

Australian Overseas Information Service photographs

Promoting Australia

The Department of Information was created in 1947 to promote the Australian lifestyle and Australian events overseas, particularly to intending post-war migrants. In 1950 the agency was renamed the Australian News and Information Bureau (ANIB), the title under which it was known until 1973 when it became the Australian Information Service. In 1986 it was renamed Promotion Australia and in 1987 it became the Australian Overseas Information Service (AOIS). In 1994 the AOIS was renamed the International Public Affairs Branch, a branch in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The photographic collection of the AOIS

AOIS photographers travelled to all parts of Australia to take photographs of everyday Australian life. They include subjects such as people, places, events, festivals, fauna, flora, health, agriculture and industry. The majority of these photographs are now held by our office in Canberra.

Subject index to the collection

The AOIS produced a consolidated subject index which covers most of the photographs dating between 1947 and 1996. A copy of this index is available in the Canberra reading room. Use the table below to identify the series to which individual photographs listed in the index belong.

Other indexes include subject and name indexes (held in series A1201) to the black and white photographs (A1200 and A6180) and subject and name indexes (A6140) to the colour photographs (A1500 and A6135).

Identifying the series to which photographs listed in the index belong

In the 'daily single number' series, the first three numbers represent the date (day, month, year), followed by a single consecutive control number. For example, 12/3/77/8 would be the eighth photograph registered on 12 March 1977.

Black and white negatives and prints

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Single number with L (Library) prefix</u>	1948–1971	A1200
<u>Daily single number without prefixes</u>	1971–1996	A6180

Colour transparencies

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Single number with K (Colour) prefix</u>	1947–1971	A1500
<u>Daily single number with K prefix</u>	1971–1996	A6135

Colour negatives

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Single number with KN (Colour negative) prefix</u>	1947–1971	A8763
<u>Daily single number with KN prefix</u>	1971–1996	A8746

Access to the photographs

Prints or transparencies of some photographs selected from the subject index may be viewed in the Canberra reading room. The collection may also be searched, digitised images viewed online, and orders placed for copies on our PhotoSearch database.

A photographic reproduction service is available. Details of the range of services offered and a price list are included on the [Imaging Services Order Form](#). Copies of the form are also available in National Archives reading rooms. Orders can usually be filled within 30 days.

Other AOIS photographic series

The AOIS and its predecessors created other series of photographs to cover specific topics or events. Some examples of these are listed below:

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Asian affairs</u>	1953–1996	A1501
<u>SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organisation)</u>	1957	A1675
<u>Colombo Plan</u>	1958–1959	A1768
<u>Colombo Plan</u>	1958–1959	A1680
<u>Colombo Plan</u>	1958–1959	A1679
<u>Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies</u>	1959	A1775
<u>External (Foreign) Affairs</u>	1961–1996	A6137

Events

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Melbourne Olympic Games</u>	1956	A7135
<u>Melbourne Olympic Games</u>	1956	A2751
<u>Antarctic Treaty</u>	1961	A1681
<u>Commonwealth Games, Perth</u>	1962	A1774
<u>World Power Conference, Melbourne</u>	1964	A1682
<u>Governor-General's tour of Papua and New Guinea</u>	1966	A2401
<u>Governor-General's tour of Papua and New Guinea</u>	1966	A2402

Royal visits and visits of dignitaries

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh</u>	1954	A1686
<u>HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh</u>	1954	A1773
<u>HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh</u>	1954	A2756
<u>HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh</u>	1963	A1777
<u>The Vietnam President and Parliamentary delegation</u>	1957	A1670
<u>The Vietnam President and Parliamentary delegation</u>	1957	A1672
<u>Japanese Prime Minister</u>	1957–1963	A1671
<u>Japanese Prime Minister</u>	1957–1963	A1673
<u>Japanese Prime Minister</u>	1957–1963	A2754
<u>United Kingdom Prime Minister</u>	1958	A1674
<u>HM The Queen Mother</u>	1958	A1766
<u>Canadian Prime Minister</u>	1958	A1677
<u>Malaysian Prime Minister</u>	1959	A1776
<u>Princess Alexandra</u>	1959	A2752
<u>Princess Alexandra</u>	1959	A1765
<u>Indonesian Foreign Minister</u>	1959	A1678
<u>General Nasution, Indonesian Defence Minister</u>	1961	A1761
<u>General Nasution, Indonesian Defence Minister</u>	1961	A1762

<u>General Nasution, Indonesian Defence Minister</u>	1961	A1763
<u>General Nasution, Indonesian Defence Minister</u>	1961	A1764
<u>Thai Royal tour</u>	1962	A2753
<u>Thai Royal tour</u>	1962	A1769
<u>Princess Marina</u>	1963	A1772
<u>Princess Marina</u>	1963	A2757
<u>Duke and Duchess of Gloucester</u>	1965	A1767
<u>Duke and Duchess of Gloucester</u>	1965	A2755
<u>HM The Queen Mother and Prince Charles</u>	1966	A2405