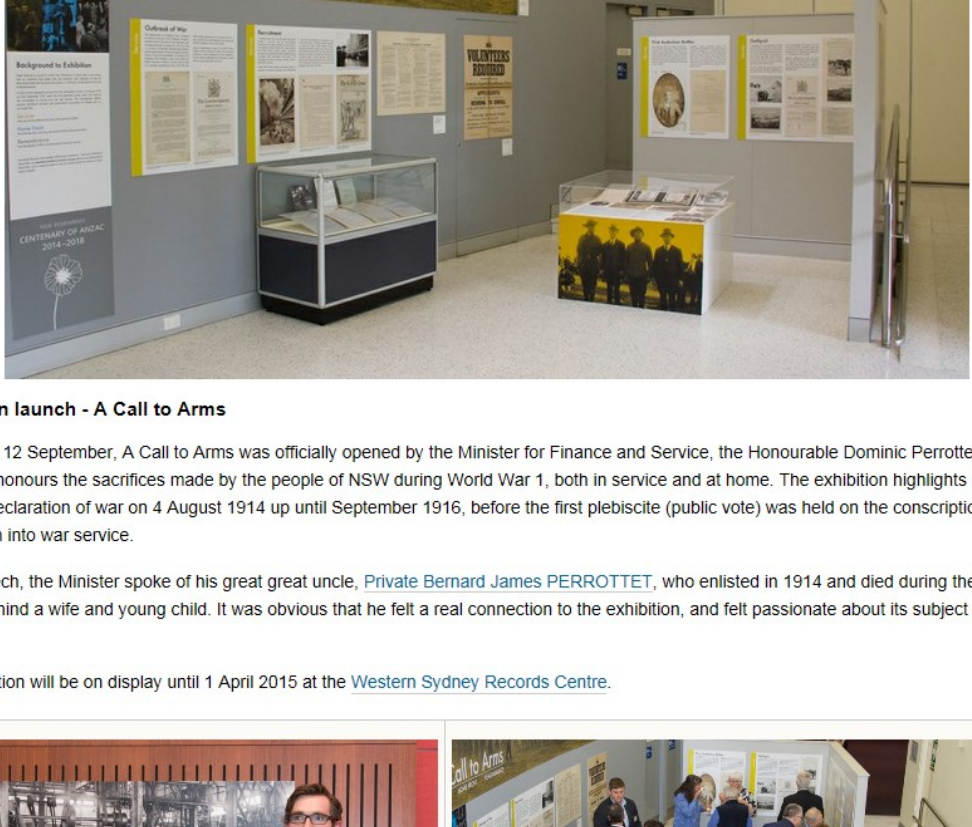


Now&Then 70 - October 2014

The latest issue features an update on NSW Anzac Centenary activities; Spotlight on local history research; online news and updates; our Blog and Flickr updates and more!

- NSW Anzac Centenary update
- Customer survey results
- Treasures found in the records
- Spotlight on Local History Research
- Archives Outside Blog update
- Flickr update
- Upcoming talks and tours

NSW Anzac Centenary update

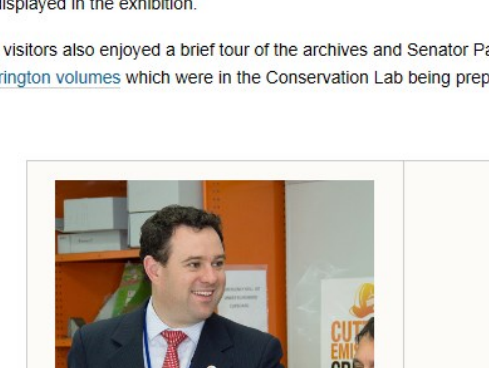


Exhibition launch - A Call to Arms

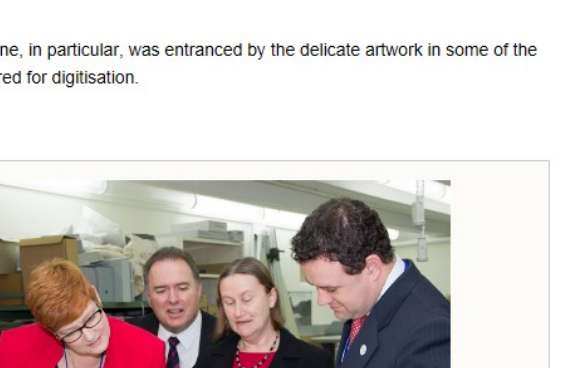
On Friday, 12 September, A Call to Arms was officially opened by the Minister for Finance and Service, the Honourable Dominic Perrottet. The exhibition honours the sacrifices made by the people of NSW during World War 1, both in service and at home. The exhibition highlights records from the declaration of war on 4 August 1914 up until September 1916, before the first plebiscite (public vote) was held on the conscription of young men into war service.

