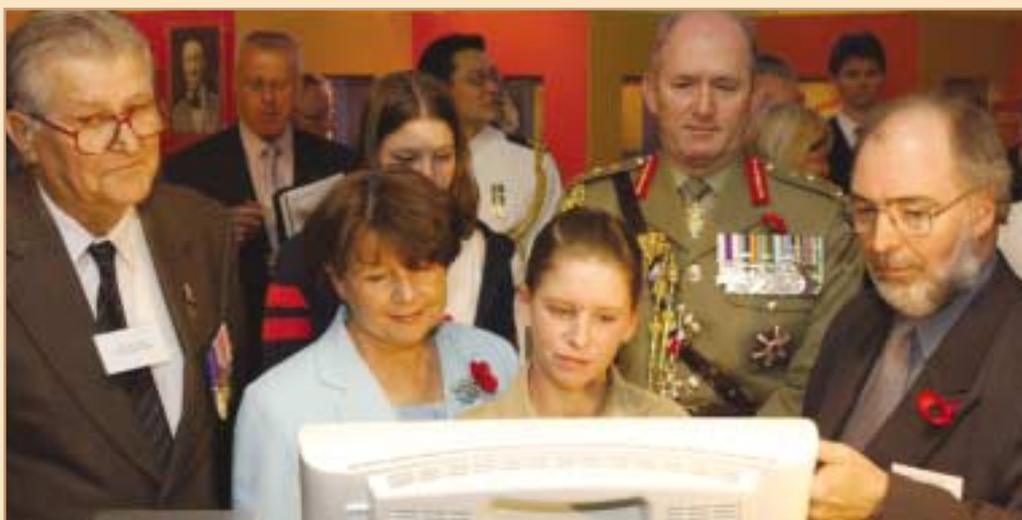
Our aim was to ensure that future generations have access to an important part of Australian history. Commonwealth records will be kept in the National Archives to complement departmental records and other Ministers' records, while the constituent material will remain in the local area with other collections such as those of Sir Earle Page, WJ McCarthy, WA Chaffey, DH Drummond and the New State Movement.

BEACONS

light the way



It's no surprise that solo yachtsman Ian Kiernan considers lighthouses a sailor's friend. Shown here with Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Ian Kiernan launched our exhibition *Beacons by the Sea: Stories of Australian Lighthouses* in November last year. The exhibition is on show in our Canberra gallery until 16 February 2003 before travelling to regional galleries and museums across Australia. Check the back page for details.



Looking at the WW II Nominal Roll (from left to right) are Tom Morris (veteran and former prisoner of war), Danna Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), Madeline and Abbey Higginson (Tom Morris's granddaughters), General Peter Cosgrove (Chief of the Australian Defence Force), and Ian Cartwright (Director of Nominal Rolls, Defence Links branch, Veterans' Affairs).

WW II VETERANS ON PARADE

Over one million Australians who served in World War II have been listed on a WW II Nominal Roll website, launched at the Archives on 6 November 2002 by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Danna Vale MP.

Created by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the WW II Nominal Roll commemorates those who served their country during this conflict. The roll will be an invaluable tool for students, researchers and families.

Information for the roll was collected from the original service records of people who served in Australia's armed forces and the Merchant Navy during World War II. The roll includes details such as their service number, date of birth, locality on enlistment and rank on discharge.

The actual records were transferred to the Archives under a historic agreement with the Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The transfer of more than 1.3 million records was a mammoth task, and included treatment to preserve them and description on our RecordSearch database.

The WW II Nominal Roll can be found at www.ww2roll.gov.au.

The original records can be viewed in our Canberra reading room. Photocopies are available for a fee via our mail order service, and digital copies can also be arranged. For more information on how to access these records, visit our website at www.naa.gov.au/the_collection/defence/conflicts/ww2/ww2.html or telephone 1300 886 881 to speak to a reference officer.



Doing time



When records are sentenced, how long do they get?

In recordkeeping terms, a sentence refers to how long records need to be kept under an approved disposal authority. How long a particular record is kept depends on its disposal class. For example, copies of readily available information or records of short-term transactions may have a disposal sentence of 'destroy when reference ceases', whereas the disposal sentence for records documenting an individual's entitlements, which may pass to their children, might be 'keep for 130 years after date of birth'.

A sentence is usually based on an agency's business needs as well as the needs of other stakeholders, such as members of the public or organisations with which an agency deals. In authorising disposal, our role is to ensure that all relevant stakeholders' needs for records have been considered and are reflected in the disposal sentence.

Agencies must strictly observe these sentences. Under the Archives Act, individuals who dispose of records before the nominated time has elapsed can be heavily fined.



e^opermanence

bytes

What did you say?

We wish to thank the 100 Commonwealth agencies and 1500 record creators who participated in our 2002 survey of Commonwealth government recordkeeping. The information provided will enable us to identify ways that we can help Commonwealth agencies and staff to improve their recordkeeping, and to measure progress towards best practice recordkeeping in the Commonwealth government.

Some results from the survey are:

Less than half of record creators surveyed found the filing of electronic records easy and even fewer found locating and getting them easy.

While 87% of record creators reported that their electronic files were located on their computer network or a shared drive, only 49% reported that they were also located

in their agency's recordkeeping system.

