

reCORDSArCHIVES

Official newsletter of State Records of South Australia Issue 24 March 2003 ISSN 1440-0677



Bickford North Building 26-28 Leigh Street, Adelaide.

New City Address

State Records is delighted to report that plans for our new facilities were approved by the Public Works Committee in November 2002.

We will be moving to a new site in the city, and up-grading our Gepps Cross repository to improve records storage and provide public access to our collection.

The current Netley site will be closed. From early in 2004 we will provide our services to government and the community from the Bickford North

Building at 26-28 Leigh Street. Our new surroundings will also offer us great opportunities for enhancing our services. Public areas will include exhibition space, a reading room, on-line search facilities and finding aids.

This will be an extremely busy year with many of our staff working on different tasks to make it all happen. In addition, we are hoping to migrate all information about our records to a new Archival Management System this year.

Consequently, the normal activities of State Records will be curtailed to some extent in 2003. This may require the occasional suspension of some services. Other activities, such as the production of *recordSArchives*, will be put on hold for the next twelve months.

Regretfully, we need to reduce the opening hours and services at the Netley Search Room so that reference and access staff can prepare for two new locations and new systems. From 3rd March 2003, the opening hours of the Search Room are as follows:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10 am – 5 pm
Wednesday	10 am – 5 pm
Thursday	5 pm – 8 pm
Friday	Closed

We appreciate from the point of view of our service users, there is never a good time for this kind of move. But from our point of view, it is a great opportunity to radically improve our facilities and the services we will be able to offer you in 2004 and beyond.

Terry Ryan
Director State Records of South Australia

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Department for Administrative
and Information Services
State Records

Finding Your Family

Researching one's family history has become a very popular pastime and many users of archives are individuals researching their roots. How can you ensure that your research is effective? Graham Jaunay, a consultant family historian and long-time user of the State Records collection, provides some advice:

Too often I see people in reading rooms who clearly have no plan of action. They seemingly use the principle that if they turn over the records often enough, they'll get a result! This approach is rather like the old hen in the fowl yard searching out worms—fairly hit and miss! A plan of action is paramount.

The most important principle of family history research is to start with yourself, or the subject of your enquiries, and work backwards in time through available records from the known to the unknown. If you try to work forward in time from some historical character who is supposedly your ancestor, or shares your surname, the usual consequence will be much wasted time, many dead-ends and little real progress.

At the library or archive where you are conducting your research, work methodically through their guides and enlist the help of their archivists. Buy their collection guide and work through it to see what records may provide the answers you seek. It is always preferable to visit in person the centres where the records are located, as that way you will experience the thrill and excitement of discovering the sometimes elusive facts you seek. When it is not possible for you to search the records personally because of distance from the record-centre in question, work can sometimes be achieved through correspondence. Write brief and concise letters of inquiry to the record custodians concerned, and remember that a self-addressed stamped or reply paid envelope will go a long way towards encouraging a helpful and prompt reply. Some of the larger repositories will require an agent to do the work for you.

Use *compiled* records to narrow your search. They will save you much time and effort, and you may be surprised at what research has already been done on your family lines. Compiled records are those that have already been researched by



Family at Wirrealpa Head Station 1900s.
GN 13911 GRG35/342

others, and include biographies, family histories, and genealogies. They may be on microfilm, microfiche, in books or electronic format. They are often called secondary sources but I favour the term compiled as often it is not easy to determine whether the record is an original (or primary record) or a secondary source and indeed some so-called secondary sources are just as accurate as the original. For example, parish priests often recorded the events of the parish on scraps of paper and later wrote up the registers neatly. In an ideal world the scraps are the original record but they were probably consigned to the bin! Records that were created at or near the time of an event, such as birth, marriage, or death registrations, census enumeration, court transcripts, etc are often called primary records.

The compiled record, whilst easier to locate and search, is not the end point of research. Rather, it is the starting point for investigations of primary records. For instance, an entry in an index should

never be considered without looking at the record that generated the index. For a start, indexes are only summaries of the record and are notorious for containing errors.

