What you should know

- The CSU Regional Archives is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building at the South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue.
- Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward enquiries for a fee of $55 per hour, including copying and postage.
- For further information, phone 6925 3666, email *archive@csu.edu.au* or visit the website at *www.csu.edu.au/research/archives* for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

Dunlop factory's productive past

From the 1940s until the late 1970s, the Dunlop Weatherproof Factory was a center for productivity in Wagga. It stood on the corner of Forsyth and Murray streets and became a hub of employment for the region.

The factory initially opened as a munitions plant, making fuses to service the military during World War II. Before long, the factory began to manufacture military uniforms and then after the war ended, continued on as a garment division of Dunlop Australia Pty Ltd, until its closure in March 1977.

Dunlop's was a landmark building which housed the largest single workforce in Wagga during its operation.

At one time, Dunlop's employed 260 people, which included 208 females. Jobs varied along the assembly line, and the girls were eventually trained to be high-speed industrial machinists.

At the height of its existence, the Dunlop Weatherproof Factory was a major manufacturer of quality clothing, including industrial waterproof and safety garments, fashionable men's and women's raincoats and sports clothing; including the "whites" for the Davis Cup tennis team.

Dunlop's distributed its products to industries right across the country, for instance the Victoria Police and Queensland miners, and fishermen from Darwin would only use products made from Dunlop's at Wagga.

Despite its overwhelming success, the Dunlop factory had its share of challenges.

As well as the prospect of the adjacent lagoon flooding, the Dunlop factory had a constant battle attracting enough staff to keep up with production demands. It was repeatedly reported in *The Daily Advertiser* that the factory was in urgent need of more female staff; one report suggested that a lack of accommodation for girls from outlying districts was a major limiting factor to the factory's growth.

The Dunlop factory officially closed on March 31, 1977 as a result of Dunlop Australia's falling profits in a weak market.

It was reported that there were approximately 70 people working at the factory at the time of its closure.

The former factory gained a new lease of life in 1980 when it was transformed and reopened as a warehousing complex. The building had been subdivided and further warehousing space was added to the existing structure.

Today the site is occupied by various retailers and services including a hairdresser, paint shop and the South Wagga Fruit Market, bakery and butcher.

The Dunlop Factory in Forsyth Street (Pictures: RW1574 - Tom Lennon Collection - CSU Regional Archives).

Top: An open day in 1963.

Above: Dunlop girls working at machines.

References: *The Daily Advertiser* (November 21 1946; September 1, 1955, November 28, 1963; September 8, 1970; March 5, 1977 & May 14, 1980). Information also supplied by Sherry Morris.

IN 1825 Governor Brisbane was ordered to undertake a general survey of the New South Wales colony into counties and parishes.

There are 141 counties in NSW, divided into 7459 parishes. The maps which record these land divisions have been created and maintained by the Department of Lands, and provide the basis for Crown Land administration in NSW.

To the local historian or the family researcher, parish maps have proven to be a valuable source of historical information when researching a local area, or a particular portion of land.

In 1997 to support the growing use of parish maps as a research tool, a project was initiated by the NSW Department of Lands and State Records NSW to copy and preserve these maps.

A major result of the Parish Map Preservation Project has been that digital copies made of the maps have allowed for greater public access throughout NSW.

Within the search room at the CSU Regional Archives, parish and pastoral maps for the Wagga and Hay land Board Districts can be easily accessed and viewed on CD-ROM.

The type of information that is often gleaned from the parish maps include names of original grantee or tenure, the allotted number and area of each portion of land, boundary lines, notes, references to NSW Government gazette entries, and the original registers (also held by CSU Regional Archives) documenting the land transactions such as conditional purchases, homestead selections, conditional and annual leases. The parish maps are ideally used as a starting point for research or to lay open avenues for further inquiry.