Only 6% of agencies reported that they captured all unstructured electronic records into electronic recordkeeping systems.

This is only a fraction of the information we collected. For the full report, visit the recordkeeping section of our website at www.naa.gov.au.

I can be anything that contains information, such as a film, photograph, map, document or publication.

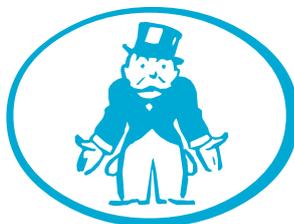
I can be electronic, web-based, printed or handwritten on paper.

I am usually created or received by a Commonwealth government agency in the course of that agency's business.

I am a Commonwealth record.

This means I belong to the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency. The Archives Act allows the public to see me when I am 30 years old and protects me from being disposed of without the proper authority.

What am I?



I am **not** a Commonwealth record if I am the personal property of an individual or belong to a non-Commonwealth organisation. If you are not sure, ask yourself:

Was I created by a Commonwealth agency or official in the course of business?

Was I provided or received by a Commonwealth agency or official in the course of business, with no explicit conditions to return me?

If you answer no to both of these questions, I am probably not a Commonwealth record. If you are still not sure, check with the Archives.

And remember, if I don't belong to your agency you should return me to my owner or seek their advice about my disposal.

Checking the pulse

Even government agencies need a regular health check-up, as the Australian Public Service Commission shows in its State of the Service report.

To measure the health of the Australian Public Service's recordkeeping systems, the Commission surveyed almost 100 agencies about their recordkeeping policies and procedures, staff training in recordkeeping, management of electronic records, arrangements for disposing of records, and procedures for reviewing their recordkeeping performance.

The report stated that the results were 'reasonably encouraging' for many large and medium sized agencies, but noted that some agencies – especially

many small ones – needed to address their recordkeeping requirements, including electronic recordkeeping.

The State of the Service report, together with the Australian National Audit Office's recordkeeping audit report and our own recordkeeping survey, provides valuable information about the state of recordkeeping in today's Commonwealth Government.

We will continue to work with the Australian Public Service Commission to promote the benefits of good recordkeeping and to gauge agencies' progress in this vital area. The 2002 State of the Service report is available on the Commission's website at www.apsc.gov.au.

Training update

Between March and June 2003, we will be offering a full range of the revised DIRKS training (Introduction and Steps A, B and C), as well as more 'Training for Commonwealth Recordkeepers' workshops, which include a module on sentencing, and AGLS training. For more information, look under 'Recordkeeping - Training' on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

Coming to a desk near you!

Do you have records stored in your filing cabinet or on your computer? What happens when someone else needs to use those records?

We are currently compiling training materials to help people working for the Commonwealth government make appropriate decisions about the records they create. Topics include employees' recordkeeping responsibilities, when to make a record and where to keep records.

The training materials include a booklet and ready reference card for all staff, along with training notes and slides which records and information managers can present to the staff in their organisations.

The materials will be ready early in 2003 – so watch out for 'Mad Dog', coming to a desk near you!

Cartoon by Hinze/Scratcht Media



Hobart office moves into the city

Our new premises in Hobart were officially opened last November by Senator Paul Calvert, President of the Senate.

The Rosny Park facility served us well for 20 years, but it was time for a move to more cost-effective and accessible premises in downtown Hobart.

Our new office at 85 Macquarie Street holds the records that people use the most now, and those expected to be the most popular in the future. The remainder are stored at Rosny Park. While some records have been relocated interstate, all core records of local significance remain in Hobart.

The new office provides state of the art facilities for researchers including computers, facilities for laptops and notebooks, and equipment to access records in formats other than paper. It also has a spacious reading room and a comfortable area to have a break or discuss research requirements with our staff.



Celebrating the Hobart office opening are (left to right) Ross Latham, Director of the Hobart office, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Acting Director-General, Senator the Hon. Paul Calvert, President of the Senate and Rudy Sypkes, the building owner.

Guests at the official opening heard excerpts from the collection, including passages from the diary of Stuart Campbell who led the first Australian expedition to Heard Island, and entries from the letterbook of Mr Charles Chaulk Baudinet, Superintendent of Swan Island Lighthouse from 1867 to 1891, in which he pleads for replacement bullocks for his 'very old and quite useless' ones.

Finally, readers shared excerpts from a 1944 Customs and Excise correspondence file in which a returned serviceman presents his case for more cigarettes to the rationing authority on the following grounds: 'I have been advised by my medical doctor that I am entitled to an extra 2 ounces of tobacco per week owing to a chest complaint that I suffer with and smoking is the only remedy that gives me relief.'

Also at the opening (left to right) were the Hon. Alex Somlyay, MP, member of the NAA Advisory Council, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz, Special Minister of State, and the Hon. James J. Carlton, Chairman of the NAA Advisory Council.



Another fine fellow

Our 2002 Frederick Watson Fellowship has been awarded to Garry Woodard, a research fellow in the Department of Politics at the University of Melbourne. The fellowship will enable him to complete a book on Australian foreign policy in the post-war era.

