Origins

Newsletter of the UNSW Archives

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UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

JOHN NILAND
Vice-Chancellor 1992–2002

At the ceremony on 22 February 2006 to mark the renaming of the Scientia building as the John Niland Scientia Building, Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Wainwright described Emeritus Professor John Niland as leading the University of New South Wales through a golden age, especially of campus revitalisation and in the international sphere. As Professor Wainwright put it, the Scientia symbolises John Niland's 'vision for, and dedication to UNSW'.

History will no doubt make its assessments of the Niland years, a process that has begun already with Patrick O'Farrell's *UNSW: a portrait* (1999). For the university record and the nation's historical purposes, however, it is important that the story of John Niland's life and times be recorded in his own voice. This John has generously agreed to do for the University Archives' Oral History Program.

The Niland interview continues a sequence unique among Australian universities. The three former UNSW vice-chancellors — Sir Philip Baxter (1953–69), Sir Rupert Myers (1969–81) and Michael Birt (1981–92) — have all been interviewed, as has the former chancellor, the Hon. Dr Gordon Samuels (1976–94); interviews that have all led to publications.

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John Niland was born at Kyogle in 1940, and grew up in Lismore, northern New South Wales. He was dux of Lismore High and considered studying law at the University of Sydney; but, attracted to a BHP traineeship at Newcastle, he enrolled for a BCom at Newcastle University College in 1958. At BHP he joined another young trainee in industrial relations, John Prescott, who was eventually to become BHP's chief executive officer.

John came to UNSW and Basser College in 1960 to complete his honours year, following which he undertook an MCom, with a thesis in the field of labour history. A natural student leader, he was president of the Students' Union for two years (1961–62) and of the University Union (1964). He and Carmel Hume (BA 1965) met through student politics and married in December 1965.

In 1961 John was inaugural director for Foundation Day and, as such, responsible for the overall publicity it generated, for its pranks and the first city procession — an event that thrust the small second university in Sydney literally into the face, minds and media of the city. One Niland message had already become clear: UNSW was not to be second-best to the University of Sydney, not in commemorative events nor in any other respect.

In 1967 the Nilands left Australia for the United States and John went to study at the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus), where he graduated in 1970, the first person to be awarded a PhD there; at the same time Carmel graduated with an MA. John and Carmel then moved to upstate New York, where John took up the position of assistant professor in the prestigious school of Industrial and Labor Relations at the Ivy League Cornell University. An intense and happy period of academic projects, teaching and hands-on experience within the United States industrial relations system followed. Notably, the campuses at Cornell and Illinois were, and remain among America's more attractive.

The Nilands returned to Australia in 1972 at a time of significant political change and increasing industrial relations tension as national economic problems grew. John initially joined the Australian National University as a senior lecturer in the department of Economics but by July 1974, at 33 years of age, John was back 'home' at UNSW, appointed professor of Economics and head of the department of Industrial Relations (school from 1988).

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At UNSW, John Niland found himself at the right place in academic industrial relations at the right time. In 1976 and 1977 he also served as president of the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations (FAUSA), the university staff union. The late 1970s and early 1980s were dramatic times in industrial relations. It was a period encompassing the Whitlam and Fraser years, and the transition of Bob Hawke from ACTU leader to Labor prime minister in 1983, followed by the Accord negotiated between the Hawke government and the unions on prices and incomes, which then held firm for most of the 1980s.

With the national interest in industrial relations, both staff numbers and enrolments increased in the department and an Industrial Relations Research Centre was established at UNSW in 1980. The centre hosted nationally focused forums, attracting a veritable who's who in industrial relations that included as participants senior figures from government, unions, business, and industrial relations instrumentalities, as well as other academics. John Niland's profile within academia was also expanding, and, in 1989, he became dean of the faculty of Commerce.

John's industrial relations expertise led to his involvement in an advisory role with both federal and

front cover

Professor Niland addressing the audience during the UNSW Anniversary Parliamentary Debate Re-enactment, 24 March 1999, which took place in the parliamentary chamber, Macquarie Street. [04/25/1/16] Photographer: Tony Potter

State governments. He was invited to prepare *Transforming Industrial Relations in New South Wales: a green paper* for the Greiner–Fahey State government, which helped shape the Industrial Relations Act 1991. Later, for Senator Peter Cook, minister for Industrial Relations in the Keating government, John co-authored a report which examined the application of enterprise bargaining and agency agreements to the Australian Public Service. A further, very significant involvement with the world outside universities came with his appointment in 1990 by the State government to the under-performing State Pollution Control Commission (SPCC); appointed initially as chairman, he was soon given executive authority to transform this organisation.

The year 1992 was an extraordinary one for John Niland. As president of the International Industrial Relations Association, he hosted its ninth world congress in Sydney; he oversaw the change of the SPCC into the Environment Protection Authority; he was made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for services to industrial relations; and, with some self-confessed elation, he was appointed vice-chancellor of UNSW.

Transforming organisations was a passion, and creating a first-rate public reputation for them equally so. Patrick O'Farrell's view in his history of UNSW is that the university did not know what it was getting in John Niland; but the public interview process, the Niland track record and the close vote in his favour do suggest that some in the university had a very good idea. In fact, the Niland vision for UNSW was openly in place before day one, and it was to be pursued with great conviction and energy.

