

# The Runcorn Record

APRIL 2005



Queensland State Archives

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www.archives.qld.gov.au

## Welcome

to the first edition of Runcorn Record for 2005. We hope that you are finding the monthly Saturday openings convenient and welcome any feedback on the trial. The Public Search Room will continue with openings, on every second Saturday of the month until June 2005. These Saturday openings are on a trial basis to gauge client needs. The next Saturday opening is 9am – 4.30pm, 9 April.

## 42,000 names added to Archivessearch

Good news for researchers - Land Selection files for land taken up between 1868 and 1885 have been listed by the name of selector in Archivessearch. There are over 36,000 files and over 42,000 selectors.

Files include land which was subsequently purchased, land forfeited or applications which were rejected or withdrawn.

The files may include any of the following – application to select, description, survey plan, lease, proof of fulfilment of conditions, certificate of fulfilment of conditions, Government Gazette notices, transfer of lease, forfeiture of selection, reversal of forfeiture, application to purchase, issue of deed of grant, and correspondence. Occasionally there is a death or marriage certificate of the selector.

### How to find a selector

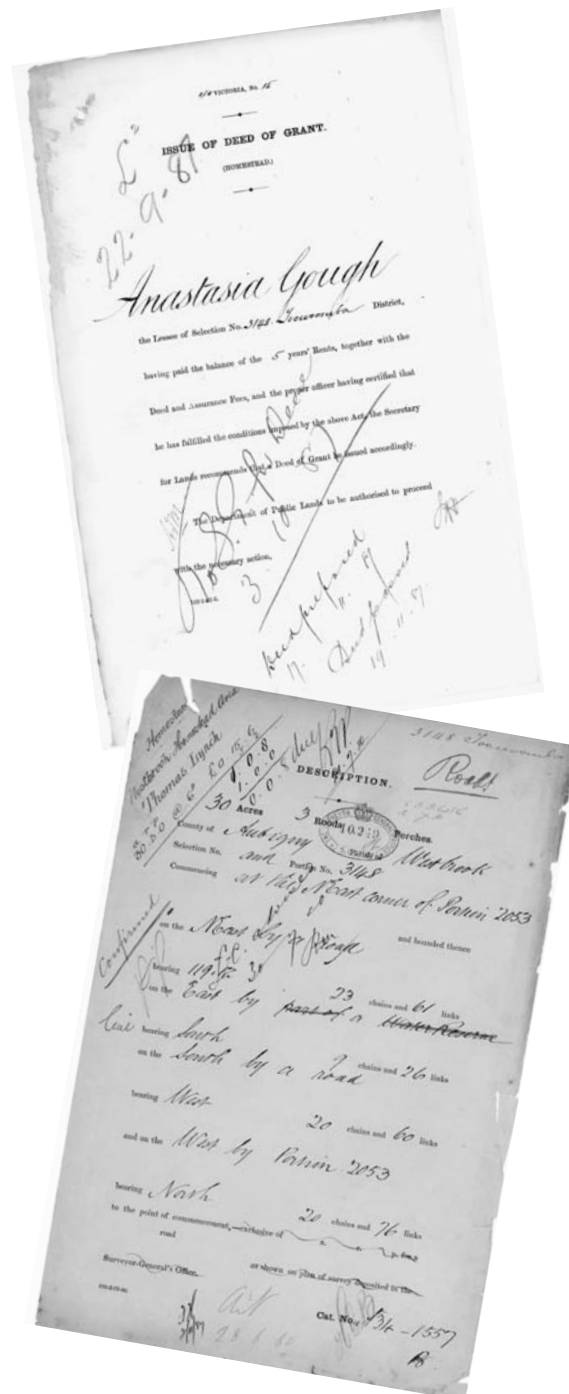
Go into the database <http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/search/default.asp>

Choose Basic Boolean from the menu on the left.

Type in "selection" AND "name of the selector" (without the quotes) then submit.

The program will return a list of selectors and return records from a number of series. The major one is PRV9882 (LAN/AG), others coming soon will be the immigration selections, the sugar and coffee selections, and land selected under earlier legislation which was brought under the provisions of the 1868 Act.

Using Easysearch and typing in the name of the selector will return a wider range of records for the surname, especially for a more common name.



Application for Deed of Grant by Anastasia Gough, 1897 (LAN/AG 777)

## Stories from Preservation

### Plan for the new Fortitude Valley Police Station dated 1935

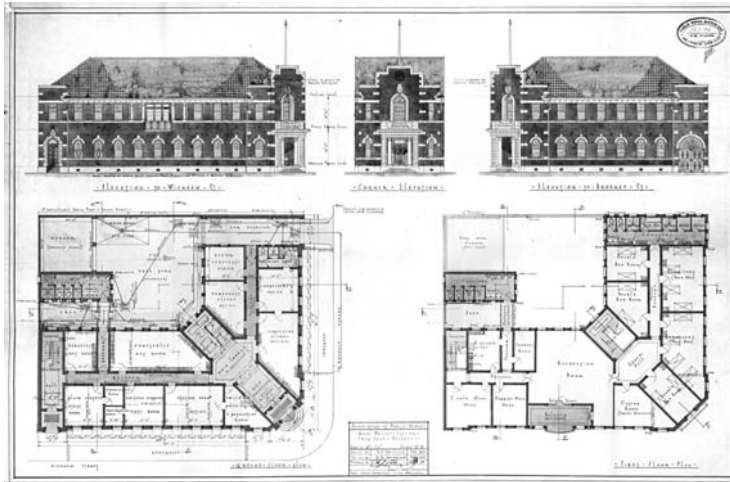
A researcher requested this plan as a digital scan. He had found two plans folded down to an eighth of their size in a bundle he had been searching through.

