

# Origins

Newsletter of the UNSW Archives

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## THE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES: UNSW ANNIVERSARIES 1959 – 2009

In 2009 the university celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of its incorporation on 1 July 1949. Among other events, a Town and Gown Dinner, a Back to Bacchus Ball and a Staff and Family Celebration BBQ were held, as well as a 60/60 Anniversary Celebration in Beijing. These recent celebrations provided an opportune time to reflect on the manner in which the university has celebrated its other major anniversaries in the past and some of the legacies that the marking of these events has bestowed on the university.

‘Three days of dignified celebrations’ were how the university conducted its first major commemoration – the tenth anniversary – in July 1959. Buildings were opened – Basser College and the Water Research Laboratory at Manly Vale – and an honorary degree was presented to the Governor-General, Sir William Slim. The celebrations ended with some 140 important personages congregating at the university for the Tenth Anniversary Dinner. Although no dinner was held in 1960, it is possible that the 1959 dinner was to provide a template for the regular July Foundation Day Dinners that were to run each year in the university from 1961 to 1983.

A commemorative tenth anniversary issue of the university’s then journal *Technology* was also published in July 1959. This issue included a special section of photographs that highlighted the university’s current buildings and research. The photographer hired for this assignment was Max Dupain. This project represented the beginning of a key employment period of Dupain as the university’s main photographer of record until 1970. This choice of Dupain as photographer was to prove of lasting importance. His photography managed to bring beauty to even those ‘seemingly soulless

Cover UNSW Open Day, 1969 [CN295/160] Photographer: Allan West

constructions’, as Patrick O’Farrell was later to describe, that made up the UNSW campus of the 1960s. And so the university has been left with a historical photographic record that is more than mere representation.

The university’s twentieth anniversary on 1 July 1969 was to coincide with the retirement of Sir Philip Baxter, who had held the position of Vice-Chancellor for much of the university’s history to that point. The 1969 Foundation Dinner held on 5 July was thus a joint celebration of the achievements of both the university and Sir Philip. To mark the university’s twentieth year it was also decided to greater commemorate the contribution of Council. Accordingly, on 14 July 1969, a plaque was unveiled in the Council Chamber listing the names of the July 1949 Council of the university and it was deemed that future university Calendars should include a list of all past Council members and their terms of office, a practice that has continued until the present day.

By far the greatest part of the twentieth anniversary celebrations was the organisation of the university’s first large-scale public Open Day on 13 September 1969. While small ‘open for public inspection’ tours had previously been held in the late 1950s, the 1969 Open Day represented a much more significant effort, with most of the buildings on campus open and a wide range of special displays, demonstrations and exhibitions on show. Described by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as the ‘University that really swings’, the 1969 event was so successful that it was decided to hold an Open Day biennially. Later held every four years and eventually expanded into the UNSW Expo, it was to continue until 2003. From 2009 UNSW’s annual Courses & Careers Day was renamed Open Day.

The 1969 Open Day was to produce another legacy, as it was also the first time that a map of the university was produced on a grid

system with numbers along the top and letters at the side – the system that anyone now seeking a location on the Kensington campus relies on. Until that time the buildings on campus had been fairly randomly numbered on a map; and, as this was presumably difficult for outsiders to negotiate, for Open Day it was considered that this new style of map would make it ‘extremely simple to locate any particular activity’. The superiority of the new map for more general use was obviously proven, for soon afterwards this grid reference campus map, with a couple of minor adjustments, became the official map of the Kensington campus.

Celebrations were to continue in the early 1970s as the university



Chancellor Gordon Samuels cutting UNSW’s 40th Anniversary cake, November 1989 [96A78/4] Photographer: Kevin Doig

hit other milestones. A traditional ‘coming of age’ year, the university’s twenty-first celebration at its 1970 Foundation Day Dinner was a particularly ‘colourful spectacle’ with special decorations and an orchestrated tribute that included two UNSW undergraduates signifying the university. 1949-1970 UNSW souvenir spoons were issued to guests at the conclusion of the night. Likewise, for the Foundation Day Dinner held to celebrate the university’s twenty-fifth anniversary in 1974, a special souvenir booklet highlighting the university’s history was created. This commemorative booklet was also produced as a special issue of the then UNSW alumni publication, *Letter to Alumni*.

Perhaps due to this largesse of celebration during its twenties, the university did not mark its thirtieth anniversary in 1979 to any great degree. The Foundation Day Dinner was held as usual, but there does not appear to have been anything particularly distinguishing this dinner from the dinners for the preceding or succeeding years.

The preliminary discussions for the university’s fortieth anniversary also began initially on a small scale. In January 1989, following the instigation of University Archivist Laurie Dillon for some commemoration of the anniversary, Chancellor Gordon Samuels wrote to Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Birt, approving of the idea and noting that ‘I have never before considered year forty as of particular note, but I suppose that we have not had a University celebration since our twenty-fifth anniversary’. Since the annual Foundation Day Dinners had ceased to be held by the university from 1984, a different format of dinner was planned – an Anniversary Dinner was held on 3 November 1989, with invitations sent to all staff, and attended by seven hundred people. A special anniversary issue of *Uniken* was issued mid-year, which included a timeline of the university’s achievements.

