

Flinders sails into the Archives

The Minister for the Arts and Sport, the Hon. Rod Kemp, MP, opened *Matthew Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage*, in our Canberra gallery on 20 March. The exhibition from the State Library of NSW marks the bicentenary of Flinders' epic circumnavigation of Australia.

In introducing the exhibition, Minister Kemp highlighted some of Flinders' major achievements. Flinders compiled the first complete chart of the continent, discovered that Australia's east (New South Wales) and its west (New Holland) were the same land-mass and, with George Bass, proved Tasmania was an island. Minister Kemp enthusiastically recommended the exhibition, which presents more than 50 eighteenth and nineteenth century treasures, many never before seen by the Australian public.

Exhibition curator Paul Brunton also spoke at the opening. With customary wit, Paul told visitors that 'Flinders was delighted to be in Canberra, the national capital of the country that he named ... and delighted to be at the National



Portrait of Matthew Flinders.
Unknown artist, 1801. Watercolour on ivory.
Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML MIN 52)

Archives, being something of an archivist himself in his concern for the documentary record'. On a serious note, Paul explained that the subtitle of the travelling exhibition, 'The Ultimate Voyage', was chosen to give Flinders 'his lap of honour ... the honour of which he was robbed during his lifetime'.

Matthew Flinders spent from 1801 to 1803 tracing the coast of the Australian continent aboard the *Investigator*. But his charts were not published until 1814.

On his way home to England, Flinders was detained by the French authorities on the island of Mauritius. Accused of being a spy, he remained there for six and a half years. During this time he drew his great map of Australia, but the prolonged stay kept him separated from his wife, Ann, and delayed the publication of his charts, effectively ending his career at the age of 29.

The exhibition brings together precious items from the collections of the State Library and other institutions and individuals, including Flinders' great-grand-daughter. They include Flinders' handwritten log books and journal from the HMS *Investigator*, his charts of Australia, private letters including love letters to his wife, and personal items such as his sword, chess set, flute and shaving kit.



Flinders sails into the Archives (continued)

Digitised versions and transcripts of Flinders' logs and diaries, and a national calendar of events, can be viewed at www.slnsw.gov.au/flinders.

Visit this rare exhibition in our Canberra gallery until 22 June 2003. You can join public talks and exhibition tours by exhibition curator Paul Brunton and others (see back page for details).

Minister for the Arts and Sport, Rod Kemp (right) with exhibition curator Paul Brunton.

Ian Maclean

a lifetime in archives (1919–2003)

Ian Maclean was the first archivist responsible for the Commonwealth Archives. He died on 26 February, leaving behind many good friends and colleagues in the archives community.

In 1944, at the age of 24, he was appointed as the Commonwealth Government's first Archives Officer at the Commonwealth National Library.

One of Ian's primary duties, which he tackled single-handedly, was to consult departments on the appraisal, transfer and preservation of their records. This continues to be one of the National Archives' main roles today.

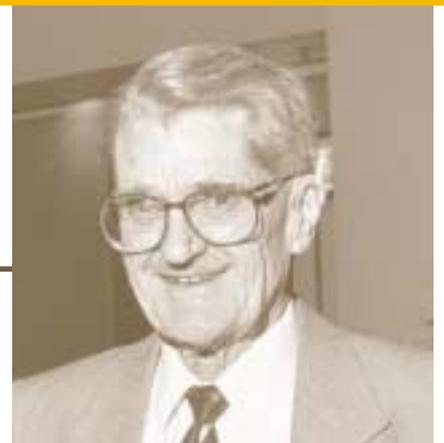
The one-man Archives section expanded to become the Archives Division in 1948, which evolved into the Commonwealth Archives Office in 1960, headed by Ian until 1968. In 1958 a Commonwealth government scholarship took him to Europe and North America, allowing him to bring overseas archival best practice back to Australia.

Ian's career included a period spent in Bangkok, from 1968 to 1974, as the

Principal Archivist for the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO). After returning to Australia he was briefly the Director of the newly established Australian Archives, 1974–75, then Deputy Keeper of Public Records in Victoria, 1975–76, and later the Principal Archivist at the Archives Authority of NSW until his retirement in 1980.

His contribution to the archival system for government records used today encompassed both intellectual and practical aspects. The series system, used for the intellectual control of records, was conceived by Peter Scott under Ian's leadership. Ian was responsible for the Type 1 box, now widely used for storing archival records.

Ian's contribution to archives went beyond Australia. As a consultant for UNESCO, he assisted and advised a number of developing countries in



Africa, Asia and the Pacific on the development of their archives.

His active role in the archival profession included his inaugural vice-presidency of the Australian Society of Archivists.

In recognition of his service to archives and the archival profession, Ian Maclean was made a member of the Order of Australia in 1996.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of his appointment as Archives Officer, the National Archives published *The Records Continuum: Ian Maclean and the Australian Archives First Fifty Years* in 1994. We are currently planning a fellowship in his honour.

Ian will long be remembered as one of the founders of the Australian archival profession. He was an influential figure in the development of the archival system for government that we know and use today.

New Director-General in the chair



On 20 February the Minister for the Arts and Sport announced the appointment of Ross Gibbs as our new Director-General. Ross took up his appointment on 7 April.

Ross Gibbs comes to the Archives with a wealth of experience in the archives and library sector. For more than a decade he was Director and Keeper of Public Records at the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV). In that role, he was responsible for the development of VERS, an innovative solution to the long-term storage of electronic information, and Archives@Victoria, a web-based management and access system for PROV's collections.

The Melbourne Archives Centre was the result of Ross's close collaboration with the National Archives. Opened in 1997, the joint reading room enables researchers in Melbourne to consult the PROV and National Archives collections in the one centrally located place.

Ross is Deputy Chair of Visions of Australia, the Commonwealth government's touring exhibitions funding body. He is also a member of the National Collections Advisory Forum established in 2002 to provide strategic advice to Australian governments on archives, libraries, galleries and museums.