Older papers can become quite brittle so it was important that they not be forcibly unrolled or flattened. However, the plans did need to be flattened in order to produce an accurate scan and hence a 'quality' image for reproduction. For this to happen it was necessary to reintroduce some moisture into the aged paper before it could be safely flattened. If the paper was not re-humidified the paper fibres could break and this would result in the tears commonly seen in older papers as 'dog-ears'.

The additional problem associated with introducing moisture to older papers, even new ones, is that some inks and dyes are water soluble and could be effected by any treatment. Plans were placed between sheets of spun bonded polyester into one of the two purpose-built humidification chambers available in Preservation Services. The chamber is able to maintain a predetermined relative humidity - in this case 90% - without condensation occurring on the plans. The paper absorbs the water vapour gradually and the paper fibres gradually relax and the paper is seen to noticeably flatten from its own weight. All through this process the plan is monitored to make sure no ink is becoming soluble or that any other untoward effects occur. This process takes many hours.

When the paper was fully relaxed it was removed from the humidification chamber, the blotting paper was replaced with dry, clean blotter and then pressed flat in the purpose-built hydraulic press. The blotter was replaced on a regular basis until the plan was dry. The first indication that the plan was drying was that it was no longer cool to touch. Once the plan was dry it was left another couple of days before being placed into a polyester encapsulate or pocket. A sheet of barrier paper was included in the encapsulate to help minimise the effect of any acid left in the paper.

The plan is now ready for digital scanning and the result speaks for itself.



Plan of the Fortitude Valley Police Station 1935 (A67042)

## Stinson File

### Preservation of the Stinson Plane Crash Inquest file

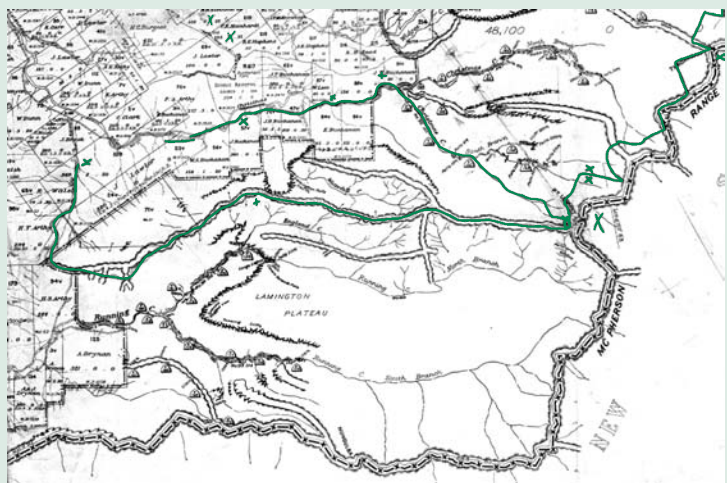
The Stinson plane crash occurred in the Lamington Ranges on 19 February 1937. The files from the inquest that followed this disaster are a part of the permanent holdings of the Queensland State Archives. In order to preserve files such as these of enduring value to Queensland, a preventive approach is often applied to their preservation.

In the case of the Stinson Plane Crash Inquest, physical handling of the file was reducing the life of the records. In order to lessen the file's deterioration it was necessary to minimise its handling. However, since these records need to be available to the public, it was not possible to withdraw them from access permanently.

The solution was to have the Reprography section of Preservation Services accurately scan all of the original material. The material was then reproduced faithfully on archive text so that the file information is once again available for public perusal.

The original file will now be wrapped to provide additional physical protection and stored in the environmentally controlled repositories to ensure its continued preservation.

Visitors to our Runcorn facility will be able to view the entire 252 pages of the file on a computer in the public search room while a portion of the file is now available on-line at [www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/stinson.asp](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/stinson.asp). Its sheer size prevents it from being loaded onto our website in its entirety.



A portion of the map tendered at the Coroner's Inquest which follows Bernard O'Reilly's journey to the crash-site (JUS/N 1026)

## Item of Interest – Immigration Register

The first of QSA's Immigration Indexes went live on the web in January 2005. The period covered is 1848 - 1884 and lists almost 269 000 names of assisted immigrants entering Brisbane. This index was compiled from the original passenger lists in the collection with many previous errors in interpreting handwriting and in indexing corrected.