Plans for the university’s fiftieth anniversary began much earlier than all previous anniversaries. In August 1992 Douglas Howie, Managing Director of UNSW Press, wrote to



the Vice-Chancellor John Niland, suggesting that as ‘the last published history of the university appeared in 1983 – with the university’s fiftieth anniversary in the not too far distant future, perhaps consideration should be given to a new history to celebrate the occasion’. This was approved shortly afterwards, with Patrick O’Farrell appointed as author, and the book to be released in 1999 as *UNSW: A Portrait*.

The first preparations for other activities to be held during the jubilee year began with a Vice-Chancellor’s Forum on 9 November 1995 for a select group of fifty to raise ideas and promote discussion on the fiftieth anniversary celebrations. A year later the fiftieth anniversary planning group Committee ‘99 held its first meeting. This forward planning resulted in a jubilee year full of special celebratory activities that began with an official launch and time capsule placement on 11 December 1998 and concluded with the 50th Anniversary University Reception on 10 December 1999. Events of particular note included the opening of the Scientia building,

Foundation / Anniversary Dinner Menus, 1959 – 2009 [V553, 10/284]

the dedication of the Red Centre and Rupert Myers’ buildings, the presentation of Jubilee medallions to 75 long-serving UNSW employees and supporters, the Aboriginal Reconciliation Gathering and the UNSW Expo, as well as a Foundation Dinner and a dinner for the past leaders of the main UNSW student organisations.

Age may be just a number, but major anniversaries have certainly provided UNSW with an opportunity to celebrate and a reason to reflect on its past achievements. For looking back is often the best way of ascertaining the characteristics that an institution should maintain into the future, thereby helping to ensure that UNSW will still be held in the same high regard at its next significant milestone.

KATIE BIRD

## THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES IN 2009/10

Since our last issue of *Origins* we have continued to work closely with our Records Section on providing disposal advice to university units. Records disposal projects under way in the Records Section have resulted in an increase in file transfers and in ongoing disposal assessment and processing work done in Archives. A major emphasis of our work during the last few months has been on collection preservation and accessibility. We have reassessed our existing archival holdings of administrative files against current State Records Disposal Authorities and as a result have been able to consolidate our holdings freeing up valuable storage space. We also checked our TRIM database entries for archival files to ensure data is correctly captured. All images held by us in electronic format have been uploaded into the Media Bin Image Library owned by Marketing Services; the relevant metadata including detailed descriptions for these photographs

however still has to be added to the Library. We have also begun to transfer our Oral History Interviews from DAT recordings onto PC storage.

The Archives was pleased in 2009 to host a visit for participants of the short course in *Managing Historical Documents* which is run by the School of History and Philosophy. In June/July this year we were able to host the field work component for the 2010 course participants. The students' contribution to the Archives has been much appreciated. The short course is coordinated by Dr Peter Orlovich, Visiting Fellow. Our outreach work also included assistance with UNSW's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on-line slideshow, the writing of school histories and the Milner Science exhibition at New College Village. The Archives also added a new on-line exhibition to its website showcasing its Poster collection.

Again it was the generous assistance of the U Committee which

allowed the Archives to continue the University's Oral History Program. The most recent project focussed on University Centre enterprises. To participate in the program we invited Joshua Owen, Director Institute of Administration; A/P Michael Johnson, founding director of the Public Sector Research Centre; Scientia Professor Peter Saunders, Social Policy Research Centre; E/P Kenneth Cox, WHO Regional Teacher Training Centre, Prof. Miraca Gross, Gifted Education, Research, Resources and Information Centre; E/P Ronald Huckstep, Biomedical Engineering; Prof. Bruce Milthorpe, former head Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering and member of the Executive Committee of the former Cooperative Research Centre for Eye Research and Technology as well as Deputy President (Academic) UNSW Asia; and Dr Max Nicholls, early staff member of the former School of Human Genetics & member Alumni Associates.

KARIN BRENNAN

## COLOGNE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

During July and August of this year, extended leave allowed me to undertake volunteer work assisting the Cologne Historical Archives (City of Cologne Municipal Archives) registering their archival records. This is Phase II of a disaster recovery process. On 3 March 2009 the Archives building of the City of Cologne and two adjoining apartment blocks collapsed. Sadly the disaster meant that two young men lost their lives, many occupants lost their homes and the archival holdings of the City of Cologne disappeared into the ground. The holdings consisted of more than 30 shelf kilometres of archives documenting some 1000 plus years of city history. The exact cause of the disaster is still under investigation.

About 1800 volunteers came from Germany and all over the world to assist with rescuing the archives. After six months about 85% of the material had been retrieved from the disaster site. It is expected that about

5% will be lost completely and that the remaining 10%, which are below ground water level, will be retrieved by the end of this year. Salvage operations are under way at this point in time. After the initial salvage work the records are now boxed and stored in 19 different archival locations throughout the country called 'asylum archives'. The collection is dispersed throughout the various locations and has to be identified so that series, record groups and accessions can be 'reunited' and context recreated.

One of the asylum archives is located at the University Archives of the Westfaelische Wilhelms University of Muenster which is where I worked. I was able to stay with friends in Muenster who were happy to assist and provided me with free accommodation while I worked as a volunteer at the Archives. One of my friends even became a volunteer herself! Work at the various asylum archives is coordinated by Karoline

Meyntz, Archivist at the City of Cologne Archives, who makes you feel welcome and introduces you to staff members, work procedures, records and software in use. As a volunteer you work hand in hand with an archivist or conservator of the Cologne Archives, which means there is always a professional with special knowledge of the holdings and procedures on hand. Depending on the location of an asylum archive Archives staff members from Cologne either commute daily or they travel and stay the week in the host city. During my time in Muenster I worked with four different teams which was enjoyable and also interesting as all had their own style and approach to work.

