MEMENTO

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

MAY 2004

Brisbane office revamped
Jessie Street online
Our oldest record
Secrets and spies
It’s hard to believe that nearly four years have passed since Cathy Freeman fulfilled the hopes of a nation and the dream of her lifetime by winning the 400 metres final at the Sydney Olympics in 49.11 seconds. Sporting images abound in our collection due to the Australian government’s financial support for sport in general and for our Olympic team in particular. Just click on to Photosearch via our website. Roll on Athens!

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The National Archives is an Australian government agency.

Message from the Director-General, Ross Gibbs

Over the last ten years, the National Archives has brought about enormous improvements in the way our collection is preserved and made accessible for all Australians. Our role in advising government on good recordkeeping has strengthened with the release of innovative recordkeeping products, training and services.

Readers may wonder, what’s in store for the Archives in the future?

We’re about to release our Corporate Plan that sets out our objectives for the next three years, highlighting the ways that we’ll serve the public, support good recordkeeping, manage the collection and run the organisation.

Building on our past achievements, we shall continue to preserve and manage the nation’s archival collection so that it is accessible and used by all who need it. Our touring exhibitions, websites and publications, education and events programs will interpret the collection for people across the country.

With the assistance of our offices in every state and territory we are well placed to reach regional and remote audiences who are a high priority for the Archives. Providing reference services for researchers no matter where they are is essential. Information technology will make our collection increasingly available for people visiting our reading rooms and our websites.

We shall support good recordkeeping throughout the Australian Government so that the right records are created and kept. The impact of new technology on recordkeeping presents all archives with major challenges. Our extensive research on electronic recordkeeping and digital preservation will enable us to provide expert advice in this field. Implementing our approach to preserving digital archives so that future generations can use them will be an essential task over the next few years.

As Australia’s national archival organisation, we play a vital leadership role within government, the cultural industry and the archival profession. This is an important priority for the organisation. We shall also collaborate closely with partners around the country and across the world to increase everyone’s understanding of the value and importance of archives.

We have a bright future ahead of us, and our Corporate Plan will guide us to achieve our goals.

The Corporate Plan is available from the Publications section on our website (naa.gov.au).
CAMELS, HORSES, DOGS, BULLOCKS, DUNG BEETLES and 3000 excited children, parents and grandparents descended on our Canberra building in January for the biggest event on our calendar – Grandkids Day!

Held in January each year, Grandkids Day encourages young people to explore our exhibitions and the treasures in the collection.

This year the theme was animals, inspired by our exhibition It’s a Dog’s Life: Animals in the Public Service, which provided wonderful entertainment options for young and old.

Children clamoured for camel rides, bounced on the jumping castle, were enraptured by story-tellers and had their faces painted by the Gecko Gang. Carriage rides, courtesy of two Percheron/Clydesdale horses with great plumes on their heads, were another popular attraction.

Inside the building, our young visitors made their own animal masks, followed the exhibition activity trail, watched detector dogs going through their routines, and even held live dung beetles in their hands.

Storytelling and dance workshops with Indigenous performer Boori ‘Monty’ Pryor were packed out.

From all the compliments received, it seems Grandkids Day 2004 hit the mark. So after a big breath, we’ll start planning for 2005!

Our exhibition It’s a Dog’s Life: Animals in the Public Service is going on tour. Its first venue is Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga, NSW, where it will be on display from 5 November 2004 to 23 January 2005. Check out our website for other venues.

(above) Camels take a quick nibble of grass before setting off on another ride, while visitors eagerly await their turn.

(left) John Feehan, one of Australia’s leading dung beetle experts, shows Helen Rasmussen and granddaughter Meridyth Hardy some dung beetles.

(below) Dapple-greys Danny and Boris pull a carriage-full of happy kids and minders around the Canberra building, with owner Len Sykes at the reins.
Our Uncommon Lives website invites visitors to become archival detectives, and to follow the trail of records on the lives of some extraordinary Australians.

The first ‘uncommon life’ featured on the website was Wolf Klaphake, a German inventor who was interned for many years in Australia during World War II. The most recent addition is Jessie Street, a human rights activist whose political life is well documented in our collection.