When searching the records look at broad time periods and do not restrict yourself in any way. Remember also that spelling and naming variations abound.

Evaluate what you've found. If it conflicts with information already held, ask which is likely to be the most reliable? You may need to seek out further evidence! As a rule of thumb, you need at least one collaborative independent piece of evidence to confirm a fact. Thus, if you have a birth certificate, then a personal notice in the newspaper column should confirm the details. If you are not 100% happy with the new material you may still like to retain it but make a note that it is unconfirmed.

Distant Voices Wins Award

Last year in collaboration with the SA Film Corporation we produced our first video *Distant Voices: using the archives of State Records to unlock our indigenous past*.

We were very proud when we heard that it received a Gold award in the annual Australian Cinematography Awards.

The award was presented to Light Image Director, Rick Cavaggion, who produced and directed the video. Rick reports that *Distant Voices* has also been nominated for two more national awards for cinematography and community education.

Congratulations to the Aboriginal Access team.

Finding Your Family continued...

Never assume anything! Expect the unexpected. Be aware that family history research is strewn with pitfalls waiting to trap you, and that records may be incorrect or incomplete to protect or enhance various interests and reputations.

Regardless of the result, maintain a record of the research in a log book so that you can refer back to past searches when planning that next invasion of the archive reading room!

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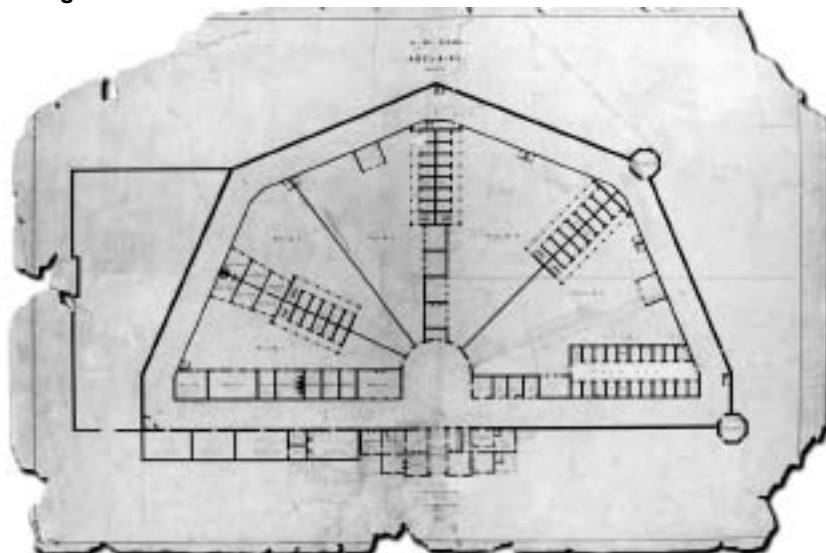
State Records at the State History Conference

State Records will be active participants at this year's State History Conference in May. For the first time, we are sponsoring and presenting a session on indigenous culture. The session *Exploring the Past to Inform the Present* will be chaired by State Records Director, Terry Ryan. Senior Aboriginal Project Officer, Andrew Wilson, will present a paper that encourages people to use government archives when researching their family and community history.

Malcolm McKinnon, Margaret McCallum and representatives of the Nukunu People's Council will be there also to share their experiences of a local exercise in 'collaborative story telling'.

These plans of Old Adelaide Gaol were professionally scanned for an exhibition at the Gaol. This is a service now available through the search room.

GRG 38/68



Archival and Records Management Training 2003

State Records offers quality training in archival and records management. Consultancy and Education Services are offering a broad range of courses scheduled for the metropolitan area for both State and Local Government agencies. These will include:

- Using general disposal schedules for State Government agencies
- Series identification, registration, boxing and listing
- Using the general disposal schedule for local Government agencies
- Using a keyword thesaurus to control and classify records
- Developing a functional thesaurus
- Designing and implementing a records management program
- Developing a records disposal schedule
- Implementing the community health records disposal schedule
- Implementing the hospital records disposal schedule
- Using the Ministerial disposal schedule
- Freedom Of Information (FOI) accredited course
- FOI Workshop
- FOI general awareness

All courses are available to be presented in regional areas upon request. Details of the training programme are available online at www.archives.sa.gov.au the State Records web site. For further information regarding registration please contact the course registrar on (08) 8343 6800.



