# Issue Nine Contents - October 2013

In this Issue: Open Day success; of the latest online news (including additions to our indexes and new photos); treasures found in the records; spotlights on the registers of bodies received; our blog and Flickr updates and more!

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## Online News

### More digital convict indents available

Many more images have been added to the early convict database: **Dentmore beyond the Seas** - a project to digitise and index Australia's earliest convict records.

The convict indents that are currently available to New South Wales. Search over 12,000 names listed in these records and view the digital indents online.

- Browse the digital indents online
- Browse the indexes online

### Digital galleries

**Sydney**

"Through the lens: snapshots of government architecture" was created as part of Western Week 2013. It consists of two digital galleries focussing on Central Railway Station and Darling Harbour.

| Central Railway Station - highlighting its transformation from the opening in 1906 to 100 years later the centenary celebrations | Darling Harbour - highlighting early Darling Harbour through to land reclamation |
|---|---|
| View Gallery | View Gallery |

**New South Wales Prepares for War**

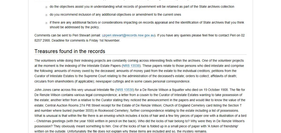
Browse a selection of records relating to New South Wales' involvement in World War I. This gallery focuses on the National Emergency Services (NES) which helped to protect, evacuate and provide aid on the home front.

View Gallery

**1. Photos of metropolitan, country roads farms etc., and miscellaneous operations, NSW 1926-1940, NRS 3552c**

Construction and maintenance of roads in New South Wales Series of the roads depicted in the photos include Liverpool Road, Forest Road, New South Wales Road, Parramatta Road, Princes Highway, Great Western Highway, Victoria Road, Illawarra Road, General Holmes Drive, Botany Road, Cronulla Road, Bathurst Road, Hume Highway, Great Western Highway, Pacific Highway, Kurrajong Road, Bathurst Road and a number of images showing roads, bridges, signposting, Aerodrome Road, landing laboratory, Inland Office and the Raverdeen Aerodrome.

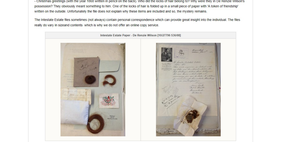
- Browse the photo series »



**2. Photos albums relating to the construction of an aerodrome on Norfolk Island (Kept at Main Roads), NRS 3551**

Construction of the aerodrome on Norfolk Island during World War II. Construction was undertaken by the NSW government for the United States Army Air Force and took place between August 1942 and February 1943 in association with the United States Engineers Department, United States Army.

- Browse the photo series »



- For a wrap-up of our open day see the Archives Collection blog
- Listen to podcasts of transcribed Open Day staff talks along with a slideshow of their presentations.

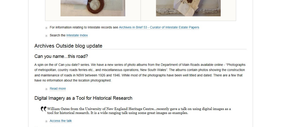
## Exciting new range of greeting cards!

Capture the romance of travel and the holidays with this special range of greetings cards from the State Archives collection. Perfect gifts this Christmas for family and friends or for that family historian and trade staff you may know.

- Read more about the cards and purchase online

Special offer! Spend $30.00 or more on greeting cards and receive a free events bag. Offer valid till Friday 13 December 2013 (or until stocks last).

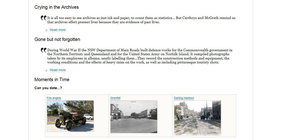
| Set of six Christmas cards - $10.00 | Set of four holiday festival cards - $8.00 | Comic bag - RRP $2.50 |
|---|---|---|



## Open Day Success

What a success the Open Day was this year! Weather conditions for the day (Friday 1st August) proved to be perfect so we had crowds in the hundreds flood in to have tours, visit our exhibition and attend talks and tours given by a stagger at the rare vault. The theme of the day was 'Transport, Travel & Tourism and the program was packed with speakers, tours, advice on conservation and digital recordkeeping, plus a display of treasures from our collection.

The history and genealogy stalls were very popular, as were the vintage military vehicles, food and coffee (the important stuff!) and the secondhand book sale.