Former Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich with (left to right) former Director-General George Nichols (1990–2000), Acting Director-General Steve Stuckey, former Director-General Brian Cox OBE MVO (1984–89), former Director Keith Pearson AO (1970–71) and (seated) former Director-General Professor Robert (Bob) Neale AO (1975–84).

In January, after a distinguished career with the Archives spanning 20 years, Acting Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich left the Archives to take up the position of CEO of the State Library of Victoria.

Anne-Marie had been Acting Director-General of the Archives since the retirement of the former Director-General George Nichols in 2000.

In that time, Anne-Marie oversaw major advances in government record-keeping standards and advice, the preservation and digitisation of archival records, the review and documentation of the Archives collection, and improved accessibility to the records, including the launch of the *Australia's Prime Ministers* website.

We wish Anne-Marie a fond farewell and warmly welcome Ross to the Archives.



NAA: A3560, 4573



NAA: A3560, 7539

mourning Mount Stromlo

When devastating bushfires struck the western outskirts of Canberra in January, one of the oldest buildings in the Australian Capital Territory lay directly in their path.

Within minutes, most of the buildings in the Mount Stromlo Observatory complex, including the expensive equipment they housed, were completely destroyed. The arduous task of rebuilding the historic complex now lies ahead.

The site for the solar observatory was chosen in 1910, but war intervened and construction on Mount Stromlo did not begin until 1923. Founded mainly to study the sun and support research into geophysics, the complex was later extended to include residences, plant and maintenance buildings.

The National Archives holds extensive records on the establishment and construction of the Mount Stromlo Observatory. Perhaps the most valuable are architectural drawings showing the meticulous construction of the observatory. These drawings include details of laboratories, telescope

domes, residences, administration buildings, storerooms and workshops.

Also in the collection are more than 150 photographs of the observatory taken by William James (Jack) Mildenhall, the government photographer who recorded the development of early Canberra in the 1920s and 30s. Most of these images have been digitised and are available for viewing through our RecordSearch database.

More recent images of Mount Stromlo, taken by the Australian Overseas Information Service, can be viewed on our PhotoSearch database.

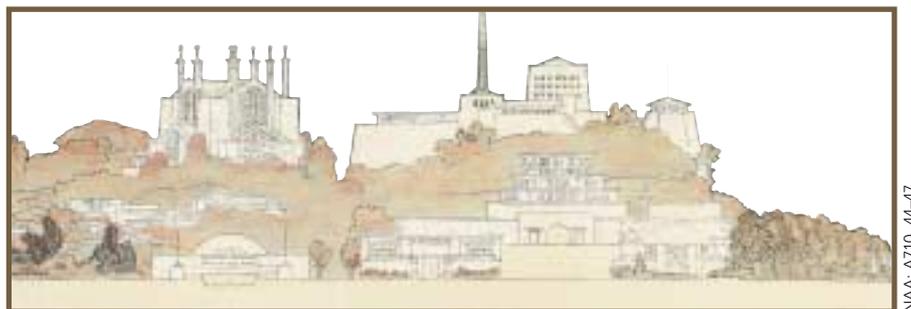
Other records about Mount Stromlo Observatory in our collection are listed in Fact Sheet 167, which is available under 'Publications – Fact Sheets' on our website at www.naa.gov.au. Most of these records have been digitised and are available for viewing through RecordSearch.

Mount Stromlo Solar Observatory buildings and dome, 1928. Photos from the Mildenhall collection.

MEMORY OF THE WORLD

Seventeen landmark Constitutional documents and 12 Griffin design drawings for Canberra have been added to the Australian register for UNESCO's Memory of the World Program.

The Memory of the World Program is a register of significant heritage documents maintained by UNESCO. It is the equivalent of the World Heritage Register, which lists sites of natural and built heritage significance.



NAA: A710, 44-47

Detail of Griffin drawing.

On 30 April, former Minister for Science Dr Barry Jones presented the Archives with certificates for the two treasured collections that have been added to the Australian register:

Many of the Constitutional documents are held by the Archives, while others are owned or controlled by the National Library of

Australia, the High Court of Australia, the Parliament of Australia and the Office of the Governor-General. Some can be viewed in the Federation Gallery in our Canberra office and on our *Documenting a Democracy* website.

The 12 Griffin drawings are held in our collection and were recently exhibited in our Canberra gallery.

LADIES IN THE LODGE



Enid Lyons. NAA: SP1011, 3062



Margaret Whitlam with Diana Waite (left) of WA and Juliet Mitchell (right) of UK at the Women and Politics conference, Canberra, 1975. NAA: 6180, 5/9/75/16

Speaking at Old Parliament House as part of a 1997 lecture series on Prime Ministers, former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam commented:

A view is held, and sometimes expressed in the Whitlam household, that wives of Prime Ministers are more highly regarded and widely loved than Prime Ministers themselves, both during and after their time in office.

This statement, albeit somewhat tongue-in-cheek, highlights the unique position of prime ministerial wives. Compared with their famous spouses, however, relatively little is known about their achievements.

Our *Australia's Prime Ministers* website and research guides on prime ministers shed some light on the public role of the wives of our nation's leaders.

Enid Lyons, wife of Australia's tenth prime minister, Joseph Lyons, was the first woman to be elected to the House of Representatives. She was publicly involved in politics from the outset,

even spending her honeymoon at a Premiers Conference. She was also a staunch advocate of women's rights.

After campaigning actively on behalf of her husband for many years, Enid Lyons entered federal politics herself in 1943, four years after his death. All the while she managed the large and scattered Lyons family and battled periods of ill health. At the birth of her first child she suffered a broken pelvis, which was not diagnosed until after the birth of her twelfth, and last, child.

Margaret Whitlam also gained public attention as an outspoken prime ministerial wife. Recently named a 'National Living Treasure', she has been a champion swimmer, social worker, magazine columnist, and passionate advocate for women's rights and social causes. She has also played host to hundreds of official visitors including Queen Elizabeth II and Germaine Greer.