'It was a time when the Australian Government was beginning to engage more seriously with Asia. My focus will be to research and examine the motivations and interactions of the politicians and officials who drove the process,' Mr Woodard said.

'I will also surmise how Australian policy might have evolved had the cast of policy makers at any particular time been different, and also what might have been the consequences if Australia had decided not to commit troops to Vietnam in 1964-65,' he said.

Calls for applications for our next Fellowship will be made in early 2003. Further information is available from Ted Ling on (02) 6212 3926 or our website at www.naa.gov.au under 'About Us'.

Meeting the challenge of HISTORY

The National History Challenge gives students in years 5–12 a chance to be a prize-winning historian by investigating their community and exploring their past. We are sponsoring this program again this year.

'Conflict and Resolution' in Australian history is the theme of the 2003 Challenge. Students can submit their research, individually or collectively, as a research paper, three-dimensional museum display, performance or multimedia presentation.

Each year we sponsor a special 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 Kara Chalson, a year 10 student of Clarence High School, Tasmania. Kara wrote about the evolution of the Tasmanian conservation movement over the past century.

Using conservation case studies dating from the 1890s, she documented the birth of the Wilderness Society and showed how heritage and the environment have moved from the margins of our consciousness to play a central part in contemporary politics. Kara's essay draws on campaign pamphlets, fact sheets, parliamentary records, unpublished sources and interviews with Senator Bob Brown and others from the conservation movement.

To read Kara's essay, visit the Education section of our website at www.naa.gov.au.

For details about the 2002 winners or the 2003 Challenge, visit the website of the History Teachers' Association of Australia at www.historyteacher.org.au.



Kara Chalson, last year's winner of our National History Challenge prize.

The decision on July 1st 1983 meant that the Commonwealth government did have the power to protect the national environment in matters of international importance. This power was later used to protect several areas of environmental importance.

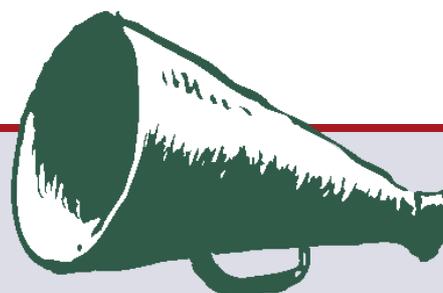
From Kara Chalson's essay

Attention historians

We are pleased to announce we are joining with the National Library of Australia and State Records NSW in offering a new series of honorary research fellowships through the Australian Historical Association.

The purpose of the fellowships is to facilitate research using the collections of each institution, normally during periods of study leave.

There are no financial benefits available under the scheme. However, fellows will be given a dedicated work area, computer and other equipment. They will also have access to a staff member who will act as their first point of contact, assist with access to records and systems, and provide advice on the institution's collection.



Fellowships will be offered biennially, normally for a maximum period of six months.

The closing date for the first round of fellowships is **31 March 2003**. For further information and an application form, visit the Australian Historical Association website at www.theaha.org.au.

Ships of the desert... asleep in our records

Known for their ability to travel vast distances with little food and water, camels were once a vital part of the Australian Outback. Our records reveal how these animals were used for exploration, gold mining and police patrols. They also tell the story of the cameleers, migrant men who struggled to become a part of the Australian community.

Bactrian (two-humped) camels.



NAA: A1861, 2382

The first big shipment of camels landed in Australia in 1860, brought from Karachi in Pakistan for the Burke and Wills expedition. More Arabian camels from India and Pakistan were to follow, while camel studs were also established in South Australia and Western Australia.

Explorers like Professor CT Madigan, a geologist, used camels in central Australia. Records about him and his expeditions in the 1930s can be found in our collection, including his letter to the Department of Interior asking that the desert in central Australia be named after his benefactor, Simpson.

Apart from carrying much needed supplies to the isolated gold fields, camels were also used by police to patrol the Outback. It was the Alice Springs police who lent Madigan the six camels he needed for his travels.



NAA: A1200, L11639

With the camels came the cameleers, often misunderstood by Australian society. While these men have commonly been referred to as 'Afghans' or 'Ghans', only a few were actually from Afghanistan. In fact, they came from such ethnically diverse areas as West Pakistan, Egypt, Persia and Turkey.

Neither camel nor cameleer found easy acceptance in Australian communities, despite their importance to the Outback. Communities like Alice Springs relied on the camel trains from Oodnadatta for mail and supplies, but did not understand the cameleers' resistance to carrying pork, bacon and hard liquor. Complaints were made about camels being smelly and overrunning town 'commons' – the cameleers did not own freehold or leasehold lots of land on which to keep their animals.



NAA: A6180, 23/3/78/5

Omrah, a former camel driver, photographed in Wyndham in 1929, before returning to Afghanistan.

With the arrival of motorcars, camel power began to decline in the 1920s. Imported cameleers were replaced with white or Aboriginal Australians. The Immigration Restriction Act, and various Stock Diseases Acts and ordinances all but stopped the importation of camels and their handlers.

Many camels were simply released, their descendants forming the only wild population of camels in the world today. The cameleers either returned to their homelands or stayed to live in what was left of the 'Ghan towns'.

As highlighted during the Year of the Outback, the camels and their handlers have an important place in Australian history for the vital role they played in the development of Outback communities.