Darby Johns, Tamara Wenham and Fran Wharton at the trade booth at the RMAA Conference.

Living culture – living records at the RMAA Convention

State Records was proud to be the principal sponsor of the 19th National Convention of the Records Management Association of Australia (RMAA) held in Adelaide in September 2002. State Records was pleased to be able to support the RMAA and made the most of our chance to show our public face at the trade exhibition, as session presenters and as keen attendees.

A highlight for many were the papers presented by Executive Director, DAIS Policy, Planning and Community Services, Jan Ferguson and Project Support Officer with the State Records Aboriginal Access Team, Bruce Hammond. Their paper, *Connecting Past and Present Lives – Meeting the Research Needs of Aboriginal People through Evolving Access Solutions* was centred around the theme of 'living culture, living records' to emphasise their message that the records held by state and national archives are the keys to unlocking important family information for Aboriginal people. Bruce also presented two women to the audience: Kathleen Graham and Audrey Higgins. Kathleen's story of her search for information about her father was featured in the State Records video *Distant Voices*. She is also currently writing a biography of her mother towards a PhD in creative writing.

Only the week before the conference, Audrey Higgins, a member of the stolen generation, had discovered her birth date and family structure through the Aboriginal Names Index at State Records. The impact on the stolen generation was further brought home to the audience at the conclusion of the presentation when Ngarrindjeri woman, Kundawara Sumner, emerged from the wings to sing *Brown-Eyed Baby*, a song about an Aboriginal mother whose child was taken away.



Daisy Bates among the Ooldea Aboriginal people, April 1920.
GN3547 GRG 35/342

Ooldea, Boxing Day, 1941

part three

In this, the conclusion to the series, Cameron Raynes continues to trace the events preceding and following the death of an Aboriginal man at Ooldea in 1941, using GRG 52/1 Correspondence files of the Aborigines' Office and successor agencies.

W.R. Penhall, the Secretary of the Aborigines Department, also made it clear in his letter to Missionary Harrie Green of Ooldea that the records of the Public Stores Department showed there had been no delay in the despatch of rations from the Public Store to the Railway. In his reply, Green suggested that the fault perhaps lay with the Commonwealth Railways:

The fault may be with the railways re the Ration delay as the last issue they over-carried up the line & left a truck by the next return train & I got it 3 days later for which we were truly thankful¹.

The next letter from Green to Penhall, dated 27th December, 1941, reported a very happy Christmas at the mission except for the following incident:

Only one thing marred the celebrations & put a cloud over the Christmas & that was which I now wish to report to you. Last Sunday before Christmas over a trivial thing, a fight was started. I got to the Camp to find one man having 3 spears extracted from the upper leg on one side, all spears had gone right through. The wounds were straightaway dressed & attended to & ... I had him brought close to our house on the cart. He seemed to be progressing fairly well until Tuesday when the whole leg became hard & Swollen from the hip to the foot. I immediately treated it with hot fomentations

and antifo: & on Wednesday Dec 24th sent him in on the cart with a native escort to take him to Cook or Kalgoorlie as I realized the case was very serious & needed a Doctors attention ... But although the acting Ganger at Ooldea siding phoned Barton & made the necessary arrangements for the last goods to stop according to the regulations some one made a mistake & the train did not stop even at the frantic jestalations [sic] of the Gangers Wife & the driver & guard must have noticed the bandaged man alongside the line on the cart. It was our only chance to get him away, and all were very upset that after all our trouble the train did not stop, and in consequence of which; (although I decided to put him on the tea & sugar goods on Friday) he died poor chap at about 8 am on Friday morning. Would you please make enquiries with the Railways as to why the train did not stop; the railway people at the Siding are very upset about it & feel that it may have been the case if it were one of them & they feel that the neglect was, because he was a Native, & so lost his life².