The work itself requires concentration. Box by box each item, however large or small, is identified and described, and the extent of the damage to each item is classified. The item then receives a bar code, is securely packed in archival boxes and



Iris Kausemann, Archivist Historical Archives City of Cologne, Karin Brennan and Christin von Hünefeld, Archives student Fachhochschule Potsdam (University of Applied Sciences Potsdam) checking a box of fragments at Muenster University Archives, 2010  
Photographer: Peter Lessmann

in acid free folders where necessary and information about each item is entered into a database. Special salvage software called ACTApro has been developed for this purpose which is connected to the indexing software for the holdings. The database provides item identification, the location by barcode and box number, and thus allows for the reunification of individual files or documents, series and collections.

The data entered into ACTApro contains information about the collection and the item's original number and details about the provenance/ originating department or, if a collection and a number cannot be identified, a description of the item is given. The damage to the item is described, its barcode scanned and, if an image was taken to allow exact identification at a later stage, the item is linked to its image file. The damage to each item is classified as none, lightly, moderately or heavily soiled, mechanical damage (e.g. torn, parts missing), creased and buckled, deformed, mouldy, water damaged, and damage to text/ script/ image. The information on the database will not only be used to reconstruct the context of the holdings but also to identify the extent of and plan for the necessary restoration work. Pretty much all of the material is at least slightly soiled. A fine layer of concrete dust seemed to be just everywhere.

Muenster University Archives Building, 2010  
Photographer: Karin Brennan

The interesting and exciting aspects of our work were the individual items to be described and registered. The material was varied in type and age and ranged from files, plans, legal instruments, books, images, and objects to boxes full of just fragments. You learn very quickly that a box which is light in weight might actually take quite a long time to process as its content may mainly consist just of fragments of papers. Working with fragments is like putting a puzzle together and it is a very satisfying feeling when you have been able to find links and connect pieces to each other. Patience and an eye for detail certainly help, however it is not possible to spend too much time on that task. Often the bits just do not fit each other and it is very likely that missing parts are in another box, possibly even in another town. The aim of the registration process is to register as much as possible in good time so that the material can be restored and made available again to the community.

Many of the older papers I have seen were in surprisingly good condition, whereas some relatively new files in lever arch folders which had only recently been transferred to the Archives were heavily damaged and soiled. During the process one gets to see a wide variety of archival materials. The papers I have registered included legal instruments from the 15th, 16th and 17th century, files concerning military occupation in Cologne after WWI, Immigration Department files and many private collections of architects, photographers, scientists and organisations and registers of birth, deaths and marriages; all records of great importance to the citizens of Cologne and the wider community. Looking at the damage to individual items reconfirms the importance of correct storage conditions and individual item numbering.

During my time at the asylum archives at Muenster University Archives we registered just under 90 shelf metres of records. There is much to go; it is estimated it will take another three to five years to register the rescued archives. Overall I found it a worthwhile and enriching experience being able to help and getting to know part of such an important historical collection, to meet and work with German colleagues and to learn part of the German archival jargon on the way.

KARIN BRENNAN





## THE UNSW ORCHESTRA

Visiting Associate Professor Eric Sowe is a player in the UNSW Orchestra's cello section, Orchestra Archivist and a member of the UNSW Archives Advisory Committee.

Did you know that the University has a full symphony orchestra?

The UNSW Orchestra has around 65 players and gives concerts of fine music on campus at least twice each semester. It's a true community orchestra. Players represent all faculties on campus, with Music and Engineering students making up a large proportion.

The Orchestra's performances cover a wide range of music from the 17th century until today. Here is a small sample of works played: symphonies by Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Shostakovich; solo concerti by Chopin, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi; and other orchestral works by Bizet, Handel, Holst and Rossini. Among modern works the Orchestra has performed are pieces by six composers on the UNSW campus. And almost every soloist in the 50 or so concerti that have been performed was a student at this university.

Presenting such an array of music at a standard that will win the sincere applause of paying audiences is hard work and it needs regular and thorough preparation. At the same time, this is music-making by volunteering amateurs, so there must be delight in it for them, too. The Orchestra is fortunate in having had the same principal conductor and musical director, Colin Piper, ever since its inception. Colin's enthusiasm, caring leadership, and enjoyment of live performance are infectious for both players and audiences. No wonder, then, that the weekly two-and-a-half hour rehearsals are generally well attended and that long-term student players leave the Orchestra with reluctance as graduation day approaches.

The Orchestra was formed in 1989 by three undergraduates, Jan Howe (Town Planning), Richard Pulley (Electrical Engineering) and Emery Schubert (Music), and in May this year it gave its 100th concert. It's now the longest continuously-active community orchestra on any Australian university campus. About 1000 instrumentalists



have played in the Orchestra over these 21 years.

