

# Origins

Newsletter of the UNSW Archives

## Blackboards and Red Lights

### Alumni recall the 1950s

**A**round ninety UNSW alumni, who were 1950s students, have supplied the University Oral History Project of the Archives with details of their family background and memories of their student days at Ultimo, East Sydney, Newcastle and Kensington.

The newly-established University was then known as the New South Wales University of Technology (NSWUT). It changed its name to the University of New South Wales in late 1958.

A specially designed, sixteen page questionnaire was used to aid the memory of respondents, and to provide some comparison between individual accounts. A supplement was also prepared for those who came to Australia to study under the Colombo Plan.

The survey could not be extended to include all, or even most, of the students of the 1950s. Only a sampling of persons was possible, but this was done in a manner that would provide some coverage of student experiences across the full span of the decade, and across the various kinds of courses offered.

In the press at the time NSWUT was dubbed various titles including 'Kenso Tech' and the 'Poor Man's University'. The students' response? Yes, there was a 'feeling that people from a working background were not encouraged to go to the University of Sydney' and that they were 'much dominated by Sydney University in reputation'.

But this denigration helped breed a sense of pride about NSWUT, that despite its newness there was 'an exciting feel about it—many young academics from overseas breaking new ground'.



*Third Year Practical Class hard at work in the old Physical Chemistry Laboratory, corner Thomas and Harris Streets, Ultimo, late 1950s. (CN805)*

Some explained that but for NSWUT they would never have obtained a degree, that its reputation as the 'working man's university' or the 'practical man's university' challenged their belief in universities being 'for "those up there!"'.

On the question of whether to choose Sydney University or not many explained that their choice of course (for example, the various applied science courses such as wool technology or food technology) determined which institution they went to. Also, the university offered conversion courses for those who already had diplomas in specific courses: 'Although the diploma had equivalent standing to an engineering degree with industry, there was a perception by some people that a diploma was inferior to a degree. Was I a snob?'.

If there was a choice there was a general feeling that employers preferred graduates with some industrial experience, a particular feature of NSWUT courses then: '... industry was much happier em-

ploying products of [NSWUT], with a good knowledge base, and excellent industrial experience, than the person with little or no work experience from University of Sydney'. But Sydney University was also more expensive to study at, particularly since NSWUT students could study part-time while in full-time employment.

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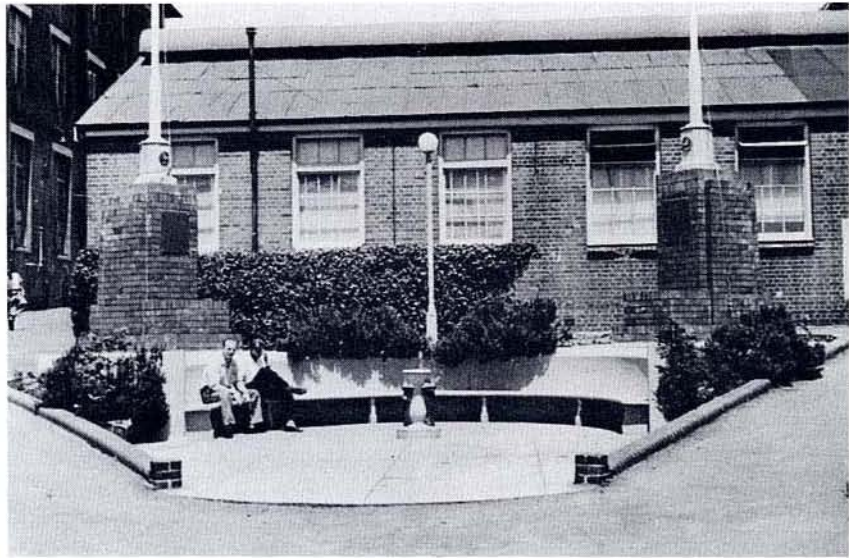
*(Continued from page 1)*

On the value of compulsory humanities subjects some thought they were 'just another irrelevant obstacle to be overcome'. But most thought, if with hindsight, that they 'were essential to our development as people', to be 'educated and not merely an expert in one field'.

Many praised the 'far-sighted people who put these subjects into a technical course', that 'the fathers of the humanities component should be forever blessed . . . nor should it now be allowed to fade away.' Some even 'thought this gave NSWUT the edge over other universities'.

In the 1950s NSWUT students were almost all men. Some respondents noted their surprise at so few women particularly in courses which as part of the Sydney Technical College had had noticeable numbers, and that there were many women, remarked one respondent, 'working in . . . laboratories in industry and government'.

Reactions when there were women? 'The first female metallurgy student was a source of wonderment. . . I think we just concluded that some students dress differently.'



*Entrance to the Ultimo campus, 1954. (96A93)*

Were they the target for pranks? As one female student explained she occasionally felt she was the object of youthful male exuberance, but that it was no more so at NSWUT than in other places.

A male student wrote:

'They must have loathed our (male) sexist attitudes, yet, had the aplomb or assertive spirit to counter any unwelcome advances.'

Most respondents pointed out that not only were there few women to be the butt of undergraduate male jokes, but as married men in full-time employment they had neither inclination nor time to participate in pranks.

