Digitisation Update – October 2017

Digitised items now available
The ANU Library, Archives and Press have an extraordinary collection of research resources collected from around the world. Creating digital versions and portals to collections allows us to open up our treasures to students, researchers and the community wherever they are.

This month we celebrate collections that provide insights into social history, Australian businesses, trade unions and ecology. I encourage you to travel through time and space to explore Australian history and society over the past hundred and fifty years.

– Roxanne Missingham, University Librarian

Tooth & Company Hotel Cards
The Tooth & Company Hotel Card collection contains photographs of the exterior of most hotels in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, whether or not they were owned by Tooth & Company. Each hotel was photographed approximately every 10 years between the 1920s and 1970s.

This highly used research collection is regularly accessed by local historians researching the built environment and architects preparing heritage reports. It is the only collection of its kind in the world.

The collection contains more than 2600 hotels, comprised of four main areas: City, Country, Riverina and Far West. The City cards make up one third of the collection and have now all been digitised.
Minute Books of Pre-Federation Australian Trade Unions
The Minute Books of Pre-Federation Australian Trade Unions record collective decision-making by Australian workers in the nineteenth-century, including events and achievements as they happened, local issues, and disputes that developed into general strikes and became the first steps in broader campaigns, such as the 8-Hour Day and the impetus for political representation of workers through the formation of the Australian Labor Party. There are 211 minute books in the collection.

Roll of Honour of those who served at the front in the Great War 1914 - 1919 in the employment of Burns Philp and Company Limited
After WWI, Burns Philp, like many organisations, wanted to honour staff who had served in the military services during the war. To do this they created a Roll of Honour, giving the names and work locations of those who enlisted.

Family historians, military historians and researchers with an interest in how society memorialises servicemen and women will find the Roll of Honour significant.

The Roll of Honour was digitised after receiving several requests for information about war service due to the publicity generated by the centenary of WWI.

A Geomorphic map of the Riverine Plain of south-eastern Australia
This book and the accompanying map were published by the ANU Press in 1973 and is one example of a collection of ANU Press publications from 1965–1991 that have been digitised and made available to a global audience under the University’s open-access policy. This map, with its accompanying detailed descriptive text, gives the first unified picture of the Riverine plain. It will be invaluable in the further development of the region, which can only be successfully carried out, and past mistakes avoided, if the formation and composition of the plain are fully understood by those responsible for planning.

Visit from the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery
Two historians from the Pacific Archives National Museum and Art Gallery visited the ANU Archives to collect resources for an upcoming exhibition at the Old House of Assembly in Port Moresby.

The ANU Archives Pacific Archivist and the ANU Library Digitisation team digitised over 200 images including posters and archival material for the exhibition.