Throughout its existence the Orchestra has been run day-to-day by a committee of students on a completely voluntary basis. However, as the Orchestra has become more ambitious in its activities, this task has become steadily more burdensome – so much so that a Steering Committee of University staff was set up in 2006 to ensure year-to-year continuity, to offer mentoring support and to oversee formal financial arrangements. The current Chair of this committee is Sonia Maddock, the head of the Music Performance Unit.

Clearly, the Orchestra's functioning is underpinned by an enormous amount of voluntary effort. But not everything can be achieved in this way. The Orchestra's professional leadership, rental or purchase of orchestral scores, acquisition of less common musical instruments, and accommodation charges are some of the items for which funds are indispensable. Proceeds of ticket sales are not sufficient to cover these items, so the Orchestra seeks regular supplementary funding. The UNSW U Committee has been a sustaining financial supporter of the Orchestra for many years. Also regularly supportive is Arc@UNSW. The Orchestra is, moreover, grateful to its personal donors.

There is a wealth of musical talent on campus. This means that far more instrumentalists come forward each year than the balance of instruments in an orchestra requires. Consequently,

The 20th Anniversary Concert of the UNSW Orchestra, 28 August 2009  
Photographer: Benjamin Sim

woodwind, brass and percussion players need to audition annually for a place. At least until now, string players have joined without audition as long as they have a reasonable standard on their instrument.

The opportunity of playing with the Orchestra is valued not only by local students and staff, but by visitors, as well. As the University's engagement with international Study Abroad programmes has developed, so the number of students coming here on exchange has grown. These days the Orchestra frequently contains exchange students. Indeed, several of these students have indicated that their choice of an Australian campus destination was strongly influenced by the appeal of what they read about the Orchestra on the UNSW website.

The Orchestra's home page is <http://www.orchestra.unsw.edu.au>. There is a great deal of information to explore on these pages about the Orchestra and its sister ensemble, the UNSW Wind Band. In particular, there is regularly updated information on the next concert and advice on how to join the Orchestra and how to donate in support.

Now you know that the University has a full symphony orchestra, do come and enjoy our concerts in 2011 and after.

ERIC SOWEY

## UNSW CENTRES: DIVERSITY AND EXCELLENCE

Funding from the U Committee has allowed the University Archives to conduct a series of oral history interviews with members of staff who have had a long involvement with one of the university's Centres or similarly associated bodies. As part of our Senior Administrator interview series we also conducted an interview with Emeritus Professor Ken Reinhard, the founding dean of COFA. The range of interviews completed to date has already created a rich and exciting resource for researchers interested in the establishment of Centres at UNSW. These include the WHO Regional Teacher Training Centre for Health Personnel / Regional Training Centre for Health Development (RTTC/RTC), the Institute of Administration, Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC), the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), and UNSW Asia. All of the Centres, former and current, shape an intrinsic part of the university's history and we are indebted to all the participants who have agreed to be part of the project.

The interviewees were selected from the full range of former and existing UNSW Centres to explore the impact that changes within the tertiary education sector have had upon teaching and research and to document the relationship of the Centres with the university. Interviewees include the former Director of the Institute of Administration, Mr Joshua Owen, Scientia Professor Peter Saunders of SPRC and Professor Miraca Gross, founding and current Director of GERRIC.

All interviews followed a similar framework which explored the interviewee's family background, educational opportunities, selection of area of expertise and the circumstances that led them to UNSW. The participants covered their first impressions of UNSW and the changes they have seen in the institution over the years. The interviews then focussed on the unique qualities of each Centre, the various challenges that they faced and the characteristics that make each Centre unique. Often it was not just the participant but also their partner and family whose lives became intricately



A 'cook-in' at the home of Professor Ken and Libby Cox, May 1976 [08/217]  
Photographer: Hope Herlihy

involved with the Centre.

This was certainly the case for Emeritus Professor Kenneth Cox OAM. After serving as Director of the RTTC/RTC from 1975 to 1992, he has continued to research and write in his retirement. Professor Cox's involvement with the international students who came from all over the Western Pacific Region to study in Australia became a family affair. From early in his time as Centre Director, Professor Cox would hire a bus to take the students on a tour of Sydney and then to his home for Sunday lunch. The students would each choose a recipe that reflected their home country and they then prepared an international lunch with the help of Ken, his wife Libby and their children. These lunches, known as 'cook-ins', are very well remembered by the participants and culminated in Libby publishing a cookbook of the students' recipes.

We were fortunate that Emeritus Professor Ken Reinhard was available to be interviewed. He began his interview by covering his time as one of the first UNSW students to graduate with a Graduate Diploma in Industrial Design and then moved on to his experiences as founding dean of the School of Art of the Alexander Mackie College, where

he commenced work on 24 October 1974. Professor Reinhard was told to employ staff, find a building, equipment and write courses for 600 students by March 1975. Remarkably, he was only two weeks late in achieving this objective. Initially the School covered three campuses: a five storey building at 200 Cumberland Street, which included Ken's office on the top floor with the remainder of the space used as studios for the students; Burton Street campus (within East Sydney Technical College) and Liverpool Street Campus (formerly the Marist Brothers School and now the Robin Gibson Gallery). Ken reflected on the struggles that students encountered due to the travel involved in occupying three campuses. The School of Art was renamed the City Art Institute in 1982 and on 1 January 1990 the Institute was amalgamated with UNSW to become COFA. COFA finally consolidated all its teaching activities on one campus when its current complex was opened on 2 December 1991.

