New South Wales Government Gazette

Background
Every Australian colony published regular gazettes to communicate legislation, regulations and information to the public service in particular and the community in general. The original gazettes covered all government departments but as certain very large and widely dispersed departments such as education and police grew in size, they often produced their own versions. However, the so-called Government Gazette published by Authority continued to be the medium by which legislation and regulations were announced.

All colonial governments were modeled on a traditional British colonial template and therefore it is not surprising that every Australian colony has gazettes with very much the same content taking their initiative from the gazettes published by the British Government in London, Edinburgh and Belfast (formerly Dublin). The London Gazette commenced publication in 1665.

Indeed government gazettes are published by governments worldwide as a means of communication to officials and the general public. Such gazettes are useful not only to monitor the actions of the government, but also as far as family historians are concerned, they are primary source documents that have been largely overlooked by many researchers. The use of technology by Archive CD Books to reproduce early directories in a searchable CD format will greatly improve their accessibility to all researchers, as often their indexes are inefficient when attempting to locate individual names.

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The first New South Wales Government Gazette was published 7 March 1832. It was established by the Government as a means of communication between government officials within and throughout the colony. It is a rich source of information about individuals and places.

An important family and local history resource
Just some of the information to be found in the gazettes
- Convict notices - Licence of departures (notice of licence - permission for inter colony movement)
- Records of convicts and ex-convicts moving from NSW to other colonies inc. NZ
- Records of `ticket of leave being confiscated & circumstances rendering the person ineligible' (e.g. drunkenness, adultery etc.)
- Notice of convict absconders: details of ship, details of convict i.e. Name, alias, physical description, escape details, convict history (useful if convict convicted under the same name)
- Government appointments
- Land transactions
- Legal notices
- Deserters and missing people
- Ecclesiastical notices
- Land ownership details of deceased persons
- Next of kin notices
- Insolvency notices
- Bankruptcy notices
- Impoundments

Importance for social history
Generally the gazettes allow us to put our research into its historical and social context using a contemporary record
- Convict system
- Government institutions
- Activities of the day
- Government regulations & Acts

Importance for Genealogical Research
Government Gazettes contain a vast amount of historical and genealogical information. However they are a largely untapped resource. The few complete runs that are available are usually only found in major libraries. And even for researchers who do have access to these the sheer size and extent of the Gazettes is daunting.

NOW that is all changing. Archive CD Books Australia has commenced publication of 19th Century Government Gazettes for various Australian states on CD-ROM—in an accessible, affordable form on CD-ROM, with the bonus that the entire text is now easily searched. Archive CD Books Australia CDs “unlock” a vast body of immensely useful research material. They may well contain information on members of your family or locality that is to be found nowhere else. And they will certainly give any researcher an insight into the 19th century world in which they lived. And they just make for fascinating browsing!

A resource for all
- Local historians—search every reference to your locality
- Family historians—search every reference to members of your family and where they lived. Tens of thousands of ordinary people are listed.
- Social historians—search every reference in areas of interest.
- Libraries—a major resource for your collections
- Societies—a major resource for your members

Government Gazettes on searchable CD.

Archives

Archives are available for all states, even for the 19th Century only, is a huge task and will take some years.

Selective deposits
- New South Wales - 1852-1910
- Victoria - 1852-1874, 1888-1900
- Queensland - 1866-1910
- South Australia - 1881-1900
- Tasmania - 1852-1910
- Western Australia - Commenced 1972

Up to 50% discount is available to libraries, societies or others placing standing orders for partial or complete series of (19th Century) Government Gazettes and Australian state gazettes from the Archive CD Books Project. Series list and details on web site.

Searching the Text
The gazettes are all published as high quality scanned images or facsimiles of the original. The entire text is now searchable—names, places or any subject or word you care to look for.

Available or due by Dec 2006—(only a few in the pipeline)
- New South Wales - 1832,34,35,36,37,38,39,42,43,50,55,65,75
- Queensland - 1866-1900
- South Australia - 1881-1900
- Victoria - 1852-1910
- Western Australia - Commenced 1972

Police and Education Gazettes

The immensely useful Police Gazettes are also being published for most states. Currently available or due by the end of 2006:
- New South Wales - 1866-1874, 1881-1885, 1890-1910
- Queensland - 1864-1904
- South Australia - 1881-1900
- Victoria - 1865-1866, 1868-1876, 1886-1888

Some Education Gazettes have also been published. To keep informed of new releases, updates to the publishing schedule and special offers subscribe to the FREE Archive CD Books Australia email newsletter. See web site.

All gazettes are fully searchable

For further information about our products see:- www.archivecdbooks.com.au
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An important family and local history resource
Just some of the information to be found in the gazettes

- Convict notices
- Lists of rations for government institutions: prisons, asylums etc. including items, amount for different people: e.g. men, women, children
- Rates of passengers (families of convicts from England)
- Health: no. of births, deaths, cause of death, epidemics
- Convict system
- Government institutions
- Activities of the day
- Government regulations & Acts
- Searches for people (e.g. English sisters looking for ex-convict brother)
- Historical and social context using a contemporary record

Importance for social history
Generally the gazettes allow us to put our research into its historical and social context using a contemporary record

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- Government institutions
- Activities of the day
- Government regulations & Acts

Indexing
The Society of Australian Genealogists is finalising an index to the NSW gazettes for the period 1832-62. This 1 million + index of all names is due for publication later in 2005 as volume of the AGCI. This will complement the Archive CD Books Australia Gazette Digitisation project.

Acknowledgment is made to Heather Garnsey, Penny Stanley, Graham jaunay, Tricia Evans and Australian Family Tree Connections magazine for material in this article.

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- Queensland - 1856-60,61,62,64,65,68,69,72,80,89
- South Australia - 1849,51,52,55,67,68
- Tasmania - 1844,61,70,80
- Victoria - 1851,56,60,61,63,64,66,74,78,87,88,90
- Western Australia - to commence early 2007

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- South Australia - 1811-1900
- Victoria - 1865, 1864-1865, 1868-1876, 1886-1888

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