

Lebanese-Australian Mrs. Yvonne Matta seeks out LERC in search of family history

Tuesday 14 May 2012, LERC, NDU

Reported by *Shereen Mahshi*

Mrs. Yvonne Matta visited the Lebanese Emigration Research Center to seek help in her search for her family history.

Mrs. Yvonne was born in Australia and after her marriage she spent 13 years in Lebanon where she had children, but she and her family later left Lebanon after the start of the 1975 war.



Mrs. Yvonne Matta during her visit to LERC. (May 2012).

Mrs. Yvonne is currently writing a book for her children that will capture the history of her family and Lebanese culture, and this project has delighted her extended family since she will be recording all their memories. Tracing her family's history has been a project for some time now, and she recently visited Lebanon to speak to members of the surviving generation.

Mrs. Yvonne's family consists of her father's branch, the Sciucairs of Ain Aar; her husband's family, the Mattas of Mreijeh and Tahwitat Al Ghadeer; and her mother's branch, the Ahouagis/Kahwagis of Bardaraan in the Shouf. Helping her in the search was her father's diary of his early years and the fact that her cousins still reside in Ain Aar. During her visits

to areas where branches of the family live, she was greeted and aided as much as possible with information that will help her in her family history project.

Mrs. Yvonne met with LERC's Chief Indexer and Archivist, who presented to her valuable information about some of the families she was searching for.