Look out for more stories on camels, along with many other animals 'employed' in the service of the Commonwealth government, in an exhibition we've planned for later this year.

New Digs in Darwin



One tropical evening in September guests gathered in the front gardens of our Darwin building to celebrate the launch by Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich of the refurbished facilities.

When the building was sold last year, we negotiated with the new owners to remain at Kelsey Crescent, Millner. The time was right for a refurbishment, which includes new research and staff facilities.

Guests at the launch were treated to a selection of writings from our collection about the history of the Territory, brought to life by four well-known Darwinites: ABC radio journalist Fred McCue, journalist, author and historian Barbara James, academic and author Professor David Carment, and radio and television journalist Vicki Nangala-Tippett.



Local radio and television journalist Vicki Nangala-Tippett with Phyllis Williams, Director of the Darwin office at the opening of the refurbished facilities.

NEW FACES ON OUR COUNCIL

We welcome four new members to our Advisory Council – Barbara Belcher, Dr Jane Wilson, Tony Rutherford and Paul Santamaria.

Barbara Belcher is a First Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. She has previously held senior positions in a number of departments including the Department of Human Services and Health.

Dr Jane Wilson is a consultant and company director. She is a member of the Medical Board of Queensland,

Chair of Horticulture Australia Ltd, Director of IMBcom Ltd, Bligh Ventures Ltd, Nature Australia Ltd and Brisbane Riverfestival, and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Tony Rutherford, a Western Australian senior policy consultant, has held various positions with the Institute of Public Affairs including Director of States' Policy Unit and Editor of *IPA Review*.

Paul Santamaria is a barrister and member of the Victorian Bar Council,

Bar Readers Course Committee, Continuing Legal Education Committee, Counsel Committee, and Australian Institute of Advocacy. He is a Senior Instructor for the Victorian Bar Readers Course. Mr Santamaria is the deputy chair of the Advisory Council.

These new members bring invaluable experience and expertise in areas such as research, policy, law and business that will assist the Council in its role as an adviser to the Archives and the Minister for the Arts and Sport.

Closer Indigenous links in SA

At a moving and colourful ceremony in Adelaide we signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA Inc to further improve access to Commonwealth and State government records for Indigenous people in South Australia.

Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich signed the MOU with Basil Sumner, Chairperson of Nunkuwarrin Yunti, a process repeated by signatories for three other MOUs from State Records SA, the State Library of SA and SA Births, Deaths and Marriages.

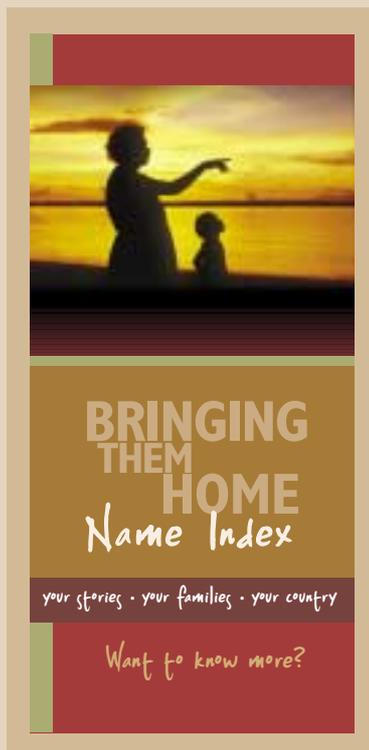
Anne-Marie spoke of the importance of records in re-establishing family and

community links and highlighted our commitment to the *Bringing Them Home* report recommendations through our indexing project

(see below) and MOUs. We have signed similar MOUs with Indigenous organisations in Victoria and Northern Territory.



Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich signs the MOU with Basil Sumner, Chairperson of Nunkuwarrin Yunti.



Indigenous index growing daily

As part of our Bringing Them Home project, we have now indexed over 300,000 names of Indigenous people that appear in our records.

The project was initiated in response to the *Bringing Them Home* report to help Indigenous people find information about themselves and their families.

Although external funding for our Bringing Them Home activities ceased in June 2002, we are continuing to fund this important activity in Canberra, Melbourne and Darwin.

We have also begun compiling a list of Indigenous soldiers who served in

World War I. This list draws on lists from *Reveille* magazine, other publications and the Australian War Memorial. Names provided by living family members and from our WW I service dossiers have been added. We hope to make the list available to people attending our information sessions on Indigenous family history.

A brochure explaining the Bringing Them Home name index and how to access it is available from our offices. Information about how to find Indigenous records is also available on our website at www.naa.gov.au.



Mrs Emma Duck
and her four children

NAA: A1, 1917/5576

Australia has been home to Chinese people since the early 1800s, becoming an even more popular destination when gold was discovered in the 1850s. Chinese men came to make their fortune, or just a living, many fleeing from their drought and war-stricken villages in southern China.

CHINESE GOLD

Whether they struck it rich or not, many Chinese men stayed in Australia. Some brought their wives and children from China while others married women of European, Indigenous or Asian descent here. They settled in all corners of the country – around the tin mines of Tasmania, in metropolitan Sydney, on remote stations in outback Queensland, and in the pearling town of Broome.