In his speech, the Minister spoke of his great great uncle, *Private Bernard James PERROTTET*, who enlisted in 1914 and died during the war, leaving behind a wife and young child. It was obvious that he felt a real connection to the exhibition, and felt passionate about its subject matter and content.

The exhibition will be on display until 1 April 2015 at the [Western Sydney Records Centre](#).



Minister Perrottet speaking at the exhibition launch



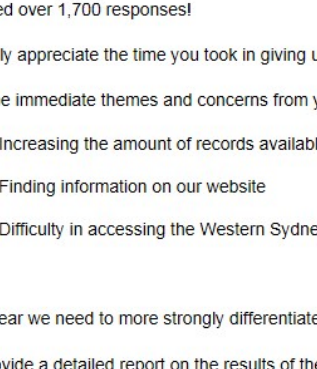
Exhibition launch attendees

Visit from the Hon. Stuart Ayres and Senator Marise Payne

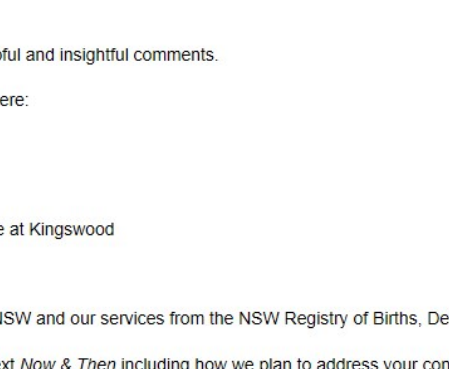
State Records recently hosted the NSW Minister for Police and Sport, Stuart Ayres and NSW Senator Marise Payne. They were accompanied by Anne Henderson the Chairperson of State Records' Board who invited them to see our latest exhibition, *A Call to Arms*.

Both Minister Ayres and Senator Payne are keen history buffs and were clearly impressed by the exhibition, sharing personal family stories with staff. Minister Ayres, who is also the local State member for Penrith, was very interested in records relating to Police acting as recruitment agents, as displayed in the exhibition.

Our visitors also enjoyed a brief tour of the archives and Senator Payne, in particular, was entranced by the delicate artwork in some of the *Carrington volumes* which were in the Conservation Lab being prepared for digitisation.



Minister Ayres viewing records undergoing conservation treatment



Senator Payne, State Records Director Geoff Hinchcliffe, Archives Central Manager Wendy Gallagher, and Minister Ayres viewing a Carrington volume

Customer survey results

Response to customer survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to our new customer survey.

We received over 1,700 responses!

We certainly appreciate the time you took in giving us some very helpful and insightful comments.

Some of the immediate themes and concerns from your responses were:

- Increasing the amount of records available online
- Finding information on our website
- Difficulty in accessing the Western Sydney Records Centre at Kingswood

It is also clear we need to more strongly differentiate State Records NSW and our services from the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

We will provide a detailed report on the results of the survey in the next *Now & Then* including how we plan to address your concerns.

Survey winners

The lucky winners of the \$50 worth of copying will be contacted by e-mail.

Treasures found in the records

As part of History Week in September, State Records NSW launched a new website, *NSW Anzac Centenary - Records of NSW and World War I*. The website explores State archives relating to the people and Government of NSW, primarily during the Great War 1914-1918.

Some of the most interesting records located during our research includes printed material such as posters, pamphlets, advertisements, and magazines of the period. Some of these have been digitised in full and are [available to view and read on the website](#).



'The Soldier at Home and Abroad', Vol.1 No.24, 8/12/1916. From NRS 12060 [B4737] B16/5631

Spotlight on: Local History Research

Local History Research, Part 1 - Where to start?

There are many options for researching local history at State Records and you can achieve a lot without even leaving your home! Before you begin, an overview of records held by State Records which may help with local history research is outlined in [Archives in Brief 6](#).

Firstly, you could start by creating a list of local public buildings or spaces, such as a local school, a police or fire station, among others. State Records terms these places 'agencies' to represent their role in the government. In searching for their records we need to use that term as well.