The following general observations have been made by Karen Hutchings, a researcher for the University's forthcoming Fiftieth Anniversary History, who has studied the completed questionnaires.

- Mention is made of the 'dangerous' character of the inner suburb of Ultimo, and that it was known as a red light district.
- The majority of respondents could not have afforded to go to university full-time without a scholarship. Likewise part-timers could not have afforded to study full-time as they needed to work to support themselves and pay for the courses studied.
- The majority of respondents characterise themselves as having lower middle or working class backgrounds. Interestingly, parents' voting preferences, where known, appear to be predominantly Liberal.



*Storm damage to the roof of the Main Building, June 1956, an event frequently recalled by Kensington students of the day. (CN855)*

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

- Most respondents lived at home with their parents. Married students rented a room or flat until they could afford to buy or rent a house. Some married couples even lived at home for the first few years of married life, or until graduation.
- The majority of respondents worked in university vacations. This was often a condition of the diploma or degree and of the scholarship held. The vacation period was longer than that at Sydney University to accommodate this need, and was for five months from October to February inclusive.
- Tennis at Kensington campus courts is the most mentioned sport in the surveys, with ice skating at Central's glaciarium also popular, as was rugby and table tennis.
- Drinking at pubs is mentioned in only a few of the surveys but seems to indicate that it was a popular pastime indulged in by both students and lecturers. The Duke of Cornwall and the Clare, Broadway, are mentioned as favoured pubs. Playing cards at lunchtime is also mentioned.
- One respondent quotes the following reflection about study – 'The bane of childhood, the necessity of youth, the luxury of adulthood and the solace of old age'.

The Archives again expresses its gratitude to all those who took part in the survey, and also reiterates its special appreciation to those who were able to donate, or loan for copying, photographs and memorabilia for the Archives collections.

The questionnaires may be consulted (unless otherwise restricted) in the University Archives. If you would like to participate in the survey please contact the University Archives and you will be sent a questionnaire.

If you have not yet returned your questionnaire we await it eagerly!

## Can You Help?

### The 1960s remembered

A survey of student experiences of the 1960s, as remembered today, is being conducted by the University Oral History Project of the Archives during 1997. Any reader who was a student at UNSW in the 1960s is urged to contact the Archives for more information about the special questionnaire, which can be forwarded by email or in either booklet or disk form (MS Word for Windows v.6). Please telephone Dr Julia Horne (Mon and Tues only) on 9385 2908, or Maria Padilla (Mon-Fri) on 9385 2907.

### History of the Regiment

Plans are taking shape for the production of a new history of the UNSW Regiment. The current intention is to have it available by

1999. The Regimental History Committee would welcome hearing from all those who hold written records, photographs, memorabilia and trophies relating to the Regiment, or who have simply some good recollections to convey. For further information please contact Captain Damon Dermody, UNSWR, telephone 9663 1212.

### The Australian Distributing Company

In the 1950s a group of students formed this company to market their own inventions. A brief mention appears in *Tharunka*. Does any reader know more about this initiative, or know of someone who might? Please telephone the Archives on 9385 2908 (Julia Horne) or 9385 2907 (Laurie Dillon).



The late sixties look—at lectures in 1969. (CN486/2/9)



# XIIIth International Congress on Archives, Beijing

Karin Brennan, Assistant University Archivist, attended the XIIIth International Congress on Archives (ICA) which was held in Beijing from 2-7 September 1996. As Secretary General of PARBICA, the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, she represented PARBICA as well as the University Archives at the congress. 2600 participants, including about 800 from China, attended the congress with the theme 'Archives At The End Of The Century: Taking Stock And Looking Ahead'.

The ICA congress was the first international conference Karin Brennan attended and she found it a valuable experience professionally, culturally as well as personally. The plenary sessions, cultural visits and meetings of different ICA groups provided many opportunities to meet with international colleagues, share experiences and learn of the most recent archival developments throughout the world.

The importance attached to the congress by the Chinese government was apparent to all visitors from the moment they entered the country. A special ICA immigration counter was set up at Beijing airport and large, red banners welcoming archivists from all over the world were displayed not only at the airport but also on prominent buildings all over town.

The congress consisted of General Assembly sessions, meetings of ICA groups and plenary sessions as well as special cultural events, visits and entertainment arranged by the Chinese organising committee. These events included exhibitions on archival institutions from all over China, sigillography, audio-visual materials, archival publications and posters from all over the world, visits to archival institutions, government receptions and banquets, as well as tours to the Great Wall and Ming Tombs, Summer Palace and Forbidden City.

Most meetings of ICA groups were held immediately before the



*The Executive of the International Council on Archives during the final Session. (K Brennan)*

congress. Of particular interest to Karin were both the PARBICA meeting and the ICA's Section of University and Research Institution Archives' (SUV) Open Inaugural meeting. A steering committee for this Section had been operating since the ICA Congress held in Montreal, Canada, in 1992. The Section aims to foster cooperation between universities, research institutions, government agencies and scientific professional organisations in the documentation of science and technology.

The ICA General Assembly was conducted over two sessions during which Mr George Nichols, Director General of Australian Archives, was elected to the Executive Committee as the Asia and Oceania Representative.