Margaret Whitlam has continued her public career for more than 25 years

since the dismissal of the Whitlam government in 1975, and was awarded the Order of Australia in 1983.

For more fascinating facts about these and other prime ministerial wives, visit the *Australia's Prime Ministers* website at primeministers.naa.gov.au.

You can also explore our series of research guides on prime ministers and their wives. The second one, *Joseph Lyons: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers* by Susan Marsden, lists records relating to both Joseph and Enid Lyons. Also available is *Our First Six*, a guide to records on Australia's first six prime ministers and their wives, written by Susan Marsden and Roslyn Russell.

The guides cost \$19.95 and can be purchased online through our website, by phoning (02) 6212 3609, emailing naasales@naa.gov.au, or visiting one of our offices. They can also be viewed online on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

AUSTRALIAN INVENTORS



The first stump-jumping plough, the 'Vixen', invented by the Smith brothers, 1876.

NAA: A6180, 18/179/17

Earlier this year Enid Netting and Graham Thomas from our Adelaide office set out on a regional tour of Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. Below is what they had to report.

A tip-top tour

George the giant squid, the graves of shipwrecked sailors, and the innovative stump-jump plough were just a few of the local wonders we encountered on our tour to the tip of Yorke Peninsula.

Starting at the picturesque port of Edithburgh, we travelled north, sharing our collection with residents of all ages along the way. People were delighted to see the array of records from our collection that chronicle the history of their area and its residents, and we in turn were treated to their local treasures.

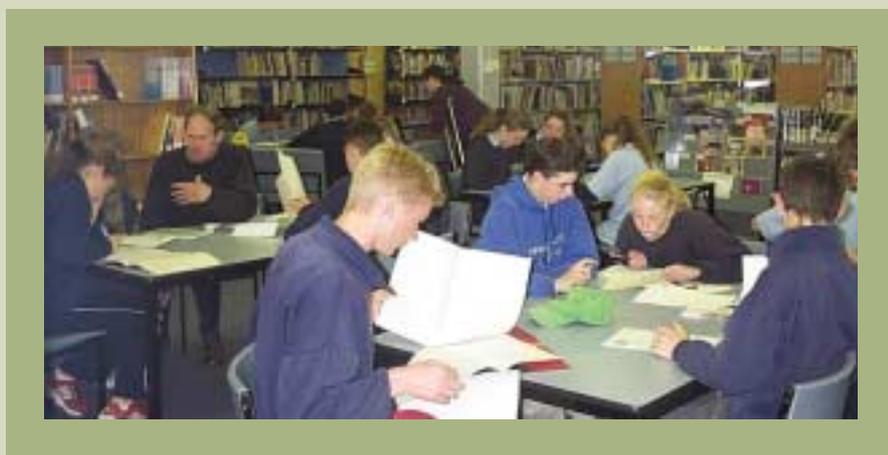
We discovered George the giant squid preserved in the Wallaroo Heritage and Nautical Museum. Measuring about 9 metres with tentacles outstretched, George was extracted from the stomach of a whale some 30 years ago.

The Edithburgh Cemetery contains the graves of 40 sailors who lost their lives when the *SS Clan Ranald* overturned off the coast of Edithburgh in 1909. Most of them were Indian in origin and are buried far from the other graves. As our records show, the survivors were extradited to Colombo as illegal immigrants under the White Australia Policy.

At Androssan we found the original stump-jump plough invented by the Smith brothers of Yorke Peninsula in 1876. Its innovative feature was a mechanism that allowed the plough to rise and fall as it struck rocks and mallee stumps left behind on cleared farming land. Our collection includes letters from Richard Bowyer Smith registering the stump-jump plough and describing how it worked.

Our fascination for these local icons seemed to be reciprocated by enthusiasm for what the Archives has to offer. Kadina secondary students were intrigued by migrant selection papers, Bublacowie military museum curator Chris Soar was impressed with our digitised defence service records, and Wallaroo maritime historians were inspired to plumb the depths of our lighthouse logs and coastal trading records. People were also quick to appreciate the value of our website and online database, enabling country users to conduct research without visiting a reading room.

This was the first of our annual regional tours planned for South Australia, and will certainly be a hard one to top.



Year 10 Kadina High School Australian Studies students exploring samples of our records.

Where were you in '72?

It was the year that Germaine Greer returned to Australia to promote *The Female Eunuch*, less than 10 per cent of people surveyed by the *Canberra Times* wanted 'God Save the Queen' as the national anthem, and Shane Gould won Olympic gold!

Every year we mark the release of Cabinet papers from 30 years ago through our Summer Speakers series. In January, Canberra historian Dr Michael McKernan, motoring commentator Peter Wherrett and seasoned actor Bud Tingwell reviewed the highlights of '72.

Dr Michael McKernan began with a vibrant talk about the political events of the year. Michael remembered 1972 as the year the Whitlam government launched its famous 'It's Time' campaign, securing Labor's election win in December, and as Michael expressed it, 'freezing the McMahon government in the headlights of the ute the Whitlam government was driving'!

Peter Wherrett talked about the watershed in the automotive industry resulting from heightened awareness of greenhouse gases. He remembered 1972 as the year that Asian cars absorbed the Hillman, Morris and Austin market, and Ford and General Motors began manufacturing 'break-away' models

designed and manufactured by Australians. It was also the year that accident fatalities were reduced by 30 per cent through the introduction of compulsory seatbelts, and Peter received his big break as presenter on the ABC's motoring program, *Torque*.

Bud Tingwell spoke about the rebirth of the Australian film industry in 1972, and how he 'battled to make movies'. After beginning his acting career in radio, Bud went to Hollywood and London before settling back in Australia in 1972. To his delight he found that the film and television industry in Australia had progressed beyond its continental peers. Bud confessed he planned very little of his career, and that he owes his film and television career to simply being in the right place at the right time!