The next step is a catalogue search to find an agency. State Records' on-line archives information and access system *Archives Investigator*, allows you to search those places of interest via the Advanced Search/Agency option (see Fig. 1). You may be surprised what an agency search will show up. For example, if you do an Agency Search for *Broken Hill*, it brings up thirteen agencies that might have created records.

State Records Archives Investigator

Advanced Search

Shopping Cart
No selected items

Select a link below to commence a search on that entity using a range of criteria. Investigator will display a list of successful hits with their unique identification number, start and end dates.

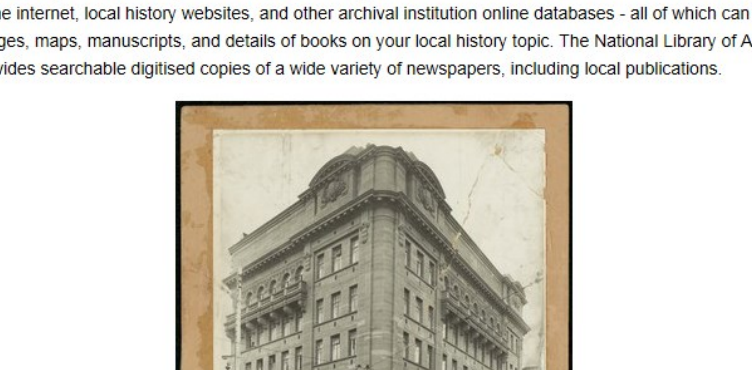


Fig. 1 - Screenshot of Archives Investigator, Agency Search option.

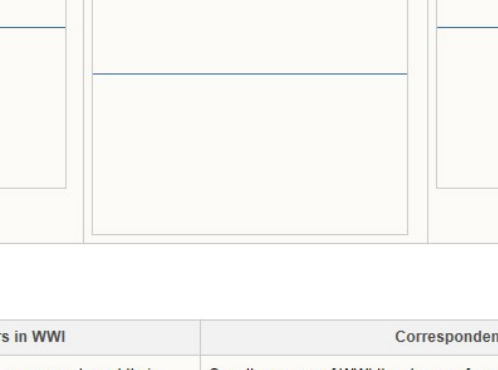
Once you have identified an agency of interest, on the Agency Detail page scroll down towards the bottom of the page to find the heading 'Record series created by this agency' - to the right record series are listed which may be of use to your research (see Fig. 2).

Persons related to this agency: None	
Record series created by this agency: 564 16270	Broken Hill Fire Brigade bank pass book Occurrence books [Broken Hill Fire Station]
Record series controlled by this agency: None	

Fig. 2 - Screenshot of agency detail, record series created by this agency.

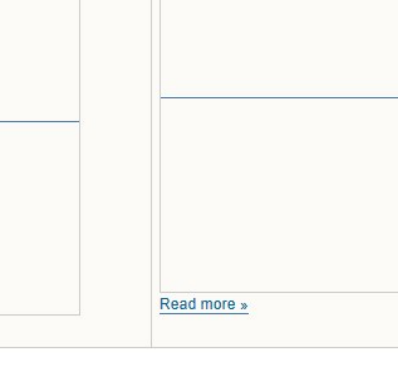
Don't forget that not all records have survived the passage of time. When records have survived they are sometimes retained by the agency themselves, and sometimes by State Records NSW. If in any doubt a phone call to State Records can clarify what records you can access. It all happens in local history research!

Now, to look for local identities and events. Who are the famous people in your area? Who ran the *local pub*? In terms of relevant information that may be held by State Records, did any of these local persons work for a NSW Government agency, or might they have had reason to communicate with, or report activities to the government? Having created a list of local identities we can now also search available name indexes such as those in our [Indexes Online](#), [KeyName Search](#), or [correspondence series](#) such as that of the [Colonial Secretary's Department](#). Also consider searching websites such as the [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#).



Bridge over Hunter River, Luskintyre 1935. Digital ID: 20224_0038_001773

Were there any notable events in the area, such as the building of a new bridge, a railway accident, or even a shark attack? This kind of information can be found by strolling around your local area, or in the local cemetery, or at the local studies section of the nearest library. Let your fingers do the walking and search the internet, local history websites, and other archival institution online databases - all of which can be a wealth of information including images, maps, manuscripts, and details of books on your local history topic. The National Library of Australia's [Trove Newspapers](#) website provides searchable digitised copies of a wide variety of newspapers, including local publications.