Human rights activist in ASIO files

Every Australian has dealings with governments, but Jessie Street had more than most. As a leading figure in national and international women’s organisations from the 1920s, Jessie Street lobbied prime ministers, ministers and departmental officials. In the 1940s she held several positions on government bodies, and was the only woman in Australia’s delegation to the 1945 conference to found the United Nations. Her role in the 1967 referendum made her the first, and so far the only, woman to initiate constitutional change in Australia.

A far from common life

TRACING A LIFE STORY through archival records can often be like detective work – searching for clues and following leads.
The Uncommon Lives website brings together Jessie Street’s proposals to government on national insurance, law reform, social services, equal pay, immigration, Indigenous rights and foreign policy. There are also intriguing glimpses into the women’s organisations to which she belonged, which were infiltrated by ASIO agents. In some cases the agents’ meticulous transcriptions now provide the only record of these meetings.

Together with departmental records about these organisations, the files reveal the extent of women’s participation in political reform, postwar reconstruction, and social services in the decades preceding the ‘second wave’ of feminist activity that began in the 1960s.

The detective trail takes us behind the scenes – into the minister’s office after the deputation had left, and the cipher office where secret cablegrams were decoded – to show us how government reacted behind closed doors and in confidential files.

Explore records online

Each life added to the Uncommon Lives series brings newly digitised records online. Jessie Street’s story involved the digitisation of items from more than 50 series, created by 12 different departments and 5 prime ministers, resulting in an extraordinary online archive of her nearly 40 years of active citizenship.

To discover more, visit the website at uncommonlives.naa.gov.au.
Our Director-General Ross Gibbs said that the changes express our commitment to researchers who want to hold history in their hands. And in the words of our Brisbane Director, David Swift: ‘While the new facility is grand, the real treasures lie in the records it holds’.

At the recent public Open Day, over 400 people came to inspect the new facilities and take a ‘behind the scenes’ tour. They were treated to a display of some of our most valued and carefully preserved Queensland records, including surveyor John Bradford’s 1883 journal, trademarks such as an 1894 Castlemaine XXXX trademark, and photographs from the Loder collection of postal and telegraph images from the late 1800s.

Researchers will discover a double bonus when visiting the new premises. The State Library of Queensland has temporarily relocated its John Oxley Library, Family History Unit, Indigenous Library Service, and Maps and Plans Unit to the site while awaiting an upgrade to its own premises in South Brisbane.

So, drop in to our new digs in Brisbane soon and discover a bit of Queensland history for yourself!
Our oldest document turns 200!

Our oldest document, a deed of title dated 1804. NAA: SP1307{$bundle4}

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE the 200th anniversary of our earliest document.

It is a Deed of Title, one of the few records that we have on vellum, signed on 1 May 1804 by Governor Philip Gidley King, the third Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. The deed allows ‘the allotment of ground now in the occupation of Matthew Kearns situate[d] in Pitts Row [now Pitt Street] in the township of Sydney’ to be transferred to him for 14 years at a cost of 10 shillings.

According to Michael Flynn, in his book The Second Fleet (1993), Matthew Kearns was an Irish convict who came to Sydney on the Neptune in 1790, having been convicted in London of stealing earthenware dishes from his employer. He was aged about 27 at the time of his arrival.

Eventually freed, by 1800 he had begun to establish for himself a reputation as something of an entrepreneur. Apart from becoming a landowner and a grazier, with several properties in Sydney and at Windsor, one of his early business enterprises was a butcher shop at Pitts Row in partnership with Thomas Whittle of the NSW Corps. (It was Whittle who later led the troops in the arrest of Governor Bligh in 1808.)

Eventually freed, by 1800 he had begun to establish for himself a reputation as something of an entrepreneur. Apart from becoming a landowner and a grazier, with several properties in Sydney and at Windsor, one of his early business enterprises was a butcher shop at Pitts Row in partnership with Thomas Whittle of the NSW Corps. (It was Whittle who later led the troops in the arrest of Governor Bligh in 1808.)

In January 1810, the Colonial Secretary’s correspondence (held by State Records NSW) shows that a Matthew Kearns opened one of the first inns in New South Wales, and in February that year was granted a government licence to sell liquor.

