



FIND & CONNECT

Issue 19: Jan/Feb 2014

WEB RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for 2014. I hope you all had a good break over the holidays – although for some they might be a distant memory! This first issue of the year is our bumper edition featuring the historians looking back over 2013 – another busy year for the web resource. Also in this issue Sarah (Client Liaison Officer) reflects on the feedback received over the last year, we feature some statistics on the visitors to the website in 2013 and Cate (National Editor) looks at our priorities for this year.

One of the most significant events of last year was the appointment of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The web resource supports the Royal Commission as a key source of information, and we've noticed an increase in traffic and emails from care leavers, lawyers and government officials, as well as past providers wishing to update their information.

Looking back over 2013, we sent out 11 newsletters to our stakeholders. The distribution list currently has 443 people on it, although the readership is larger than that due to the publication being distributed within organisations. If you want to look back over past issues all our newsletters are now available on the web resource at www.findandconnect.gov.au/news/newsletters

Last year we launched the new design of the web resource which was the culmination of over a year of research and development starting with the 2012 website usability testing with care leavers. Following the launch we ran a series of workshops with the support services and other key users around the country to introduce the new features of the website and the feedback from these workshops was very encouraging. We will be running another round of meetings this year, so I look forward to catching up with many of you in the next few months.

Don't forget to get in touch if you have feedback or would like help in promoting an event. In the meantime have a great month and I hope you enjoy this bumper issue.

Sal Orpin

Communications and Liaison Officer

2013 REVIEW FROM THE CLIENT LIAISON OFFICER

Another year of feedback – we must have had over 2000 emails by now! Whew. I won't bombard you with statistics; suffice to say, the volume dropped throughout the first half of 2013 and rose sharply after the launch of the new web design in October. This year I was lucky enough to enjoy the support of a second Client Liaison Officer – Meredith Kiraly – who was especially needed during our big October spike. Thanks so much for all your work in 2013, Meredith.

It's interesting to see that while the volume goes up and down, the content of the emails has been remarkably consistent ever since we launched in November 2011. Our biggest audience is still care leavers and their families, and the majority of emails are still about access to records. Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants are the people who give us the most insight into the Homes and how they were run; however, we hear from so many people – genealogists, people who remember going to school with children from a nearby Home, archivists, interested members of the public – who each help us with one more piece of the puzzle.

We love answering all these questions and comments, and they are particularly helpful for our state-based historians when they are struggling to find something about a particular Home. Despite this, we know the time has come to move to a new system. As some of you will know, in 2014 we are working towards having all the feedback go to the Find & Connect support services. This wasn't possible when we first launched in 2011 as the support services weren't all in place. Now that they are, we will begin a handover process from late February 2014.

We're looking forward to working with the support services to implement this new system and we hope that it will enable quicker pathways from the web resource to the support services. There will still be options to contact the web resource team via the website so, as always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do send them through!

Wishing you all a wonderful 2014.

Sarah Green

Client Liaison Officer



EVENTS DIARY

VIC

Friday 25 April 2014

ORANA CARE LEAVER'S REUNION

Lentara Uniting Care (formerly Orana) is holding the Annual Orana Care Leavers Reunion on Anzac Day, Friday 25 April 2014, 12:00-4:00pm at Rentoul Hall, 16 Livingstone Close, Burwood.

Lunch will be provided. All family and friends welcome.

Please RSVP to Rita on 0417 952 381 or rsidlauskas@lentarauc.org.au for catering by 9 April 2014.

Some funding is available for travel or accommodation costs to assist care leavers to attend the reunion.

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

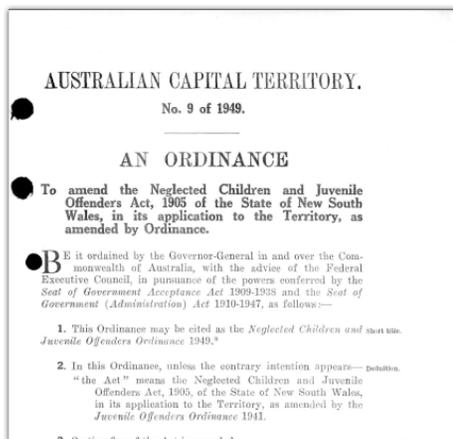
STATE SNAPSHOTS

2013 REVIEW

by our historians

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

I've spent my late December and January reviewing and editing entries for Colonial and 20th century legislation relating to child welfare: a far less dry and a much more interesting task than it sounds. From the earliest Colonial attempts to come to grips with poverty and child neglect, to the start of infant 'apprenticeships' and boarding-out, to fears of baby-farming, delinquency and uncontrolled youth, to the tragic history of Aboriginal 'protection', legislation gives a clear idea of what the Government had in mind, and the powers it wanted to give to its officers. It's in turn sad, mystifying, chilling, and familiar. If there is one, the constant is probably good intentions made tragic through hindsight.