In reply, Penhall recommended to Green that he report the spearing death to the police 'so that enquiries may be made by that officer as to whether it is desirable to proceed against the offenders, or whether it was really a tribal affair'³. On the same day he wrote to the Railway Commissioner, stationed at Port Augusta:

Will you please advise me as to the reason for the train not being stopped, if arrangements were made as stated by Mr. Green⁴.

Two weeks later, a reply came from Chief Traffic Manager, Skinner:

With reference to your letter AD.25/41 ... it is advised that the circumstances have been enquired into and it has been found that the Acting Ganger at Ooldea telephoned the Stationmaster at Barton on the evening of 23/12/41 and made arrangements for the fast goods train to be stopped at Ooldea to convey the native to Cook. It is, however, regretted to advise that the Stationmaster, Barton, who received the message whilst off duty overlooked advising the driver and guard of the train to stop at Ooldea for this purpose.

The guard who worked the train between Barton and Hughes on 24/12/41, reports that on passing through Ooldea the driver slowed down to enable him to drop off goods for the Ganger, but he did not remember seeing any people standing near the line. Presumably the people standing on the side of the line with the patient, as stated in your letter under reply, were on the other side of the line from which the guard threw off the goods for Ooldea, which would account for his failure to observe any persons at the siding.

It is mentioned that if Mr. Green had signalled the guard or the driver the train would have been stopped. To permit of this being done in future urgent cases a disc and lamp is being placed at Ooldea. Suitable action is being taken with the Stationmaster, Barton. The circumstances are very much regretted.⁵

This ended the enquiry into the failure of the train to stop.

A few years later, in August 1943, Green reported that although there were 293 Aboriginal people present at Ooldea, rations were being received for 170 only⁶. Penhall, typically, responded to the news that Aboriginal people were still coming in from the bush by directing Green to 'take all possible steps to discourage such movements ... to prevent such people coming in from their natural habitat and loafing around the place eating up Government rations'⁷.

In turn, Green angrily denied that Aboriginal people at Ooldea were 'loafing' on rations:

If you could see some of these poor old people, skin & bone, who have lately come in you would not think their normal bush life a very conducive or happy one. Nor would you I am sure begrudge them a pound or two of flour & a little sugar & tea to make their Miserable

Poverty Stricken lives a little more happy⁸.

It was Green's lot to have this dialogue with Penhall many times over the fifteen odd years he was stationed at Ooldea. Two months later, when Penhall suggested to him that Aboriginal people at Ooldea were lying when they said there was little water to be had to the north, Green disputed both this and Penhall's claim that there was plenty of game to be had to the north and north-west:

I have known men to be out all day in the blazing hot Summer and come home to the Well, lay-down for a while before getting up & having a big drink of water, & off to Camp; having Caught Nothing all day. This bears out my Contention that they do not & cannot 'sit-down' on the Ration otherwise there would be no need to hunt as these people do.

Extra social amenities are being put forward for white People to meet every need of life & death, should not the natives also be included in the so called new order?⁹

And yet worse was to come for the Aboriginal people of the region. On September 28, 1944, Penhall visited Ooldea to investigate complaints by Green that Mounted Constable Grovermann 'had set fire to several wurlies belonging to Ooldea natives camped at Wynbring, and that blankets, billy cans and personal belongings had been destroyed'¹⁰. He found evidence of a dozen camp-sites destroyed by fire, with thirty to forty blankets and various clothing and other possessions burned, and billy cans and pannikins punctured with a metal object. Penhall described the attack as it had been presented to him:

The attack was made at 5 a.m., following a report from the Manager of Mulgathing Station that the natives had damaged the vermin proof fence around the Station. The Manager of Mulgathing, and another white man were present, but took no part in the proceedings. Fettleers at Wynbring and their wives were questioned as to the conduct of the natives, and all spoke very favourable except one man, who complained that occasionally one of the dogs belonging to the natives raided the fowl run and carried off a chicken. He was reminded that such things happen in the metropolitan area¹¹.