Dr Michael McKernan



Peter Wherrett



Bud Tingwell



Kirribilli House, Sydney. NAA: A6135, K6/10/87/20

>Signposting cyberspace<

Records in the public interest

Part of our role is to work with Commonwealth government agencies to determine how long their various records should be kept. Recently we assisted three agencies to develop new disposal authorities for their records.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet manages the Prime Minister's official residences at the Lodge in Canberra and Kirribilli House in Sydney, which are part of the national estate.

The Official Establishments Trust advises the government on the operation, conservation and long-term development of the Prime Minister's residences as well as those of the Governor-General – Government House in Canberra and Admiralty House in Sydney.

In this joint project, departmental staff researched the history of the agencies, interviewed key agency staff and consulted with us. Our role was to ensure that records needed for the future care of the official residences and of continuing historical interest were kept permanently.

The National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA) is a small agency that evaluates, registers, regulates and monitors all agricultural and veterinary chemicals used in Australia. Under the NRA's previous authority, records about the registration of these chemicals could be destroyed after 75 years.

Under its new records disposal authority, scientific data provided by companies when applying to register a chemical will now be kept for at least 50 years after the chemical has ceased to be used in Australia. For chemicals about which a significant health or environmental issue has arisen, the data will be retained permanently to be available for any future investigations.

Thanks to the joint efforts of Archives and agency staff, the records of these agencies will be available for as long as they are needed to protect the interests of all Australians.

A new Australian website standard could greatly improve the accuracy of searches for information and services on the Internet. Developed by the National Archives, Standards Australia, the information technology industry and State governments, the standard is designed to make website resources more easily found.

The AGLS Metadata Standard (AS 5044) defines 19 elements, or metadata, which can be used to describe web-based information and services. These elements include author, title, subject, audience, function and availability.

Originally developed in 1998 for use by government agencies, AGLS has been made an Australian Standard that can be used by anyone wanting to increase their presence on the web. The success of the standard depends on website managers using the specified metadata, and search engines incorporating an appropriate metadata search facility.

For more information, visit the AGLS home page at www.naa.gov.au/agls, or to purchase the standard go to www.standards.com.au.



e^opermanence
bytes

New thesaurus guidelines

Thesaurus: a storehouse or repository, as of words or knowledge (from Greek *thesauros* treasure, treasury)

The Greeks felt certain words had special meaning and should be treasured above others. A modern thesaurus does just that. A thesaurus confers authority on some words and removes it from others. When applied to records, a thesaurus helps people to title records and provides key search words to retrieve them. As terminology in an organisation changes, a thesaurus keeps people up to date with the latest valued words.

Our updated guidelines *Developing a Functions Thesaurus: Guidelines for Commonwealth Agencies* will help agencies develop their own thesaurus. The guidelines are available under 'Recordkeeping – Control and Retrieval' on our website.



Training the trainers

Every day thousands of public service employees create thousands of records in the course of their jobs. How do agencies ensure that these records are captured in their recordkeeping systems so they are accessible to those who need them, now and in the future?

We have developed a new training package about good recordkeeping for agencies to use in the workplace. Designed for presentation by agency records and information managers, the training package includes presenter's notes, a PowerPoint presentation, a booklet and a ready reference card. All materials are available on our website and can be customised to include an agency's rules and procedures.

We are currently holding seminars for records managers on how to use these materials in their own agencies. Those interested in attending these seminars should email us at recordkeeping@naa.gov.au for further information.

TRAINING UPDATE

Training for Commonwealth Recordkeepers

7 May 2003, Perth
27 May 2003, Canberra
23 June 2003, Canberra
9 July 2003, Sydney

Developing a Functions Thesaurus

15 May 2003, Canberra

Introduction to DIRKS

27 May 2003, Melbourne
17 June 2003, Canberra

The more detailed practical DIRKS workshops are being programmed as needed for Commonwealth agencies undertaking DIRKS projects and for recordkeeping consultants.

For more information, please look under 'Recordkeeping – Training' on our website at www.naa.gov.au or telephone (02) 6212 3764.

Cartoon by Hinze/Scratch! Media



Keeping the copy

Is your agency drowning in documents that have already been scanned into an electronic system? Are there old data files clogging up the hard drive when reproductions have long since been migrated to new software? Help is at hand.

We have released a new general disposal authority (GDA) that allows Commonwealth agencies to destroy original records, subject to certain conditions and exclusions, if they have been reproduced by copying, conversion or migration processes. With extensive explanatory notes and implementation guidance, this GDA is sure to help clean up the office!

The new *General Disposal Authority for Source Records that have been Copied, Converted or Migrated* replaces and extends GDA 22. It is available on our website under 'Recordkeeping – Recordkeeping Publications.

For more information, email us at recordkeeping@naa.gov.au.

Out of sight, out of mind?

There is more to storing agency records than finding an empty basement or cheap warehouse.

The location, design and management of storage facilities can be crucial in ensuring records last as long as they are needed for legal, business and other purposes. Making the wrong choice can jeopardise the physical condition of records and compromise their security, or at worst, end in disaster.

Our publication *Storing to the Standard: Guidelines for Implementing the Standard for the Physical Storage of Commonwealth Records* is designed to guide government agencies in the storage of important business records. It includes a checklist of nearly 250 criteria for assessing the quality of storage facilities and services.

Storing to the Standard is now available online at www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/storage/standard.html



Prime Minister Holt at Portsea, Victoria in 1966, where he disappeared in heavy seas one year later.

NAA: A1200, L54379

LEGACY OF a PRIME

Harold Holt is perhaps best remembered by Australians as the prime minister who disappeared without a trace off Portsea in December 1967, sparking rumours of Russian submarines and CIA plots.

But records in our collection show that there is much more to discover about this fascinating prime minister.

Charming and debonair, Holt enjoyed visits to the race track, danced with the Queen Mother and entertained a young Prince Charles. He took a close interest in his family and was a friend to many people in Australia and overseas, including former US President Lyndon Johnson.