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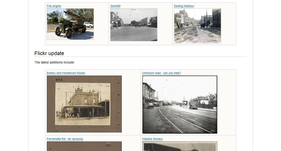

## Review of State Records' Appraisal policy and objectives for the identification of State archives

State Records' policy on records appraisal and the identification of State archives (Building the archives) is now over 10 years old. It is therefore timely to review the policy document to assess if it is appropriate for guiding appraisal in the digital environment. In update it and amend the policy as required to ensure it is fit for purpose. State Records is seeking your comments and feedback on the draft revised policy document and is establish a framework for the conduct of records appraisal in the NSW public sector. To do this the current policy document:

- outlines the roles and responsibilities of the three key participants involved in the appraisal of State records (i.e. public offices, State Records and the Board of State Records);
- outlines 5 objectives to assist and guide the appraisal decision-making process with respect to the identification of State archives.

And all documents to be used for appraisal purposes are available on State Records' website. Archives Officers have to be made aware and to keep and what not to keep as part of the NSW State Government's archival record of its activities, functions, decision-making processes, and outcomes of its activities. This policy is therefore a key document in assuring this process.

To assist the policy review process, State Records is seeking your comments from members of the community on the policy. A copy of the current version of the policy is available on our website. Those thoughts and views on the content of the policy and the objectives for the identification of State archives would be much appreciated. In particular, when providing feedback, you may like to the consider:

- do the objectives assist you in understanding what records of government will be retained as part of the State archives collection
- do you recommend inclusion of any additional objectives or amendment to the current ones
- if there are any additional factors or considerations that need to be taken into consideration in the identification of State archives that you think should be addressed by the policy.

Comments can be sent to Peter Stewart (peter.stewart@records.nsw.gov.au). If you have any queries please feel free to contact Peter on (02) 9237 2160. Deadline for comments is Friday 1st November.

## Treasures found in the records

The volunteers while doing their indexing projects are constantly coming across interesting finds within the archives. One of the volunteer projects at the moment is the indexing of the Intestate Estate Papers 1920-1952. These papers relate to those persons who died intestate and comprise the following: amounts of money owed to the deceased; amounts of money paid from the estate to the individual creditors; petitions from the Curator of Intestate Estates to the Supreme Court seeking to be the administrator of the deceased's estate; orders to court; affidavits of death; circulars from advertisements of applicants; newspaper cuttings and in some cases personal correspondence.

Intestate Estate Papers - The Bruce Wilcox (2010/7196 C6048)

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The Intestate Estate Papers contain a wealth of information. For example, the file for Bruce Wilcox (2010/7196 C6048) died on 15 October 1930. The file for Bruce Wilcox contains many unusual documents: a letter from a Justice to the Curator of Intestate Estates seeking to take possession of the estate; another letter from a relative to the Curator stating they noticed the announcement in the papers and would like to know the value of the estate; Certificate Authority Form (Tri Pen Green) issued by the Estate of the Reader Wilcox; Church of England Cemetery card listing the Section 1 and number where buried (number 3553) in Rookwood Cemetery; further correspondence relating to the estate including a list of possessions; a letter from the Curator of Intestate Estates to the Sydney Morning Herald requesting a copy of the paper containing the death notice; a letter from Church of Christmas postings with the year 1920 written in pencil on the back; Office of the Curator of Intestate Estates seeking to take possession of Presentation? They obviously meant something to him. One of the tools of a folded up in a small piece of paper with 'A token of friendship' written on the outside; a photograph; the bear; a receipt; a key; brass items are included and so, the mystery remains.

The Intestate Estate files sometimes just always contain personal correspondence which can provide great insight into the individual. The files really do add to research contents, which is why we do not offer an online copy at this time.

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- For information relating to intestate records see Archives in Brief 53 - Curator of Intestate Estate Papers
- Search the Intestate Index

## Archives Outside blog update

Can you name... this road?

A spin on the of 'Can you name' series: this have a new series of photos taken from the Department of State Roads available online - 'Photographs of metropolitan, country roads farms etc., and miscellaneous operations, New South Wales'. The archives contain photos showing the construction and maintenance of roads in NSW between 1926 and 1940. While most of the photos bear no clues, some are well-known and seen. There are a few that have no information about the location photographed.

