

# Origins

Newsletter of the UNSW Archives

## Students, Sandhills and Sex

### Alumni recall the 1960s

A recent survey of student experience at UNSW in the 1960s illustrates the shifting patterns of student life and culture. More than eighty alumni have responded to a specially

devised twenty page questionnaire recording their memories of study and campus life at UNSW.

A noticeable feature of these responses is that a quarter of them are from women. By the mid 1960s female numbers had risen sharply, from the handful in the 1950s to

2,247 by 1966, comprising seven-teen per cent of total enrolments. Women respondents remembered being part of a minority. You 'couldn't walk into a lecture theatre without having whistles', according to one. Another spoke of a feeling of gender solidarity:

'There were so few of us, we stuck together ... The Women's Room at the Roundhouse was the place we congregated – put on our make up, changed our stockings (they used to get full of sand and get holes in them) and discussed the guys'.

In part, this growth in women students was the result of the establishment of the Faculty of Arts in 1960. But there were female students in other subjects — even engineering. And 'doing Arts' was never the sole preserve of the Arts student. Engineers and scientists were required to take some humanities subjects as part of their degrees. Some alumni fondly

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Tharunka's first cover for 1968. (V92)

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remembered Professor Thornton's inspiring, if somewhat eccentric, fascination for the cosmos in the subject, Scientific Thought, others felt having to study humanities was a 'great idea'. For one engineering student, English and History 'came alive', while another admitted that he preferred humanities to engineering subjects.

### What were their impressions of the Kensington campus?

The geography and landscape of the new university campus obviously left an indelible impression on respondents. Various descriptions as 'sandy', 'windswept', 'ugly and treeless', 'bare', 'bleak' and 'barren', the distances students had to travel to get from one class to another was cause for comment:

'The distances we had to travel: Bio/Med to Psych on West Anzac Pde in 10 mins!! AND vice versa was a bit of a stretch! Pretty barren — all those sandhills and couch grass'.

Others concentrated on the possibilities of the new site, seeing it as 'big, modern, go-ahead [and] vital' with 'loads of potential'.

### So, where did they hang out?

For Catholic students, the Catholic Hut, 'just behind the Science Theatre, on a slight terrace, just across the road from Goldstein', was a haven — social and spiritual. Some had fond memories of Father John King who provided solace to many Catholic 'freshers' and even presided over many a student wedding.

Others remembered the library as a place of refuge and the library lawn as a central meeting place. But perhaps the most significant landmark for students was the Roundhouse, home of the University Union, opened in 1961. Described by one respondent as a 'breath of spring after a long cold winter', it became the hub of student activity and socialising, the 'lifeline of the University', 'home away from home'.

It was also the venue for concerts and student balls, 'Recovery' and 'Bacchus' balls figuring promi-

nently in alumni recollections. They were the social highlight of the year, an occasion for dressing up, mixing with the opposite sex and drinking:

'From memory, they were at the end of the year. You got very formally dressed, gloves and pearls and long shimmering type gowns. Then everyone drank jugs of beer and this terrible food appeared and people threw it and threw up and there was a good band and everyone would dance. There was occasionally a speaker'.

### What did students think of one another?

For some of the part-time students, the Roundhouse was the place where many of the 'arty' students, with 'unlimited leisure hours' and 'little commitment' spent their time.

With numbers of full-time students steadily catching up to part-timers in the 1960s, some respondents commented on the divide between the two types of students. For some part-timers, student politics and active student life was for the 'those who did not have to live in the real world'. According to a part-time engineering student, part-timers didn't have time for juvenile pranks, they considered themselves 'de facto engineers at work' who took a 'more professional attitude to work and study'.

While some part-timers sneered at full-timers and most full-timers were oblivious to part-timers, some science students were sceptical about arts students. At the same time, arts students viewed NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts) students as 'very exotic and interesting', while male students were dreaming up ways of getting more women on campus.

### What about student politics?

Student politics was/is the past-time of the few. For them it could be fun, time-consuming, eye-opening and in the context of the Vietnam protests, scary. But for the conscientious part-time engineer and others like him, student politics didn't exist, except when it was discussed in the pages of *Tharunka*.

Many students, full and part-time, male and female, eagerly awaited each issue of *Tharunka*. Indeed, many of the respondents revealed a kind of vicarious participation in student politics through the paper: 'reading it made you look a bit of a revolutionary'. And for the graduate who'd received a Catholic girls' secondary education, *Tharunka* in the late 1960s was 'absolutely shocking'. Nevertheless, she and her friends couldn't wait for the next issue, fascinated as they were by the 'open discussion of sexual matters, lewd poems and the like'.