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The oral history interviews recorded to date have canvassed all of the above and much else besides of contemporary events. The continuing interviews are now turning to his years as vice-chancellor, focusing on the transformation of the organisation and management of UNSW, particularly through *UNSW 2000* and its working parties, which led to dramatic faculty, budgetary and systems restructuring. In addition, the interviews examine the transformation of the physical campus; this began under Professor Michael Birt but was taken up with great vigour by John Niland, with the result that infrequent visitors were, and probably still continue to be quite stunned by the extraordinary look and 21st century feel of the Kensington campus.

The inevitable strains also emerge, revealed through the interviews. A 1998 staff survey showed that staff were hurting from increasing workloads created by declining resources. In 1999, the year UNSW celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, the push for improved wages and conditions intensified. That ever-fluid relationship between leader and the led, the discomfited and the particular circumstances of the day all culminated in a decision, announced by John Niland in early February 2001, that he was leaving UNSW at the end of his second five-year term in mid 2002 to pursue other interests.

Professor Niland with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, following an exchange of gifts, 24 September 1996, at the Clancy Auditorium, where the Dalai Lama was giving the 10th Annual Wallace Wurth Memorial Lecture. [98A1] Photographer: Tony Potter

In 2001, for the third year running, UNSW was named by *Business Review Weekly* as the most admired institution in the government, education and health sector and John Niland was voted the sector's most admired leader nationally. That same year, adding to his AO, John was made a Companion in the Order of Australia (AC) for services to education.

Once his years as vice-chancellor have been covered in the interviews, it will be important for the comprehension of a life of such sustained drive and capacity to touch upon aspects of John's subsequent activities. The impressive scope of his activities since leaving the vice-chancellorship includes the following: chairman, UNSW Foundation Ltd, 2002–04; director, Macquarie Technology Fund, 2000–03; director, Macquarie Bank Ltd, since 2003; chairman, Centennial Park Trust, since 2001; member of the Board of Trustees, Singapore Management University, since 1999; member of the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, since 2000. As a consultant, he has also been involved with such entities as the World Bank, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the South Australian government, and Carnegie Mellon University.

John Niland's is clearly a life of importance, not just to UNSW, but to the nation; the interviews to date have content of significance for both. They show a life of living out ambitious, reforming visions with enormous energy, self-belief, optimism and dedication to the task, characterised too by a special devotion to the betterment of the University of New South Wales, for which second-best was never an option. ❖

LAURIE DILLON

The University Archives in 2005

The year 2005 was another busy one for the University Archives and was the year in which it celebrated its 25th anniversary. A generous grant from the university's U Committee enabled the Archives to produce *Origins* (in May), and to publish *Gordon Samuels – Looking Back. A university chancellor reflects*, written by Roderic Campbell. The book was launched at a function marking the 25th anniversary, which was held at the end of November for friends, supporters and staff of the Archives. Roderic Campbell wrote the book based on the extensive oral history interview undertaken by Julia Horne, the former oral historian, and in consultation with the Hon. Dr Gordon Samuels.

While waiting for a new administrative structure to be put in place, work was carried out under temporary staffing arrangements with assistance from casual staff and staff on placement from other areas within the university. After being associated with the University Library for nearly 20 years, the University Archives has become part of the Division of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) under Professor Robert King and reports to Mr Paul Macpherson, Manager, Records and Archives, who has responsibility for university-wide management of UNSW's corporate record.

Mrs Jenny Horder, Board of Governors of the Alumni Association, was appointed to the University Archives Advisory Committee, replacing Dr Jessica Milner Davis, who stood down, after eight years of service, from her position as a member of the committee. The committee met twice in 2005.

Major achievements throughout the year included appraising the holdings of the Archives with regard to their status as State archives, university archives, private papers or oral history program materials in preparation for making access determinations under the State Records Act 1998; the microfilming of UNSW's vital records including the minutes of Council and its major committees; the addition of a new online exhibition on the University Archives website entitled, the 'Sir John Clancy Photographic Exhibition'; and preservation copying to digital format of the Sir John Clancy photographic collection and of other photographs which had suffered general deterioration or which had been affected by vinegar syndrome. Work on the Sir John Clancy photographs was made possible through a generous donation of funds from Associate Professor Eric Sowey.

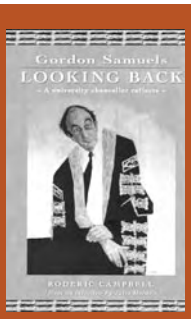
Carolyne Bruyn, oral historian, completed the 2004 Oral History Project and worked on transcribing and editing the backlog of tapes from the interviews project. In the second half of the year Emeritus Archivist Laurie Dillon commenced an oral history interview with Emeritus Professor John Niland, former vice-chancellor.