In January 1813 Matthew Kearns was brought before the court charged with stealing cattle from the government herd. Before that case could be heard, he was tried and found guilty of arranging for the murder of a witness. Along with his brother, a son and two others, he was sentenced to death. On 24 March 1813, Matthew Kearns was hanged. It was the end of a colourful colonial career.

So, why do we hold this document bearing his name?

The parcel of land to which Matthew Kearns gained title in 1804 later became the site of the ‘Pitt Street Extension’ of the Sydney General Post Office built between 1880 and 1887.

At Federation, the document, together with the control of all post offices, passed to the Commonwealth Government and thus it eventually made its way into the National Archives as our oldest document.

Hand-coloured drawing of Pitt Street extension by architect James Barnet, 1881. NAA: SP1136,PMG41313,no.78, set no. 2

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New edition of AGIFT

‘In this new era of e-government, Australians will not need to know about the structures of government in order to be able to deal effectively with it.’


People looking for online government information or services do not necessarily know where to start looking or what words to use in their search.

As part of the government’s online strategy, we helped develop a thesaurus called AGIFT (Australian Governments’ Interactive Functions Thesaurus) to help people search for online government resources using plain English.

The thesaurus provides consistent terms for government agencies to use when describing their functions.

AGIFT is especially designed to help people search government entry point websites, such as www.fed.gov.au, when they are not sure which terms to use or which level of government is responsible for the service or information they need.

By linking plain English words with terms used by governments, the thesaurus points users to the relevant services or information and the agencies that provide them.

The following example shows how AGIFT works:

The first edition of AGIFT was released in 1999. The second edition, to be released in late June 2004, has been expanded with the addition of new terms, explanations and cross-references for nearly 600 terms in the thesaurus. About 8,000 natural language terms and phrases have been linked to government terms in the thesaurus.


Signed, sealed, delivered

Paper records have been around for a long time. Proof of their credibility is visible and tangible – official letterhead, dated and witnessed signatures, sealed envelopes.

Not so with e-commerce. Technologies such as digital signatures and encryption are e-commerce’s answer to this quandary.

We have recently developed recordkeeping guidelines for government agencies using these technologies, called Recordkeeping and Online Security Processes: Guidelines for managing Commonwealth records created or received using authentication and encryption.

Complementing the guidelines is the General Disposal Authority (GDA) for Encrypted Records Created in Online Security Processes. The GDA allows for the disposal of encrypted versions of electronic transactions as long as unencrypted or decrypted versions are kept in agency recordkeeping systems.

The GDA and guidelines will be available on the recordkeeping section of our website under ‘Recordkeeping publications’ at the end of May.
The new recordspeak

Like any other profession, recordkeeping has its own peculiar jargon

Common English words such as ‘capture’, ‘sentence’ and ‘series’ have a special meaning for recordkeepers, while unusual words such as ‘appraisal’ and ‘metadata’ frequently crop up in recordkeeping conversations. And then there are the acronyms: AFDA, CRS, DIRKS.

To ensure recordkeepers throughout the Australian government speak the same language, we are developing an online glossary of recordkeeping terms. The glossary will draw together terms that occur frequently on the recordkeeping section of our website, and define them. For example, AFDA is the Administrative Functions Disposal Authority, CRS stands for Commonwealth Record Series, and DIRKS is the acronym for Designing and Implementing Recordkeeping Systems.

The definitions are being compiled from a wide range of authoritative sources including legislation, international standards and reputable texts, as well as our own experts and publications.


Recordkeeping training

Introduction to DIRKS
8 June 2004, Melbourne
28 July 2004, Sydney
3 August 2004, Canberra
16 November 2004, Canberra

DIRKS workshops
Step A 24 August 2004, Canberra
Step B 4 May 2004, Canberra
7 September 2004, Canberra
Step C 25 May 2004, Canberra
19 October 2004, Canberra

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

Recordkeeping contacts

For advice on recordkeeping standards and guidelines, including DIRKS, appraisal and metadata
Tel: (02) 6212 3610
Fax: (02) 6212 3989
Email: recordkeeping@naa.gov.au
Web: www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping

Preservation and disaster recovery
Tel: (02) 6212 3424

Digital preservation
Tel: (02) 6212 3694

Audiovisual preservation
Tel: (02) 9645 0104

Cartoon by Hinze/Scratch! Media
A NEW AWARD has been added to the list of grants and fellowships we provide each year to scholars, archivists and researchers.

