



# FIND & CONNECT Issue 4: September 2012

## WEB RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the September edition of the *Find & Connect web resource newsletter*. Last week we started our latest round of state and territory stakeholder meetings. The well attended Victoria session in Melbourne saw lots of lively discussion with plenty of good ideas and views shared. Thanks to those who attended last Friday. These sessions are invaluable in the continuing development of the web resource and we look forward to meeting up with our Queensland stakeholders at our Brisbane meeting on 28 September.

Last month saw the launch of the Find & Connect support services by the Hon Jenny Macklin MP. For more on this read Sarah's report on this page. At the event Minister Macklin also launched a new DVD produced by the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA). 'Life Stories' tells the stories of six Australians who grew up in out-of-home care.

Also in this issue we have a special report from our SA historians who went in search of St Stanislaus House following an enquiry received via the web resource. As always you can also catch up on developments around the country with our state snapshots on page two.

Finally a quick note to let you know about the interactive elements of this newsletter. Blue underlined text indicates a live link to an email address, or a url with additional information. If you are reading this newsletter on your computer as a pdf these links will open in your browser or email client.

Sal Orpin

Communications & Liaison Officer

Visit the [Find & Connect blog](http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/news) for regular news updates: [www.findandconnect.gov.au/news](http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/news)

### ST STANISLAUS HOUSE

In 1956 [St Stanislaus House](#) opened as a Home for children in the Adelaide suburb of Royal Park. The local Polish community sponsored its establishment and helped to bring several Sisters of the Resurrection to Adelaide to run the home.

On Wednesday 22 August, as a result of an inquiry from a Forgotten Australian through the Find & Connect web resource, we visited the site at number 30 George Street. After exploring using Google maps, we drove into the street expecting to see the large building we had seen online. Instead we were faced with a wide empty vista of recently ploughed earth with 'For sale' signs dotted across it. It was gone. Even the foundation stone that had been in the front wall, the chapel steeple and the statue on the corner had disappeared.

With the help of the Cultural Heritage Officer at the local Council and visits to the Lands Titles Office, we have been trying to find out when the building changed hands, when it was demolished, and what happened to these important artefacts.

We are still seeking information and photographs of this Home for the web



*Pictured above: St. Stanislaus House on google maps and the site as it is now.*

resource, so if anyone can help in this search, please let us know.

Buildings which served as Homes for children were the site of many childhoods. They are places of importance to the identity of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. St Stanislaus is now gone. There is no indication that children once lived there. Through the web resource we will do all we can to make sure these children's lives are remembered.

Karen and Gary George  
SA Historians

### FIND & CONNECT SUPPORT SERVICES

We're looking forward to meeting with the new Find & Connect support services over the next few months. As you may know, the nationwide Find & Connect support services were launched on Friday 17 August 2012 by the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants can call 1800 16 11 09 to connect with the service in their area.

The Find & Connect service providers are: Open Place (VIC), Lotus Place (QLD), Wattle Place (NSW), Relationships Australia (Canberra & Region, SA, TAS, NT) and Child Migrants Trust (nationwide). A tender process is underway to select a provider in WA.

It's wonderful to have a nationwide counselling and support service to refer people to when they email us. Sometimes people don't mention what state they're in; other times people email from a state or territory where in the past there hasn't been a formal service. By phoning the 1800 number, Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants can now easily access support, counselling, and help with searching for records and family.

In the coming months, we'll meet with the support services to discuss how the web resource can best help in their work with Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. We'll keep you posted, but if you have any questions about the support services in the meantime, you can email [findandconnect@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:findandconnect@fahcsia.gov.au)

Sarah Green

Client Liaison Officer

**Forgotten Australians: Life Stories:** the stories of six Australians who grew up in institutional 'care' produced by the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA). The DVD can be viewed online at the AFA website [www.forgottenaustralians.org.au/dvd.htm](http://www.forgottenaustralians.org.au/dvd.htm)

This newsletter is published by the Find & Connect Web Resource Project Team. For enquiries please email the editor: [sorpin@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sorpin@unimelb.edu.au)

# STATE SNAPSHOTS

News from our Historians around the country.