The keynote address was delivered by Michael Swift, National Ar-

chives Canada, who looked at the rapidly changing global environment and the issues at stake for the archival profession to meet the challenges created by the new environment. Speakers at the following plenary sessions focused on archival development, international cooperation and ICA achievements during this century; on the importance of archives as a basic component of a country's national consciousness and its characteristics and the importance and role of archival legislation, archival structures and infrastructures; on the history and interaction of archival theory and practice; and on the impact of information technology on archives and archives work.

The academic program, the hospitality of the Chinese people, the festivities and tours like the one to the Great Wall left visitors with pleasant memories to take home.



*Excursion to the Great Wall. (K Brennan)*



# The UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary History Project

The UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary History under the directorship of Professor Patrick O'Farrell is an unusual and fascinating project. It is particularly concerned with recalling the small and apparently insignificant details and events of university life in order to illuminate broader trends and truths about the University of New South Wales and the society that gave rise to it.

Ordinary, everyday details such as the colour of parking attendants' uniforms, the problems of termite infestation in buildings across campus, the history of the library bean bags and student graffiti on toilet doors may seem to have no bearing at all on the official record of a university of internationally recognised academic standing, but believe me, they do! These kinds of recollections are tremendously evocative for past staff and students who are often more likely to identify with these details of their day-to-day experience of university life rather than the huge events and personalities—the strikes and demonstrations and the Wendy Bacons—that made it into the press.

Yet the inclusion of such memories is not an exercise in mindless nostalgia but rather a very clever way of personalising the past and using the small and particular to better illustrate larger themes and a longer view of university life across five decades. For example the history of the library bean bags is closely related in a number of ways to the Wendy Bacon/*Tharunka* censorship trials, not the least of which is that while the *Tharunka* team were pushing the limits of pornography censorship other students were apparently actively demonstrating their support of more licentious behaviour in the library bean bags! Levity aside, the

provision of a lazy area in the library where students could loll about and read paperback novels is symbolic of a more leisurely student existence and of a time when resources both inside and outside the university could afford to indulge the kind of *kaffeeklatsch* behaviour that ultimately gave rise to challenges to the status quo.

This is the kind of behaviour that is not provided for or encouraged in the more stringent economic times of the 1990s, as it was not in the more financially straitened 1950s and early 1960s. (An alumnus of the early 1980s has also made the point that the library was an area for student socialising because there were few alternative sites, particularly if it was raining or cold. There were certainly not the number and variety of upmarket eateries that are available to students today.)

Professor O'Farrell observes that the wheel has come full circle in regard to student activism as the students of the 1990s leave the radicalism of the 1970s far behind them. Indeed as Vice Chancellor John Niland remarked in an interview for the student paper *Tharunka* earlier this year, the students of the 1990s are very similar in outlook and aspirations to the students of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Although today's students are studying full-time while working part-time, and their fifties counterparts were studying part-time while working full-time, 1990s undergraduates have their attention firmly focused on the employment market. (*Tharunka* #1, week 1, 1997). For these students, as for their postwar predecessors, the degree is a means to an end rather than an end in itself. Observations

and comparisons like these reveal interesting cycles of change and continuity in the history of the university that illuminate the present and future as much as they do the past.

The project is not just about writing the history of student concerns and experiences, however. The lives and personalities of each of the university's four vice-chancellors are analysed in relation to their distinctive contributions to the development of UNSW. The machinations of federal and state governments and their ministers of education, and their dealings with the university's hierarchy and its academics and administrators over fifty years are also examined.

The ways in which funding and the lack of it impinges on the shape and direction of university policy and practice is another important underlying theme of the history (especially relevant today in the light of the UNSW Council's recent decision to introduce full fee paying for local students as a response to government cutbacks).

The Fiftieth Anniversary History has to draw on a vast range of sources and resources to garner the kind of information required, and there are always photographs, memorabilia, stories, and/or documentation that never make it into official collections such as those housed by the University Archives. If you have any information that could be vital to the project, please feel free to contact Project Research Assistant Karen Hutchings phone (02) 9385 1274, fax (02) 9385 1251; or University Archivist Laurie Dillon, phone (02) 9385 2907.

**Karen Hutchings**  
**UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary**  
**History Project**



# Recent Accessions

**B**elow is a selection of records received by the Archives from May 1996 to June 1997.

Access enquiries are invited. Conditional or restricted access may apply in some instances.

The Archives extends its special thanks to all depositors.

## 1950s and 1960s Alumni

As a consequence of surveys of student experience in the 1950s and 1960s, the Archives is especially grateful to the following for their contributions of photographs and memorabilia relating to their student days.

