

Good news!

For some time staff at QSA have been working with staff from the Supreme Court to create a retention/disposal schedule for court records.

As a result of this project, the Supreme Court has decided to reduce restriction periods on some record series.

Researchers may be aware that for some time now the ecclesiastical files (wills) have been available after 10 years. Any wills held at State Archives, and the registers that provide access to them, are now open. Also open are the orders and elections. These are referred to as the intestacy files, however they do have wills that were administered by the Public Trustee.

The rationale behind the decision is that most court records have been through an open court and many were reported in newspapers. There may be changes to the access periods for other series as the project progresses. Keep reading the *Runcorn Record* for further information.

Saturday openings for 2002

2 November

First Saturday opening for **2003** is
8 February

Records now available

The following records are just a few of those recently made available for research at Runcorn:

School Admission registers
(Access 15 yrs)

SRS5013 Park Avenue 1901-1978;

SRS5110 Goodwood 1900-1948;

SRS5158 Bullyard 1901-1989;

SRS5214 Prospect Creek 1935-1986

SRS5227 Carole Park 1925-1997

SRS5264 Tiambu 1936-1941

SRS5265 Kooingal 1943-1955

SRS5266 Drayton 1885-1996

Inspector's reports: (Access 30 yrs)

SRS5014 Mt Berryman 1895-1971

SRS5048 Eimeo Road 1934-1984

SRS5064 Kureen 1919-1941

SRS5078 Miallo 1922-1939

SRS5083 Malanda 1932-1933

SRS5109 Goodwood 1901-1922

SRS5210 Tewanin 1912-1915

SRS5217 Alma Creek 1916-1934

Cloncurry Shire Council

SRS5021 Water rate books 1925-1951

SRS5022 Valuation and rate books 1908-1951

SRS5024 Sanitary rate books 1920-1948

Waterford Divisional Board

SRS5076 Valuation registers 1880-1910

Morning Tea

Friday 20 December is the date of our next morning tea with State Archivist Janet Prowse. Join with us to discuss issues of interest to researchers.

Please reserve your place to assist with catering.

Next seminar



Pimpama School 1873
SRS 189/1, Item 4

Photophobia

Do you have a fear of searching for photographs in large buildings?

This is the seminar for you!
Venue: John Oxley Library
26 October 1.00pm

Staff from the National Archives of Australia John Oxley Library, and Queensland State Archives will be speaking about some of the photographs in their respective collections.

Places are limited!
Book now to reserve your place.
07 3840 7887

Exhibition

Our new exhibition celebrates life in the outback. It is called *The Outback Discovered* and will be in place until mid January. It will be officially opened on 10 October by the Honourable Paul Lucas Minister for Innovation and Information Economy.

Mini seminars

Mini seminars are free. They commence at 10am and are about an hour in length.

Last mini seminar for 2002

11 October
Immigration

Planning is underway for next year. Please forward any suggestions for possible seminars.

First mini seminars 2003

The first three seminars for the year are a series designed for new family history researchers, starting their research at State Archives.

10am
435 Compton Road
Runcorn

Thursday 30 January
Thursday 13 February
Thursday 27 February

Book early – places are limited for these seminars.

PH: 3875 8755

E-mail qsa@iie.qld.gov.au

In person when you next visit.

Field Trips

The last visit to Cairns and Malanda on 7 and 8 September was most enjoyable. Thank you Pam, Elaine and all those who worked to make the weekend a success

A visit to Central Queensland is in the planning stages. Any group who would like to be involved please contact Nola. (Contact details above)

Early certificates

Those researchers who are having trouble finding early certificates may wish to consider this paragraph, taken from the first Annual Report of the Registrar- General for 1860. Annual reports can be found in the Votes and Proceedings (later called Parliamentary Papers).