Throughout the year staff engaged in a number of professional activities, among which: Katie Bird participated on a working party established by State Records of New South Wales to review GDA9, the General Disposal Authority for University Records; both Katie Bird and Karin Brennan attended the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Australian Society of Archivists held in Wellington, New Zealand. During the second half of the year a seminar was held in the Archives for 20 pre-honours students from the school of History. Visitors to the Archives during 2005 included staff from the Library and Information Centre of Mahidol University, Thailand, and Karen Harris, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

In September Karin Brennan gave a presentation on 'Training Opportunities for Archives and Records in Australia' at the 11th Conference of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) held in Nadi, Fiji. The conference, with the title 'Recordkeeping for Good Governance', brought together sixty-six archivists and recordkeeping specialists from all over the Pacific region to discuss strategic issues and expand on the competencies required for effective recordkeeping. The program examined recordkeeping for governance, the current state of recordkeeping, advocacy to support recordkeeping as well as training requirements for recordkeeping across government. PARBICA delegates reported on recent initiatives and issues facing recordkeeping in their respective countries and territories and actively participated on panels and in group discussions. International speakers included: Dr Anne Thurston, OBE, director of the International Records Management Trust; Abel Caine, Communication and Information Programme Specialist of the UNESCO Office in Apia; and Ms Mahfuzah Yusuf, International Council on Archives deputy secretary-general, from the National Archives of Malaysia. Delegates formulated a number of recommendations and the conference concluded with the creation of a *Declaration on Recordkeeping for Good Governance* to be forwarded to the individual heads of government of countries associated with PARBICA. ❖

KARIN BRENNAN

Gordon Samuels – Looking back. A university chancellor reflects, written by Roderic Campbell, is the latest book in a series of publications produced by UNSW Archives honouring significant figures in the history of the university.



Copies of the book are available through the UNSW Bookshop and selected bookshops: RRP $24.95. The book's cover features the Clifton Pugh portrait of Gordon Samuels, which hangs in the Chancellery.

Sir John Clancy's Photographs

John Clancy (right) with a fellow soldier, on a rickshaw, ca 1918. From these two similar photos the advantages of being able to enhance the collection can be seen: the one on the left gives an indication of the poor condition many of the prints arrived in; the photo on the right is one of those for which no print existed and was, in effect, a concealed image until extra funding enabled us to make a new print from the original negative. [02A118]

Photographs comprise a valuable component of the University Archives' holdings and currently number over 20,000 items. One recent addition of significance has been the photos acquired as part of the Sir John Clancy papers. Sir John was a foundation member of the University Council and later became the university's second chancellor. Sir John was a keen photographer and the photos provide a rich glimpse of his life, especially for the period 1914–30. He was a soldier, husband, father, judge, bushwalker, friend — all aspects of his life that are represented in the images.

Unfortunately, such a wonderful resource rarely arrives in the Archives in perfect condition. In this instance some prints and negatives were housed in paper film sleeves, while others were simply scattered loosely throughout Sir John's papers. Many negatives were not located with corresponding prints; instead they were bundled together in unidentified groups. Little descriptive information relating to the photos existed aside from brief handwritten inscriptions on the outside of the paper sleeves, which were usually tricky to decipher and very general in nature. In addition, many of the prints and negatives had faded or suffered other forms of deterioration owing to their age and how they had been stored over time.

These issues are difficult for archivists to address. Attempts are made to match prints to negatives and place all items in inert polypropylene sleeves, which prevent further damage and allow the images to be handled and viewed safely, but the process often stops here because of a lack of available resources. On this occasion, however, thanks to a generous donation from Associate Professor Eric Sowey, the Archives was able to further enhance preservation of the Clancy photo collection and provide access to it.

Prints were made from negatives where the original print no longer existed or where it had faded badly, and this enabled significant and otherwise 'hidden' images to emerge. Conversely, not all prints had matching negatives and so a number of faded prints considered to be of high archival value were digitally scanned at a high resolution.

The end result is a collection of photos that has been rendered richer, better protected and more accessible to users. The entire collection is also now arranged in a manner that allows researchers to appreciate the full extent of Sir John Clancy's photographic life. An initial online exhibition has been developed and can be viewed at http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/archives/about/clancy.html ❖

KATIE BIRD

Archives and Records merge

In May 2006 the University Archives and Records Administration Section were merged into the new Records and Archives Unit. Paul Macpherson has been appointed manager of this new unit.

The merger will benefit records management for the university, resulting in better business practices and compliance with the State Records Act. The former Records Administration Section shared responsibilities with the University Archives for records management over many years, although each unit reported to different administrative areas. In recent years the University Archives has reported to the University Librarian within the Division of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality Improvement), while the Records Administration Section is situated in the Division of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Bringing these two units into one administrative structure within the portfolio of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will enable a well-managed corporate records program for UNSW.

The University Archives will remain located in the University Library building and continue with its other activities — collecting records that reflect the history of UNSW and conducting the Oral History Program. ❖

ANDREW WELLS

The amalgamation of the University Archives with the Records Administration Section, outlined by Andrew Wells, is not only required by the business needs and statutory responsibilities of the university but also reflects modern recordkeeping philosophy, in which there is no clear-cut division between records and archives. All records capture, maintain, and deliver information as evidence of human activity to satisfy business needs, social needs and cultural needs and are kept for as long as they are of value, whether that be for a day or for a millennium.