Barda, U. Student and graduation day photographs 1950s (96A111)

Bradwell, J. Invitation and photograph relating to BSc graduation 1957. (96A94, 96A134)

Brady, Lynette. Video copy of film segment of graduation made for television, 1959 (96A115)

Burdon, R.G. Alumnus and retired senior staff member. Group photograph of Mining Engineering staff with students from Burma undertaking a special course. Late 1960s. (96A135)

Burns, R. Photographs taken at student balls, a National Service Training camp, and during the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1956. Late 1950s-1960. (96A112)

Chapman, R.M. Photographs of donor with Dr R.K. Murphy on graduation day 1957, and on Anzac Day 1995. (96A79)

Cooley, D.R. Items relating to the New South Wales University of Technology Mining Society: group photographs 1951; Minute Book 1950-61 and 1969 (dissolution). (96A80, 96A89)

Crocker, P. Graduation portrait with wife and child, BSc Chemical Engineering 1958 (96A136)

De Lacey, P.R. Graduation photograph with Professor J. Lederer, Optometry 1959. (96A137)

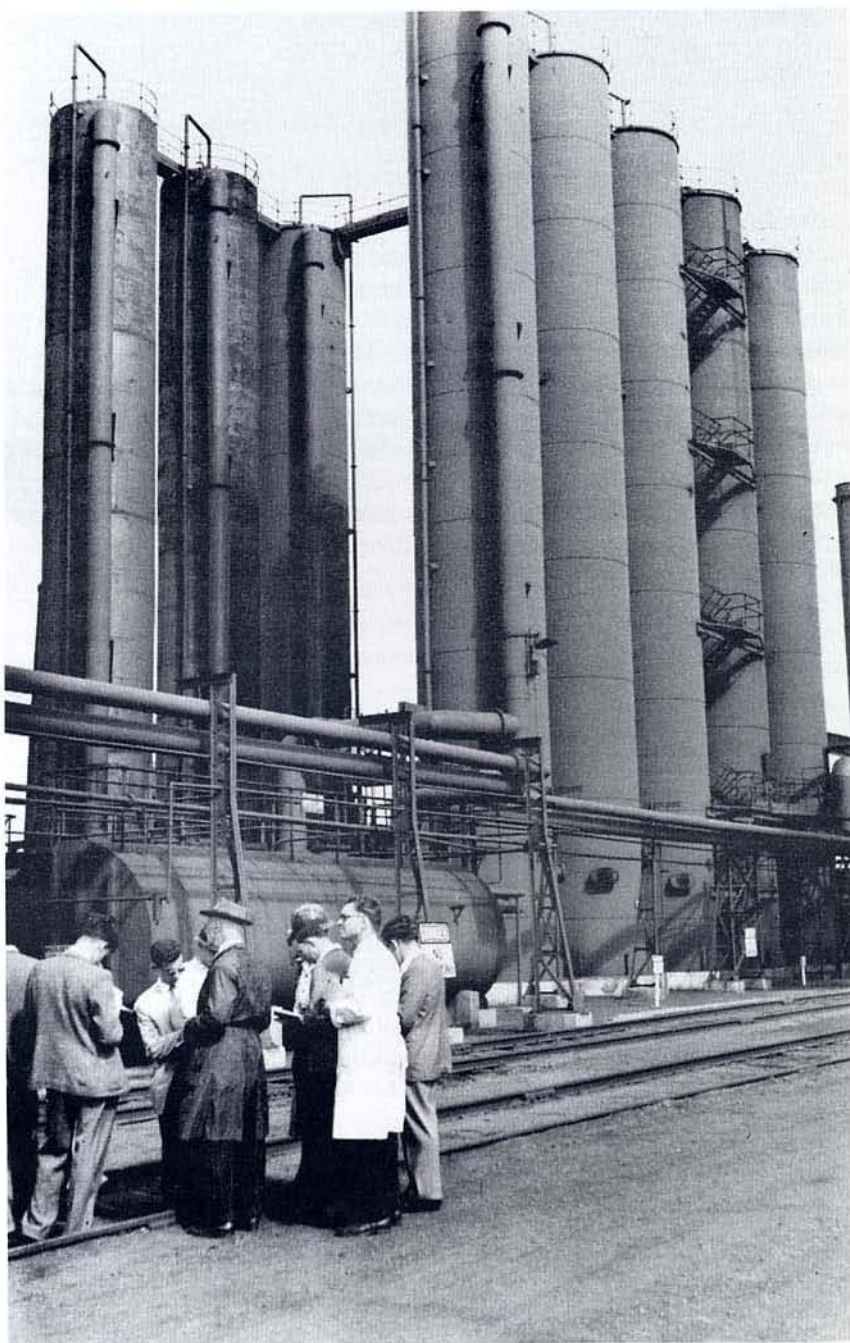
Donovan, J. History of Science and Technology essay submitted in second year Electrical Engineering, early 1950s. (96A98)

Emslie, N. Photographs of students in Electrical Engineering 1950-51. (96A88)

Hulscher, F.R. Photographic portrait as Engineering student 1957. (96A92)

Langtry (Moore), Lynette. Photographs of women Arts graduates 1971, and Diploma of Education students on national camping tour the same year; magazine of the UNSW Education Society 1971. (97A65)

Lanzarone, R. (Mont Saint Aignan, France) Graduation photographs, 1959. (96A110)



*Industrial Chemistry students on a factory inspection at AIS, Port Kembla North in 1954. Dr R.K. Murphy, centre (in dark overcoat). (96A139)*





Fourth year Civil Engineering students at a survey camp, 1957. (96A138)

McCarthy, R. Photographs of couples at the Graduation Ball 1956, and staff and students playing cricket in the 1950s. (96A91)

McLaren, K. Press photograph and press cutting featuring the donor and his children, BSc Hons I graduation 1958. (96A105)

Parr, C.R. Photographs at a Civil Engineering student survey camp, during an excursion to the Snowy Mountains hydro-electricity scheme, and of a laboratory scene, 1957-58. (96A138)

