Now&Then 68 - June 2014

The latest issue features archive news and updates, recently reactived records, treasures found in the collection, Spotlight on Empire Day records, our Blog and Flickr updates - and much more.

- Online News
- Recently received records
- New resources for tracing Irish convicts
- Treasures found in the records
- Archives Outside Blog update
- Flickr update
- Spotlight on Empire Day records
- Upcoming dates and tours

Online News

Convict Pardons index is now complete

The index was compiled from several sources (see list below) and is available in the Convict database

General profile

The Convict database contains several record types, allowing you to see a brief profile of your convict.

Quick tip: when searching for a convict with the name/s usually by sirnam (e.g. group records by convict, pick the screenshot below)

1800S	John	Lady Nelson	1800 - 1810	Pardon of convict Margaret	SCH/23, Reel 6012
1800S	John	Lady Nelson	1800 - 1810	Pardon of convict Mary	SCH/23, Reel 6012
1800S	John	Lady Nelson	1800 - 1810	Pardon of convict Mary	SCH/23, Reel 6012
1800S	John	Lady Nelson	1800 - 1810	Pardon of convict Mary	SCH/23, Reel 6012
1800S	John	Lady Nelson	1800 - 1810	Pardon of convict Margaret	SCH/23, Reel 6012

Surveyors' Sketch Books

In case you missed it in our last issue, an ongoing project here at State Records is the digitisation of Surveyors' sketch books (NRS 13881). The listings and sketches date from 1823 to 1900.

We have now digitised 60 of the 19 volumes. That's over 500 digital images now available through Archives Investigator. There is also a selection of images available on our Flickr account.

The sketches mostly relate to the following subjects: sketches and tracings of towns and villages and of streets and thoroughfares, plans, sections, elevations of buildings and of grounds, bridges, wharves, roads and pavements, drains and sewers, and other public works, plans of estates, sections and elevations of buildings, of roads, through allotments, and of street alignments in towns. There are also tracings of land reserved for churches, schools, parsonages, and for other purposes. Among the sketches there are also detailed lithographs of prisons, sub-divisions and some architectural plans and sketches.

Description from Archives Investigator

1900 Lithograph of Kiama and Kiama and parishes to the south of it. Metal based. Title 20

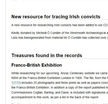
Detailed hand-drawn lithograph Gladstone 1200 acres of barrings and crossing Kolomo River towards sea. Blue ribbon route Map 1

Fresh look for records active to government

We have redeveloped the pages on our website providing advice and guidance on recordkeeping to NSW public sector agencies. The new webpages bring together guidance relating to particular topics in the one place.

The website is now organised around Rules, Advice, and Resources. See the new layout »

Recently Received Records



NRS 13773, [4/6372], Frances-Birkett Exhibition, Rose press, 1922

NRS 13773, [4/6372], Frances-Birkett Exhibition, Cecil Hepworth, 1908

NRS 13773, [4/6372], Frances-Birkett Exhibition, Tower Hamlets, 1908

NRS 13773, [4/6372], Frances-Birkett Exhibition, Cecil Hepworth, 1908

NRS 13773, [4/6372], Frances-Birkett Exhibition, Cecil Hepworth, 1908

NRS 13773, [4/6372], Frances-Birkett Exhibition, Report of Mrs Birkett's work, 1908

Carrington Presentation Albums - Illuminated Addresses

State Records recently received 11 Presentation Albums from the Centre for Biographical Studies in Australia, United Kingdom. The Presentation Albums were originally given to Lord Carrington (1843-1928), during the tenure as Governor of New South Wales from 1885 to 1890. They contain original photographs, illustrations and watercolours from residents, towns and various associations across the state.

Minister for Finance and Services, Dominic Perrottet, recently joined Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency The Honourable Marie Bashir, and representatives from the Centre for Biographical Studies, at State Records to view the Carrington Albums.

Read more about these treasures between Minister Perrottet and Lord Carrington in our blog and there is a short extract on our website here.

"The family, name is spelt with one r" and the title with two.

School records

The NSW Australian Museum of Public Education recently donated a number of school admission registers and punishment books to State Records. This included admission registers for North Rock, Tyalla North and Mansfield Public Schools from 1910 to 1970 and punishment books from Tyalla North and Mansfield Public Schools from approximately 1910 to 1970.

This was a most valuable donation as school admission registers and punishment books are an invaluable resource for those researching the history of education in NSW, as well as family and local historians, because of the information they record about pupils' names, ages, names of parents/guardians and their arrivals and occupations, and they also record the offences and punishments that students used to receive. Unfortunately for various reasons, many of these incapacitated treasures about public education in NSW are not part of the State archives collection. We would love to see more of these records and other records documenting the history of education in NSW.

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Australian Museum have a look at their website - http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/.

New resource for tracing Irish convicts

A new resource for researching Irish convicts has been added to our Find+ resources in the reading room.

Kindly donated by Michelle O Cronlein of the Wentworth Archaeological and Historical Society, the Index to the Wentworth Convict Transportation Lists has transportations from material on 37 Convict Indents. Collection over years of research into the local area. County Wentworth, Ireland.

Treasures found in the records

Franco-British Exhibition

While researching for our upcoming Blog, Frances Birkett, Cecil Hepworth, Cecil Rose and Frances Birkett (NRS13773, [4/6372]) created a sample containing **Empire Day** programs for several years between 1905-1910 (see examples above). Along with the colour programs the Sandfly Company produced commemorative medals celebrating Edward the VIII. It organised the operation for some members of the MP team "what was Empire Day?"

A quick search of a reference publication, such as The Oxford Companion to Australian History, tells us that Empire Day was held on 24 May, and was a holiday in honour of the birthday of Queen Victoria. Originally it was a day for the Empire's children, who were given a half-holiday at the conclusion of school prayers, and the occasion was marked with Church Parades and sports.