After working as a barrister and solicitor, Holt entered federal politics in 1935. He was a consummate and extremely hard-working politician with a career that spanned 32 years in Parliament. He held ministerial positions in the Departments of Immigration and Labour and National Service and was Treasurer for eight years before becoming Prime Minister in 1966.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Government's Cultural Gifts Program,

a tax incentive scheme which encourages the donation of significant items from personal collections to cultural institutions, including the National Archives.

Last year, under the Cultural Gifts Program, we acquired a collection of papers and memorabilia from Sam and Nick Holt relating to Harold Holt, his career and his family. The collection covers the period 1920–89 and complements other Holt records in our custody.

The papers include correspondence with Holt's political associates and personal friends, a signed menu for the 1951 Commonwealth of Australia Jubilee banquet, a typescript of Grant McIntyre's play *Monkey Tricks* (dedicated to Holt's grandson Christopher) and items relating to Zara Holt, her fashion business and death in 1989.

The collection also contains over 500 photographs, several films and some sound recordings (such as BA Conway's song 'We're with you all the way LBJ'). It even includes the briefcase that Holt took to Portsea on the fateful weekend he disappeared while swimming at Cheviot Beach.



Prime Minister Holt with President Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson during their visit to Australia.
NAA: A1200, L59270

MINISTER

The worn leather briefcase, monogrammed with Holt's initials, contains items which are both ordinary and intriguing – tortoiseshell hairbrushes, cigars still in their cases, a set of eyeshades, his school certificate and a copy of the Charter of Algiers to name a few.

You can find more information and links to this and other collections on our *Australia's Prime Ministers* website at primeministers.naa.gov.au. The briefcase will also feature on an online gallery celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Cultural Gifts Program later this year. More information about the program and its anniversary is available at www.dcita.gov.au/cgp.

We will soon be publishing a research guide, written by Pennie Pemberton, on records about Harold Holt held in various archives, libraries and other institutions. Costing \$19.95, it can be purchased online through our website, by phoning (02) 6212 3609, emailing naasales@naa.gov.au, or visiting one of our offices. It will also be available online on our website at www.naa.gov.au.



The briefcase that Prime Minister Harold Holt took to Portsea on the day he disappeared.



Unearthing Gregory Peck!

Participants in Work for the Dole projects have been helping to preserve and improve public access to our records in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Perth and have found some famous names in the process.

Participants in the Melbourne project have been working on alien registration records. Under the *Aliens Act 1947*, each State was required to keep a register of 'aliens' – immigrants or visitors to Australia. Alien registration records are the forms that people were required to complete.

Project participants have been repackaging the documents into acid-free folders to preserve and protect them, and capturing data from the forms. Once the data has been uploaded onto our RecordSearch database, people are able to search for records on either themselves or their family, by name. Data from almost 15,000 records have been captured so far.

Not even movie stars were exempt from the registration process. Among the 'aliens' in our records are Gregory Peck, Fred Astaire, Ava Gardner and Anthony Perkins, who visited Australia in 1959 to film the movie *On the Beach*.

Project participants in Adelaide and Sydney are also dealing with alien

registration records. The Adelaide project is capturing the movement of immigrants and visitors, including students, to South Australia after World War II. The project in Sydney involves data entry and repackaging alien registration forms for people entering New South Wales from 1948 to 1968.

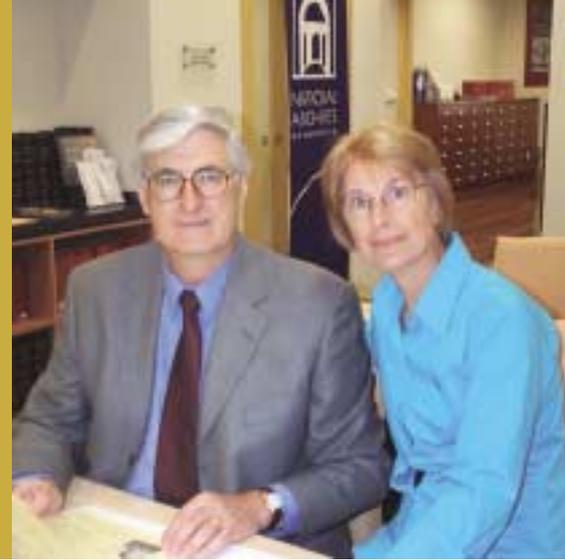
In Perth, project participants have been entering over 100,000 names and other data into a passenger index for ships arriving in Fremantle. So far they have entered data for 1926–27, including surname, given name, title, ship name, port of embarkation, port of disembarkation and arrival date in Fremantle. The index also includes passengers who travelled further on the same ship and disembarked in other Australian or overseas ports.

These projects are proving to be of great value, not only by increasing access to our collection but also by enhancing participants' computer and office skills.



Actor Gregory Peck completed an alien registration form when visiting Australia in 1959.
NAA: MP697/1

BOUND FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Professor Desmond O'Connor and Bianca O'Connor examining the files on Italian migrants in our Adelaide office.

Associate Professor Desmond O'Connor, Head of the Department of Languages and lecturer in Italian at Flinders University, has been studying Italian migration to South Australia for well over a decade.

In 1996, drawing on the wealth of information on migration in our Adelaide office, he published *No Need to be Afraid: Italian Settlers in South Australia between 1839 and the Second World War* (Wakefield Press). He is now writing a book on post-World War II Italian migration.

His first book tells the story of Italian migrants' struggle to be accepted in an Anglo-Saxon Australian society, where they were often viewed as a threat to jobs, national security and a way of life.

Professor O'Connor used personal files and migrant arrival data to build up a profile of pre-World War II Italian migrants. From detailed passenger statements completed by aliens on arrival in Australia dating back to April 1927, he compiled a database of 2,500 individuals. It includes their birthplace, arrival details and initial residence.

He also used files prepared by Australian security agencies dating from the late 1930s and 1940s. When war was declared against Italy, security officers raided the Italian consulate in Adelaide, which was also the headquarters of the local fascist branch. They found boxes of documents, photographs, and branch membership details.