It's obvious to say that the history of State power over individuals, children, and families, is the essential context to the Find & Connect project. It's probably not so obvious, though, to those individuals, grown-up children, and their families, what dry and difficult-to-read Acts mean, and why they're important. If a short entry can make sense of sometimes baffling Victorian-era or early twentieth century legislative language, and put that Act into the context of the time, I hope it's energy well spent, and a useful future resource for researchers.

This is not to say that the law is everything. Those laws were manifested in institutions and the actions of ordinary people. So, continuing on through March, I'll be extending Lydia Connell's research into the State Children's Relief Department, and its successors, which, though based in NSW, also determined policy for children in the Capital Territory throughout the twentieth century.

Liam Hogan

NEW SOUTH WALES

There is no doubt that the defining elements of 2013 in New South Wales have been the testimony delivered at hearings conducted by the Special Commission of Inquiry into the actions of the police in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. These harrowing insights into the lives endured by so many vulnerable children, across a range of organisations charged with their welfare, have increased my resolve to ensure that the web pages for New South Wales are accurate, and point survivors and their advocates to the most direct method of accessing records.

With this in mind, along with the need to ensure the New South Wales information fit nicely into the new database, 2013 was a year of review. The information has been reviewed by at least three people, and while there is a (very) long list of further research for almost all New South Wales homes, we can confidently say that the Find & Connect web resource outstrips any other finding aid.

A big positive this year has been collaborative work with the advocacy groups and past care providers who make up our stakeholders, and pass a critical eye over the website. It has also been wonderful to strengthen our relationship with Wattle Place, the Find & Connect support service. The questions we receive from the feedback service have sparked detective searches and provided a wealth of new information.



Anglewood Special School: Yean Cottage, c. 1948, courtesy of Leonie Knapman.

None of this work brings us any closer to finishing - every month we turn up new children's homes and new record series and photographic collections. In 2014 I look forward to being able to focus on research and developing stronger descriptions for homes, and to finding as many records as we can before the project ends.

Naomi Parry

NORTHERN TERRITORY

During 2013 the Northern Territory part of the web resource has grown significantly. The majority of historical information about Homes on the site has been drawn from our archival research of records held in the Northern Territory Archives, the Darwin Office of the National Archives of Australia and the Northern Territory Department of Health and Department of Corrections. In our work we are deeply indebted to a number of fabulous Archivists and Records Managers for organising access to records, trawling through databases, suggesting items that might be useful, lugging out hundreds of boxes and files for us and prioritising digitisation of records related to child welfare. Our relationship with record holders in the NT has been integral and rewarding.

We historians are like detectives, carefully reading through records to find the names of institutions, their opening and closing dates and their often changing purposes and locations. Our aim is to provide as much accurate information about the Homes that operated across the NT as possible before the end of the project. Research on Central Australian institutions during 2013 has allowed us to make the NT site less Darwin-focussed and more inclusive of child welfare across the Territory.



Image taken by Karen and Gary George, 2013.

We still struggle with a lack of photographs of former Homes and for this reason we were thrilled to have an opportunity to see and take images of a former government institution. The building above is heritage listed because it was the house of an early Magistrate. However, it was also Palmerston House, Tambling House and the Darwin Youth Refuge at different times. Therefore it was also home to many children and young people, individuals whose experiences are little known to the community but who are no less important in its history.

Karen George, Gary George and Megg Kelham

STATE SNAPSHOTS

2013 REVIEW

by our historians

QUEENSLAND

The past year has been dedicated to increasing and improving content on the Queensland web resource. New homes, as well as Queensland lazarets and mental asylums, were added to the database throughout the year. Just last week I created an entity for the Industrial School for Girls at Riverview. The Salvation Army opened the facility in 1897 and in late 1898 it became the Industrial School for Boys, Riverview. I assume the girls from the institution were transferred to other Salvation Army girls' homes in Brisbane. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has further information on the Industrial School for Girls at Riverview.



Photo of entrance to Riverview. Avenue of pines planted c. 1920

Images of some institutional buildings that still remain have also been added to entities. I visited and photographed Nazareth House, Industrial School at Chelmer, Riverview Training Farm, Silky Oaks, Westbrook and the Redcliffe and Heytesbury homes at Goodwood.

The three organisations in Queensland that received grants under the Records Access Documentation Project provided very positive feedback in relation to the benefits of indexing their records using the indexing tool provided via the project. Having the opportunity to systematically search through peripheral records allowed for the discovery of additional information about children in care which was entered in their records. The index also considerably reduced the time taken to search for individual records.

