

**Good British Stock. Child Migration to Australia**, by Barry Coldrey. National Archives of Australia, 1999. 220pp., AU\$10 (+\$10 overseas postage)

Between 1901 and 1983 thousands of unaccompanied British children (and some from other nations) were sent to Australia. For some children this experience was not the intended fresh start, but a tragic wrench from friends and family to an unhappy life in a strange land. The National Archives holds information on the government administration of this child migration as well as the service organisations that sponsored the children and provided for their education, placement and aftercare.

This guide gives the historical background to the various schemes managed on behalf of the government by charitable bodies and churches.

They include, amongst others, the Big Brother Movement, the Children's Farm Schools Immigration Society of Western Australia (Fairbridge), Dr Barnardo's Homes and the Overseas Children's Scheme. As records of the day to day administration and personal records remain with the archives of these voluntary organisations, much of the national archives collections deal with procedures or policy. Nevertheless, there is information about individuals to be found amongst this material and the overview of all the institutions involved is most useful. There are sections with useful addresses and a guide to records held by other archives and institutions. The reading list is extensive and the work as a whole is of great use to anyone whose relatives may have gone abroad under such schemes.