Due to the diversity of the Centres and the participants' experiences this project was both unique and a privilege to conduct. This was largely due to the passion of the interviewees, who have all been so generous in sharing their memories and observations as to how the university has continued to change and develop over the years. We sincerely thank the U Committee for their support, which has made this valuable project possible.

SUE GEORGEVITS



## SHORT COURSE IN MANAGING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS PRACTICUM

Seven participants who were enrolled in the Short Course in Managing Historical Documents, which has been offered annually through the School of History and Philosophy at the University of New South Wales since 1999, undertook the practicum field work component of their course in the University Archives from 28 June to 2 July 2010. The practicum component is the second of a two week intensive short course on the principles and techniques of managing archives, manuscripts and personal papers which caters, in the main, for people who are responsible for the care, control, management and cataloguing of historical records and personal papers as part of their professional responsibilities, or who simply have an interest in learning about the care and management of archives out of personal curiosity and interest. The practicum component of the course provides an opportunity for participants to apply the theoretical principles of managing archives which are explained in the first of the two-week programme in a practical or archival context, during which the participants compile an archival finding aid, in the form of a guide to or an inventory or list of a collection of the archives of an organisation or the personal papers of

an individual.

The coordinator and director (Dr Peter Orlovich, Visiting Fellow with the School of History and Philosophy) and the seven participants in the Short Course practicum session in 2010 were invited by Karin Brennan, University Archivist, with the support of Paul Macpherson, Manager, Records and Archives Office, to undertake the practicum component in the University Archives, arranging and describing the academic and research papers of two distinguished UNSW scholars and the archives of the now defunct College of Fine Arts Students' Association (COFASA). In the absence of Karin Brennan, who was on leave at the time assisting as a volunteer with the recovery and conservation of records following the 2009 collapse of the Historical Archive of the City of Cologne in Germany, Katie Bird, Assistant University Archivist facilitated the arrangements for the practicum.

The seven participants enrolled in the Short Course included Dominique d'Hennin (Archivist, Kincoppal School, Rose Bay), Karen Gorsuch (State Library of NSW), Sarah Ind (Charles Sturt University in Library and Information Studies student from Tawonga South, Victoria), Alexandra Lean (State

Library of NSW), Marissa O'Connor (Wollongong City Library Local Studies Unit), Elizabeth Sheridan (Archivist, Sisters of Charity Archives, Potts Point) and Kathy Switzer (Archivist, Ravenswood School). A short ceremony for the presentation of the certificates to the participants was held in the Search Room of the University Archives on 2 July, followed by afternoon tea. The certificates, signed by Professor James Donald, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Associate Professor Paul Brown, Head of the School of History and Philosophy, were presented to each participant by the distinguished Historian and scholar of French history, Professor Martyn Lyons of the School of History and Philosophy. Paul Macpherson and Katie Bird congratulated the participants and thanked them for their valuable contribution to the arrangement and description of the collections for which they were responsible.

Three archival finding aids were completed during the practicum component of the Short Course in Managing Historical Documents, comprising a *Guide to the Papers of Emeritus Professor Antoni Emil Karbowiak* compiled by Kathy Switzer and Dominique Novak d'Hennin; a *Guide to the Papers of Professor John Michael Dwyer, Immunologist*, compiled by Elizabeth Sheridan and Sarah Ind; and a *Guide to the Archives of the Student Association of the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales*, compiled by Marissa O'Connor, Alexandra Lean and Karen Gorsuch.

Emeritus Professor Karbowiak, who was born in Poland in 1923, graduated from the University of London with a Bachelor of Science (Engineering)

Presentation of certificates to Short Course in Managing Historical Documents participants, 2 July 2010 back (l-r) Paul Macpherson, Professor Martyn Lyons, Dr Peter Orlovich, Marissa O'Connor, Elizabeth Sheridan, Karen Gorsuch, Sarah Ind, Katie Bird front (l-r) Alexandra Lean, Kathy Switzer, Dominique Novak d'Hennin Photograph courtesy Dr Peter Orlovich



Zest – the first exhibition in the COFASA Kudos Gallery, 1998 [07/174] Photograph: COFASA

in 1949, and after further study, was awarded a Doctorate in 1953, before being appointed as a Senior Researcher with Standard Communications Laboratories in England. He was appointed Head of the Microwave Department in 1958 and Head of the Optical Systems Group in 1964. In that year, he was appointed to the Chair in Electrical Engineering at UNSW, and by 1966 was Head of the Department of Communication. In 1968 he was awarded a Doctorate of Science in Engineering from the University of London, and by 1976, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in the United Kingdom. He was a member of the Committee of Inquiry into Telecommunications Services in Australia in 1981/82. In 1987 he retired from UNSW and was appointed Emeritus Professor in 1988. From 1990 to 1994 he undertook research and teaching at the Hong Kong City Polytechnic, and on January 1, 2001 was awarded a Centenary Medal by the Australian Government for Service

to Australian Society in the field of Telecommunications.