After Federation in 1901, one of the first laws passed by the new nation was the Immigration Restriction Act. The Act aimed to limit the numbers of non-European migrants to the country, and brought in the infamous Dictation Test.

By Federation, people of Chinese descent in Australia saw themselves as part of a

white nation. Yet the Act also limited the freedom of Australian-born Chinese to travel in and out of the country.

Documents held in our collection reveal how Chinese people negotiated the restrictions placed on their lives by the Immigration Restriction Act in their dealings with the government. Files containing birth certificates, baptismal certificates, photographs, school reports, personal letters and correspondence tell us of their heartaches and hardships as well as their achievements.

For Chinese-Australians researching their heritage as well as those interested in Australia's multicultural past, our collection is a gold mine.



Yong Choo



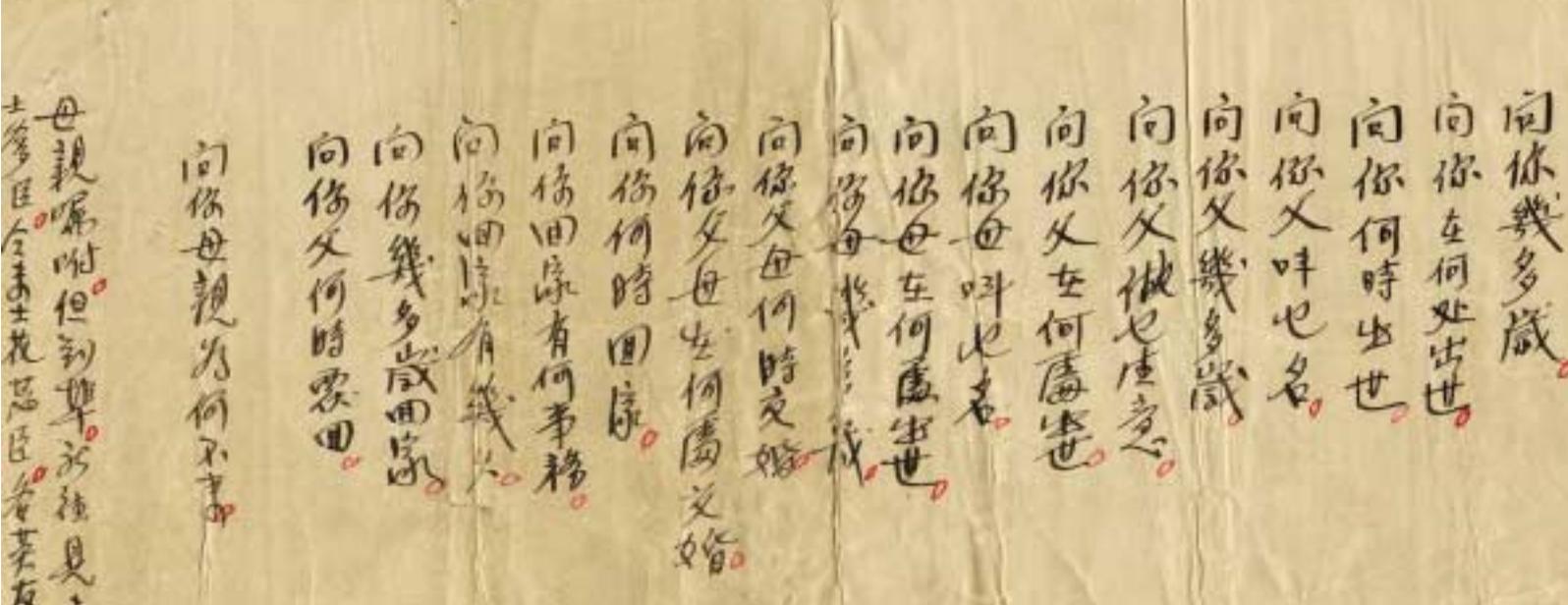
Henry



Mullum



Nelly



IN THE ARCHIVES

Above: Questions and answers prepared for Yong Choo by his father to help him return to Australia.

In 1899, Australian-born Yong Choo, Henry, Mullum and Nelly Duck went to China to attend school. Many Chinese families in Australia sent their children to China for a few years to gain a Chinese education. However, to return to Australia, under the Immigration Restriction Act they had to prove their identity and that they were born here. Australian birth certificates were one form of proof, but government officials also used photographs, handprints and interviews to confirm their identity.

After ten years in China, the Duck children no longer spoke any English. To help them answer the official's questions correctly, their father wrote possible questions and answers in Chinese on pieces of paper. On discovering these papers, Australian officials thought the children must have been Chinese-born and were trying to enter Australia illegally. Eventually the confusion was sorted out and they were allowed home to live with their father in rural Queensland.



Nelly Duck's handprint. Handprints were used to confirm the identity of non-Europeans applying to re-enter Australia.