Rozenauers, A. Civil Engineering student photograph 1950s. (96A90)

Salasoo, I. Photographs taken on a general biology excursion, at a factory inspection at Port Kembla,

and on graduation day at Kensington in 1957. 1953-54, 1957. (96A139)

Santich (Cox), Barbara. Photographs of Foundation Day 1961, Wool Technology students and the Women's hockey team. 1960-61. (97A68)

Tetaz, J. Photographs of staff and researchers at the School of Chemistry, including G.W.K. (Ken) Cavill and June Griffith, UNSW's first woman graduate. Early 1950s. (96A123)

Vainomae, A. Photographs of students and general scenes at Ultimo, including a compression engine, Mechanical Engineering laboratory 1955; and of Kensington graduation 1955. 1954-55. (96A93)



Toga time—Roman Ball 1969 (97A65)

## Personal papers/items

Blunden, W.R. Foundation professor of Traffic Engineering. Emeritus. Photographic portraits 1960s. (96A106)

Gilmour, R.W. Metallurgy, later Senior Administrative Officer, Library. Farewell speech upon retirement, December 1996. (96A132)

Grandin, Mrs. J. Local resident. Photograph of donor, nee Burrell, and mother Mrs Eveline Burrell with golf bags on Randwick Golf Links, later to become the Upper Campus of UNSW. Early 1940s. (96A74)

McComas, G.C. Professional humorist. Copies of UNSW citation and address by Dr McComas on the occasion of his admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*, 1996. (Dr Jessica Milner Davis 96A121)

Niland, J.R. Vice-Chancellor; former Professor of Industrial Relations, and President, FAUSA. Correspondence relating to appointment as Chairman, State Pollution Control Commission, 1989-90; Olympic Commemorative Medal received as a torch bearer at the Melbourne Olympics, 1956; and a copy of the transcript of an oral history interview given in 1994 to J. McCollow about the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations. (96A109, 96A110)

Pont, K.G. Former Associate Professor, General Studies. Selected items from professional and personal papers, including examples of outstanding student work in General Studies, and references to the Andersonian's. Mainly 1990s. (96A120)

Reed, H.E. Former Kensington racecourse jockey, early campus nightwatchman and Basser college porter. Photographic portrait of Harry Reed as a young jockey in the 1920s. (Ms Rosalind Reed [daughter] 96A117)

Webb, J.C. Formerly of Mining Engineering and UNSW's first Registrar 1949-50. Copy of master's degree thesis on the suppression of airborne coal dust at the coal face, n.d., c late 1940s. (Professor Frank Roxborough 96A39)



Whiffen, N.A. Formerly of Australian embassy staff, Washington, and contributor to early government planning of the New South Wales University of Technology. Photograph of the donor receiving the US Medal of Freedom, awarded 25 April 1947, presented 25 April 1996. (96A67)

Willis, A.H. Foundation Professor of Mechanical Engineering, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor and historian of UNSW. Emeritus. Photograph of UNSW emeritus professors and registrar at an informal luncheon, Epping 1982. (96A126)

Wizard, Jack The. Floruit, Kensington campus late 1960s. Copies of collected press cuttings 1968-70; pronouncements, revised map of the world and Guide to Cosmology, 1990s. (96A133)

## Governance and Administration

Council, Academic Board, Faculties, Boards of Studies. Agenda papers and minutes. 1991-96. 1m. (Various)

Chancellor (Hon G.J. Samuels, 1976-94). Correspondence files, note books and plaques. 1977-94. 0.2m (96A7, 96A82)

Vice-Chancellor (J.R. Niland). Business records, speech at launch of Australian Technology Park, May 1996, and photographic portrait. 1989-96. 0.8m (96A26, 96A51, 96A60)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and International (C.J.D. Fell). Office files, and papers relating to the business of the Board of Unisearch. 1974-95. 1m (96A65, 96A130)

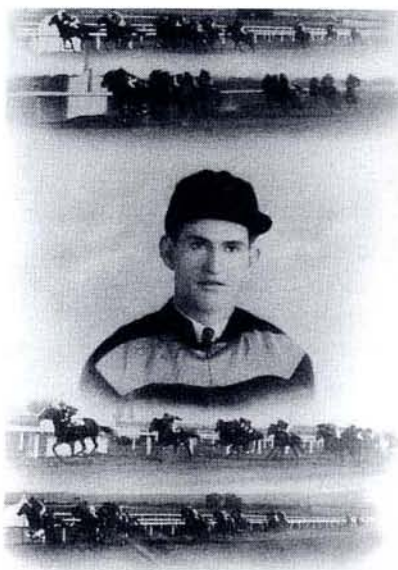
Registrar's Office. Correspondence, court transcripts and Hansard debates relating to the case: Lyons v UNSW. 1983-87 (96A43)

Computing Services. Report: *Installation of Cyber Computer System at UNSW*. Late 1970s (Library 96A118)

Facilities. Traffic analyses for Commerce Courtyard redesign, and a publication marking the award of a Commendation to UNSW for campus design and development 1990-95, as part of

the Australia Award for Urban Design 1996. (96A34, 96A59, 96A116)