Students in the Union (Roundhouse), Orientation Week 1962. Photography by Max Dupain. (CN945/56)



*Good times at the Bacchus Ball, early 1960s. (97A154)*

### *So, did their social and political values change?*

Many respondents commented on their changed outward appearance. One recalled how she and her friends took up smoking as a symbol of being 'liberated' and 'grown up'. Another gave up wearing the stiletto heels and blood red nail polish of her teenage years, while another refused to wear shoes. One 'grew her hair' and 'shortened her skirts', while another 'dressed like a beatnik'.

Many respondents spoke of becoming more tolerant as a result of being exposed to new ideas, different cultures and becoming more aware of social issues like the condition and treatment of Aborigines. For one, 'everything changed. I saw things, met people and was surrounded by conversation and ideas that I couldn't discuss at home. We drank, smoked, took the contraceptive pill, etc, this was NEVER mentioned. My world was broadened. Home values seemed immature and caused conflict'.

### *How were the international students coping?*

Most respondents recalled having university friends from a range of ethnic backgrounds. One Australian student who stayed at International House recalled how 'racial matters were openly acknowledged and discussed'.

Reflecting on his contact with Australian culture, a Colombo Plan student from Malaysia explained that if one could 'swear and social-

ise like [Australians]' it helped. Another Asian student remembered how the 'Aussies' were superior in their drinking habits compared with Asian students, and how he admired the 'fair go' and 'she will be all right, mate' attitude of Australians. He spoke of sharing his industrial training at Port Kembla with approximately twelve other international students, learning a few words in Greek, Yugoslav, Hungarian and Polish and tasting for the first time salami, brathering and pumpernickel.

Asian students located at the Ultimo campus took advantage of the fact that Dixon street was nearby. One Vietnamese student recalled how the 'elderly Australian' woman she boarded with,

insisted on making her rice pudding every night, because she thought she missed eating rice. Although recognising the good intentions, the poor girl couldn't face it!

Many Asian alumni spoke of their time in Australia as fraught with anxiety and worry about the political instabilities and unrest in their home countries then. When asked whether their decision to undertake university studies had been influenced by a particular political development or public event, one respondent claimed that 'the political turmoil in Vietnam in the early 1960s influenced my interest in getting out of the country to further my education'. In Australia, that same student participated in the talks and protests around the Vietnam war which ushered in a new period of student activism — the 1970s.

**Alison Holland**

The Archives expresses its gratitude to all those who took part in the survey. But the survey is not yet complete. Anyone wishing to participate please contact the University Archives and you will be sent a questionnaire.

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

## **Are You Departing the University?**

Please tell the University Archives!

The Archives is always desirous of being advised of staff leaving UNSW who have personal papers or other records relating to their time here OR who could be of help in documenting some particular aspect of the story of the university and its people.

We are also interested to learn of the death of those who have been associated with the university. We value being put in touch with family members in certain instances.

Through this advice, historically valuable personal records, photographs and memorabilia can often be identified and the holdings of the Archives enhanced.



# Not an Ivory Tower: The Making of an Australian Vice-Chancellor

Ever wondered what a vice-chancellor really thinks of universities, academics or students? Is life at the top all that it's said to be? Here's a chance to find out. *Not an Ivory Tower: The making of an Australian vice-chancellor* is a personal story of a former vice-chancellor of the University of New South Wales and is based on interviews with Michael and Jenny Birt. It examines the career path to becoming a vice-chancellor, as well as the difficult decisions university chiefs face from time-to-time.

Michael Birt talks candidly about the changing role of universities in post-war Australia, and mounts a well-argued case for the importance of a strong university system in Australian society. Industrial action, student protests, his relationship with the Staff Association, university fees, his championing of the humanities, his relationship with education ministers and prime-ministers, EEO — these are among the many issues that Birt comments on.

But this is not the stuff of official reports. Set to the background of Australian society over the last sixty years there is much here also to interest the historically curious — where did Melbourne University students eat in the 1950s? Why did some Australians make the long trek to Britain in the 1950s? What was it like to live in Canberra in the 1960s? How did the City of Wollongong come to own an important art collection?

The book also includes a brief introduction to the history of UNSW, tracing its origins as a small institution offering courses in applied sciences and engineering, to now being one of the largest universities in Australia.