Known as the MARGARET GEORGE AWARD, it is for scholars interested in conducting research using our collection. Research is not limited to paper documents and can include photos, posters, maps, architectural drawings, films, plays, musical scores and sound recordings.

The award is named after Dr Margaret George (1945–1974), a young Australian historian whose work Australia and the Indonesian Revolution was published posthumously by Melbourne University Press in 1980. It was the first detailed account of Australia’s approach to Dutch–Indonesian relations between 1945 and 1949.

Successful applicants will receive an allowance up to $10,000, and in return will be expected to produce a journal article or website pages based on their research. Applications close 25 June 2004.

Applications for our fifth FREDERICK WATSON FELLOWSHIP also close on 25 June. The Fellowship is for people with established scholarly credentials and an established record of publication or a comprehensive knowledge of the functions of the Australian Government.

The fellowship includes an allowance up to $15,000. Fellowship winners are required to deliver a seminar to Archives’ staff, and complete a book, journal articles or website based on their research.

This award is named after Dr Frederick Watson (1878–1945). Dr Watson published numerous historical works, but is best remembered for his contribution to the Historical Records of Australia series, which he edited for 13 years.

Our IAN MACLEAN AWARD is offered to those interested in conducting research that will benefit the archival profession in Australia and promote the important contribution that archives make to Australian society.

The award includes an allowance up to $15,000. Award winners are expected to present their findings at a staff lecture and to complete journal articles or conference papers on their topic.

This award was offered for the first time in 2003 and is named after Ian Maclean (1919–2003). Ian is best known for his appointment as first Archives Officer in 1944, effectively establishing the National Archives. In 1996 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for his service to archives and the archival profession.

Applications for the next round will be invited early next year.

Application forms and details of the awards are available on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

For more information please contact derina.mclaughlin@naa.gov.au.

STOP PRESS

The winner of the 2004 Ian Maclean Award is Bruce Smith (right), a prominent business archivist. The award will allow him to further his work on business archives and identifying which types of records should be targeted for collection. Bruce Smith is a member of the Business and Labour Archives Steering Committee of the International Council on Archives and has taught archives and records management courses at both the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology since 1988.

The award was announced in Sydney on 26 March.
IN THE 1950s AND EARLY 1960s, more than 10,000 Russians from north China found refuge in Australia. Most came from the city of Harbin, which had been the centre of a thriving Russian community in the first half of the 20th century. Among them was author Mara Moustafine, who arrived with her family in 1959 as a young child. Mara’s family witnessed 50 turbulent years of history in Harbin – the influx of refugees from the Bolshevik Revolution and civil war, the Japanese occupation in the 1930s, liberation by the Soviet army in 1945 and China’s Communist Revolution in 1949.

Mara Moustafine’s book, Secrets and Spies: The Harbin Files (Vintage, 2002), tells the story of her family’s life in China through this period, as well as the tragic fate of her grandmother’s family, who returned to Soviet Russia to escape the Japanese occupation, only to be caught in Stalin’s purges of the late 1930s. Her book was awarded a 2003 NSW Premier’s Award and short-listed for the 2004 National Biography Prize and the 2004 Kiriyama Pacific Rim Book Prize.

Mara’s quest to find her family history took her to the archives of Russia and China as well as the National Archives of Australia.

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Manya was Mara’s grandmother’s younger sister.

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‘TOTALITARIAN REGIMES tend to retain secret police files on their citizens, even decades after the people in question have died or emigrated. The information I found in such files in Russian and Chinese archives were an invaluable starting point for my book. But equally important were the human sources and historical material which helped put the information in context. It is now clear, many records were falsified and information manipulated to suit the politics of the day.

**Mara tells her story**...

Victims of Stalin

Growing up in Cold War Australia, I was curious about the fate of my grandmother Gita’s family who had left China for the Soviet Union in the mid-1930s to escape the Japanese occupation – especially her father Girsh Onikul, her 26-year-old sister Manya and 30-year-old brother Abram, who had disappeared during the purges.