Professor John Dwyer AO, PhD, FRACP, Hon.DUniv(ACU), was born in Melbourne in 1939, attended St Patricks College in Sydney and graduated from the University of Sydney in 1966. He served successively as an Intern, Resident and Registrar at St Vincent's Hospital from 1964 to 1969 before accepting a Fellowship as a consultant physician of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1968. From 1969 to 1971 he was a Research Fellow at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne, during which time he completed a PhD in Clinical Immunology. In 1971 he joined Yale University School of Medicine, where he was appointed Associate Professor of Medicine and Paediatrics and Head of the Department of Clinical Immunology in 1975, and, in 1982, developed a Clinical Research Unit for the study of patients with AIDS. From 1983 to 1985, John Dwyer held the posts of Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine at UNSW, as well as Professor of Medicine and Paediatrics at Yale. Upon his return to Australia in 1985, he took up the post of Professor of Medicine, and Head of the School of Medicine at UNSW, and Director of Medicine for the Prince of Wales Hospital. From 1985 to 1988 he served as a member of the Australian AIDS Task Force and from 1985 to 2005 was Clinical Associate and Dean, Prince Henry Hospital and Prince of Wales Hospital. During this period, from 1989 to 2002, Professor Dwyer produced a weekly newspaper

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](mailto:unswfoundation@unsw.edu.au)

column entitled 'Medical Report' for the *Wentworth Courier*, the *Southern Courier* and the *Western Suburbs Courier*. He was a member of the board of the Eastern Sydney Area Health Service during 1989-1990, and in 1990 founded and was appointed first President of the AIDS Society of ASIA and the Pacific (ASAP), retiring from that organisation in 1996. He was awarded the Order of Australia for his services to Medicine in 1991. In 2005, Professor Dwyer retired and was appointed a UNSW Emeritus Professor. He was founding Chairman of the Australian Health Care Reform Alliance in 2008. A second edition of his book, *The Body at War: The Story of our Immune System* was published in 1993.

The College of Fine Arts (COFA) was established in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth *Higher Education (Amalgamation) Act 1989*, designed to re-organise tertiary education in Australia, and in accordance with the provisions of legislation enacted by the NSW Parliament which transferred the governance of the City Art Institute from the NSW Institute of Arts to UNSW. COFA came into existence on January 1, 1990, and in the same year, its Student Association (COFASA) was established, continuing much of the work begun by the City Art Institute Students' Association. This included maintaining two galleries catering for students and emerging artists – the 'Arthaus Gallery' and the 'Works Gallery'. In 1998 COFASA opened a new gallery with a similar purpose – the 'Kudos Gallery'. In 2007 Arc@UNSW was established as the new student organisation for the Kensington and COFA campuses, and continued to administer the Kudos Gallery.

The extensive collections of papers of Emeriti Professors Antoni Karbowiak and John Dwyer, together with the archives of COFASA, provide a rich source of historical evidence for documenting the careers of two of the leading scholars and teachers of the University, and an insight into the complex history of the emergence of COFA and the COFASA.

PETER ORLOVICH





## SCHOOL OF HUMAN GENETICS

In June 2010 Carolyne Bruyn interviewed Dr Max Nicholls for UNSW's Oral History Program. Dr Nicholls was employed at UNSW from 1964 to 1992, being one of the first two staff members at the School of Human Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine.

Edward Maxwell [Max] Nicholls was born at Crystal Brook, South Australia, a farming district one hundred miles north of Adelaide and twenty miles south of Port Pirie, on 9 February 1937. He was the seventh son and eighth child of William and Lillian Nicholls. Max was educated at Crystal Brook Public School and Prince Alfred College in Adelaide, before gaining a place at the University of Adelaide. Max had wanted to study mathematics, but his father considered medicine more suitable. His medical studies led to an interest in genetics and Max's career at UNSW.

Several years after completing his medical degree, Max Nicholls had already compiled an impressive *curriculum vitae*, having worked as a resident medical officer at the hospital in Darwin, as a general practitioner on Yorke Peninsula and in Mannon, a country town on the River Murray. While maintaining his practice in Mannon Max decided 'to do some study at the university and somebody recommended to me that I should do the genetics that they had there because there was a very reputable genetics department at Adelaide Uni, so I enrolled in one of their subjects and I used to go there once a week'.

A Chair of Genetics had been established at the University of Adelaide in 1951. A new third-year advanced course in genetics allowed students to obtain postgraduate education in genetics without having to go overseas. In 1967 Max Nicholls received his MDDS degree from Adelaide with his thesis titled *Somatic variability in mammalian pigmentation particularly human, with an attempt to relate the phenomena observed to certain inherited conditions in man*.

Max's studies in genetics led to his decision to move to UNSW in 1964 as an associate lecturer in Human Genetics. Max came to UNSW because, as he puts it, 'I had no respect for distance. I read in the paper that there was a job down at the University

of New South Wales which was in genetics and I'd been studying genetics and I thought, "This is all right", and applied for it'. He became, along with Visiting Professor Robert John [Bob] Walsh, one of the then only two staff within the discipline of Human Genetics at UNSW.

Professor Walsh was fundamental to the establishment of the New South Wales Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. By the early 1960s the Service was well established and Walsh was ready to accept the challenge that came from the newly established UNSW medical school. In 1962 Walsh was appointed Visiting Professor of Human Genetics while continuing as Director of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. In the early years of the department of Human Genetics at UNSW Walsh's base remained at the Red Cross' premises in the city, as there were no laboratories available at the university to conduct his research. Walsh resigned from the Red Cross to take up the full-time position as Professor of Human Genetics and head of the School of Human Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine as from 1 March 1967. This allowed him to devote more time to the school, which acquired several new staff by the end of the 1960s.