I will be devoting my time working on this project in 2014 to entering as much research data as possible. Thank you to all the people from numerous organisations who have generously assisted me with inquires throughout 2013. I look forward to visiting you again in 2014.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Throughout 2013 research into histories and records for South Australian institutions continued with many entries updated, and with help from staff at the Department of Education and Child Development and Freedom of Information Officers we created [a detailed explanation of the process involved in accessing records in SA.](#)



One of the children's dormitories at the Convent of the Good Shepherd 'The Pines' 1957

However, 2013 could be called the year of the photo. While sadly our request to take photos of the interior of Magill Training Centre before demolition began was denied, we did manage to take some exterior photographs including a partial image of the eagle mural inside the compound. We managed to successfully liaise with the Glandore Community Centre so that a copy of all their photographs of children at Glandore Boys' Home was supplied to the SA Find & Connect support service at Elm Place for former residents to view in that supported environment. Our attempt to arrange a similar deal with the Department to share their photo albums 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions' was unfortunately blocked due to privacy concerns, however, further research has shown that many of these photos appear in unrestricted Annual Reports of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board which are available for viewing at State Records. The Department has kindly supplied us with copies of a number of images of buildings and interiors from the albums enabling us to add 9 new photos of Seaforth Home, 3 of Glandore Industrial School, 4 of Kumanka Boys Hostel, 5 of Allambi Girls Hostel, 4 of Boys Reformatory Magill, 9 of Vaughan House, 12 of the Convent of the Good Shepherd 'The Pines', and 10 of Struan Farm. These new photos will be available to see on the website soon.

Gary George and Karen George

TASMANIA

It has been another great year for the Find & Connect web resource in Tasmania. A few new Homes have come to light and I've been able to extend many of the old entries so that they are more detailed and accurate.

There is now a lot more information about records on the Tasmanian website. Many of these are held by the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office and contain the names of children. There is also new information about the whereabouts of the records of privately run children's homes. A big thank-you goes to the record holders who have been able to help with these entries.



Bethany 1958 - Boys outside the gate at Bethany Boys Home in Lowelley Road, Lindisfarne, 1958

A special thank-you goes to the former manager of Bethany Boys' Home. When I visited her last year, she very kindly lent me some photograph albums from the Home which I was able to scan and put up on the website. She thought that, before his death, her husband had deposited the Home's records at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office along with those of the Churches of Christ which ran it. However, that was not the case. A few months later, I received an e-mail headed 'That which was lost is found!' In answering a query from a care leaver, the former manager had unexpectedly turned up the records. A description is now up on the website. It was a wonderful find. I hope that with the remaining time left in the research phase of the project there may be other similar discoveries.

Many thanks go to all the people who have helped with the Tasmanian website in 2013. I look forward to working with you again this year.

Caroline Evans

STATE SNAPSHOTS

VICTORIA

2013 seems to have flown by. It was Sarah's first year as one of the state-based historians, and Rosemary continued on as the other half of the VIC team. The Victorian section of Find & Connect is unique in that it has now been around for five years (it was previously Pathways); this is both a blessing and a curse. We are confident that we've identified nearly, if not all, the Homes that were in Victoria. This means we can spend more time expanding existing information and focussing on improving our records descriptions. However, it also means that when we identify major gaps, we ask ourselves "how did we miss that?" and "will this ever be finished?!"

One example from 2013 is the work we've done with identifying hostels that accommodated teenagers in the 1970s. In August, Sarah and Rosemary met with Mike Kelly from an organisation called Time for Youth. Mike was involved with establishing many of these hostels and our meeting with him led Rosemary off on a mission – or as we like to call it, a journey down the research rabbit warren – to identify all these hostels for inclusion on Find & Connect. On her mission, Rosemary has enjoyed the able assistance of Christine Moje, another member of the Melbourne team. Thanks Christine!



Sarah and Rosemary at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum.

The other major gap we identified in 2013 was our information about Salvation Army Homes and records. After a series of meetings with Captain Malcolm Rogers and the team at the Southern Territory office, plus Lindsay Cox at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum, we're very pleased that Find & Connect now has a much better description of Salvation Army records.

We'll finish by saying a huge thank you to everyone else who helped to improve Find & Connect Victoria in 2013. We really appreciate all your feedback, suggestions and knowledge-sharing, and we look forward to hearing from you again in 2014!

Rosemary Francis and Sarah Green

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The key delights of 2013 were uploading 'new' information about Homes, including images, annual reports and contemporary news articles for historical context, and improving the visibility of record-holders' archives. Records Access Documentation Project grant recipients (Anglican Diocese of Perth, Christian Brothers, UnitingCare West and Wanslea) have made tremendous progress in making their records more accessible and providing updated descriptions for the Find & Connect web resource. Record descriptions for other out of home care providers were also updated. Special thanks to archivists and others who have donated photographs! We've been able to add photographs to the main page of many Homes in WA during 2013.