'In the climate of fear of the time, all Italians were considered suspect. The evidence collected was used at subsequent court hearings to persuade judges to intern Italians who had been arrested, most of whom were naturalised British subjects and a few even Australian born,' comments Professor O'Connor.

His current research on postwar Italian migrants to South Australia will lead to a volume on Italian migration from the

1950s to the 1970s. His wife Bianca O'Connor is a dedicated partner in this project. From our Adelaide office, she has been compiling a database on more than 30,000 Italian postwar migrants to South Australia. This database will provide them with an elaborate picture of the origins, arrival details and settlement patterns of Italians in that state. It will also be a valuable resource to researchers tracing their Italian ancestry.

'A number of files tell of the difficulty experienced by some Southern Italians seeking to migrate to Australia', says Professor O'Connor. Although the White Australia Policy was not meant to apply to Italians, Australian migration officials in Rome could use their discretion to exclude anyone who had dark features, even when the applicant was a close relative of an Italian already settled in Australia. The files tell of Southern Italians also being rejected on account of their poor communication skills, untidy dress or strong body odour.

'As researchers well know, amongst the seemingly bureaucratic documents in the Archives' files you often get a glimpse of the hardship, hopes and disappointments of everyday people who are now part of our collective history,' Professor O'Connor concludes.

We are interested in hearing from other researchers who have used our records in their research for a book, film or other published work. Please contact the *Memento* editor by phoning (02) 6212 3923 or emailing mementoed@naa.gov.au.



Inauguration of the banner of the Adelaide branch of the Fascist Party, 21 April 1928.

Communist sympathisers, atomic bomb testing and uranium mining were some of the issues that preoccupied Cabinet in the Cold War climate of 1952.

These issues appear in the 1952 Cabinet notebooks, released to the public earlier this year. Cabinet notebooks record the views and discussion of Cabinet Ministers. Because of their sensitivity, they are released only after 50 years.

In February Dr John Knott from the Australian National University, and consultant historian to the Archives, briefed the media on the 1952 notebooks. Below are excerpts from his paper.



Chills in Menzies' 1952 Cabinet

Dr John Knott holding one of the 1952 Cabinet notebooks.

In September 1950, Menzies had secretly agreed to a request from Britain to conduct atomic weapon tests in Australia. Only a few people were told of the agreement: the then Acting Minister for Defence, Philip McBride, and the Secretaries of the Prime Minister's, Defence and Supply Departments. Menzies neither informed nor consulted his Cabinet over the decision.

The absurd situation eventually arose whereby the Minister for Supply, Howard Beale, was telling Parliament that rumours of atomic tests in Australia were 'completely false', while his own department head was cooperating with the British to arrange the tests.

In April 1952 an agreement was signed between the Combined Development Agency, the South Australian Government and federal government for the development of uranium deposits at Radium Hill. The Combined Development Agency, a joint US-UK authority created to ensure an adequate supply of uranium for the Western allies' weapons programs, would be the sole customer of the mine.

Menzies believed that selling to the Combined Development Agency was 'a matter of importance to the free world'. Nevertheless this did not stop some of his Ministers from openly questioning whether Australia was obtaining the best financial return from such an arrangement.

Australia did not succumb to the rampant McCarthyism that was experienced in the United States in 1952. Although communist witch-hunting occupied the attention of a good many members of Parliament (on both sides of politics), these Cabinet notebooks suggest that Menzies was not the Cold War warrior that he is occasionally portrayed as.

Certainly Menzies and a majority of his Cabinet were not prepared to abandon basic civil liberties in order to deal with the perceived threat of communist subversion. Proposed changes to the Official Secrets Act, for example – which were to include powers to search without a warrant, arrest on suspicion and reverse the onus of proof – were rejected as too draconian.

To find out more,
read Dr Knott's paper
or view digitised images
of the Cabinet notebooks
and transcripts under
'Cabinet' in the Collection
section of our website at
www.naa.gov.au.

our creative nation

Our forthcoming research guide reveals one of the most intriguing parts of our collection. *A Nation's Imagination: Australia's Copyright Records, 1854–1968* describes records in our collection on copyright registration since before Federation.

From the 1870s until 1968, anyone wishing to register copyright of their work was required to submit an application and a copy of their work to the government agency responsible for copyright. This registration system has created a unique record of Australian literary, artistic and theatrical endeavour.

Our copyright collection showcases creative works in many formats, including board games, novels, theatre scripts, maps, songs and photographs.

It encompasses works that are both familiar and obscure. From Mademoiselle Lotty's

titillating 'poses plastiques' to the propaganda of *The Peril of Melbourne*, there is something to interest everyone.

Amongst the famous names to be found is May Gibbs, the creator of *Gum-nut Babies* (1916), *Tales of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* (1918) and other children's books. Looking at the delightful drawings in our collection, it is easy to understand why they continue to hold appeal today. May Gibbs' wide-eyed wattleblossom babies have lost nothing of their original sweetness and humour.

The guide costs \$10.00 and can be purchased online through our website, by phoning (02) 6212 3609, emailing naasales@naa.gov.au, or visiting one of our offices. It can also be viewed online on our website at www.naa.gov.au.



'I want to see a Human,' said Snugglepot. 'In the distance,' said Cuddlepie.
'Wattleblossom babies' by May Gibbs, 1916. © 1916–2003 The Northcott Society and the Spastic Centre of New South Wales.

THE CONSTITUTION — simple as ABC!

If you've ever wanted to learn about our Constitution without getting knee-deep in legislation, our video could be just what you need.