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

It has been a very encouraging month for the ACT site. I was fortunate to meet with a team from Marymead who have already put in a great effort organising archival material and are well on their way to having records catalogued and ready for access should requests be made. It was also wonderful to see that everything is coming together in preparation for the organisation's 45th reunion.

On the research side of things I have been concentrating on two homes which are proving to be quite challenging to find published sources about. I have not been able to locate the homes in annual reports for welfare or health. If anyone has any information or memories about Chapman House or Bruce House I would be very interested to hear about them.

Lydia Connell

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Mike Jones and Melissa Downing from the Melbourne team came to Sydney in August to work with the recipients of the Records Access Documentation Project grants, and I joined in the learning. It was a great day of training and a good chance to catch up with representatives of organisations, and to see some new faces. Some of the attendees came from as far away as Newcastle and Bathurst, so thank you.

Every month, through research in Trove and the State Library, we're adding new homes to the list, and the site continues to attract a lot of queries, which themselves generate new leads.

Naomi Parry

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

This month we have added quite a bit of information to the NT site as a result of Karen's research trip to Darwin. Records held at the National Archives provided background information about the development of Receiving Homes in Darwin in the 1950s and 1960s, so more detailed histories of these Homes have now been written. Access to various series of Correspondence Files created by the Welfare Department has allowed us to write up entries describing the kinds of information to be found on these files. We will be sorting through research notes on

records held at the NT Archives and will soon update entries on Homes run by non-government care providers. We are planning our next trip to Darwin in late October to coincide with the support services and stakeholders' meetings.

Karen & Gary George

## QUEENSLAND

During August I visited the Anglican Archives and the Queensland State Archives, I searched through general correspondence relating to reformatories and industrial schools. On 28 August I gave a presentation to Queensland State Archives staff on the Find & Connect web resource. The archivists field many enquires about former residents of out-of-home 'care' and view the web resource as a great asset. Record holders who received a grant through the Records Access Documentation Project attended a training workshop on 13 August 2012. The workshop received positive feedback and it was encouraging to witness record holders mixing and discussing issues related to archival records management.

Lee Butterworth

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The focus in SA for this month has been to add information about Homes and cottages run by the Catholic Church. We have included updated historical information provided by the Sisters of St Joseph and tidied up and added to entries related to St John's Boystown and its successors. We have added a new Home, St Joseph's Sanatorium at Largs Bay, which was opened in 1903 and was the precursor to St Joseph's Orphanage at Largs Bay. Where possible we have added links to Trove articles and photographs. We have also updated information about the Professional Standards Records Office and the records it manages. We have also attempted to clarify the dates of opening and closure of Catholic cottage homes in the 1970s and 80s.

Karen & Gary George

## TASMANIA

This month I have been working on some of the older homes, especially the Industrial School for Girls-Hobart and the

Hobart Girls' Training School. A fellow historian told me about the short-lived Glenorchy Infants Orphanage which opened in 1898 and closed in 1912. There is now a new entry about it. The highlight of the month was giving a paper entitled '[Family History in the Find and Connect web resource](#)' at LINC Tasmania as part of a series of papers for Family History Week. Many thanks go to Alexander Barr for organising it and the audience for asking so many questions about the web site.

Caroline Evans

## VICTORIA

In Victoria this month we have been putting a lot of energy into exploring some smaller collections of archival records which have not, as yet, been well documented for the web resource. We would like to say a big thank you to all of the people who have spent time with us, and with other record holders, trying to work out exactly what is held within various collections. We have also been working on developing some biographical entries for some significant figures in child welfare history. Stay tuned in the coming months for some interesting additions to the web resource.

Nell Musgrove

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In WA we have been treated to a feast of stimulating seminars about records of experiences in out-of-home 'care'. Dr Philippa Martyr '*Searching for your mental health records*' gave insight into a system that didn't differentiate between intellectual disability, challenging behaviours and mental illness. Dr Joanna Sassoon led three seminars on the National Library's Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project. These seminars demonstrated the complexity of the 'lived experience' and the diversity of outcomes which have been captured in the oral history project. The month closed with a very successful workshop with WA recipients of Records Access Documentation Project grants. As one participant said, 'I am really invigorated about this project'.

Deb Rosser