The new unit, and this new approach, will result in some changes to the way the University Archives are organised: more tasks are likely to be shared or divided in new ways between the Records Management Unit and the Archives and renewed emphasis in both units will be given to assisting the university to gain advantages from improved recordkeeping and to meet its obligations under the State Records Act 1998. The changes should, however, be seamless so far as users of the Archives are concerned and research access to the collections will continue as normal.

I look forward to my involvement with the Archives and its depositors, donors and users. ❖

PAUL MACPHERSON

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS

The Evolution of Studio One (D10)

For this edition of *Origins* we asked two students from the school of History, Luisa Lyons and Luke Burman, to write about projects they researched during 2005 in the University Archives. Luisa, who has been investigating the evolution of Studio One, is currently completing an Arts degree with a double major in English and History. She hopes that her future career path will combine performing, theatre, writing, and research. Luke has looked at the history of the University Regiment, in which he recently completed his training; this year (2006) he has been pursuing honours studies in history and his dissertation will look at the portrayal of military history in computer games.

My study of the history of Studio One resulted from my major project in the Researching and Writing History course in 2005. As an active member of the New South Wales University Theatrical Society (NUTS) and a regular audience member in Studio One, I was interested in discovering the history of this space.

Building D10 was built between March 1952 and September 1953 along with a number of other 'huts' on lower campus. There is little available information on what D10 was used for from the time of its completion until it was taken over by the school of Drama. According to maps of the UNSW campus dating from 1959–67 held by UNSW Archives, D10 was occupied by the school of Metallurgy and used as a laboratory.

In 1965 Dr Philip Parsons joined the department of Drama (which, in 1966, became the school of Drama, within the faculty of Arts) as senior lecturer. In a break with conventional pedagogy, Parsons recognised the inherent need for a practical element in the teaching of drama to university students. However, he and his colleagues encountered a problem, one that would continue to haunt student theatre for many years — a lack of available theatre space. The Old Tote Theatre (now Fig Tree Theatre) and the Parade Theatre were for the sole use of, respectively, the Old Tote Theatre Company and the National Institute for Dramatic Art (NIDA); other spaces such as the Physics and Science Theatres were inappropriate for experimental productions. In 1970 the school of Drama was allocated four classrooms for tutorial space; these became known as Studios One (D10), Two, Three and Four. In the course of making the transition to a theatrical space D10 appears with different names in the extant sources: in programs from the early 1970s, for

instance, the building is referred to as the 'Drama Hut'. In my research I discovered that most people with a connection to the building from that era only identified with the building when given that name as a cue. It is therefore unclear exactly when the name 'Studio One' came to be associated with this building.

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Throughout the 1970s the only doors to the building were the double doors on the western side. The front section of the building has always been performance space. The middle room, now used as a dressing-room, was once used as 'stagehand space'. The back room, now a storage area for flats and props, was used as a dressing-room for productions and as another classroom for the school of Drama.

Technically, Dr Parsons was not supposed to teach practical elements within the drama course, so in 1973 he established the Green Room Society (GRS) as 'a kind of student dramatic society simply for students from the Drama department'. Dr Parsons's wife and artistic collaborator, Katharine Brisbane, recalls that D10 was 'a good little space' because it was allowed to be 'messy' with 'paint on the floor'. The space, just a large, square room, was flexible and intimate — attributes it still possesses. The GRS was highly active during its time, staging several evening productions each year, as well as many popular 'Lunch Hour Productions' of shorter works. Its most successful production was Molière's *Le Misanthrope*; this amateur–professional production, staged in Studio One in 1973 under the direction of John Tasker, was well-attended and attracted media attention. The ABC ultimately bought the rights to *Le Misanthrope* and recorded the production for transmission. Despite research enquiries at a number of archives including the ABC and the National Film and Sound Archive, I was unable to locate a copy of this production. Over this period the GRS made a number of approaches to the university administration to seek its assistance in securing a licence for Studio One as a performance venue so that members could advertise its productions to the general public, but these approaches were all unsuccessful.

Crucial to the historical recognition of D10 as a theatre is the fact that most users of the space regarded it as a classroom rather than as a theatre. Towards the end of the 1970s the GRS discovered that it no longer had an accessible 'theatre space' because classroom shortages meant that the building was in constant use as a classroom. GRS activities were subsequently limited, then, to 'lunchtime performances two days a week', while evening performances were restricted because of issues over the use of sets.

Graffiti protest at Studio One as part of the continuing campaign for more theatre space on campus, April 1980. [CN50]

By 1978 the school of Drama was in desperate need of a properly equipped and more professional theatre and made submissions to the university authorities on this issue. Students from the Dramsoc (the Drama Society) also ran a concerted campaign, placing a number of articles in *Tharunka*, for example, and producing protest badges. Some individuals felt so passionately about the issue that they spread graffiti over Studio One and adjacent buildings in the area. In September 1978 the University Council formed a committee to investigate the availability and utilisation of theatre space on campus and it received various submissions highlighting the difficulties faced by the school of Drama. While no concrete decisions were made at that time, the process set in train events that would ultimately lead to the building of the Io Myers Theatre, which was opened in 1982.