In relation to Grovermann's actions, Penhall noted:

It is certain that the methods employed by M.C. Grovermann on that occasion were unnecessarily

violent and destructive, and appear to indicate that, whatever qualities he may possess as a Police Officer, he is not temperamentally suitable for the work of handling groups of natives not far removed from tribal thought and habit¹².

Writing in his own defence to Inspector Bourke of Port Augusta, Grovermann claimed to have been operating for some time according to standing orders of the previous Commissioner of Police:

During the past four years I have carried out rigid patrols in an endeavour to check the natives from coming South of the Mission. I have repeatedly raided their camps at Railway sidings, and at the Wynbring Rock Holes, which is situated on the Mulgathing Pastoral Lease. I have repeatedly destroyed their huts, shot dogs, and then forced them onto a freight train and escorted them back to Ooldea Mission, but, owing to the unscrupulous manner in which the Missionary at Ooldea is, and has been treating the natives, it has become an impossibility for me to keep them on their reserve¹³.

As Harrie Green commented, the Aboriginal people of Ooldea were 'dead scared of the Policemen'¹⁴. This may explain the report of the Aborigines Department's Welfare Officer, Ellice J. Davies, in 1943, that Aboriginal people from Ooldea were putting their children into the Umeewarra Mission Home at Port Augusta, having been frightened by something of which they refused to talk¹⁵. B.H. McLachlan, the Managing Director of Mulgathing Station, however, argued to the Commissioner of Police that Grovermann's actions were justified and had the support of pastoralists in the area. He noted that during the dawn raid in September, the station manager, Morley, and the South Australian Government netting inspector, Matheson, were present. Wrote McLachlan:

It would be a very sad thing should Mr. Grovermann receive anything but praise for his action at Wynbring¹⁶.

The circumstances around this case hints at the systematic lack of action by the Aborigines Department in relation to Aboriginal health needs. Indeed, Penhall's hand was revealed early in his term as Chief Protector. In August 1939, Professor J.B. Cleland, reporting in his capacity as an academic at Adelaide University, found that an Aboriginal continued...

archives feature continued...

woman died at Swan Reach from abdominal tuberculosis contracted by either drinking milk or eating meat from an infected animal¹⁷. The Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer advised that he would not inspect the slaughter houses at Swan Reach, Sedan and Blanchetown which supplied meat to Aboriginal people because 'though it is tuberculous meat might be sold owing to the absence of meat inspectors in the country, a casual inspection is going to prove nothing'¹⁸. Penhall and Cleland agreed that no further action was possible¹⁹. Within a few months Cleland became, in the absence of the Minister of Works, the acting Chairman of the Aborigines Protection Board, a position he was to retain until well into the 1960s. Penhall continued in his position as Chairman and Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Board until late 1953. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s there was to be very little progress on matters of Aboriginal health.

References

¹ Green to Penhall, received 17 December, 1941, GRG 52/1/1941/25.

² Green to Penhall, 27 December 1941, GRG 52/1/1941/25.

³ Penhall to Green, 31 December 1941, GRG 52/1/1941/25.

⁴ Penhall to Railway Commissioner, 31 December 1941, GRG 52/1/1942/8.

⁵ Skinner to Penhall, 14 January 1942, GRG 52/1/1942/8.

⁶ Green to Penhall, 24 August 1943, GRG 52/1/1943/8A.

⁷ Penhall to Green, 1 September 1943, GRG 52/1/1943/8A.

⁸ Green to Penhall, 14 September 1943 GRG 52/1/1943/8A.

⁹ Green to Penhall, 6 October 1943, GRG 52/1/1943/8A.

¹⁰ Penhall to Aborigines Protection Board, 11 October 1944, GRG 52/1/1941/44.

¹¹ Penhall to Aborigines Protection Board, 11 October 1944, GRG 52/1/1941/44.

¹² Penhall to Aborigines Protection Board, 11 October 1944, GRG 52/1/1941/44.

