



Sydney's new centre point of reference

Online dictionary to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the city. **Report** CAROLINE BOTTING

It won't be long before every significant place, person and event in Sydney's past and current history will be available at the click of a button.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) is the launch of the first stage of the Dictionary of Sydney, an evolving encyclopedic project undertaken by the City of Sydney Council and the University of Sydney.

The dictionary aims to include entries on topics such as architecture, politics, wildlife and people from past to the present, covering the greater Sydney metropolitan area.

Funded by a \$916,000 five-year Australian Research Council grant, the dictionary will benefit all kinds of users, from students and scholars, to tourists and town planners.

The university's Professor Stephen Garton and City of Sydney historian Dr Shirley Fitzgerald will lead hundreds of researchers, who will be contributing to the project.

"It will include our favourite stories, urban

myths, crime and great achievements," Ms Fitzgerald said.

"We want biographies of people living in Sydney, we want contributions from all the different sorts of people, from the eccentric to the wacky, that form part of our city," Ms Fitzgerald said.

She said all contributions would be read and considered for inclusion on the site but she is "not promising to publish everything".

University of Sydney's vice-chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown said the project would bring together the three main priorities of teaching, research and community engagement and "will tap in the lives of millions of people across this city".

Sydneysiders will be able to log onto the initial project site tomorrow, which outlines what and who is involved and follows the development of the project at www.dictionaryofsydney.org



Dr Shirley Fitzgerald will lead a team of hundreds of researchers for the project. (Far right) Historic Glebe land leaseholds and (right) a Glebe Point Road lithograph. Pictures courtesy of City of Sydney Council