Protocol Office. (1) Sound recordings of conferring of awards ceremonies 1990, 1994-95, 1996 (one), public lectures and speeches at openings of the Samuels Building and at the farewell to the Hon. G.J. Samuels and Mrs J. Samuels. 1989-96. 38 tapes. (96A101)



*Harry Reed in the 1920s, with images of some of his winning rides at Kensington Racecourse, now UNSW's Lower Campus. (96A117)*

(2) Video recordings of conferring of awards ceremonies 1993 (one), 1995 (2), 1996 (16), public lectures (Alessi, Chomsky) 1995, openings and farewells, and videos made for alumni reunions. 1993-96. 27 videotapes. (96A102)

Records Administration. UNSW Administrative files. 12m (96A3, 96A30, 96A85)

Student Administration. UNSW examination papers. 1989, 1994. 8 vols. 0.5 m (V114) Graduation booklets, St George Institute of Education 1983-89 (97A43)

University Archives. Photograph of Dr Julia Horne with her family, including her father UNSW's Emeritus Professor Donald Horne, on the occasion of her admission to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, 21 May 1996 (96A86)

University Library. Two badges, occupation of the Library, 1983: *More Books, More Staff* and *2nd Library Occupation Fightback! Uni of NSW 1983* (96A72)

## Faculties, Schools and academic organisations

Architecture. Photographs of staff and students, Architecture Summer Term. 1991. 6 items (J. Wong 96A119)

Chemical Engineering. Group photographic portrait of School members, including J.P. Baxter, F. Reuter. 1951 (C. Samways 96A84)

Community History (Centre). Records of the Centre and its predecessors. 1986-95. 1.3m (L. McCarthy 96A27)

Engineering. Photographic portraits of early professorial staff, most 1960s-1980s; video of Faculty history and personalities made for the 1996 Engineering Dinner and Reunion, content 1950-96. (Audio Visual Unit 96A62, 96A63)

English. Obituary of Janet Walker, Lecturer in English, who died suddenly on 29 January 1997; with items relating to the campus ceremony and tree-planting in her memory, 20 May 1997. (M. Chan 97A62)

General Studies. Videotaped lecture series given by Emeritus Professor Donald Horne on the shaping of Australian society and culture. Early 1990s. 12 tapes (96A11)

Medicine. Faculty records 1974-94; photographs of medical students for class years 1972-79, 1981. (96A61, 96A75, 96A76; J. Horder 96A70)

Optometry. Photographs of Emeritus Professor J. Lederer, B. Layland, D. Martin. 1977 (D. O'Leary 96A107)

Professional Studies. Colour slides of the St George Campus, taken by J. McLean, 1981. 20 slides. (B. Rayward, W. Ewens, J. McLean 96A124)

Professional Studies / Social Work. Records from Professor Tony Vinson, on retirement, relating to his work as Dean (PS) and Head of School (SW). 1981-88. 1.3m (97A55)



## Other University organisations

The Asia-Australia Institute. Photographs of Mr. P.J. Keating, former prime minister and visiting professor UNSW, taken during his first public lecture at UNSW, June 1996. 10 items (News Ltd./University Archives purchase 96A81)

Sports Association. Annual reports and publications of the Association and some clubs; records relating to intervarsities and the Australian University Games. 1971-96. (97A1)

## Student or alumni related

Hockey Club. Records 1984-90. 0.7m (J. Harvey 96A35)

Rugby League Football Club. First Grade Team photograph, 1973 (P. Gissing 96A128)

Medicine. Framed photographs of the classes of each year from 1964 to 1972. (97A3)

Mines (Alumni). Photographs taken at a dinner for Mining Engineering alumni in the Newcastle/Hunter Valley Region. Early 1990s. 5 prints. (Public Affairs, G. Sen 96A131)

UNSW Alumni Association. Photographs of 1965 graduates in Building. (96A2)

Public Affairs and Development (Alumni). Photographs of alumni functions, including at Alumni Awards nights and the inaugural dinner of UNSW Alumni, Malaysia at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton. 1987-96. Approx. 400 images. (96A127)

## UNSW media/public information

News Service. Press cuttings relating to UNSW and members of the UNSW community 1995. (G. Croker 96A100)

Public Affairs and Development. Posters: *UNSW - The Australian University of the Year, 1996*; *Open Day @ UNSW* 7 September 1996; and poster for the visit of the Dalai Lama, 27 September 1996 (96A77)



*Commemorative Medal of the Melbourne Olympic Games presented to John Niland, torch bearer 1956. Citijs, Altijs, Fortijs is the motto of the International Olympic Committee. The Arms on the reverse are those of the City of Melbourne. The designer was Hungarian-born Andor Meszaros of Melbourne. (96A10)*

## Oral history interviews and special survey responses

Tapes of twelve oral history interviews made 1994-96 were accessioned.

The interviewees were:

Emeritus Professor L. Michael Birt

Mr John Dembecki

Mr John Donovan

Mr John Engel

Dr Robert Gascoigne

Mr John Geake

Mrs Margaret George

Mr J. Lloyd Hewett

Emeritus Professor Donald Horne

Mr Argo Kuru

Dr Joseph Martins

Professor Patrick O'Farrell

Special survey:

*Students in the 1950s*. A special survey of the background and University experiences of some of the first students of the University of New South Wales. Over 90 completed survey questionnaires, each 16p. University Oral History Project (96A96) With the same objectives as given below.