My chance to find out came with the release of documents from previously secret Soviet state and party archives after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, as these included the secret police files of victims of Stalin’s purges.

In 1992, I went to the old KGB (renamed the FSB) headquarters in Moscow, armed with the family’s so-called ‘certificates of rehabilitation’, which had been given to me by a surviving relative. Issued in 1956 after Khrushchev exposed Stalin’s crimes, these cleared the family members of any charges. These certificates proved to be my access to the Onikul family’s secret police files.

Six months after my visit to the FSB, I received advice on four of the Onikuls from security authorities in Nizhny Novgorod (previously Gorky) in central Russia, where they had gone to live, and on Abram Onikul from the military court in Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East. All had been arrested in 1937 as Japanese spies. Manya and her father had been executed, her mother and younger brother sent to labour camps, from which they were released in the 1940s. Abram had died in 1941 while serving his 10-year sentence in the Arctic Gulag.

In 1996, I visited the Nizhny Novgorod State Archive to see the Onikul family files. They were extraordinary. Starting with each individual’s arrest documents, the files contained detailed biographies, records of interrogation, indictments, sentences, appeals, and later documents about their rehabilitation review. I still recall the emotional impact of reading the words ‘To be shot’ in Manya’s sentence, with a scribbled note ‘Shot 18 January 1938’.

Through a fortuitous connection with a former KGB colonel, I visited Khabarovsk in 2000, where I gained access to Abram’s 200-page file at the FSB headquarters. The sad irony I discovered was that Abram had, in fact, been working for the NKVD (the KGB’s predecessor), running operations against the Japanese in

Manya Onikul (1911–38) in Shanghai, 1934. Manya was Mara’s grandmother’s younger sister.
occupied Manchuria. Appeals in his file graphically describe his treatment:

On 22 January 1938, soon after wake-up, I was summoned for interrogation by [name], the assistant to the chief… and was returned to my cell only on 25 January 1938, having spent three and a half days in the interrogation room without food or drink, being beaten mercilessly by [3 people named] … The latter did not even let me out to the toilet. At the end, I barely made it back to my cell. But I confessed nothing as I had enough strength to fight the provocations of the interrogators…

From researchers at the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, I learned just how widely the Onikul family’s experience was shared. In all, 48,000 Russians from China were arrested under a special Stalinist order – 31,000 of them executed, the rest sent to labour camps.

**Russian life in Harbin, 1908-59**

The biographies which the Onikuls gave in the course of their NKVD interrogations provided much information about their life in China until 1935, as well as snippets on family members who had stayed there.

One rich source of material on my family’s life during the Japanese occupation (1932–45) was the collection of files from the Bureau of Russian Emigrés in Manchuria, brought to Khabarovsk by victorious Soviet troops after the Japanese defeat in 1945. Apart from biographies in files on some members of my extended family and scurrilous informants’ reports on others, the collection contains Harbin newspapers and magazines from the period.

With the help of researchers from the Harbin Jewish Research Centre at the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences, I also read the family’s files from the former Harbin Public Security Bureau, held in the Heilongjiang Provincial Archive. Written in both Russian and Chinese, the files contained the detailed biographies that the family had to provide to obtain residence and other permits. The files also gave an insight into the administrative arrangements in Harbin during the Chinese Communist period up to the time we departed for Australia in 1959.

The **Australian chapter**

For those of my extended family fortunate enough to reach Australia, the passenger lists, immigration and ASIO files which I obtained through the National Archives of Australia completed the story.

Some of these files reveal that the complex geopolitics of Manchuria at the time were quite troublesome for ASIO as they grappled with security clearance issues for Russians from China. A marginal note in the hand of Immigration Minister Sir Alex Downer usefully pointed out:

> The ASIO evidence seems to relate largely to pro-Russian activities during the war and shortly thereafter. Note the Russians were then our valued allies, the Japs our deadly foes. This part of the ASIO case should be discounted.

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(opposite page) Abram Onikul (1907–41), one of Gita’s brothers. ‘Treasure the copy, but don’t forget the original’ he wrote on the back of this photo which he sent to Gita and her husband Motya from Mongolia in 1927.