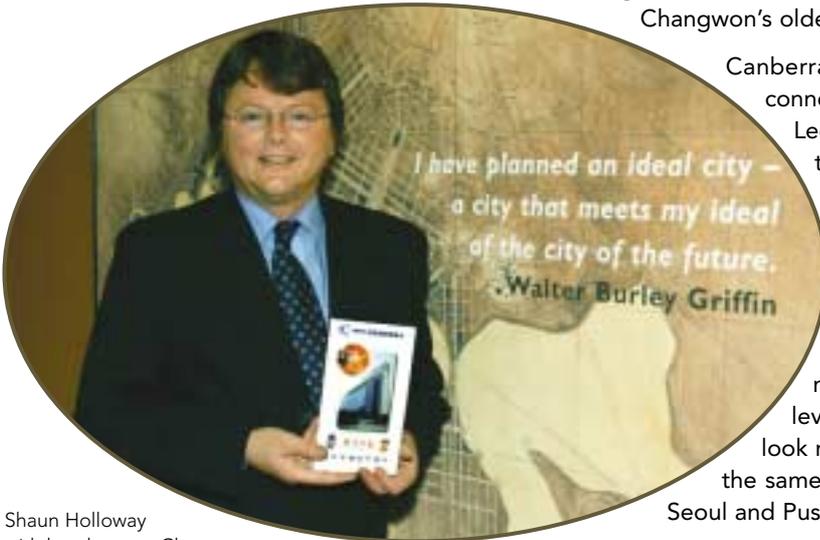


NAA: A1, 1917/5576

(Yong Choo)

CANBERRA'S CHANGWON CONNECTION

To visit the Hotel Canberra, go to Commonwealth Avenue in the centre of the national capital – or visit Changwon in South Korea. If you catch a taxi to the hotel in Changwon, don't be surprised if your driver talks about Canberra as Changwon's older brother.



Shaun Holloway with brochure on Changwon, at our Griffin exhibition in Canberra

Canberra resident Shaun Holloway discovered this connection when he met a Changwon local, Deok-Sun Lee, who was studying English in Canberra. Shaun then went to Changwon to teach English for a year.

It's no coincidence that the planned city of Changwon has a central circle with four radiating roads and a lake because it took Canberra, Australia as its model.

Changwon's high-rise apartments don't bear much resemblance to Canberra's generally low level skyline, but Shaun says the city's clean, planned look reminds him of home. Changwon also bears much the same relation to the more chaotic, unplanned cities of Seoul and Pusan as Canberra does to Sydney and Melbourne.

Shaun has returned to Canberra but now has a special connection to Changwon. He married Deok-Sun. Both have a dream that one day Canberra and Changwon will have a sister city relationship in addition to their brotherly connection based on design.

MORE THAN JUST A

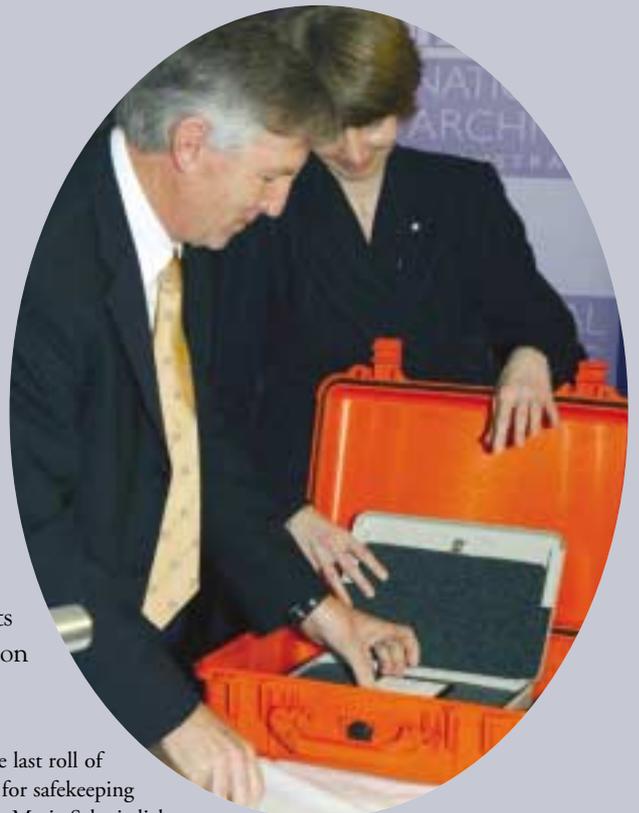
number

As part of the 2001 census, all Australians were given the opportunity of taking their place in history.

By ticking 'yes' to question 50, they agreed to having microfilm copies of their returns kept in a time capsule for 99 years before being opened.