*Not an Ivory Tower: The making of an Australian vice-chancellor. Based on interviews with Michael and Jenny Birt. Compiled and introduced by Julia Horne. Published by UNSW Archives, distributed by UNSW Press. RRP \$14.95 Paperback 120pp ISBN 0 73340 449 9. Available from most major booksellers and the UNSW Press (tel 02 9664 0999 or [info.press@unsw.edu.au](mailto:info.press@unsw.edu.au)).*

*Michael Birt in 1979, then vice-chancellor of the recently established University of Wollongong, with the cricket bat commemorating the first 'town and gown' cricket match between the university and the local community. (97A151/9)*



# Philip Baxter on Stage

**P**hilip Baxter retired as vice-chancellor of UNSW in 1969. He chaired the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (1957-72) and the Sydney Opera House Trust (1969-75). The following piece is based on extracts from Philip Gissing, Sir Philip Baxter, Engineer: The Fabric of a Conservative Style of Thought (submitted for the degree of PhD: currently under examination).

Towards the end of his active public life Philip Baxter wrote a play. *The Day the Sun Rose in the West* is set in the future, and is about an imagined invasion of Australia by a united South East Asian People's Republic. There is a nuclear attack on Canberra which heralds the invasion. The sky lights up making it appear to observers on the east coast that the sun is rising in the west. The invading armies introduce draconian measures to force the country out of its apathy and carry through the large-scale engineering developments that Baxter saw as the key to Australia's future. They also successfully steer Australia through the new world order imposed by the major powers.

In this play Baxter specifically rejected the notion that a nuclear war would mean the end of the world, a belief he had long held in his work on nuclear energy. Speaking on the ABC television programme *Monday Conference*, Baxter argued that Australia would 'have a better chance than most other places' of surviving a nuclear war given its distance from the northern hemisphere, the most likely location for repeated nuclear conflict. But of interest here is why he chose to give these speculations a dramatic form. When one is no longer

writing government policy, does one then turn to writing plays?

Philip Baxter's devotion to the stage took various forms. As a young man recently appointed by ICI as a research engineer in the English village of Stockton-on-Tees, he joined the dramatic society,



(Above) Philip Baxter directs Shaw's *Devil's Disciple* at Kensington in 1956.

(Left) Pictured second from right on an overseas visit to the Dounreay Experimental Reactor Establishment, about 1970. (Baxter Papers: CN1053/88,30)

where he met his future wife, Lilian Thatcher. They moved to Widnes in 1931, where Baxter not only helped rebuild the local chemical industry but also became deputy chairman of the Works Dramatic Club. Following their move to Australia in 1949 upon his appointment as professor of chemical engineering, he continued to take an interest in drama, specifically at the NSW University of Technology, where he took an active role in its Drama Club. In 1956, soon after his appointment as vice-chancellor, he directed George Bernard Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple*, which was performed in the University's Physics Theatre at Kensington, and in August 1959, Edward Percy's 1941 play *The Shop at Sly Corner*.

Baxter was also instrumental in having the National Institute of

Dramatic Art (NIDA) located at the University of New South Wales, at a time when the training of actors, directors and set designers was considered in some quarters to be an inappropriate role for a univer-

sity. In 1958 he convinced the University Council to approve discussions with the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and the ABC about the establishment of NIDA, which was to be governed by a board of directors provided by the three participating institutions. Baxter and Morven Brown, the dean of the Faculty of Arts, were appointed as the University's representatives on the board.

So far, then, we have a picture of Baxter as a keen devotee and amateur practitioner of theatre. But his concept of theatre went deeper than this, evident from his remarks linking drama to the desirable development of what he called a 'western type civilization' in Australia. In a 1961 letter request-

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ing funding for NIDA from the Rockefeller Foundation, he argued that:

'Australia is the largest under-populated and under-developed area still available for the expansion of western peoples with western culture, and the task of developing it imposes a tremendous strain upon the ten million people who live in it at present. It may well be that if the developments necessary do not proceed sufficiently rapidly, in the long term our idea of developing it as a western type civilisation may fail. As a community we must devote all our available capital resources to those immediately necessary and practical things, within which the activities of the humanities and drama do not find a place. There is perhaps, therefore, a case for Foundations like Rockefeller to continue to regard Australia as a type of under-developed area with peculiar local problems.'