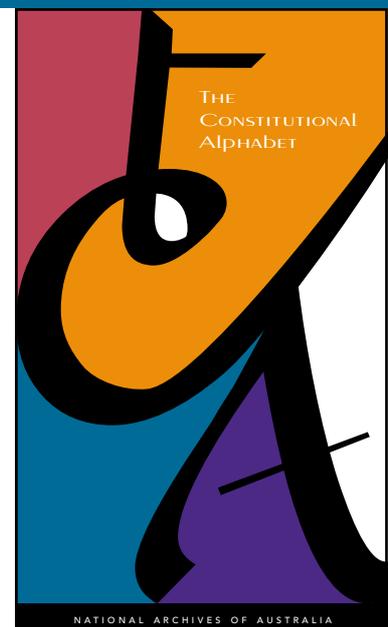
The Constitutional Alphabet can be viewed in our Federation Gallery in Canberra, where the Constitution itself shares a showcase with the Royal Commission of Assent. Together they are our national 'birth certificate'.

Marrying each letter of the alphabet with an aspect of the Constitution – such as M for Migration, Q for Queen, and even T for Trucks – the video uses pop stars, school students, lawyers and politicians to explain Australia's most important legal document. Familiar faces include Peter Garrett, George

Negus, Jackie Kelly, Jason Yat-sen Li, John Moriarty, Elizabeth Evatt, Bud Tingwell and Lindsay Fox.

Produced by the Archives in association with Jack Morton Worldwide, the video targets the National SOSE (Studies of Society and the Environment) and HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment) curriculums, years 7–10. It has been enthusiastically received as a teaching resource, with free copies sent to over 2000 secondary schools in Australia.

The video runs for 14 minutes and is available in VHS format. Copies can be purchased for \$19.95 by visiting our online shop at www.naa.gov.au, by phoning (02) 6212 3609, or emailing naasales@naa.gov.au.



HANDS UP FOR A HERITAGE GRANT



Does your local community have collections that would be of interest to the wider Australian community and researchers? Are there photos, papers, sound recordings, artworks, films and videos of historical interest languishing in your community? Have your community's precious records been damaged by fire or flood?

If you are a member of a historical society, public library, school, genealogical society, religious, indigenous or ethnic group, you may be eligible for a Community Heritage Grant to preserve your collection.

Once again we are joining the National Library of Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts to sponsor the 2003 Community Heritage Grants. Grants of up to \$8,000 are available for preservation projects undertaken by community organisations.

Recipients of last year's grants will undertake a variety of significant projects. Important maps in the

Geraldton Regional Library will undergo preservation treatment, Willoughby City Council Library will work on its collection of Walter Burley Griffin building plans, and the Australian Music Centre will digitise part of its music collection.

Applications for the next round of grants close on 30 June 2003. An application form is enclosed with this issue of *Memento*. For more information, contact the Coordinator, Community Heritage Grants on (02) 6262 1147 or visit the National Library's website at www.nla.gov.au/chg.

Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport (centre) with the 2002 Community Heritage Grant recipients.
National Library of Australia

Grand day at the Archives

In January our Canberra building was filled with the patter of small feet and excited chatter as we celebrated our annual Grandkids Day.

Nearly 600 children, parents and grandparents enjoyed an action packed program based on our exhibition *Beacons by the Sea – Stories of Australian Lighthouses*.

Storytelling with Patsy Allen was a big attraction with grandkids taking great delight in play-acting the greedy seagulls that ate the lighthouse keeper's lunch!

Grandparents followed their grandchildren on the family trail through the exhibition, discovering lighthouse relics such as the box lantern along the way.

Another popular activity was Secret Signals, a word game based on the international maritime code of flag signals. Both young and old competed enthusiastically for prizes awarded for decoding their secret messages.

Inspired by what they saw in the exhibition, children attending our workshops conjured up their own lighthouse models.

Many visitors were excited to discover the Archives for the first time, and we've already begun planning for next year's event!



Alycia Dawson (left) and Rosemary Huff-Johnston making lighthouses on Grandkids Day.



A summer spent exploring

Summer scholars Catherine Arscott and Dieter Michel rug up for a search through the cold storage room in our Mitchell repository.

Every year we host two university scholars over the summer to complete a research project on our collection. This summer Catherine Arscott and Dieter Michel spent six weeks in Canberra, experiencing everything from cold storage vaults to bush fires. This is what they found.

Catherine Arscott explores immigration

“Australia’s post-War II immigration program was the most extensive peacetime operation ever undertaken by Australia. My research focused on some of the challenges faced by government, migrants and the Australian public in the implementation of various migration and displaced person resettlement schemes.

These challenges included recruiting migrants from depleting sources of ‘desirable’ migrants, allaying antagonism towards migrants, encouraging migrants to adopt the Australian ‘way of life’, and justifying a racially discriminating policy in the face of increasing international pressure.”

Catherine was delighted to find a rich variety of records including beautiful sketches of migrant recruitment posters, selection reports, *Learn English* radio exercise booklets, migration agreements, speeches, correspondence and Cabinet submissions.

Catherine is studying Arts/Law at the University of Queensland and will undertake her Honours in History in 2004.

Dieter Michel researches drought

“My research topic was Australia’s political and cultural response to drought. My findings will contribute to the 2004 Archives exhibition *Just Add Water*. I discovered a wealth of material at the Archives, including correspondence files, photographs, Cabinet documents, press files and even music.

This material provided incredible insights into not only the various governments’ responses to such times of crisis, but also how our society conceptualises the environment in which we live.”

Dieter’s research revealed some surprising suggestions offered as ways to combat drought, from the establishment of a federal Rainmaking Commission to the use of atomic bombs to create artificial lakes or to change weather patterns. None of these ideas were implemented.

Dieter studied history at Newcastle University, and this year started a PhD at the University of Sydney, researching nuclear development within the British Commonwealth.

Burrinjuck Dam during the drought of summer 1968.
NAA: A1200, L69804



Saving treasures after a fire

The Canberra fires of January 2003 serve as a reminder that cities are not immune from the horrors of bushfire.

Of those who lost their homes, many commented that the greatest loss was of their more personal items. A house can be rebuilt, but a photograph, letter or wedding dress may be irreplaceable.

It may be a small comfort to learn that fires often don't burn everything, and don't always burn things completely. Books, for example, often survive a fire with just their edges singed, because

of the lack of oxygen between their pages. Metallic objects such as jewellery and medals can survive a fire relatively unscathed.