¹³ Grovermann to Inspector Bourke, 22 September 1944, GRG 52/1/1944/73.

¹⁴ Green to Penhall, received 7 September 1944, GRG 52/1/1944/73.

¹⁵ See GRG 52/1/1943/12.

¹⁶ B.H. McLachlan, Managing Director of Mulgathing Station to Commissioner of Police, 17 October 1944, GRG 52/1/1944/73.

¹⁷ Cleland to Chief Protector, 14 August 1939, GRG 52/1/1939/103.

¹⁸ Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer Macindoe to Chief Inspector of Stock, 13 November 1939, GRG 52/1/1939/103.

¹⁹ Penhall, note, 13 December 1939, GRG 52/1/1939/103.

This archives feature highlights the range of records held and the different histories they can help us tell.



State Records Council Update

Trades School students 1938.

GN 13190 GRG 35/342

Council Meeting Tuesday 13 August 2002—

The State Records Council agreed that State Records would develop a policy on agency consultation with an historian/ external stakeholder regarding the development of disposal schedules. Council approved the proposed strategy for dealing with records irretrievably damaged by a disaster and noted that this approval constituted a disposal determination by the Manager of State Records in accordance with s.24(1) of the *State Records Act 1997*.

Council approved the following Records Disposal Schedules (RDS):

1. RDS 2001/28 Department for Administrative and Information Services—Government Information and Communication Services—Ministerial and Parliamentary Information Communication Systems (MAPICS)

which applies to records relating to the development of the Ministerial and Parliamentary web-site, for the period 1993-2001. The records document the planning and rollout of the parliamentary local area network, internet services, and Premier's web site, including tender details, security aspects and the implementation of projects. It does not supersede any other RDSs.

2. RDS 2001/17 Auditor-General's Department (and predecessor agencies)

which applies to records relating to advice

to government; audits; audit working papers; audit client correspondence; investigations; determinations made under specific legislation; general correspondence and audit office dockets, including audit policy development and whistleblower's correspondence; and the bibliographic retrieval system (BRS), Aplus, and audit guidance and evaluation system (AGES) databases. This schedule cancels and supersedes RDS 1463 approved by the Libraries Board on 18 December 1995, and covers records dating from c.1960 onwards.

3. RDS 2001/35 South Australian State Electoral Office

which applies to records relating to electoral administration; the conduct of general elections; local government elections; electoral boundaries; liaison with the Australian Electoral Commission and other electoral offices; electoral services to non-government organisations; maintenance of state electoral rolls; regulation of political parties; regulation of, and assistance to, candidates; public access to rolls; and public education. This schedule covers records dating from c.1893 to the present and does not supersede any other RDSs.

4. RDS 2002/12 Department of Employment, Further Education, Science and Small Business—Office of Employment, Indigenous and Youth Initiatives (and predecessor agencies)

which applies to records relating to

government youth traineeship and apprenticeship case files, including applications for traineeship and apprenticeship and the National Training Wage database, and correspondence between the Minister, the Department and the Commonwealth, dating from c.1983 onwards.

It supersedes and cancels Government Apprenticeship Scheme RDS 164, approved by the Libraries Board on 25 August 1992.