Baxter, of course, was never one to let a potential source of funds go without a struggle, but that is not all there is to it. Baxter's point was that humanities and drama were necessary if Australia was to continue to be a 'western type civilisation', a fortress against the then feared communist hordes from the north.

But Baxter, a supporter of peaceful uses of nuclear energy — thus also aware of its destructive capability — was mindful of Australia as a potential haven for refugees from full scale nuclear war in the northern hemisphere. For him, drama was not only something one did in one's spare time or retirement, it was also a means to maintain the western way of life.

As the denouement of his play reveals, he became exasperated by the failure of politicians to heed his message and despaired of the capacity of western-style parliamentary democracies to take the hard decisions he felt were required.

Philip Gissing  
Science and Technology Studies  
UNSW

## Did You Know?

### Scientia — a nod to Imperial College

The Scientia Building, now under construction on UNSW's upper campus, takes its name from the Latin word for knowledge, which appears on the open book of the university's arms.

The Arms were granted in 1952 by the College of Arms, London, to the then New South Wales University of Technology.

The placement of *Scientia* on the book was in turn inspired by its appearance on the arms of another higher technological institution, the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, formed in 1907.



Depictions of the Arms of Imperial College and of the University of Technology, around 1952. (AF20252, CN259)

### Mawson expeditioner received MSc in 1957

In the mid 1950s Harold Fletcher was a remarkable new student for a number of reasons: he was admitted to study for his master's degree in science (at this university) at over 50 years of age without possessing a previous degree. Much earlier in 1929-31, he had travelled with Sir Douglas Mawson on two Antarctic expeditions, and in 1939 with C.T. Madigan's expedition by camel across the Simpson Desert. He was a long-time staff member of the Australian Museum, starting at 15 in 1918, becoming Curator of Fossils 1941-56 then, in the year his degree was conferred, its Deputy Director.

Harold Fletcher could not have had a more appropriate supporter for direct entry to the master's course than Professor David Phillips, Dean of Engineering and a Welshman with an equally remarkable life. As a boy of 13, David Phillips started work in the coal pits of South Wales. At 20 he attended evening school, a path which led eventually to Cambridge, numerous British civil service positions, and finally appointment to a professorship in Australia at the University of Technology in 1949. When he migrated he was 50.

Harold Fletcher's thesis was on aspects of the Permian geology of the Hunter Valley, NSW.

In 1984 he had published *Antarctic Days with Mawson* (A&R).

Born in 1903, he lived into his nineties at Castle Hill. His honours included the Polar Medal and Bar. A cape in Antarctica and a hill on the edge of the Simpson Desert are named after him.

(Acknowledgements: Professor L.J. Lawrence (retired); Australian Museum Library; Brian Nash, *Australian Geographic*)



# Recent Accessions

**B**elow is a selection of records received by the Archives from July 1997 to June 1998.

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

The Archives extends its special thanks to all depositors.

## Alumni donations

The Archives is especially grateful to the following for their contributions of photographs, publications and memorabilia relating mainly to their student days.

Bennett, Jean. Early stationery from the School of Biological Sciences. 1950s. (98A31)

Campbell, W. Photographs of civil engineering students' World Record Bed Push, 1961. (97A149)

Chand, F. (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) Photographs of students in 1960 Maths I class, at Basser

College and on a Jenolan Caves field trip, early 1960s. (97A148)

Conyngnam, P. Correspondence relating to the Students' Union and University Press 1996; press cuttings 1960s, including reference to the 'Gas Lash' affair, *Tharunka* 1964; photographs early 1960s; and press obituary for Francis James, early 1990s. (97A236, 98A6)

Harant, H. / Allison, Myee. Records relating to the Students' Union Council 1964, and the Overseas Students Association and Festival of Asia 1957-68; publications and printed items including student alternative handbooks, *Tharunka* and revue posters 1950s-1980s. (Ms M. Allison 97A72, 97A82, 97A85, 97A229)

Haynes, Michael and Marg. Copies of addresses delivered at the President's Reception, UNSW Alumni Association on 21 April

1998, as father and daughter alumni of the early 1960s and early 1990s respectively, and containing reflections upon their university experience. (98A29)

Hyland, H. Photographs taken while an engineering and naval architecture student: scenes include main and western campuses, building development, student activities on 'Lake Bourke', internal photographs of the Roundhouse and of the Library - at both old (Dalton) and new (1966) upper campus locations; all with descriptions. 1963-70. 222 prints. (97A246, 98A49)