(far left) Photo of Abram taken in prison, 1938.

(left) Motya and Gita Zaretsky, Mara’s grandparents (left), Inna Zaretsky, Mara’s mother (centre), with Girsh and Chesna Onikul, Mara’s great-grandparents (right), Harbin, 1936.

(below) Mara Moustafine, author of Secrets and Spies.
At the official opening of the new Brisbane office, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister and Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Gary Hardgrave (left) with the Chair of our Advisory Council, Paul Santamaria (see story on p. 6).

Rob De Castella, who lost his home in the 2003 Canberra bushfires, talked about the importance of archives in a special Australia Day celebration screened on Channel 10. Rob was one of five former Australians of the Year featured in the program and was filmed at the National Archives in Canberra.

Animal trainer Steve Austin with Batman the cat, Bodie the Border Collie and Tony the Jack Russell. They performed to a rapt audience at a special event held during our exhibition It’s a Dog’s Life.

Customs learner pup Lacey has a tug-of-war with a visitor at the working dog demonstrations held at the Archives in February.
Dr Gwenda Tavan visited our Canberra office in February to complete research for her book on the dismantling of the White Australia Policy. Gwenda’s work came to our attention through the Frederick Watson Fellowship scheme, which assisted with her travel expenses from Victoria, where she is a lecturer in the Department of Politics at La Trobe University.

Summer scholars Laura Ferguson and Matthew Peckham spent six weeks at the Archives in Canberra completing research projects based on records in our collection. Laura researched the history of dung beetles in Australia while Matthew investigated Australian government policy on the resettlement of displaced persons in Australia after World War II. Their work will feature in our websites and exhibitions.

Our latest research guide on Australia–Japan relations, Allies, Enemies and Trading Partners, was launched at the Museum of Sydney on 26 March 2004 to coincide with the museum’s exhibition Kiichiro Ishida and the Sydney Camera Circle 1920–1940s. Celebrating the launch of the guide are (left to right) Sue Hunt, Senior Curator at the Museum of Sydney, Pam Oliver, the guide’s author, Yasuaki Nogawa, Japan’s Consul-General in Sydney, and Ross Gibbs, our Director-General. (See story on pp. 16–17.)

Constable Sy Humphrey from the Australian Federal Police demonstrates how he rewards his labrador, Uriel, with a tug-of-war when she detects something awry on the job. They were part of a week of events held to coincide with our exhibition It’s a Dog’s Life.

More than 900 visitors turned up at our Canberra building for the Family History Fair in April. There was something for everyone, from family history talks to horse and carriage rides. Shown here are Drew McLean (left) and Dave Mackin, members of the Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT in front of the 1923 Albion fire engine, Canberra’s first motorised fire engine.
IT’S OFTEN THOUGHT that the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act stopped Japanese and other Asian people from entering Australia. As it turns out, Japanese people lived in many parts of Australia from the 19th century until 1941, and a handful stayed throughout the war and beyond.

The amendments to the Act allowed certain Asian nationalities, including Japanese, to enter Australia on a passport for 12 months and then to apply for extension of stay and exemption from the Dictation Test. Exceptions were granted for business, travel and study purposes.

Our collection holds the stories of thousands of Japanese people who travelled south in search of adventure, business opportunities or to join family members already living in Australia.

Our latest research guide, *Allies, Enemies and Trading Partners: Records on Australia and the Japanese* by Dr Pam Oliver, describes records in our collection on Australia’s relations with Japan and its people since before Federation. Pam Oliver is an Honorary Research Associate at the School of Historical Studies at Monash University and has published extensively on the Japanese in Australia before 1941.

Researchers have generally believed that most Japanese people entering Australia before the turn of the 20th century worked in the pearling industry. Although many did this work, our records show that trade was the major drawcard for Japanese to Australia before and after Federation. Communities of merchants and small businessmen grew up around the Australian coast, with Sydney becoming a major centre for merchants. Thousands of Japanese men came to Australia to work in Japanese trading companies or to explore new business possibilities.