Council Meeting Tuesday 10 September 2002

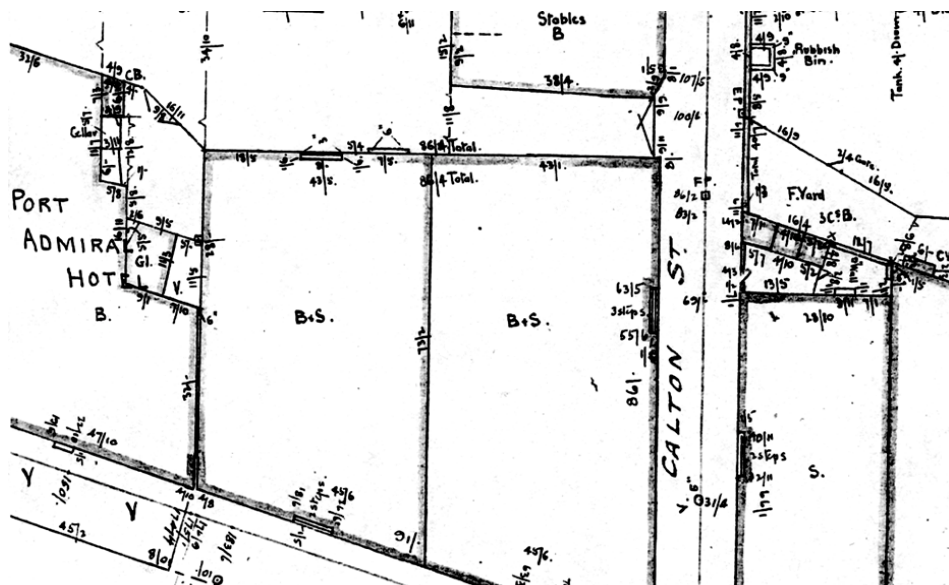
The State Records Council endorsed a policy proposal on the stakeholder/historian consultation in the development of disposal schedules. The policy has been developed as an information sheet for both agencies and stakeholder/historians. Julie-Ann Ellis was welcomed to the State Records Council as a member of the public who is a regular researcher at State Records. Terry Ryan was congratulated for being formally appointed as the Director of State Records.

Council approved the following Records Disposal Schedules (RDS):

1. RDS 2002/13 Department of Employment, Further Education, Science and Small Business—Office of Employment, Employment Program (and predecessor agencies) which applies to records relating to applications for, and management of, financial incentives and grants, including incentives for employers and job-seekers, group training records, and other assistance for businesses; delivery and development of employment programs; and employment and training consultation, from c.1980 onwards.

This schedule supersedes and cancels RDS 165, Group Training Scheme records; RDS 167, Worklink records; and RDS 168, AUSP/Workready project files.

2. RDS 2002/14 Department of Employment, Further Education, Science and Small Business—Office of Employment, Trainee and Apprenticeship Management (and predecessor agencies) which applies to records relating to contract of training files, including traineeship case files; employer (training proposal) files; indexes and registers; traineeship case files; and databases. It



Digging up the Port

Over the years, Port Adelaide has stirred the imaginations of politicians, historians, artists and developers alike. Archaeologist Susan Briggs has lately become another keen enthusiast. During her visits to the Search Room, she has been looking for clues about the people who lived and worked at the Port.

Susan first became interested as an undergraduate student at Flinders University, when she went to work at an excavation of a backyard in Divett Street at Port Adelaide. The dig revealed a large collection of animal bones soon identified as relics from its previous use as a butcher's yard. 'It was while I was going through the Local Board of Health Minute Books looking for things that related to the butcher, Robert Harry Allen, that I kind of got my interest,' she said. 'I found

Section of sewer plan for Carlton Street, Port Adelaide, 1910s
GRG 53/166/290

the butcher, but I came across all these other things about working class houses, why they were condemned, little things about what life was like then.'

Susan's topic has fitted in well with both heritage and development aspirations for the Port. The linkage grant supporting her research is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC), the Maritime Museum and local industry company CSX. 'I think the ARC almost definitely gave the grant in part because of the interest in developing the Port.' Apart from working on her thesis—on the working class in Port Adelaide 1860 to 1900—she will be developing links with local developers, the Council and community bodies to develop ways to protect the archaeological record. 'Port

continued...

covers records dating from c.1918 onwards.

This schedule supersedes and cancels an un-numbered RDS approved by the Libraries Board on 28 July 1987 for the disposal of Industrial and Commercial Training Commission indexes and indentures of apprenticeship.

3. RDS 2002/11 Department of Human Services—Family and Youth Services Central Offices (and predecessor agencies) which applies to records relating to alternative care for children and youth; anti-poverty services; child protection strategies and services;

financial assistance in response to emergencies; juvenile justice services; youth services, including diversionary programs; community relations; financial management; government relations; information resources; strategic management; and workforce management. It covers records dating from c.1970 onwards.