Boy Scouts, Swan Orphanage, 1927

The State Records Office and State Library of Western Australia have, as usual, been significant sources of inspiration and information. Each of these institutions is updating its online holdings and their digital catalogues have continued to play an important role in uncovering 'facts' and records. The digital holdings of the State Heritage Office and Parliamentary Library have also been a great help.

During 2013, I had the opportunity to participate in a number of symposia with archivists, librarians and family historians to let them know about the Find & Connect web resource. These connections have resulted in a steady stream of 'did you know about?' new sources of information, documents and images which have further enhanced the web resource for our users.

2014 is shaping up as a very busy year, updating existing entries on the web resource and trying to add as much new information as possible before the research phase ends.

Deb Rosser



As we get down to work in 2014, it's great to have a look back and see how far we've come since we launched in November 2011. While we're proud of everything we've achieved, I think it's fair to say that the team feels daunted sometimes by just how much more work could be done.

Three years of research, and we're still regularly 'discovering' institutions that weren't in our database! Not to mention all the stories, newspaper articles, images about Homes that keep appearing on the web, enriching the public record about Homes in Australia.

Doing research into this area, it's very hard to stay focused on a single task – a line in a book, an email, or some other snippet can easily send you off down any number of fascinating 'rabbit holes'. And then when you pop up again, you find yourself somewhere completely off-track!

The history of children's institutions is one that has been neglected for far too long – but paradoxically, there is an amazingly rich collection of material about this 'forgotten history' out there. We'll never be able to document all of this material in Find & Connect, but hopefully we're making it easy for others to keep locating information and telling their stories.

For 2014, our core business remains the same – to capture basic information (at the very least) about every Home in Australia – what was it called, where was it, who ran it, when did it close? This data is vital.

People's records are also highly significant – our aim is for Find & Connect to be a reliable source of information about known 'care' records that are dispersed across the country. So, a top priority for this year is to expand and improve the website's information about the records 'out there'. People who were in care need to know what records exist and how they can access them.

Can you help us by providing information about records that isn't yet in Find & Connect? Feedback is so important to this project, and we want you all to stay in touch this year and help us to keep building the Find & Connect web resource.

Cate O'Neill
National Editor

2013 VISITOR STATISTICS: FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE

How many people visited the web resource in 2013?

159,789 PEOPLE

27.19% of these people came back to the web resource more than once giving a total of

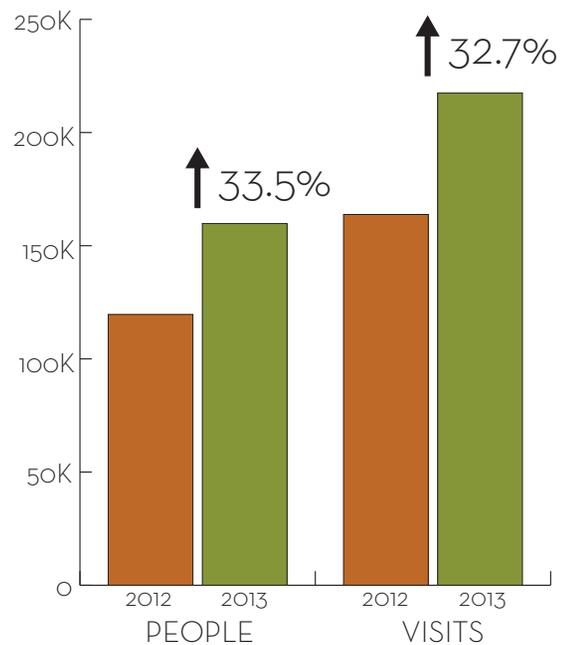
217,500 VISITS

Where in Australia were people when they visited the web resource?

TOP 25 CITIES AND TOWNS:

City	Visits
1 Melbourne	55,667
2 Sydney	53,861
3 Brisbane	24,222
4 Perth	21,300
5 Adelaide	21,300
6 Canberra	5,627
7 Hobart	3,975
8 Newcastle	1,010
9 Gold Coast	982
10 Darwin	863
11 Launceston	668
12 Geelong	536
13 Ballarat	417
14 (Not set)	395
15 Richmond	311
16 Central Coast	303
17 Cranbourne	291
18 Bendigo	280
19 Wollongong	277
20 Cairns	227
21 Toowoomba	200
22 Townsville	186
23 Sunshine Coast	152
24 Craigieburn	143
25 Bathurst	140

VISITOR STATISTICS COMPARISON 2012 / 2013



How many people looked for information about each state and territory?



Visitor statistics from Google Analytics © 2014 Google