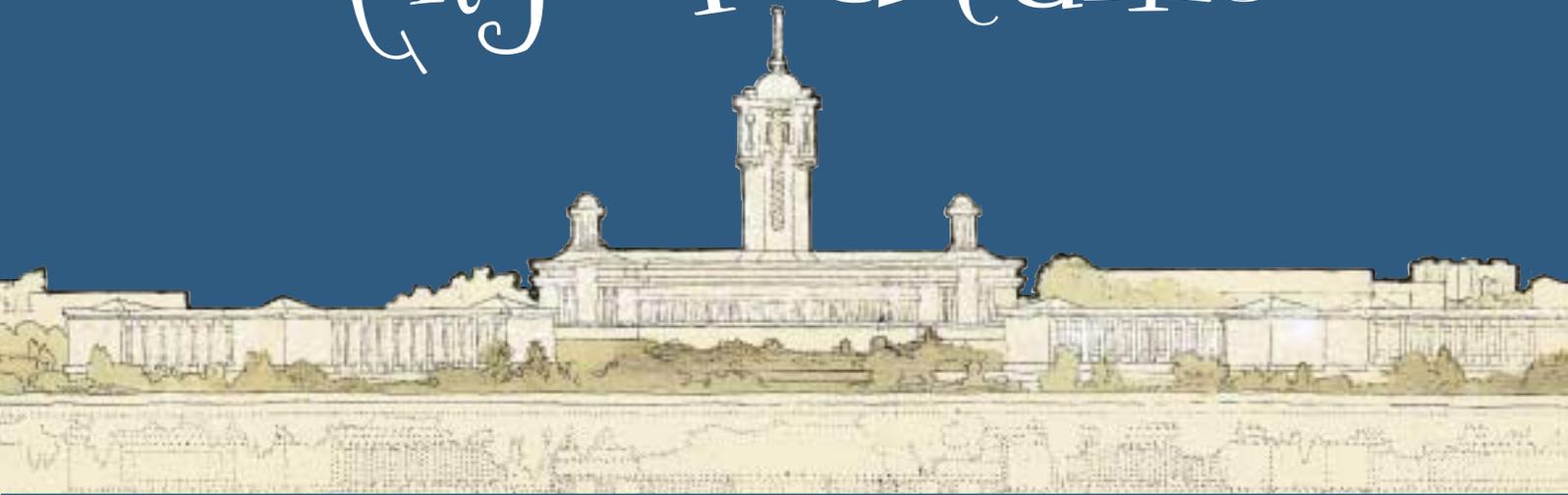
The Australian Bureau of Statistics handed over the last roll of microfilm to us on 24 September 2002. In all, there were 1,422 rolls of film containing information on almost 10 million people.

The microfilms have been deposited in one of our security vaults where they will remain until they are released to the public on 7 August 2100.



The Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewin, removes the last roll of microfilm from its security case before presenting it for safekeeping to our Acting Director-General, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich.

City of Dreams



A busload of locals and visitors took a very different tour of the nation's capital last August. Instead of the usual national attractions, they were shown the city that might have been, had Walter and Marion Griffin's award-winning design actually been built.

The tour was part of our Griffin week of activities to complement *A Vision Splendid*, our exhibition on the Griffins on show in Canberra last year.

Leading the tour was the Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of New South Wales, James Weirick. An unabashed Griffin enthusiast, Professor Weirick lamented the lack of foresight among the early bureaucrats of Canberra who obstructed Walter Burley Griffin at every step.

As the bus moved along Constitution Avenue, he noted that in the Griffin plan this street was to have been the main thoroughfare of Canberra. It was to have had shops and businesses and been served by a railway station – instead the line terminates in Kingston on the opposite side of the lake.

Travelling along Anzac Parade, flanked by its sombre memorials, Professor Weirick noted that it was quite unlike the wide boulevard of parks and gardens envisioned by the Griffins. Though a stunning architectural design, the War Memorial was a far cry from the 'casino' that the Griffins had positioned there. Their casino was not a gaming house but a place of recreation with swimming pool, lawns and confectionery stands.

The current location of the War Memorial was one of many changes that eroded the Griffin plan. Others included placing the temporary Parliament House below its intended position on Camp Hill and the new Parliament House on Mount Kurrajong.

The tour continued to General Bridges' grave in Duntroon, the only permanent Griffin-designed structure ever built in Canberra. At Pialligo near Canberra Airport, the group alighted to walk through the California Red Wood plantation, a Griffin-inspired landscape feature.

At the last stop, as the group admired the magnificent view from the top of Parliament House, Professor Weirick was asked what he thought of the building's design. He admitted that since publishing an article criticising it in the 1980s, he had warmed to the building and thought it had some admirable qualities.

He conceded that he felt the same about Canberra itself – though not the place the Griffins designed, it is still a great city and one of the world's finest designs for a national capital.

For more about the Griffin design for Canberra and why it was never built, read *Canberra following Griffin: A Design History of Australia's National Capital* by the late Paul Reid. It can be purchased for \$90 by phoning (02) 6212 3609 or emailing naasales@naa.gov.au.

Sights and sounds in the Archives



Anna Koh, film preservation officer in our Sydney office, examining and preparing film for storage in the air-conditioned vaults.

Say the word 'archives' and most people think paper. So it may come as a surprise to learn that we hold vast quantities of audiovisual records in our collection, including more than 125,000 reels of film and over 100,000 sound recordings created by various Commonwealth government agencies.

To ensure the survival of these fragile and precious records, we have embarked on a massive audiovisual preservation program. The first step has been to enlarge and refurbish our facilities, including the film laboratory where film is cleaned and repaired, studios for copying audio and video material, and

storage vaults. These facilities are in our Chester Hill office in Sydney, the city where most of the Commonwealth government agencies producing audiovisual records are located.

The second step is a five-year program to copy records that have badly deteriorated, or were originally recorded on now obsolete formats, such as 2-inch videotapes or audio micro-cassettes.

This valuable work, largely unseen by the public, will ensure that speeches of Prime Ministers, film censorship cuts, government advertising campaigns, Film Australia features and newsreels, and ABC and SBS programs will be available to current and future generations of Australians.