The first sight of a fire-damaged house and personal belongings can be overwhelming. But a fire victim might be able to salvage more than they first think.

When sorting through a fire-damaged house, damaged treasures can be put aside and stored temporarily in a plastic crate until they can be assessed as to what might be saved.

Material that has been damaged by water used to put out the fire needs to be treated more quickly, to prevent problems like mould growth and the running of inks. Wet material should either be dried immediately or frozen to buy time. Advice should be sought on the best way of doing this.

One way of reducing the risk of losing treasures is to keep them all in one place. In the event of fire or other disaster, it will be easier to find them and leave quickly. Zetta Florence has recently created a treasures box, which meets our archival standards, for just this purpose.

More advice on saving damaged treasures can be obtained by contacting our preservation officer Ian Batterham on (02) 6212 3424. For information on the treasures box, contact Zetta Florence by telephone 1300 555 124 or fax 1300 555 024, or visit their website at www.zettaflorence.com.



NAA: A1200, L79664

Two boys search the debris that was their home, while their neighbour's appears untouched, after a fire in Lara, Victoria, 1969.

And the winner is ...

While the exhibition *Beacons by the Sea* was on show in our Canberra gallery, we surveyed visitors to gauge their level of satisfaction. We promised that one lucky interviewee would win a copy of John Ibbotsen's wonderful book *Lighthouses of Australia*. We've now drawn the winning name from the proverbial hat. Congratulations to Anna Frebel from the Canberra suburb of O'Connor. Thanks very much to everyone who filled in the survey forms – they will be very useful in our exhibition evaluation.

Back to Bonegilla



NAA: A12111, 49/22/8

Migrants collect their meal and help themselves to tea in the dining hall at Bonegilla, 1949.

Bonegilla was the first and largest of several migrant hostels established after World War II to accommodate displaced persons and assisted migrants. It was the first home in Australia to over 320,000 migrants during its operation. Recalling those days is *From the Steps of Bonegilla*, a touring exhibition from the Albury Regional Museum. The exhibition uses photographs, personal

stories and memorabilia to provide an insight into life at the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre in Victoria from 1947 to 1971. We are supplementing the exhibition with material drawn from our collection on displaced persons and immigration as well as personal accounts from former Bonegilla inhabitants. The exhibition will be in our Canberra gallery from 4 July until 26 October 2003.

Archives exhibitions

Charters of Our Nation

Federation Gallery, National Archives, Canberra. Permanent exhibition.

Matthew Flinders: *The Ultimate Voyage*

(a touring exhibition from the State Library of NSW) National Archives, Canberra
28 February to 22 June 2003

From the Steps of Bonegilla

(a touring exhibition from Albury Regional Museum)
National Archives, Canberra
4 July to 26 October 2003

Caught in the Rear View Mirror with Roy and HG

Burke Memorial Museum, Beechworth, Victoria
25 June to 19 August 2003

Beacons by the Sea: Stories of Australian Lighthouses

Western Australia Maritime Museum, Fremantle. 9 May to 13 July 2003
South Australian Maritime Museum
Port Adelaide. 1 August to 23 November 2003

Wine! An Australian Social History

Migration Museum, SA. 17 April to 27 July 2003
WA Museum, Albany. 14 August to 19 October 2003

Archives

events

CANBERRA

Still the Lucky Country?

A series of talks investigating Australia as the 'lucky country'.

Donald Horne, 18 May, 1 pm and 3 pm.
Bookings essential, phone (02) 6212 3624.

Exhibition talks on Matthew Flinders: *The Ultimate Voyage*

Floor talks with the curator
by Paul Brunton, 8 May, 10 am, 12 pm and 2 pm.

Matthew Flinders in person
by Paul Brunton, 9 May, 12.30 pm.

Passing the Time
by Peter Poland, 11 May, 2 pm.
Bookings essential, phone (02) 6212 3624.

Frederick Watson Fellowship lecture Getting into War: Barwick, Hasluck and Vietnam

by Garry Woodard, 30 May, 12.30 pm
Bookings essential, phone (02) 6212 3624.

HOBART

AGFEST, 1–3 May. Visit our stall held with the Archives Office of Tasmania, Quercus Park, Carrick, 8 am – 6 pm.

ADELAIDE

Archives reading room open Saturday, 12 July and 13 September, 10 am – 4 pm.

SA Family History Fair, Sunday, 12 October, 10.30 am – 4 pm, Pulteney Grammar School, South Terrace, Adelaide. Speakers and displays on family history records.
Contact (08) 8409 8401 or enidr@naa.gov.au.

SYDNEY

Records relating to the Indian Community, 27 May. Joint seminar of Royal Australian Historical Society, State Records NSW and National Archives of Australia, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney. Contact (02) 9247 8001.

Society of Australian Genealogists Showcase, 30–31 May. Visit our display stand for advice on family history records. Attend our presentation on WW II records called 'Home and Away'. Contact (02) 9645 0141.

History Week Open Day, 13 September: 120 Miller Road, Chester Hill.
Contact (02) 9645 0141.



Subscriptions:

Tel: (02) 6212 3609
Fax: (02) 6212 3914
Email: mementosub@naa.gov.au

Editorial inquiries:

Tel: (02) 6212 3923
Email: mementoed@naa.gov.au

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

Internet: www.naa.gov.au/publications



CANBERRA CONTACTS

National Reference Service

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

World War I service records

Telephone 1300 886 881
Facsimile 1300 886 882
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

Archives Advices and Fact Sheets

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

ARCHIVES OFFICES

Canberra Tel: (02) 6212 3600
Fax: (02) 6212 3699
TTY: (02) 6212 3689

Adelaide Tel: (08) 8409 8400
Fax: (08) 8409 8499

Brisbane Tel: (07) 3249 4222
Fax: (07) 3399 6589

Darwin Tel: (08) 8985 0300
Fax: (08) 8985 0399

Hobart Tel: (03) 6230 6111
Fax: (03) 6230 6134

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

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