It is to be much regretted that there should exist among the uneducated, particularly in the country districts, such an aversion to register either birth or death, in spite of the best exertions of the District Registrars, of whose general activity and intelligence I desire to make most favourable mention, it interferes sadly with the correctness of these returns. Its very absurdity only makes it more difficult to combat by reason or argument, but there is little doubt that time, the spread of education, and the examples and persuasions of those who more truly appreciate both the public and the private benefit conferred by correct statistical returns, and reliable official means of tracing descent, inheritance, or relationship, will ultimately overcome it.

New in the Search Room

Some resources have been moved around as we try to make information easier to locate. Material copied from *Government Gazettes* and *Annual Reports*, *Education Office Gazettes* and legislation can now be found on shelves at the far end of the room. The small bookshelf with a miscellaneous collection of books and journals will also be moved to this area. The display stands near the corridor as you enter now hold QSA publications.

There is a small booklet listing the finding aids and where they should be found. Returning items to where they came from will assist researchers to locate what they need.

Publication news

The latest publications to be completed are

- Mini Pathways (cost \$8.30)
 - *South Sea Islanders and the Kanaka Trade*
 - *Scholarships and Examinations*
 - *Native Police and Black Trackers*
- Signposts (cost \$8.30)

- *Innisfail*

All are available in the Search Room for researchers to use.

Work in progress

Signposts

Georgetown
Taroom

Updates

Guide to Prisons
Commissioner of Crown Lands/Crown Lands Office (guide to records)
Pre Separation records

Pathways

Police
Local Authorities
Licensing
Ethnicity in Records

Indexes

Items of Interest
Boer War (Qld Defence Force)
Imperial Pensions
More Supreme Court records – series yet to be decided.

Items of Interest

Police Station records are an interesting source of information when researching a family member or even a local area. Information can be gained from police station records regardless of what side of the law your relative was on. Police stations are located in towns all over Queensland and as a result have documented the activities of that

district. Stations were frequently used simultaneously as the local courthouse, police station, lock-up and residential accommodation for police officers.

The types of records kept by police stations can include duty diaries, letterbooks, and watchhouse charge books. Watchhouse charge books can provide a wealth of information about criminal offenders or victims of crime. The types of offences vary from being drunk and disorderly, being of unsound mind, gambling, to assault, rape and murder. Details about offenders listed in the watchhouse charge books may include: name, age, occupation, physical description, offence, prior convictions if known, property found on prisoner and details regarding bail. These details vary from police station to police station, depending upon what records were kept. The watchhouse charge books can also provide signatures of the watchhouse keepers, arresting officers and prosecutors.

Duty diaries were also kept by police stations. These recorded daily police duties and occurrences. Details recorded in the diaries may include: station register number, officer collar number, name and rank of officer on duty and daily occurrences and duties, and even use of police horses. The diaries may also provide information regarding visits of senior police officials, station inspections and deaths within the police district.

The variety of records and their date ranges can vary from one police station to another. The range of information available can be shown using Cairns Police Station as an example. Records surviving from

this station include: files and reports relating to criminal offences, files relating to deaths in traffic accidents, files relating to fires, report book for occurrences, letterbooks, files relating to cattle stealing, and a watchhouse charge book. The majority of police station records held at Queensland State Archives have a 30 year access restriction.

A good place to begin searching is to check the records listed in the Signposts series for the district that you are searching for. You never know, you may find a clue that will lead you to other sources of information such as court records, prison records or even murder files.

Queensland State Archives

Opening hours: Monday to Friday
9.00am – 4.30pm
Occasional Saturdays
9.45am – 4.15pm

Location: 435 Compton Road
Runcorn

Postal address: PO Box 1397
Sunnybank Hills
QLD 4109

Phone: (07) 3875 8755
Fax: (07) 3875 8764
E-mail: qsa@iie.qld.gov.au
Website: www.archives.qld.gov.au

Queensland State Archives is part of the Department of Innovation and Information Economy.

Queensland State Archives is the official repository for those records of State Government Departments, State Courts, Local Authorities, Commissions of Inquiry, Statutory Authorities, Ministerial Offices and Government owned corporations which are considered to warrant permanent preservation for legal, administrative, historical or other reasons.