Since that time Studio One has remained a theatre space and has been used on a regular basis by NUTS (formed in 1986) and other amateur theatre groups for theatre performances, workshops and auditions. Little documentary evidence is available, however, about productions mounted in Studio One, reflecting a significant gap in the historical record.

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At the time of writing the long-term future of Studio One is uncertain. In Campus 2020, UNSW's blueprint for future development of the Kensington campus over the next fifteen years, D10 is earmarked for demolition, or 'possible demolition', to make way for the 'creation of a new green space area' or 'a landscaped public area'. In the short-term, though, it will remain as a theatre space since Studio One was officially licensed by Randwick City Council, in June 2005, as a Place of Public Entertainment (PoPE). The theatre is now able to seat up to 70 patrons for a performance, although it must renew its licence after five years. Repairs and upgrades have recently been undertaken to ensure that the building complies with occupational health and safety regulations as well as guidelines stipulated under the PoPE licensing rules.

Studio One has been serving the UNSW campus and society as a cheap, accessible and intimate theatre for nearly thirty years. It has played an important role in adding to the campus experience of many students and staff who have graced its stage or attended its shows as audience members. From my perspective, to lose it would be a tragedy. ❖

LUISA LYONS

The University Archives welcomes donations from the university community to allow the Archives to pursue additional projects outside its normal funding. Donations made through the UNSW Foundation Ltd are tax-deductible. Donors should indicate their preference for the donation to be directed to the University Archives. The Foundation can be contacted on (02) 9385 3277 or at unswfoundation@unsw.edu.au

The UNSW Regiment

In 2005, as a student enrolled in Dr Grace Karskens's pre-honours public history course, I was required to complete a historical project on a topic of my choosing. At the time I was a member of the University of New South Wales Regiment (UNSWR), the university's army reserve unit, located on Day Avenue, Kensington, next to Western Campus, and I wanted to write something on the regiment and its relationship with the local community. We were encouraged to use as much primary and secondary source material as we could handle and consult local sources such as council archives and libraries. After initially experiencing trouble finding useful sources at the UNSW Regiment, I was advised that UNSW Archives might be able to provide assistance for my project. I found the staff members there friendly and extremely helpful; for a budding historian their assistance was very welcome.

The material held in the UNSW Archives included such items as correspondence between the vice-chancellor and members of the regiment as well as a number of photos, regimental dining-in-night menus and administrative files. This material helped reconstruct part of the history of the regiment's relationship with the university and, when combined with sources found at the Bowen Library in Maroubra, enough material was gathered to demonstrate that for much of the regiment's history the relationship was a close one. Over time, however, the ties between the two loosened somewhat, which was probably owing to the social tensions generated by the Vietnam War together with a general declining interest in military service.

The University of Technology Regiment, whose commanding officer then was Lieutenant-Colonel W.M. McGilvray, ED, provided the guard of honour at this university's first graduation ceremony on Kensington campus, 16 April 1955, an event combined with the official opening of the Main Building by the NSW Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott, seen here inspecting the honour guard, accompanied by Captain Brookes Wilson, the commander of the guard. From Government Printing Office collection, State Library of New South Wales GPO2-06419. © Library Council of New South Wales

The regiment was originally formed in 1952 in Ultimo as the New South Wales University of Technology Regiment, reflecting the then name of the university. In 1954 it moved to High Street, Kensington, and then to its present home in Day Avenue in 1959, the year it was renamed the University of New South Wales Regiment (following the university's name change). Since its inception UNSWR has trained men and women for service within Australia's part-time forces — first in the citizen military forces, and now in the army reserve.

From the late 1950s until the 1970s the regiment and the university enjoyed a particularly close relationship. Parades and ceremonies were conducted on university grounds and the regimental band played at graduation ceremonies. Some former students can recall the band rehearsing during their exams, and being unsure whether to curse the racket or applaud the music. Regimental dining-in-nights took place in the Roundhouse with the vice-chancellor and other senior academics attending as special guests. And it was on the University Oval that the regiment received the Queen's Colours and its Regimental Colours from the governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward, in October 1963.

Relationships with the community have been strong, too, over the years. Since its establishment the regiment has maintained links with local RSL (Returned Servicemen's League) branches at Maroubra, Kensington and Rockdale, providing ceremonial guards and a band for ANZAC Day services and other functions. Over time a unique relationship was also forged with St Spyridon's Greek Orthodox Church in Kingsford, where the regiment's old colours are now housed.