Walsh, however, was also to develop an increasing interest in the administration of the university. He served as a member of Council from 1969 to 1973 and as Chairman of the Professional Board from 1970 to 1973. As F. C. Cornice commented in his memoir on Walsh published in *Historical Records of Australian Science* in 1985, 'these administrative responsibilities did not leave him a lot of time to develop his own creativity nor to provide the same leadership in research, necessary to build up in the university a School of Human Genetics of international repute, as he had shown in the development of the Blood Transfusion Centre'.

In March 1973 Walsh was

appointed to the position of dean of the Faculty of Medicine, which he held until his retirement in January 1982. At that time there were three senior lecturers in the School of Human Genetics, apart from Walsh as Head of School. In September 1973 the School of Community Medicine was established, with the proviso that the School of Human Genetics would be integrated into the new school.

Once the staff of the former School of Human Genetics had been absorbed into the School of Community Medicine, the incentive for research in human genetics faded. This was a disappointment for Max Nicholls. As he comments 'Bob had become dean and then, to a large extent, lost interest in genetics...Rather than getting a new school, they just changed our name to Community Medicine but we went on teaching genetics. Then in due course, around the late 1970s or early 1980s, they took away most of our genetics from us'.

Max decided not to remain as part of the new school. Following an invitation from Associate Professor Peter Farrell of the Centre for Biomedical Engineering, Max obtained a joint appointment between the Centre and the Faculty of Medicine. When the Centre for Safety Science was formed in 1986, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Noel Svensson, invited Max to transfer to Safety Science and, as a result, he left the Faculty of Medicine. He said 'I was still doing Human Genetics whenever or wherever, but I transferred my allegiance to Safety Science, from Biomedical Engineering to Safety Science'.

Max Nicholls retired from UNSW in 1992, but his interest in genetics didn't end there. He notes that 'I am still looking at the genetics of the brain. All those books about the brain, how it works, and I still don't know the answers. I think they will see me out'.

CAROLYNE BRUYN

## ACCESSIONS

This is a selection of records and private papers received by the University Archives from January 2009 to October 2010. Regular additions to the annual reports, newsletters, and booklet/ leaflet collections for UNSW's administrative units, faculties, schools, centres, organisations and associations have not been included in this list. Access enquiries to the collection are invited. In some instances access is restricted or special conditions apply.



Mechanical Engineering IV students, 1956 [09/280] Photograph: E/P R. A. A. Bryant

### Personal donations

Allen, Ben. Photograph of the Electrical Engineering Building (Australian Photographic Agency, 1963).

Bryant, Raymond AA. Lecture notes; photographs, ca. 1950-1987.

Cheong, Simplicius. CDs and DVDs of

the Simplicius Cheong Quartet 2009. Cox, Kenneth. Private papers 1956-2009; International Cook-ins - recipes compiled by Libby Cox, 1989.

Duek-Cohen, Elias. Slides of UNSW Campus, ca.1966-1986.

Karbowiak, Mrs Grace. Private papers of E/P AE Karbowiak, 1960s-2000s.

Kiloh, Neil. Reprints of E/P Leslie G Kiloh, 1958-1983.

McDermott, Ray. Copies of photographs, 1958-1959.

Milner Davis, Jessica. Correspondence and photographs, 1963-2005 & 2010; Program of the Memorial Service for AJ van der Poorten, 15 October 2010. Myers, Sir Rupert. Career details and CV update 2009; 2010.

Neubauer Estate. Photographs of Kurt Neubauer and Family, ca. 1920s-1960s.

Oldroyd, David. Addition to Private papers, publications and notebooks.

Robinson-Valery, Judith. Private papers, ca. 1950s-2000s.

### Governance and administration

Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity in Employment. Minutes, Agendas & Papers, 1991-1998.

Co-op Program. Posters, 1989-2008.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), office of. A. Lee's Office: Photographs,

DVD and Video Recordings mainly re Learning and Teaching, c.1999-2005; *The Winner's Guide to the Nobel Prize* Video Recording, 2006; Certificate of UNSW National Finalists for the Lecturer of the Year 2009; Australian Universities Quality Agency Audit Report 2002 & Response; Faculty and Divisional Operational Plans 2005 & UNSW Indigenous Employment Plan 2007-2010; Report on the UNSW Student Survey 2001.

Facilities Management. Project Plans, Reports and Competition Entries for UNSW Buildings, 1993-2003; DVD recording entitled *Campus Services - A Day in the Life*; minutes of meetings of the Space Advisory Group / Strategic Asset Management Advisory Group / Strategic Asset Management Group. Human Resources. Treasury Handbook of the Accounts Department, 1948.

Library. Photographs; cards & logbook of the Physical Sciences Library 1970s-2000s; photographs of the Library c. 2002; Minutes, Agendas & Papers of Library Advisory Committees: Physical Sciences 1998-2000; Social Sciences & Humanities 1998-2002; Biomedical Library 2003-2005.

Media and Communications Unit.

Media & Communications Office. Posters of UNSW TV, ca 2008; negatives of photo shoot of Professor F Hilmer, ca. 2006; posters.

Records Office. Select registered UNSW files; photographs taken at a Chinese Consulate Dinner 1992; files & index of the Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education, 1970s-1981; papers of the Registrar on the Review of the Science and Engineering Faculties, 1983.