The passenger lists are primarily for assisted passengers from the United Kingdom and Europe and do not include passengers from New Zealand, the Americas, Asia, Africa, other Australian ports or those passengers who paid their own fare. The records for the 1860s are incomplete because they were inundated in the 1893 floods. The registers held at Queensland State Archives were rewritten from the damaged originals.

## Transfers – new arrivals at QSA



Janet Prowse, Director and State Archivist, thanks Greg Hallam, Executive Director of the Local Government Association of Queensland, for agreeing to transfer 45 volumes of LGAQ Executive Committee Minutes to QSA.

Among records approved for future transfer are the complete set of Local Government Association of Queensland minutes, which date back to 1896, making them historically significant and of great interest to researchers.

"Once transferred to the State Archives the files will need to be appraised and catalogued before they can be made available to the public," Ms Prowse said.

## Archives Own Expert Honoured

On Thursday 27 January 2005 at the rooftop gardens at Department of Public Works Nola Fulwood, QSA's former Manager Public Access, received an Australia Day Achievement Medallion award from Hon. Robert Swarten MP Minister for Public Works, Housing & Racing.

The medallions are presented to officers in government departments and agencies who have made a noteworthy contribution to the work of their department during the past year, or given outstanding service over a number of years.

In her role as Manager of Public Access, Nola travelled Queensland to present hundreds of seminars to family and local history groups throughout the State. She has also conducted numerous tours of the Archives' facility to a wide range of community groups.

As many of you know, Nola retired in October 2003 but she continues

to work at Queensland State

Archives on a casual basis processing the collection for public access and training new reference archivists.



*Nola Fulwood receiving her Australia Day Achievement Medallion from Hon. Robert Swarten MP.*

## Out and About - Events of interest:

### **Inheritance: Brisbane Heritage Expo**

Sunday 8 May, 10 – 4pm  
Museum of Brisbane

Come visit us at the Heritage Expo which showcases local history and heritage resources available throughout Brisbane. Special Expo prices for Signposts and Pathways publications.

### **Well done, Sister Suffragette**

Saturday 11 June, 1pm – 4.30pm  
Queensland State Archives

A joint seminar about women in Queensland from 1890 – 1920 from the collections of the State Library of Queensland, National Archives of Australia and Queensland State Archives

**Works' Works** – a talk by Don Watson. Presented by Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Museum

Wednesday 2 November, 12.30pm – 1.30pm  
Queensland Museum South Bank Theatre, Level 2

Find out more about The Built Heritage of Queensland Department of Public Works at this talk by Don Watson, author and architect with the Department of Public Works.

Admission is free with tea and coffee provided after the talk.

This is part of the **Queensland Connections 2005** series of talks – contact Queensland Museum on 3840 7555 for more details.

## Elizabeth Hawkins: Fast Facts



**Previous Position:** Reference Librarian, State Library of Queensland (mainly at John Oxley Library)

**How did you start?:** I helped out at the local library when I was at school and it grew from there

**Favourite food:** Anything I don't have to cook myself!

**Favourite book:** Anything by Jane Austen

**Favourite quote:** The most wasted of all days is one without laughter -- ee cummings

**Favourite archival record:** The prison records – you get some great details

**What do you do when not at work?:** Look after the children and plan the renovations

**Best thing about working at archives:** A new challenge – there's so much to learn!

**Worst thing about working at archives:** Wondering if I'll ever learn enough

**Pets:** One lonely goldfish and several quail

**Children:** 2 little girls

**What will you do when you retire?:** Go and visit all the interesting places I've been researching over the years.

## On the Road

### Ingham – Australian-Italian Festival 5 - 8 May 2005

Niles Elvery, Public Access Manager with QSA, Greg Cope from the National Archives of Australia and Serena Coates from Heritage Collections, State Library of Queensland will welcome any visitors to a stall they will be manning for the duration of the festival.

### Rockhampton – Barcaldine – Winton – Longreach July/August 2005

Queensland State Archives, National Archives of Australia and State Library of Queensland will host a joint seminar in Rockhampton on 29 July 2005 with the venue yet to be determined.

At this stage it is planned to host an evening seminar in Barcaldine on Saturday, hold an afternoon seminar in Winton on Sunday 31 July and an afternoon seminar in Longreach on Monday 1 August.

More details available closer to the date.

## Diary Dates:

### Morning Tea with the State Archivist 2005:

Wednesday 13 April, 10am

Wednesday 9 November, 10am

Bookings: 3131 7777

### Seminars, Talk, Tours

Seminars are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month until November 2005 at 10am in Lecture Room 1.

Date	Title
Tuesday 19 April	School Admissions Registers
Tuesday 17 May	Divorce Records
Tuesday 21 June	Company Records
Tuesday 19 July	Deed Polls
Tuesday 16 August	Archivesearch
Tuesday 20 September	Freehold Land Title Records
Tuesday 18 October	Court Records: Bench Records and Summons Books
Tuesday 15 November	Records relating to South Sea Islander People

**Bookings for all seminars: 3131 7777**

## Editorial Information

The Runcorn Record is available for download free of charge from the Queensland State Archives website at [www.archives.qld.gov.au](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au)  
If you would like to be added or removed from our mailing list contact the Editor:

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