As 24 May has recently passed it seemed appropriate to see the sample to see what our collection might reveal about the celebrated celebration.

Sandfly Company

Sandfly Company (Sandfly) and the Temple Search Teachers, and entering the phrase 'Empire Day', returns sixteen results, which mostly relate to schools. The most useful finds were the following:

- **NRS 4475, Scrapbook of medals printed on special occasions** - Item 1230, 'Empire Day programme, 1905-17
- **NRS 10491 Photographic collection, 27 Jan 1902 - 31 Dec 1951** - several items
- **NRS 4291, Bushing Inn (St Ives), c. 27 Jan 1906,** 5/2/2012, Sandfly Company to Secretary Empire Day Observance in Mettle Place, 12 pp

A search of Photo Investigator (P) using the phrase 'Empire Day' returns nine results. The three examples below are from NRS 10321 and show school children celebrating the day in different ways, including the wearing of costumes, hat, sunguards, and a banquet.

NRS 10321, Kurnell Public School - Empire Day celebrations, 1910 (see also NRS 10321 for other photos)

NRS 10321, Kurnell Public School - Empire Day celebrations, 1910

NRS 10321, Kurnell Public School - Empire Day celebrations, 1910

Finally, through our Contact and Sharing web page, **Short Guide 14 - Special Gazettes** leads us to the Police special bulletins, at which the following record was identified:

- **NRS 13803 Police Special Bulletins, 1840-1963 [7/6187 p3] Empire Day, 1914**

The Results

The records provide a wealth of information on the importance once attached to celebrating Empire Day.

NRS 13773 Pearce's Department, Correspondence Complaints Bureau, [4/6372] includes:

- Details of the activities of the first celebration in 1905, and suggestions for the 1906 event from The British Empire League in Australia (Victoria Branch);
- A summary of the 1906 celebrations, as well as a summary of what the day should signify for future years commemorated by Premier Joseph Carruthers in 1907;
- information on the origin of the date (24 May being Queen Victoria's birthday);
- An order of proceedings for a ceremony at the Royal Exchange, Sydney;
- Additional programs for Empire Day celebrations in various years.

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1905 (see also programme, 1906 (see also)

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1906 (see also)

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1906

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1910 (see also)

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1910

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1907

NRS 4475, Scrapbook of items printed on special occasions, Box 1230 includes, Empire Day programme, 1905-17; From programs covering several years we learn:

- The day was celebrated with a focus on state schools and the flying of flags
- Empire Day activities included public addresses by officials, bands playing, military parades, church services (see examples below).

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1906 (see also)

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1910 (see also)

NRS 4475, [1230], Empire Day programme, 1907

NRS 10491 Photographic collection, 27 Jan 1902 - 31 Dec 1951; Contains two fantastic images of large displays of what looks to be mostly children forming a field wand Eastern Hayes 1909 and a separate group c 1910-20.

NRS 10491, Public Schools, Empire Day, 1909

NRS 10491, Public Schools, Empire Day, 1910

NRS 13803, Police Special Bulletins, 1840-1963 [7/6187 p3] Empire Day, 1914 informs us:

- Empire Day became prominent at the conference of Prime Minister and State Premiers, Hobart February 1909 in a submission by J H Carruthers, Premier of NSW (see the full report appended below for the purpose of Empire Day Series). It had previously been promoted by the current of **The British Empire League in Australia**, with the idea being for those people who 'enjoy the greatness of the nation, and who are willing to do their share in the maintenance of the Empire's greatness' (see the Hansard, 1909 appeal from the British Empire League in Australia).
- The large display in 1909 (see above photographs) at Public Schools Commissioner (metropolitan and suburban schools) held at Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) and attended by about 20,000 children from the SCC Secretary.
- The tradition of a demonstration held in Martin Place (outside the General Post Office was established in 1910.
- The NSW Police Band played military parades ranging from the old venues including:
- "Barracks and parades, and 'seem to be present' by bands in the Public Parks and Squares during the afternoon and evening" throughout the state.

NRS 10321, Public Schools, Empire Day, 1910

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NRS 10321, Public Schools, Empire Day, 1910

NRS 4291, Bushing Inn (St Ives) 5/2/1911, Empire Day Arrangements for Empire Day Observance in Mettle Place, 12 pp 1906-09 Apr 1909 lists us that:

- Empire Day became Commemoration Day, as the Board Schools became Public Schools.
- Arrangements for the observance of the day in Mettle Place changed little in the ten years between 1906-1916 and involved a march and demonstration with reading for around 200 persons

After further searching for 'Commemoration Day', we found the following records:

NRS 3418, Subject files (Department of Education), 1879-1939 [8/7101 p8], Commemoration Day activities reveals:

- The name was changed to **(British) Commonwealth Day** in 1939 following the decolonisation of the British Empire after the London Declaration in 1926.
- The 24 May date was changed to the second Monday in the month, the Queen's Birthday in the second month of every in 1966 (see below for details).
- A message from Queen Elizabeth II on Commonwealth Day 1966, delivered on young Australians aged 17 years and 1000 (see this message below).
- A 1970 report on the popularity and significance of the holiday, showed it in decline by late 1960s (see report below).

NRS 3418, [8/7101 p8], Commemoration Day activities - Big Brown Kangaroo Hop - 1966, 1969

NRS 3418, [8/7101 p8], Commemoration Day activities - Big Brown Kangaroo Hop - 1966, 1969

NRS 3418, [8/7101 p8], Commemoration Day activities - Commemoration Day - Queen's Birthday - Queen's Birthday - Commonwealth Day - Commonwealth Day - Commonwealth Day