Secretariat/ Secretary to Council. Various consignments of minutes, papers and agendas for Council and Academic Board and their committees; for Faculty Board & Standing Committees of the faculties of Science, Engineering; Built Environment; Law; Business/Australian School of Business and Medicine; additions to correspondence and photographs of the Chancellor.

Student Equity and Diversity Unit. Certificate of the Affirmative Action Award to UNSW, 1991.

Student Records. Video / DVD Recordings of Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies, 1993-2006.

Sydney Technical College. Annual Presentation of diplomas, bronze medallions & prizes booklets, 1952-1957.

University Archives. Photographs of the UNSW 60th Anniversary Staff and Family Celebration, 2009; DVD copy of compilation of historical Archives' video footage, of Archives' video tapes and films entitled *A Decade of Learning* ca. 1959, the opening of the Main Building 1955, graduation ceremony 1963, the University of New South Wales ca. 1961-1962, the opening of the Library 1966, the Royal Visit 1963, *UNSW - the Way We Are in '94 and UNSW Today* 1995; *Come on Down!* c. 1993, 1996 UNSW Engineering Reunion and Working with You 1995. University of New South Wales. *B2B Blueprint to Beyond: UNSW Strategic Intent*, 2009; bid for 2008 Growth Places: UNSW Submission to the Department of Education, Science & Training; Guidelines and Rules on Student Plagiarism: Handbook for Staff ca. 2005; UNSW Women's Employment Strategy: 2008-2010; Interim UNSW Water Conservation Policy 2002; posters; *World Communication* Public Lecture by Professor Colin Cherry, Imperial College, London, 1974. University of New South Wales Foundation. Records relating to the conferral of an Hon DLet to Cate Blanchett and the Town & Gown Dinner to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the University of New South Wales; posters, memorabilia and photographs of the *Back to Bacchus* Ball 2009; photographs of the Turning of the Sod Ceremony for the Tyree Energy Technologies Building 2009. Vice-Chancellor, Office of. Records of the VC, Professor M. Wainwright; Messages to Alumni from the VC 2008; medals, objects & photographs. Working Party on Diversity. Papers 2004-2005.

#### Faculties, schools, centres and controlled entities

Arts & Social Sciences, faculty of. Records from the Dean's Unit, 1992-2007; Corporate Plan 1989, 1992. Centre for Biomedical Engineering, Advisory Board. Minutes 1977-1979. Chemistry, School of. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings, 1964-1984; Study Leave Report by June C. Griffith 1973; caricature sketch of Professor Mike Archer with parrot, 2005; *A Day in the Life of Science* CD and University Union Earth Mug, 2000s & 2008. Computer Science and Engineering, school of. Photographs 2000, 2003-2009.

Electrical Engineering & Telecommunications, school of. Digital photographs & poster, 1985-2010. Engineering, faculty of. DVD *Development & Delivery* of ENGG1000, 2006; posters for the faculty's Courses & Careers Day Display 2009; photocopies of the Annual Presentation of Diplomas and Bronze Medallions, Sydney Technical College, 1956 booklet and Sydney Technical College Mechanical Engineering diploma granted to Herbert Reginald Davis in 1956; draft chapters and copies of *The History of the UNSW Faculty of Engineering 1949-2009* by B Hampton, B Allen, and R Loeffel, 2009.

Engineering, faculty of & school of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering. *The History of the UNSW School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering 1949-2009* by B Hampton and B Allen, 2010.

History and Philosophy, school of. Staff meeting minutes, 1994-98.

Mining Engineering, school of. Photographs, ca. 1960s-2000s.

Philosophy, school of. Staff meeting agendas and papers 2002.

Science, Faculty of. Posters ca.2005; faculty records.

Social Policy Research Centre. *Social Policy Research: 25 Years of a National Research Centre* by John Lawrence, 2006; SWRC Research Resource Series.

Social Sciences & International Studies, School of. Opening Plaque for the House at Pooh Corner, 1969.

#### University organisations and associations

ARC @ UNSW. *Sista: a Zine for the Women of UNSW*, 2009; programs and leaflets promoting Foundation Day 2010.

Harry Reed Memorabilia formerly displayed in Jockey's House. The display case contains a cap, saddle & photographs, 1920.

Rugby League / Rugby League & Oztag Club. Historical Information, 1963-ca.2008; photographs, 1963-ca.2008.

Rugby Union Club. Correspondence & photographs, 1950, 2009.

UNSW Orchestra & UNSW 'Pipers' Wind Band. Posters, 2009.

Women in the University of New South Wales. Chronological files, 1984-2003.

#### Publications

Humphreys, L. Ross. *Crawford Munro: A Vision for Australia's Water* 2009

KARIN BRENNAN

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

Closed on public holidays and 25 December to 1 January

#### Location

Level 1, University Library

#### Postal Address

University Archives  
The University of New South Wales  
SYDNEY NSW 2052  
AUSTRALIA

#### Telephone

University Archivist  
Mrs Karin Brennan  
(02) 9385 2906

#### Assistant University Archivist

Ms Katie Bird  
(02) 9385 2908

#### Facsimile

(02) 9385 1228

#### Email

archives@unsw.edu.au

#### Website

<http://www.recordkeeping.unsw.edu.au>

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