- Read more

## Digital Imagery as a Tool for Historical Research

William Dawes from the University of New England Heritage Centre...recently gave a talk on using digital images as a tool for historical research. It is a talk ranging talk using some great images as examples.

- Access this talk

## Crying in the Archives

It is all too easy to see archives as a place to hide and quietly, to weep. Sometimes a... But Carlleen and McGrath remind us that archives offered present-time because their are evidence of past lives.

- Read more

## Gone but not forgotten

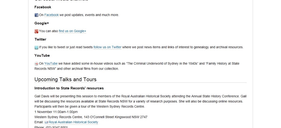
During World War II The Department of State Roads built defence works for the Commonwealth, government in the Northern Territory and Queensland and for the United States Army in Norfolk Island. It compiled photographic albums showing the construction of roads, bridges, airfields, and other works. The albums also contain photographs of buildings, landing installations and the officers of bases across the atoll, as well as building personnel and their families.

- Read more

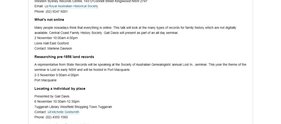
## Moments in Time

**Can you date...?**

| Car door | Bonnet | Sydney harbour |
|---|---|---|



| Gates and Gardens Royal | Unknown road - can you help? |
|---|---|



| Bermuda Rig - for planing | Bobby dazzler |
|---|---|

| Left door | Unknown Paymaster |
|---|---|



If you don't have a Flickr account you can still browse these photos on Flickr, and comment on photos on Photo Investigator.

## Spotlight on the Registers of bodies received [Sydney City Coroner]

As many of you could know or can guess, the State Archives is actively moving to an impact or death for the time period 1925-1940, many of the files haven't survived. If you do not into this research feels which and the death occurred in Sydney there be the series Registers of bodies received [NRS 1726]. This online collection provides some of the information that remains.

The Registers cover the time period 1925-1940. Each entry appears to be filled in by the person (usually a policeman) depositing the body, and lists the deceased's name, the place and date of death, the place and date of burial, the place of death, the place of burial, the place of deposition (the place at which bodies have not been identified), and a statement of all records or reports deposing Sydney City Coroner's Inquest by the person depositing the body.

| Example 1 | Example 2 |
|---|---|



NRS 1726 Registers of bodies received - Sydney City Coroner [2/1911]

**Deceased:** William Kellner

**Number and date:** 1911-48; no. 15; 12 December 1911 8.15am

**Age, where born, occupation:** About 60 years; Birmingham England; Carpenter

**Where and where found:** 7 Street 15 Dec 1911 at 4.0 Bourke Street, Sydney City

**Remarks and statement of all records or inquiries depositing Person:** Deceased was found in a room at the above address by Mrs Kellner who rode a train between Wilson Newry Blackman who says he was the man who informed Blackman (who) who had been away from home for a few days and on returning to his room found the deceased in the clothes he had on when he left home and he was not taking his clothes. Blackman thinks deceased is another and shot deceased as he was getting up. Blackman thinks deceased is a Scotsman and he has relatives and that again. He has not seen deceased in Sydney because he was prosecuted in about. The body was then taken to the city morgue. No marks of violence on the body.

**Signed** Kate Wilson Blackman Witness

NRS 1726 Registers of bodies received - Sydney City Coroner [2/1913]

**Deceased:** Vergnard Kerner

**Number and date:** 1913-42 no. 21; 12 October 1913 6.30pm

**Age, where born, occupation:** 45 years; Kring George Sound; Pacific Island Sheboran Australia; Mariner

**Where and where found:** 4.30pm 11 October 1913 at No. 161 Kring George Sheboran

**Remarks and statement of all records or inquiries depositing Person:** Deceased was found in a room at the above address by Mrs Kellner who the Kitchenette because he about 10 months for Tuberculosis and has been living for the past twelve months with her husband at No. 161 Kring Street and has been in Sydney about 3 years. Deceased left his home at 10 am and had come to cause and after partaking of his consumed of juice. It is thought that Deceased which Claim has contracted of having and Tuberculosis. Deceased left a letter addressed to his wife and left a card for Dispatch and on the envelope was the address. There are no signs of violence on the body which was removed to the morgue by Mr Kellner. No marks of violence on the body.

