

Media release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1 January 2017

Victoria's hidden history revealed through newly opened archives

Hundreds of historic State Government archives have been made public today as part of Public Record Office Victoria's annual opening of officially closed records. The records are of particular interest to family historians waiting on files that mention members of their family tree.

Under Section 9 of the *Public Records Act 1973* files of a personal or private nature are closed from between 75 to 99 years to prevent the violation of personal privacy. As of the 1st of January 2017, another year of files will be opened to the public for the first time. Director and Keeper of Public Records, Justine Heazlewood, said this year's openings may provide researchers with missing pieces of their family history puzzle.

"These newly opened records provide a snapshot into our State's history. From the capital cases that made headlines in 1941 to divorces of Ballarat - these annual openings provide a new opportunity to discover our past," said Ms Heazlewood.

Among this year's openings are Criminal Trial Briefs relating to Pentridge prison escapee Kenneth Raymond Jones, the capital case file of Alfred Bye executed for the murder of Tommy Walker, Divorce Case Files from Melbourne and Ballarat Courts of 1941, Post Mortem Registers from Kew Hospital and Tramway and Victorian Railroads Employee Records.

"There are so many incredible stories to be found in Victoria's archives. These records of the past now serve to help researchers, academics, writers and historians discover another dimension to years gone by," said Ms Heazlewood.

See below for a full list of opened records. A broad guide to time periods for closure under Section 9 is as follows:

- Records primarily concerning adults may be closed for 75 years from the year in which the records were created.
- Records concerning children as the primary subject of the record may be closed for 99 years from the year in which the records were created.
- Records such as staff records where the individuals concerned may still be in the workforce may be closed for a lesser period such as 30, 40, or 50 years as appropriate.

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2016 RECORD OPENINGS

Record Title	Agency	Date Range
Criminal Trial Briefs	Office of Public Prosecutions	1941
Inward Registered Correspondence	Attorney-General's Department	1940-1941
Divorce Case Files, Melbourne	Supreme Court of Victoria	1940-1941
Children's Court Register	Malvern Courts	1912-1917
Central Register of Male Prisoners	Penal & Gaols Branch	1940-1941
Register of Names, Particulars and Personal Descriptions of Prisoners	Pentridge Gaol	1940-1941
Index To Register Of Prisoners Received	Pentridge Gaol	1939-1941
Divorce Case Files	Ballarat Courts	1941
Examination Registers (Technical Subjects)	Education Department	1985-1986
Capital Sentence Files	Governor	1941
Wages Records	Country Roads Board	1940-1941
Children's Court Registers	Richmond Courts	Feb 1916-Jun 1917
Children's Court Registers	Prahran Courts	Sept 1915-April 1917
Children's Court Register	Berringa Courts	1908-1917
Criminal Trial Brief Register II	Office of Public Prosecutions	1941
Criminal Trial Brief Register II	Office of Public Prosecutions	1941
Master Patient Index Cards	Alfred Hospital	1939/40-1940/41
Ward Registers	Chief Secretary's Department	Nov 1916-Nov 1917
Children's Court Registers	Stawell Courts	1915-1917
Divorce Cause Books	Supreme Court of Victoria	Sept 1939-Feb 1941
Children's Court Registers	Fitzroy Courts	Feb 1916-May 1917
Post Mortem Registers	Kew Mental Hospital	Jan 1939-Jul 1941
Head Attendant's Daily Report Books - Male Department	Kew Mental Hospital	1940-1941
Registers of Voluntary Boarders in Hospitals for the Insane	Department of Mental Hygiene	1934-1941
Head Nurse's Daily Report Book - Female Wards	Kew Mental Hospital	Nov 1940-Dec 1941
Bound Circulated Photographs and Offences of Convicted Persons	South Australia Police Department	Dec 1940-Sept 1941
Nursing Report Books - Female - Mental Hospital	Sunbury Mental Hospital	Nov 1940-Nov 1941
Admission Warrants - Male Patients	Sunbury Mental Hospital	Mar 1939-May 1941

Admission Warrants - Female Patients	Sunbury Mental Hospital	May 1939-May 1941
Presentments	Supreme Court of Victoria	1941
Children's Court Registers	Camperdown Courts	1907-Aug 1917
Children's Court Registers	Williamstown Courts	June 1916-Oct 1917
Children's Court Register	Warrnambool Courts	June 1916-Jan 1917
Children's Court Registers	Ararat Courts	1907-Nov 1917
Personal Description of Prisoners Received Book	Ballarat Gaol	July 1935-May 1941
Children's Court Register	Sale Courts	1907-Feb 1917
Children's Court Registers	Carlton Courts	1908-July 1917
Tramway Employees Record Cards	Melbourne And Metropolitan Tramways Board	1960-1961
Correspondence with Australian Railway Union	Victorian Railways	1960-1961
Accident Compensation Claim Register, Claims Branch	Victorian Railways	1960-1961
Accident Compensation Claim Book	Melbourne And Metropolitan Tramways Board	1959-1961
Employment History Sheets, Photographic Division	Victorian Railways	1920-1961
In-Patient Death Registers	The Royal Children's Hospital	July 1979-Feb 1986
Board Minutes	Physiotherapists Registration Board	August 1963-June 1966
Board Minutes and Papers	Dental Board of Victoria	Oct 1964-Oct 1966
Criminal Presentments and Final Orders, Melbourne	Court of General Sessions	Nov 1940-Dec 1941
Register of Pathology Tests	Mont Park Mental Hospital	1933-1941
Children's Court Register	Preston Courts	Nov 1913-March 1917