When UNSW declined to house the old colours within university grounds, another location had to be found. The commanding officer of the time, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Lalas, already had a close connection with St Spyridon's and he approached Father Steven Scoutas to enquire whether the old colours could be placed in his church. Father Scoutas agreed to this request, and St Spyridon's congregation, the Greek sub-branch of the RSL and its ladies' auxiliary supported him. St Spyridon's is believed to be the only Greek Orthodox Church that houses Australian army colours. Housing the regimental colours provides a link to the Greek community's proud heritage and Greek-Australian identity as well as a means of honouring the sacrifices made by men and women in the military service of both nations during the Second World War. ❖

LUKE STUART BURMAN

Emeritus Professor W. Ross Blunden

The first indication that Ross Blunden would enjoy a successful and rewarding career as an engineer emerged when he was a schoolboy attending Haberfield Public School in Sydney's inner-west, as he recalled in an oral history interview recorded for UNSW Archives in 1985. It was things other than school work that interested him, he says, 'particularly building models of motor chassis with gear-boxes and those kind of things'. The attention paid by the young Blunden to 'things other than writing compositions and essays' initially held him back academically and, because of his examination results, he had to spend three years at Petersham Boys' Intermediate High School before being able to transfer to Fort Street Boys' High School. However, at Fort Street he performed brilliantly, becoming dux of the school in 1932, and went on to the University of Sydney. From there, having graduated with a BSc in 1937 and a BE (Civil) in 1939, both with honours, he joined the NSW Public Service in 1939. His first appointment was in the Department of Works and Local Government as an engineering assistant, and later that year he transferred to the Department of Main Roads as an assistant engineer.

In 1940 Ross Blunden enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and saw active service in the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Egypt, Palestine and Syria. He then returned to Army Headquarters in Melbourne to work on the development of radar equipment. In 1944 with the rank of major, Blunden was sent to the Royal Military College of Science, near Shrivenham in Oxfordshire, to study fire control systems and then to the Admiralty Research Laboratory, at Teddington, Middlesex, to work on computing equipment. His final military posting was again at Army Headquarters in Melbourne, where he was assistant director of Mechanical Engineering, and he ended his military service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In June 1946 Blunden accepted a position teaching civil engineering at the Sydney Technical College, Ultimo. The following year he became a senior research officer with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR; which became CSIRO in 1949) in charge of the Mathematical Instruments Section. His main task was to build the CSIR Differential Analyser — the first large-scale automatic computer in Australia. During his time with CSIRO Blunden also taught an honours course as a visiting lecturer in control engineering in the school of Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney. From 1952 until 1956 he was the first Scientific Adviser to the Military Board, where he pioneered the early development of operations research in Australia. During 1953 he was sent on an extensive overseas research trip to Singapore, Malaya, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, and Canada, 'to study and assess the work covered by Scientific Advisers abroad with a view to implementing similar work here'. The major part of this trip was spent in the United Kingdom, where he was attached to the War Office in London.

Professor W. Ross Blunden, ca 1960. [96A106-1]

In August 1956 Ross Blunden was appointed Foundation Professor of Traffic Engineering at the New South Wales University of Technology (which became UNSW in 1958). This was the first appointment of its type anywhere in the British Commonwealth. Professor Blunden's writings on traffic engineering were highly regarded by his peers; they were published in the journal *Traffic Engineering and Control*, and later in two monographs: *Introduction to Traffic Science* (1967) and *The Land-Use/Transport System: Analysis and Synthesis* (1971). This second book, which has been translated into Polish and Japanese, was extensively revised in 1984 by Professor Blunden and his colleague Professor John Black and published by Pergamon Press as *The Land-Use/Transport System* (2nd edition). His teaching — at UNSW, to Australian and international students, and also as a visiting professor in North America, the United Kingdom, and throughout Asia — was considered to have had a significant influence on the field. He saw his research and teaching activities as a contribution to 'the development of traffic into a scientific discipline that formalises the nature of interaction between land use and transport'. He also engaged in consultative work for government, industry, and the community.

Professor Blunden's association with UNSW continued, after his retirement in 1981, as an emeritus professor. In 1989 he was the first recipient of the Institution of Engineers (Australia) Transport

Panel medal, and at the 22nd National Conference of the Australian Institute of Transport Planning and Management held in Sydney in October 2003, he was awarded its Outstanding Service Award. Professor Blunden died on 2 December 2003, aged 87.

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Professor Blunden's papers were donated to UNSW Archives by his widow, Mrs Valda Blunden. They cover major aspects of his professional career with the NSW Public Service, CSIRO, Defence Department and UNSW. There is also considerable information about Professor Blunden's military career including an interesting series of documents from June 1945, when he was sent to France as part of a team to interrogate Dr Albert Speer and other other high-ranking German officials about their knowledge of operations research.

The Blunden papers complement a previous accession of organisational records and private papers which came from Professor Blunden's former office in the school of Traffic Engineering in March 1981. The Archives also holds a comprehensive oral history interview that Professor Blunden recorded between March and May 1985, which provides detailed information on many aspects of his life and career. ❖

PAUL WILSON

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THAT MIGHT INTEREST US?

We would like to hear from you if you are leaving UNSW and have personal papers or other records relating to your time here or can help us document any part of the story of the university and its people.

Family members of those who have been associated with the university in any way may also like to contact the Archives about depositing personal papers, photographs or memorabilia they have inherited.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Migrant student experience – to 1960

The 2004 Oral History Project was designed to explore the experiences of some of the early migrant students at this university. The project focused on overseas-born students who had settled in Australia and was limited to those who had graduated by 1960. It sought to examine the reasons first-generation migrants came to study at the university and how they coped with a new culture, a new language and a daunting curriculum. Many juggled full-time jobs, study and family life, travelling long distances each week to complete their degrees.