This schedule is complemented by Family and Community Services RDS 1462, approved 18 December 1995, and does not apply to client files, which are covered under Family and Youth Services RDS 2000/17 (Revised). It does not supersede any other RDSs.

Digging up the Port continued

Adelaide has local zoning planning to protect standing structures but nothing to protect the archaeology.' And it seems Port Adelaide is pretty special. 'It's quite rare to find a site that's been used solely as working class housing. Usually it gets taken over for commercial use or an upper class person moves in.'

Archaeologists like Susan and her colleagues become expert at deducing things about a site's life just from the objects and structures that they retrieve from the dirt and rubble. But when it comes to personal details, the records of the period are invaluable. When they started finding animal bones at Divett Street the crew of 1999 might have guessed that the yard they were excavating had been used by a butcher. But it was the Council's rate books, held at State Records, that confirmed the site's tenant was a butcher and told them what his name was.

The backyards of Port Adelaide are not the only places Susan has been putting in long hours. 'I spent a lot of time at State Records. I knew butchers had to be licensed but I couldn't find out where it was minuted, or who was licensed.' She was going through the records held on Port Adelaide Council. 'I thought "Local Board of Health Minute Books. That might be worth a look ... maybe."' They turned out to be a gold mine. 'I was so happy when I found them because I really hadn't been able to find out anything about my butcher, Allen. And then in these minute books he just kept turning up. The Inspector went around to Allen's yard and told him to clean up and not to allow blood to flow into Divett Street. He is mentioned over and over again and it was really evocative to read these Inspector's reports. It gave me a better sense of who Allen was.'

The Health Inspectors also kept an eye out for outbreaks of disease, aware of the particular vulnerability of the Port. 'They'd remark "Look, there's been an outbreak of chicken pox or small pox or bubonic plague in Sydney or Melbourne. We have to start quarantining our ships and we've got to be more vigilant about it."' Bubonic plague? 'Yes, there was an



Port Adelaide freezing works 1910s.
GN5297 GRG 35/342

outbreak in Sydney in 1900.' A few cases were reported at Port Adelaide but many more were unsubstantiated. 'People knew that if you reported bubonic plague then your house was going to be destroyed so they tried to keep it quiet for as long as possible. They were quite often sending out doctors to inspect these cases, maybe, a week after the person was dead.'

New discoveries at State Records are still adding to Susan's understanding. 'The best thing I found last week were sewer plans of Port Adelaide from 1910.' Plotting her next excavation, she thought she'd better find some sewer plans. 'I didn't want to be hitting any pipes.' But the modern plans simply showed pipes running along the street, not the connections through the yards to the toilets out the back. She started looking in the records of the old Engineering and Water Supply Department. There were no plans listed as such, but there was something titled 'Sketch Books'. 'I didn't know what to expect and didn't really think they would be helpful. I opened up the first box and went "Wow, if only I could find something like this for Port Adelaide."' Sketch Book 290 was the one. 'They're just fantastic because they show, exactly, where every building was in Port Adelaide and where every street was.

They've gone down to the nearest inch of where a building is. And every building, every outhouse, every chicken house, the tanks, are on it.'

All invaluable when you are deciding where to dig next and what to expect when you get there.

Susan is keen to let the local community know she is there at the Port and let them see what she is up to. It is still early days yet in preparing her strategy for forging links with the Council and community. But she has already organised, through the Maritime Museum, tours of the archaeological dig at Quebec Street where locals and amateur enthusiasts were encouraged to visit the site and watch her and her colleagues at work.

Records used by Susan Briggs included the following:

GRG 53/166 Sketch Books c.1870–1960 (Engineering and Water Supply Department)
GRS 539/1 Assessment Books for Port Adelaide and Enfield Council 1863–1986
GRS 665/1 Local Board of Health Committee Minutes 1874–1967
MRG 12/1 Port Adelaide Council Rough Minutes 1860–1886

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Government
of South Australia