Special survey:

*University Women (Women in the Archives)*. A special survey of the background and University experiences of current senior women of the University of New South Wales, to deepen understanding and assist in writing the fiftieth anniversary history of the

University. Over 50 completed survey questionnaires, each 17p. University Oral History Project (96A97)

UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary History Project. *Students in the 1950s* (UOHP survey): research report by Ms Karen Hutchings summarising the responses to the survey questionnaire. 1997. 120p. (97A52)

## Special interest and historical accounts

Croker, S.W. *Religion and the University: Oblivion or Participation?* (Written following a period of study at Oxford University. Mr. Croker was at the time UNSW's Deputy Registrar, Student Services.) (V665)

Douglas, J.B. *A Brief History of the Department of Statistics, The University of New South Wales, 1948-1983*. 1996. 35p. (96A64)

UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary History Project. *Press coverage of the Tharunka pornography trial 1970-72*: research report prepared by Ms Karen Hutchings. 1997. 29p. (97A9)

Waugh, J. (On behalf of the Randwick and District Historical Society) Copies of collected documents from 1917-18 relating to the construction of the Kensington racecourse totalisator building, which became part of the UNSW campus from the 1950s; with a research paper prepared in 1995 on Kensington racecourse history. 50p. (96A122)



## General publications, printed items

These are selectively acquired from UNSW units, private donors and government agencies. Examples of material received in the period:

UNSW Calendars and Handbooks

St George Hospital—Postgraduate Medical Education: Research Report

Department of Defence—Australian Defence Force Academy: Program Evaluation

Annual reports and newsletters—various UNSW units

Items relating to UNSW openings, reunions and other celebratory events

Newspapers—*Uniken*, *Tharunka*: publications of the Student Guild, and of student clubs and societies

## University Archives Advisory Committee

Membership  
1 May 1997 – 30 April 2000

**Ms Christine Page-Hanify**  
Presiding Member,  
Director of Information  
Services and Deputy Principal

**Associate Professor Beverley  
Kingston**  
School of History

**Dr Jessica Milner Davis**  
President, UNSW Alumni  
Association;  
Member, University Council;  
Deputy Chancellor 1981–90

**Dr Peter Orlovich**  
School of Information,  
Library and Archive Studies

**Ms Deborah Osborn**  
Head, Records Administration  
Section, Division of the  
Registrar and Deputy Principal

**Mr Laurence Dillon**  
University Archivist,  
University Archives, Division  
of the Director of Information  
Services and Deputy Principal



Trek time—Dip Ed students exploring Australia in their mid year break, 1971. (97A65)



# Biographical Profile

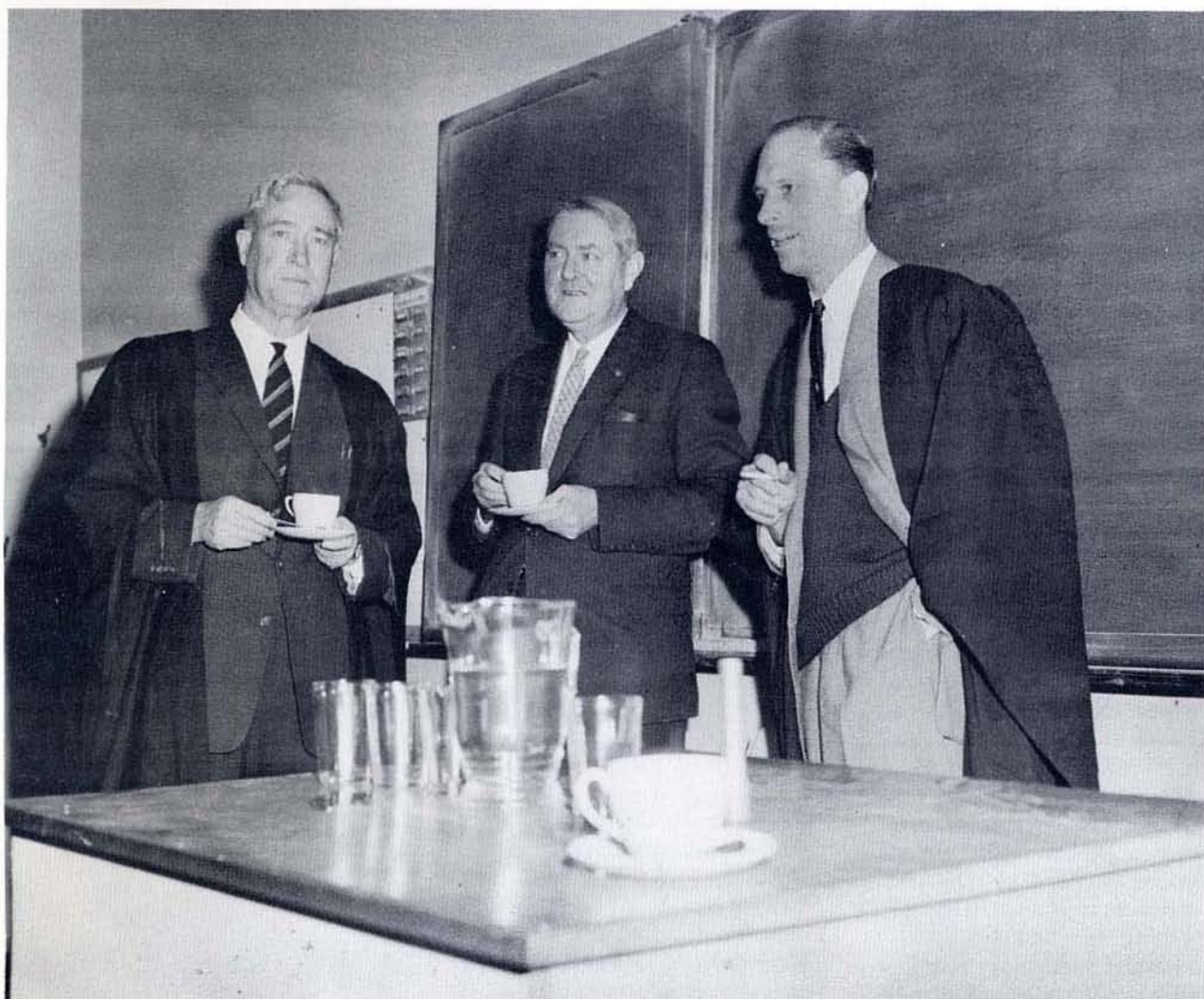
## Crawford Munro . . .