Department of Public Instruction, Sydney 1915. Digital ID: 15051_0047_002973

Then think of the NSW Government agency/agencies that may have been involved in dealing with such events, such as Police or Public Works, so that you might search for records created by the agency using *Archives Investigator* (see above). Remember that although there is a lot of ground work that can be done online, much of our collection can only be viewed at the [State Records NSW reading room](#).

To be continued in [Local History Research, Part 2](#)

Archives Outside Blog update

NSW Anzac Centenary in the Regions

Newcastle	Wagga Wagga	Wollongong
The Rodini Glass Negatives Gianni Di Gravio, Archivist of the University of Newcastle discusses plans for the recently donated glass negatives of the late Thomas James Rodini that documented Australia's first military conflict of the First World War, the fall of German New Guinea.	Universal Calamity Impending: 'The World's Greatest War' was the news headline in The Daily Advertiser from 4 August 1914. The phrase sums up well the air of foreboding that we imagine was hanging around on that day. It was on 4 August that Britain declared war on Germany. And where Britain went, Australia was determined to follow.	UOW Reflects on the Great War 'The exhibition tells the story of the regional community during the Great War through artefacts, manuscripts, photographs and other materials. It shows the controversies and divisions evident during the war, and the cost of the war.'

Schools

Socks for soldiers in WWI	Correspondence School
School children were among the many groups who put their hand to providing comforts for troops at the front. Organisations such as the Red Cross and the Soldiers' Sock Fund encouraged people from all walks of life to knit socks to send to soldiers.	Over the course of WWI the closure of smaller schools in rural areas led to the growth of the Correspondence School, a distance education method for children living more than 3 miles from a school. Teachers were based in Sydney and lessons posted to and from students at the school.

Photograph Mysteries

Can you date this photo?	What's the bigger picture?	What's the bigger picture?
Central Station - This is the main concourse. There are plenty of clues as to the time period this might have been taken, but can we find any evidence to narrow down the date?	☒	☒

Flickr update

The latest additions include:

Sydney Station 1906 ☒ First train leaving new (third) Sydney Station 1906	Tennis, 1915 - Centennial Park ☒ Tennis courts in reserve, Centennial Park
Coppersmiths at work, 1942 ☒ Coppersmiths - tube bending section, south west view	Education Department Picnic ☒ Department of Education Staff - Education Department Picnic
Bridge Street Sydney during the Flu Epidemic ☒ Education building entrance Bridge Street Sydney during the Flu Epidemic	Department of Education Picnic ☒ Department of Education Staff - Department of Education Picnic

If you don't have a [Flickr account](#) you can still browse these photos on Flickr and most are also available on [Photo Investigator](#).

Upcoming talks and tours

See more upcoming events on our [State Records Events page](#).

What does it say? The art of deciphering handwritten documents from the late 18th century to early 20th century

To the modern eye deciphering handwritten documents from centuries ago can be a challenge. Gail Davis is presenting this RAHS/WEA workshop at the Royal Australian Historical Society.

15 October 2014
11.00am to 1.00pm
History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney
Contact: WEA
(02) 9264 2781

Deniliquin Genealogy Muster

John Cann will be representing State Records at the Deniliquin Genealogy Muster. He will be presenting a talk - State Records NSW: Greatest Hits. John will also be hosting a stall for State Records at the Muster.

9:00am 24 October 2014 to
3:00pm 25 October 2014
Deniliquin RSL Club, 72 End Street Deniliquin NSW 2710
(03) 5898 3100
denifmg@broadnet.com.au

Immigration and shipping records

John Cann is presenting this seminar at Tuggerah Library. It will focus on how to research immigration and shipping records held at State Records NSW.

12 November 2014
12.00am to 12.30pm
Tuggerah Library, Westfield Tuggerah, 50 Wyong Road Tuggerah
Contact: Michelle Goldsmith
(02) 4350 1560

Here come the cars

John Cann will be presenting this engaging talk on the pioneering years of the automobile.

15 November 2014
12.00pm to 12.30pm
Kuringgai Historical Society, Ku-ring-gai Library Meeting Rooms, The Old Gordon Public School (adjacent to the Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, Cnr Pacific Highway and Park Ave)
(02) 9499 4568
khs@khs.org.au

Pandora's Box - Lifting the lid on the weird and wonderful in the State's archives

Gail Davis is presenting this RAHS/WEA workshop at the Royal Australian Historical Society.

19 November 2014
11.00am to 1.00pm
History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney
Contact: WEA
(02) 9264 2781

Stay up-to-date with State Records