If you want to know more about audio records in our collection, check out our research guide *Sound Recordings in the National Archives* under Publications on our website at www.naa.gov.au. The guide can be purchased for \$10 by phoning (02) 6212 3609 or emailing naasales@naa.gov.au.

```
<xsl:when test="$outputType = 'CSS_INLINED'">  
<xsl:call-template name="apply-styles-and-content"/>
```

Music to our eyes!

What's the connection between a software program for reading digital files and a fantasy musical starring Olivia Newton-John?

The name, **xanadu**. It's been given to software we've developed to help researchers of the future to read electronic records stored in our digital repository.

The Archives is on the brink of a new way of ensuring that today's electronic records can be read by researchers of the future, whatever their original format.

Because of the pace of changing technology, what we create with our computer hardware and software today could be virtually inaccessible tomorrow.

To overcome this problem, we have developed a way of converting records into standardised formats that don't require the original software or hardware to read them. Attached to the records is metadata, which gives additional information such as how the record was created and its original format.

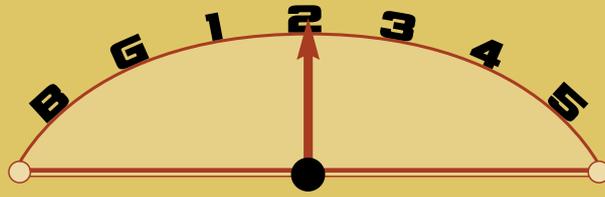
To access the record, researchers will be able to use our free archival viewer – xanadu – which we will keep updated and publicly available. Researchers who want to access the record in its original

format will still be able to do so, provided they have the necessary computer hardware and software.

Xanadu is an acronym for XML Archiving Normalising and Displaying Universally, where XML is the mark-up language used to convert records into a standardised format.

We anticipate that this revolutionary software will be available in 2003.

For more information on this exciting initiative contact Andrew Wilson at andreww@naa.gov.au.



NAA: A1200, L21495

Spot the store detective!

Well, even if he's not with security, he certainly looks the part as he wanders around the perfume and make-up counters!

We're not really certain where this department store is, although the signs for Olympics souvenirs suggest it might be Melbourne.

Looks like a busy day on the floor, but back in the 1950s there were always plenty of shop assistants eager to serve.

Archives exhibitions

Charters of Our Nation

Federation Gallery, National Archives, Canberra. Permanent exhibition.

Beacons by the Sea: Stories of Australian Lighthouses

National Archives, Canberra
19 October 2002 to 16 February 2003

Western Australia Maritime Museum, Fremantle. 9 May to 13 July 2003

Matthew Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage

(a touring exhibition from the State Library of NSW) National Archives, Canberra
28 February to 25 May 2003

Wine! An Australian Social History

Bundaberg Arts Centre, Qld
7 December 2002 to 19 January 2003

Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga, NSW
31 January to 30 March 2003

Migration Museum, SA
11 April to 27 July 2003

Caught in the Rear View Mirror with Roy and HG

Yackandandah Historical Society, Vic
5 December 2002 to 27 February 2003

Lady Denman Heritage Centre, Huskisson, NSW. 14 March to 15 June 2003

CANBERRA CONTACTS

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Facsimile 1300 886 882
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

World War I service records

Telephone (02) 6212 3400
Facsimile (02) 6212 3499
Email: ww1@naa.gov.au

World War II service records

Telephone 1300 886 881
Facsimile 1300 886 882
Email: ww2@naa.gov.au

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/

Preservation and disaster recovery inquiries

Ian Batterham (02) 6212 3424

Lending

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

Archives Advices and Fact Sheets

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

Archives events

CANBERRA

Summer Speakers

A trio of talks about Australia in 1972.

Michael McKernan on politics, 14 Jan.

Bud Tingwell on acting and theatre, 21 Jan.

Peter Wherrett on cars and car racing, 28 Jan.

Talks held at 5.15 pm and 7 pm.

Bookings essential. Contact (02) 6212 3624.

Still the Lucky Country?

A series of talks investigating Australia as the 'lucky country'. For details contact 6212 3624.

Robert de Castella on health and fitness, 2 Feb.

Anne Henderson as part of Women's History Month, 2 March

Family History Fair, 6 April, 10 am – 4 pm.

Speakers and displays on family history records. Includes the National Library, the Australian War Memorial, NSW State Records, ACT Heritage Library, local history and genealogy groups. Contact (02) 6212 3956.

BRISBANE

Family & Local History Fair, 1 April.

Visit our information stand and explore local attractions at the Caboolture Historical Village. Contact Maureen Hall, Fair Convener (07) 5428 6470 or hallm@mail.cth.com.au.

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW Regional Tour, 7–11 April. Learn about our collections and those of State Records NSW. Various venues on the mid North Coast and Northern Tablelands. Contact (02) 9645 0141.

Society of Australian Genealogists

Showcase, 30–31 May. Visit our display stand for advice on family history records. Contact (02) 9645 0141.

PERTH

Introduction to the National Archives and Family History Research,

1 April. Joint seminar with Western Australian Genealogical Society and National Archives Perth. Contact (08) 9470 7500.



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