Alumni who were interviewed for the project are now elderly but retain strong memories and they provided illuminating and sometimes unexpected insights into the earliest days of the university and their particular range of experiences. What came through most strongly was that none of the interviewees wished to be thought of as a migrant or as special in any way: born outside Australia, yes; language and other difficulties to be overcome, yes. But they wanted to blend in. As one interviewee said, 'First of all, I acquired the lingo, acquired early in the piece, and that made me disappear and that is the good thing. Because if you carry a heavy accent you are always looked upon as an outsider; that I have never been.' Interestingly, most of the interviewees were unaware, at the time they were studying, that many of their fellow students were also migrants. Today, they recall their student days with humour and affection; some enjoyed their educational experience so much that, if given the opportunity to do so, they stayed on at the university as tutors and lecturers.

Although no special educational support — such as language classes or student counsellors — was provided by the university, few of the interviewees felt they would have had the time, in any case, to have taken advantage of such services. Instead, students experienced a close camaraderie with their lecturers, who evinced a real willingness to offer help and advice when the need arose, and strong friendships were formed that endure to this day.

The interviews for this project are now available for research and complement the Archives' collection of interviews conducted earlier with students who came to UNSW under the Colombo Plan. ❖

CAROLYNE BRUYN

Accessions

This is a selection of papers and private papers received by the University Archives during 2005. The Archives extends its special thanks to all depositors. Access enquiries to the collection are invited. In some instances access is restricted or special conditions apply.

Personal donations

Australian Academy of Science. CD and transcript of oral history interview with Emeritus Professor George Szekeres conducted as part of the Academy's Australian Scientists project, 2004 [05/114].

Burns, Emeritus Professor J.C. Correspondence regarding the faculty of Military Studies, 1981, 2005 [05/121].

Cheong, Simplicius. CDs of live performances: Simplicius Cheong Quartet at the 'No Black Tie', Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 March 2002; Simplicius Cheong Trio at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 1 October 2003 [05/60]; Simplicius Cheong and friends, 13 May 2005, *Swing and Cuban Jazz 'El Sabor Cubano' – Live@Roundhouse [05/96]*; Jazz *Chamber Solo and Digital Works*, n.d., and copies of original music scores, 1971–2004 [05/63].

Crawford, Doug. Private papers relating to the Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarships, 1986–90 [05/115].

Cromarty, Gregory. Tie of the Electrical Engineering Society of the New South Wales University of Technology; program for the Engineering Science Golden Jubilee Luncheon for 1954 graduating classes, 2004 [05/77].

Estonian Archives in Australia. Issues of *Technology* and *Metallurgical Review*, 1956–62 [05/102; 05/120].

Holohan, Suzanne. *The Little Hut that could*, a report on the history of the Old Tote Theatre for the HIST 3094 Public History course, 2003 [05/64].

Hora, Emeritus Professor Heinrich. Copies of academic papers and promotional flyer for his book *Laser Plasma Physics. Forces and the Nonlinearity Principle*, 2000 [05/89].

Kessler, Emeritus Professor Clive. Photographs taken at a retirement function for Emeritus Professor Sol Encel, 1989 [05/75]; statement 'Why Rory Fell: A Bystander's View', 2004 [05/76]; audio tapes of speeches made at the retirement function for Professor Encel, 1989, and photos from the school of Sociology seminar, 'Needs and Civil Society', 1989 [05/124].

McNamara, Tony. *Unicom – a history*, *ca* 2003 [05/111].

Marshall, Professor Kevin. CV, July 2005 [05/104].

Milner Davis, Dr Jessica. Academic gown, hood and bonnet of Emeritus Professor C.J. Milner [05/82]; eulogy for Mrs J. Milner, 22 April 2005 [05/84]; order of service for the funeral of Mrs J. Milner, 22 April 2005 [05/87]; *A Passion for Physics: The Story of a Woman Physicist*, by Joan Freeman, 1991; letter from Emeritus Professor H. Hora and photocopies from Professor Hora's book, *Laser Plasma Physics*, referring to Dr Davis's grandfather, S.R. Milner, and his contribution to the study of physics, 2005 [05/90]; scientific objects and an autograph book kept by Emeritus Professor Milner, 1950s–60s [05/95]; photos and email correspondence concerning a reunion of the network of individuals formed in 1989 to oppose the proposed amalgamation of UNSW with regional colleges of advanced education, Nov. 2005 [05/122].

Musa, Suharman. Group photograph showing Mr Musa with Dr Connie Wilson and Paul Scifleet of the school of Information Systems, Technology and Management, and Karin Brennan, UNSW Archives, May 2004 [05/69].

Myers, Sir Rupert. CV update, Sept. 2005 [05/112].

Oldroyd, Professor David. Private papers, 1996–2004 [05/93].

Paxinos, Professor George. Copies of private papers of an anti-amalgamation committee formed to oppose the proposal to link UNSW with regional colleges of advanced education, 1989 [05/123].

Reinhardt, Dr Olaf. Committee papers of the Friends of the University of New South Wales Library, 1990–2002 [05/100].

