



FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

Issue 2: July 2012

A web resource for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the July edition of the *Find & Connect Web Resource Newsletter*. It's been a busy month for all of us on the web project, with some exciting developments around the country including the announcement by FaHCSIA of the Find & Connect Records Access Documentation Project (RADP) recipients. We have started planning our second round of stakeholder meetings to take place in each state and territory from September to November this year. I'll be emailing you with more details on these sessions in July and August.

Last month we added an online version of the newsletter to the web resource in addition to the existing pdf version available on the site. There are links to both the html and pdf version of the newsletter in the news section of the web resource.

In this issue there is an update on the work we are doing on the RADP project, a report on the *Unlock the Past Expo* in Brisbane and our regular round up from our historians around the country. I hope you enjoy this issue.

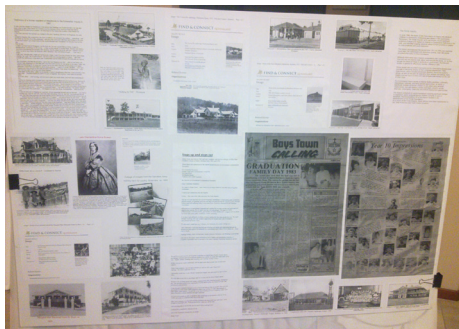
Sal Orpin

Communications & Liaison Officer

FIND & CONNECT WEB RESOURCE EXHIBITS AT 'UNLOCK THE PAST EXPO' IN BRISBANE

Gould Genealogy and History hosted the 7th 'Unlock The Past Expo' in Brisbane from 25-27 June 2012. Find & Connect Web Resource was one of approximately 60 exhibitors from five states, that included genealogical and family history societies, Queensland State Archives, State Library of Queensland, book and magazine publishers, professional historians and tour operators. The expo included 67 presentations covering a variety of subjects associated with family historical research. One of the leading experts and presenters from the UK, Audrey Collins (National Archives UK), was the guest presenter. Numbers attending the expo ranged between 300 and 500 per day.

Most exhibitors and attendees were not familiar with the Find & Connect Web Resource. Consequently, I was kept busy informing a steady stream of people about the purpose of the project. On Wednesday, during a 25 minute presentation, I introduced the audience to the National and Queensland Find & Connect web sites, providing an explanation of the principal navigation tools and content. When fully informed of the nature and extent of the information contained on the web resource, it became



clear that it is of great value to researchers who have discovered a relative who was placed in out-of-home care or came to Australia as a child migrant.

The Find & Connect Web Resource certainly lived up to its name at the 'Unlock The Past Expo' for 2012.

Lee Butterworth

Queensland Historian

FIND & CONNECT RECORDS ACCESS DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Congratulations to the twenty-nine organisations who have received grants as part of the Find & Connect Records Access Documentation Project (RADP). The project, funded by FaHCSIA, will help improve the accessibility of records relating to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. The funding received will be used to catalogue or index a collection of records, improving their 'findability' and increasing efficiency both for the person requesting and the organisation retrieving information.

To help ensure the success of these projects the eScholarship Research Centre will be offering training and ongoing support to the grant recipients. The training materials, which will include a template for indexing records, will be made available online through the Find & Connect Web Resource.

Melissa Downing
Database Manager

RADP WORKSHOP DATES

Melbourne: VIC / TAS recipients
Thursday 2 August

Sydney: NSW / ACT recipients
Monday 6 August

Perth: WA / NT recipients
Thursday 9 August

Brisbane: QLD / NSW recipient
Monday 13 August



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

STATE SNAPSHOTS

News from our Historians around the country.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

This month I will be concentrating on trying to learn more about a shelter for children that is currently not in the database. I am particularly interested in finding out about how the purpose of Birrallee may have changed over time, as the description given in annual reports during the 1960s is quite different to that of later decades. I would be very appreciative of any information or memories people have about the centre. I will also be focusing on mapping the changing administration of the territory prior to self government. In the near future I would really like to arrange some more brainstorming sessions with key individuals who may be able to help me tie it all together and build a stronger sense of the history into the ACT site.

Lydia Connell

NEW SOUTH WALES

I am trying to fill some of the gaps in our lists of government homes, so I drove down to Mittagong, the site of the Cottage and Farm Homes (Renwick). From 1882 to 1994 at least 30,000 state wards lived in these homes, but we had little information about them on the website. Mittagong historian Leonie Knapman, who is writing a book about the homes, showed me around the site. I learned a lot from her, as I did when I met Bonney Djuric of Parragirls earlier this year: both are committed to telling the stories of these important institutions, and that is a great help to Find & Connect NSW.

Naomi Parry

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory site is gradually growing. We have been developing time-lines of the government departments responsible for the welfare of children. Please let us know what you think of them. We are working slowly through each entry on the site, correcting and expanding summaries of Homes and missions and adding links to articles and digitised documents where possible.

Karen is visiting Darwin at the end of July to look at government and mission records held at the Northern Territory Archives. We are very grateful to have been granted access to these records because it will allow us to describe them in more detail. We are also hoping to have some NT based research assistance with the project in the near future.

Karen & Gary George

QUEENSLAND

In June I visited Desley Soden and Sue Laidlow at the Anglican Church archives, archivist Kay Lane at the Sisters of Mercy and Lisa Banyard and Janelle Pritchard from BoysTown. These organisations are working with Find & Connect to create an updated index to their record holdings.

Find & Connect QLD exhibited at the 'Unlock Your Past Expo' at Jindalee, which ran from June 25 - 27 2012. We attracted great interest and it was encouraging to receive positive feedback from historians, genealogists and the general public related to the benefits of such a resource.

Lee Butterworth

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This month has seen some significant changes on the SA site. The new information about records from McBride Maternity Hospital provided by State Records has gone live as have new brief histories of the institutions that came before and after it. It was a number of Ask Us emails about that institution that kicked off this research, so keep those emails coming! At the moment we are beginning to put together information on disability homes that are missing from the website, and we are pursuing ways to gather and present information regarding foster care in SA. We hope to have more news regarding this in future snapshots.

Karen & Gary George

TASMANIA

Most of the people who now own former receiving homes responded to my requests to photograph their houses for Find & Connect TAS in a most positive

and generous way. I would like to thank them. Photographs of Malmesbury Receiving Home are up and the others will follow shortly. Thanks also go to the *Mercury* which kindly donated three pictures of Risdon Prison for the website. I have continued to update entries on the Royal Derwent Hospital which first opened in 1827 and was a care provider for children through much of its existence.

Caroline Evans

VICTORIA

One of the highlights of this month was the 'Getting Started with Family History Research' workshop hosted and run by the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV). The workshop was designed to help provide information about records of interest to people who spent time in out-of-home 'care' that are held by PROV. It was good to meet with some people who are researching their own family histories, and we also got some great information about methods for effectively searching and accessing PROV holdings. We will be updating Find & Connect VIC to share this soon.

Nell Musgrove

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A little girl grew up on a Mission and spent summer holidays with a family in Perth. The years passed and they grew apart. Recently, in need of a friend, this 'little girl' got back in touch... An email from a WA record-holder told the rest of the story. Friends helped her access photos from the Mission. She had not talked to her family about Mission days, but the photos stimulated a link between the child then and the grandchildren now. 'A whole new world opened up to this family with these few photos!'

The record-holder has for some years been collating an extensive photo collection - an enormous task. But they have been chipping away steadily, because the photos make a tremendous difference.

Deb Rosser