was appointed to the new chair of Civil Engineering at New South Wales University of Technology in 1954. Surrounded by enthusiastic staff and students he was determined to achieve his goal of a university department with an international reputation. He initiated an ambitious postgraduate program to encourage practising

engineers to return for further education, and students to undertake in-depth research on specific topics. But his passion was water, believing it to be the 'lifeline upon which Australia must depend . . . for survival as a white nation'. He pleaded primary industry's need for water, arguing that large quantities were wasted on suburban domestic gardens, where they might catch the 'rose-grower's

vote', but which did little to help conserve Australia's scarcest resource. His imposing physique and loud voice were tempered by a down-to-earth manner with larrikin touches, some remembering him as the professor who, on hot days, took off his shirt and worked in his singlet.

(Taken from an article prepared by J. Horne for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*)



Professor Crawford Munro (left) with his guest of honour, management consultant Mr Walter Scott (centre), and Professor F.S. Shaw, at Civil Engineering's Traditions Day celebrations, 1961. (CN907) Two quotes from addresses to students, most of whom were not honours candidates, during these celebrations, 15 June 1961:

"We are fighting a battle to develop Australia's muscles . . . in this battle we need ten percent honours graduates, but these are useless unless we have Majors and Lieutenants in the front line attack, and these are the normal pass graduates. It's the pass men who will be the real backbone of our Army." (Crawford Munro)

"When the world was large, we could afford to think small. Now the world is small, we must think big." (Walter Scott)



# Oral History in the Archives

## Women Academics and 'Students in the 1950s'

Does oral history always require the *spoken* word?

Two surveys conducted by the Oral History Project in 1996 relied less on the recorded voice, instead asking people to complete a questionnaire recording their recollections and personal reflections. The Project was able to collect the stories of more than 150 people in less than a year, a substantial increase on its usual annual number of interviewees.

The surveys had specific aims. One was to examine the working lives of women academics at UNSW; the other, student experience at this university in the 1950s. Similar questions were asked as those for a recorded interview, covering such topics as family and educational background, the reasons why people chose a particular course of action (why did they want to go to university? why did they choose a particular career?), their experiences of university (students—what they thought of General Studies, lecturers, fellow students, were they involved in student pranks or protests; women academics—how their work has changed as their career has progressed). The questionnaires were not intended as a means to collect statistics, but, like a recorded interview, to prompt people to tell their own stories, for them to select and recount experiences in response to specific questions. One respondent explained, 'I started by writing short answers, kept adding to them and ended up with my autobiography!'. As well as adding personal perspectives to the University Archives material on alumni and academic staff, a number of respondents have donated photographs and pieces of memorabilia. All this material will be especially useful for publications and other historical

activities associated with the fiftieth anniversary celebrations in 1999. The questionnaires are available in the Archives subject to access restrictions. (For more detail on the survey see the article, 'Blackboards and Red Lights', elsewhere in this issue.)

### Other News

Towards the end of 1996 the Honourable Gordon J Samuels agreed to be interviewed about his life, his eminent legal career, and his involvement with UNSW as its longest-serving Chancellor. The interview will be completed some time in 1997.



Transcripts of interviews with the following people will soon be available for research purposes in the University Archives: Michael Birt (Emeritus Professor and third Vice Chancellor of UNSW), John Geake (President, UNSW Students Union), Fred Hollows (Ophthalmology), and Donald Horne (Emeritus Professor, Political Science).



Staff from the Oral History Project continue to be consulted about the intricacies of oral history, how to set up a project, what questions to ask, whom to interview, the best equipment to use, and the thorniest of all—what to do with the interviews once you've turned off the tape recorder. If we can't answer your oral history queries we can probably put you in touch with those who can.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



## When is the Archives open?

**Hours of opening** are  
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

**Closed** weekends, public  
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Day to New Year's Day.

**Advance notice**  
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to assist you better.

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