Rivett, Dr Kenneth. Private papers, 1949–99 [05/105].

Samuels, The Hon. Dr Gordon J. Digital copies of personal photographs used in *Gordon Samuels – Looking Back. A university chancellor reflects*, *ca* 1920s–1990s [05/108].

Sowey, Associate Professor Eric. Publications, news clippings, and personal copies of minutes of the faculty of Commerce and Economics, 1968–92 [05/88].

Sparkes, Dr A.W. Private papers, 1966–69 [05/110].

Szekeres, Judy. Emeritus Professor George Szekeres's doctoral academic gown and bonnet, and 1982 International Mathematical Olympiad jacket [05/113].

U Committee Book Fair. A group photograph annotated 'Cobden Parkes - Cob and mates', *ca* 1915 [05/86].

Wills, Dr Bernie. Program for the Basser College Re-orientation Dinner, 2005 [05/67]; CD-ROM containing photographs and video clips taken at Basser College Re-orientation Dinner, 2005 [05/98].

Yu, Dr John. Awards and other memorabilia presented to Dr Yu during his period as chancellor, 1992–2005 [05/101; 05/116].

Po Mar (UNSW alumnus: BCom 1970) ready for the Great Pram Race, 29 June 1968, a pre-Foundation Day event: the race, run by teams of two, was between Liverpool Street and Circular Quay.[05/98]

Governance & administration

Archives. Staff photocopy cards, 1980s and *ca* 2000 [05/103]; scanned image of the Hon. Dr Gordon Samuels as a barrister, late 1970s [05/118]; records generated as part of the University Archives 25th anniversary celebrations, 2005 [05/119].

Chief Financial Officer, office of. Office files, 1987–2001 [05/109].

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), division of. Photographs of Professor Robert King presenting awards to students at the faculty of the Built Environment's Fifth Annual Awards

Ceremony, 2004 [05/58]; Freedom of Information Statement of Affairs, 2004 [05/62].

Library. Photograph of Andrew Wells, 1982 [05/65]; *Universitas 21 Report and Summary Report* prepared by Rhonda Langford, 2004 [05/68]; two audio cassettes (self-guided tour and 'How to Use the Library'), 1980s, 'Your Libraries' video, 1987, and Staff Information Bulletins, 1994–97 [05/71]; video and booklet for faculty of Commerce and Economics conferring of awards ceremony, 2001 [05/73]; *Gender Equity in Academic Employment at UNSW report*, 2002 [05/80].

Marketing and Development Office. DVD copy of UNSW's corporate video, *UNSW - Above and beyond, 2004* [05/66]; UNSW calendars and handbooks, 1950–2004 [05/74]; photographs and video recordings of UNSW events, 1997–2004 [05/94].

Printing and Publishing Services. UNSW Calendar, 2005 [05/57]; UNSW Calendars and handbooks, 2005 [05/72]; Undergraduate and Postgraduate Handbook, 2006 [05/125].

Registrar and Deputy Principal. File regarding Kensington Colleges, June 1996 [05/79].

Secretariat. Documentation regarding the Hall matter, 2002–04 [05/61]; *External Independent Review of Complaints made against Professor Bruce Hall* by the Hon. B.C. Hungerford, QC, June 2004 [05/70]; *Report for the University of NSW Council. External Independent Review of UNSW Policies and Procedure* by the St James Ethics Centre, Apr. 2005 [05/83].

Student Information and Systems Office. Examination Papers, 2003 [05/99].

Vice-Chancellor, office of. Six mock-ups of the Scientia used for fundraising presentations, 1990s [05/81]; photographs taken at farewell function for the chancellor, Dr John Yu, 25 August 2005 [05/106]; 2 pp. paper written by the artist Tom Bass on the creation of the Falconer sculpture, 1998 [05/126]; copy of Professor Wainwright's speech delivered at the UNSW Benefactor's Reception, Nov. 2005 [05/127].

Faculties, schools and centres

Australian Defence Force Academy. Annual Status Report, 2004 [05/92].

Commerce and Economics, faculty of. Booklet produced for the Alumni Leaders 50th Anniversary Dinner and two CD-ROMs with scanned images from the University Archives' collection used in the publication, 2005 [05/117].

Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, school of. Photograph of Professor Charles Brian Speedy, *ca* 1960s [05/97].

Medicine, faculty of. Draft copy of Dr Winton's history of the faculty *With Hand and Mind and Heart*, 1999 [05/59]; faculty records and photographs, mostly collected while researching faculty history, 1960s–1999 [05/91].

Science, faculty of. Group photograph taken at a function to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Centre for Quantum Computing Technology, 2005 [05/85].

Social Work, school of. Video copy of a 16 mm UNSW Archives' film (CN664) documenting teaching activities and visits to clients, *ca* 1965 [05/107].

University organisations and associations

Senior Common Room/University Club. Club records, 1965–2001 [05/78]. ❖

Staff relax at the University Club during the 1970s. [05/78]

How to contact the Archives

The Archives is open by appointment
Monday to Friday
9am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm

Closed on public holidays
and 25 December to 1 January

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