**Signed** Jessie Wilson Sir 3 Newtown Station

From about 1920 photographs of the bodies were included in the volumes when the identity is unknown. This practice stopped in 1926. From 7 September 1941 a change in format occurs with the expansion of remarks to include date for the circumstances under which death took place, the place of death, the place of burial, the place of deposition (the place at which bodies have not been identified), and a statement of all records or reports depositing Sydney City Coroner's Inquest by the person depositing the body.

Another related series is NRS 1726 Post-Mortem Registers [Sydney Coroner] 1926-56. Under each entry, the registers give information under the following headings: date of death, date of analysis, name of doctor making analysis, name of medical attendant of deceased if known, name of deceased, birthplace, age and occupation, previous history and habits of deceased, circumstances connected with the death of deceased, special remarks, and signature of coroner. The registers for the period 1926-1940 are in the same volume as the Registers of bodies received [NRS 1726]. Post-mortem data is different from and does not always shed more information under the following headings: result of examination, name, age, occupation, date of analysis, date of death, where born, circumstances connected with death, marks of identification, evidence of violence, signs of injury, if left a will, and if married, to whom, and if married, to whom, and if married, to whom. Registers, however, are further subdivided to identify the various inquiries of the Body. Each entry is signed and dated by the coroner.

The both series of registers are original and can be accessed at the Reading Room at State Records.

- For information relating to inquest records see Archives in Brief 4 - Inquest records and coronial records

## Changes to train and bus timetables

Sydney public transport timetables are changing during October 2013. If you have to the Western Sydney Records (WSRC) in Kingswood and public transport you can check travel times via NSW TransportInfo.

Please note that train timetables change from Sunday 20 October 2013, but the TfD PrintMi-Off Draft issues, which take you to the entrance of WSRC, **will change from Monday 4 October 2013**. From this date the TfD service will change hands from Westbus to Busways and the buses may be rerted and bus rather than police. Paper copies of the TfD bus timetable are available from the reading room.

## Stay up-to-date with State Records

### On our website

- Subscribe to our website news - receive an email each time we post a news item.

### Our social media channels

**Facebook**

- Join Facebook and post updates, events and much more.

**Google+**

- You can also find us on Google+

**Twitter**

- If you like to tweet or just want tweets follow us on Twitter where we post news items and links of interest to genealogy and archival resources.

**YouTube**

- On YouTube we have added some in-house videos such as "The Criminal Underworld of Sydney in the 1940's" and "Family History at State Records NSW" and other archival films from our collection.

## Upcoming Talks and Tours

**Introduction to State Records' resources**

Cath Sara will be presenting this session to members of the Royal Australian Historical Society attending the Annual State History Conference. Cath will be discussing the resources available at State Records NSW for a variety of research purposes. She will also be discussing online resources. Participants will meet at the foyer of the Western Sydney Records Centre.

1 November 11.00am-1.00pm
Western Sydney Records Centre, 143 O'Connell Street Kingswood NSW 2747
Email: Royal Australian Historical Society
Phone: (02) 9247 8051

**What's next online**

Many people nowadays think that everything is online. This talk will look at the many types of records for family history which are not digitally available. Central Coast Family History Society. Cath Sara will present as part of an all day seminar.

2 November 10.00am-4.00pm
Ourimbah TAFE campus
Contact: Adrienne Cameron
Port Macquarie

**Locating a individual by place**

Presented by Gail Clarke.
6 November 10.30am-12.30pm
Taggart Library, Westfield Shopping Town Taggart
Contact: Port Macquarie Library
Phone: (02) 6581 7000

**Introducing State Records NSW**

Chris or Kate Rudzis leads members into an interesting an introductory session to volunteers of the Australian Railway Historical Society about State Records NSW. We will also be discussing records from the State Rail Authority collection held at NSW State archives.

11 November 12.00am-1.00pm
Western Sydney Records Centre, 143 O'Connell Street Kingswood NSW 2747