A large body of over 10,000 records in our collection relate to the Japanese in Australia before 1941, consisting of company records, entry documents and security service dossiers. These records are a valuable resource for Japanese people whose ancestors visited, worked or lived in Australia. Some of them married Australians and integrated with communities in the cities or country towns in which they lived.

One example was the Muramatsu family who settled in Cossack, Western Australia in the 1890s. The family opened a shop selling imported Asian goods, and Jiro, one of the sons, later became the owner of a large pearling fleet. It was clear that the family had the support of the
local people, who were outraged when Saburo, the youngest son, was asked to leave Australia after his extension of stay expired in 1921. Saburo’s file contains a petition from Cossack’s most prominent citizens to the Commonwealth government requesting his exemption from the provisions of the White Australia Policy.

Another common belief is that merchants who entered Australia for business purposes during the White Australia years stayed for only a few months at most. Our records show that some families stayed in Australia for decades. There were generations of families who lived in Sydney from the 1890s until World War II, when most were either repatriated or interned. The photo on the cover of the guide (above left), taken in 1939, shows some of Sydney’s most prominent Japanese merchants. They are celebrating the annual New Year’s Day event at the Japanese Consul General’s residence in Vaucluse, Sydney.

While our pre-1941 records primarily document Japanese immigration to Australia, the postwar records in our collection focus more on government-to-government contact. Most of these records relate to trade, and even include the 1952 Peace Treaty and the 1957 trade agreement, important steps towards the resumption of relations between Japan and Australia after the Second World War.

Although Australia’s role in the Pacific War is well known, less well known is Australia’s involvement in the reconstruction of Japan after 1945. The postwar records provide fascinating insights into this relationship including Australian reports on the effects of the atom bomb on Hiroshima, reports from the Australian Scientific Mission to Japan on its growing industrial strength, and ABC and Radio Australia reports documenting social change in the reconstruction years.

One record which establishes the now familiar tone of the postwar relationship is the visit of the Aki Maru, the Japanese floating trade fair. In December 1960, when John McEwen opened the fair, Australians marvelled at Japan’s progress.

Just as Australians had been fascinated by Japan early in the century, so after the painful years of war, a mutual interest that centred on trade and student exchange resumed. The guide is a testimony to that relationship.

Allies, Enemies and Trading Partners is a valuable resource for family historians and those with an interest in Australia–Japan relations. It is available from our offices and our website at www.naa.gov.au.
Accolades for the Archives

OUR PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES are one way of highlighting the treasures in our collection for everyone to see. The awards they have attracted recently seem to show they are hitting the mark.

Last September our Australia’s Prime Ministers website (primeministers.naa.gov.au) won the Mander Jones Award for the ‘best finding aid for an archival collection’. Presented by the Australian Society of Archivists, it was our 11th Mander Jones Award and the first to be given to a website.

The Prime Ministers Papers Project, comprising the website and several research guides, was shortlisted last December for a 2003 Centre for Australian Cultural Studies (CACS) Award. The CACS Awards are sponsored by the University of Canberra and the University of New South Wales.

Our exhibition booklet A Vision Splendid: How the Griffins Imagined Australia’s Capital won a 2003 Australian Publishers Association (APA) Book Design Award, against stiff competition from other cultural institutions.

Last May we scooped three awards in the Museums Australia Publications Design Awards for publications designed ‘in-house’ by our design section. Developing Images: Mildenhall’s Photographs of Early Canberra, compiled by Mary Hutchison, won best designed book; An Anthropologist in Papua: The Photography of FE Williams, 1992–39 by Michael Young and Julia Clark was runner-up in the same category; and our Federation teachers kit, 1901 and All That, was joint winner of the ‘Education’ category. This was the third gong for the popular teaching kit that previously won an Award of Excellence in Educational Publishing and was commended for an APA Book Design Award.

Our books have also been recognised for their high print quality. Canberra following Griffin: A Design History of Australia’s National Capital won best ‘Casebound Book’ in the Printing Industries Craftsmanship Awards in 2002 and Developing Images won a Silver Medal in the National Print Awards in 2001.

The full list of our publications – and their gongs – is available on our website at www.naa.gov.au.

Ordering copies of defence service records

We’ve made some changes to our copying service for defence service records, which should make it faster.

Payment for black-and-white photocopies of World War I and II service records is now required at the time of ordering them. Previously we raised an invoice to send with the ordered copies. Pre-payment will eliminate this step and should reduce researchers’ waiting time.

Standard black-and-white photocopies of wartime Army and RAAF service records cost $16.20 per record (includes GST) or $14.70 in Australian dollars (excludes GST) for overseas purchases.

Standard black-and-white photocopies of Navy service cards are still supplied for free.

For more information, follow the ‘Service Records’ link on our website.
Exhibitions

Charters of Our Nation
National Archives, Canberra. Permanent exhibition.

‘No Common Creation’:
The High Court of Australia
National Archives, Canberra. Permanent exhibition.

Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award – Celebrating 20 Years
National Archives, Canberra. 23 April to 25 July 2004

The Policeman’s Eye: Paul Foelsche Photography
National Archives, Canberra. 12 August to 31 October 2004

It’s a Dog’s Life:
Animals in the Public Service
Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga, NSW. 5 November 2004 to 23 January 2005

Beacons by the Sea: Stories of Australian Lighthouses
Western Australian Museum, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, WA. 13 March to 23 May 2004
Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery, SA. 5 June to 1 August 2004
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, Tas. 18 September to 22 November 2004

Unexpected Archives: Introduced by Robyn Archer
Brolga Theatre, Maryborough, Qld. 5 May to 30 May 2004
Nambour Civic Centre, Qld. 2 June to 27 June 2004
Gold Coast Arts Centre, Qld. 30 June to 25 July 2004
Empire Theatre, Toowoomba, Qld. 28 July to 29 August 2004

Wine! An Australian Social History
Western Australian Museum, Geraldton, WA. 20 February to 16 May 2004
Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, NSW. 4 June to 1 August 2004


Events

C A N B E R R A

Frederick Watson Fellow public lecture, 19 May, 12 noon. Eminent Professor Geoffrey Bolton on Sir Paul Hasluck.

Speakers Corner, Rob De Castella, 23 May, 1 pm and 3 pm. Rob tells his story of the Canberra firestorm.

Speakers Corner, Hugh Mackay, 25 July, 1 pm and 3 pm. Hugh Mackay talks about knowing right from wrong.

The Spies Who Loved Us – Espionage in Australia, 6 June, 11 am – 4 pm. Learn about spies and spooks in Australia’s history. Bookings for talks are essential 6212 3624.

S O U T H  A U S T R A L I A

Archives’ reading room. Open Saturday 15 May, 3 July, 11 September, 10 am – 4 pm.

Adelaide Office Open Day, 23 May, 11 am – 4 pm. Free displays, conservation clinics and tours. Contact (08) 8409 8409.

W E S T E R N  A U S T R A L I A

Perth Office Open Day, 16 May, 10 am – 4 pm. Bookings for talks and tours essential, please contact (08) 9470 7500.

Q U E E N S L A N D

Free seminars at our Brisbane Office.
Bookings essential (07) 3249 4224.

• Preservation Projects in Brisbane, 15 May, 10–11 am.
• Any Port in a Storm: Records on the History of Early Queensland Ports, 19 June, 1–4.30 pm.
• Passion for the Post: Post Office and Mail Service Files in the Archives, 17 July, 10–11 am.
• Destination Australia: Immigration Records in the Archives, 21 August, 10–11 am.
• Brisbane Treasures: Some of Our Most Valuable Records, 18 September, 10–11 am.

Reading room open, Saturday, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September, 10 am – 4 pm, 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill.

Regional tour, 31 July – 2 August. Joint information sessions with Queensland State Archives and John Oxley Library held in Townsville, Charters Towers and Bowen, north Queensland. Contact Greg Cope (07) 3249 4224.

N E W  S O U T H  W A L E S

Accessing the Records: The Dutch Experience in Australia, 24 May. Seminar on Dutch records in the Archives. Held at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney, $16.50 (refreshments and lunch included). Contact Fiona Burn (02) 9645 0141.


www.naa.gov.au/exhibitions/events/events.html
At the end of the day, if it’s worth keeping, it’s in the Archives.