Jones, T. Photographs of procession forming for first Foundation Day 1961, and of fellow students at Basser College, early 1960s; collected items from the College noticeboard, various topics, early 1960s. (98A24, 98A48)

Langtry (Moore), Lynette. Candid photographs of university social



*Foundation Day out in the City, 1968. (98A49)*

life, especially Roundhouse balls. 1969-71. (97A178)

Milner Davis, Jessica. Publications and reports relating to student matters in the 1960s; Drama I course handouts for students and listeners to Radio University, prepared by Professor R. Quentin and T. Brown, 1961; notes taken as an arts student at lectures given by Quentin, Dr Leonie Kramer and others, 1961-64. (97A169, 98A2, 98A3)

Niland, J.R. Issues of Basser College magazine. 1959-63. (97A6)

Nilsson, Marianne R. Photographs taken on UNSW Geology excursions, and of the Kensington campus, with descriptions. 1962-67. 40 items (97A77)

O'Brien (Thomas), Terry. Photograph of UNSW students, who were members of the Australian Organising Co-ordinating Committee, Overseas Students (AOCCOS), at the welcome desk, Sydney airport, January 1969. (97A248)

O'Farrell, Justin and Clare. Issues of *L'Egalitie*, early 1980s, Law School newsletter for students; *Rhubarb, Rhubarb, Rhubarb*, 1983, Debating Society newsletter; completed student questionnaire on Library services 1983; and UNSW Opera program for Verdi's *Giovanna d'Arco*, May-June 1977, the opera's first Australian performance. (Professor Patrick O'Farrell, 98A5, 98A15)

Storr, E. Graduation photograph mid 1960s. (97A150)

Yeomans, Lien. Photograph, as a new graduate, at the graduation ball of 1968. (97A147)

## Personal papers/items

Angyal, Mrs Helga. Foundation member, U Committee. Papers relating to membership, activities and history of the U Committee, 1960s, 1980s and 1990s. (Emeritus Professor Stephen Angyal 98A38)

Angyal, Stephen J. Former professor of Chemistry and Dean of Science. Emeritus. Portrait photographs and autobiographical notes. (97A152, 97A196)



Local UNSW students Terry Thomas (later O'Brien), left, and Lyn Moore (later Langtry) ready to welcome new overseas students at Sydney Airport, January 1969. AOCCOS stands for Australian Organising Co-ordinating Committee, Overseas Students. (97A248)

Archer, F. Former Associate Professor, Civil Engineering. Group photograph, with identification, of the School of Civil Engineering. c.1960. (97A146)

Birt, L. Michael and Jenny. UNSW's third Vice-Chancellor 1981-92 and emeritus professor, and his wife, Mrs Jenny Birt, who was prominent in voluntary work for UNSW. Photographs from their personal collections supplied for the book about their lives *Not an Ivory Tower*. (97A151)

Brown, H.J. Foundation professor of Electrical Engineering, Dean and University Council member

1949-52; Controller, Woomera Rocket Range 1955-58. Emeritus. Biographical information and other items, including an authored paper on the post-war development of higher technological education in New South Wales. 1940s, 1950s, 1997. (98A46)

Dudman, M. Former photographer, Chemistry. Complete body of work, comprising over 1300 photographic negatives, taken for the publication *Images of the University of New South Wales*, 1989. (98A26)

Garrick, A.J. Foundation Director,



Institute of Languages. Correspondence relating to the evaluation of language laboratory methods of teaching English to Aboriginal children in certain schools in the Northern Territory, with personal note books about visits, 1969-73; minutes and correspondence of the State Accreditation Panel for Translators and Interpreters (NT), 1981. (Mrs Margot Garrick 97A87)

Millis, D. Former Head, UNSW Publications Section, and artist/designer. Photographs of Section staff, and campus views; posters and programs relating to UNSW events. Mainly 1960s, 1970s. (97A106, 97A192)

Milner, C.J. / Willis, A.H. Respectively, former professor of Applied Physics, Dean of Science and Emeritus; former professor and Dean of Engineering, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Emeritus. Funeral oration written and delivered by Emeritus Professor Willis at the funeral service for Emeritus Professor Milner, St Luke's Church, Mosman, 28 February, 1998. (98A40)

Milner Davis, Jessica. President, UNSW Alumni Association and Member, University Council; UNSW's Deputy Chancellor 1981-1990. Photographs and correspondence relating to the Kay Friedrich Garden (AGSM forecourt); correspondence about the retention of the historic name *The Old Tote Theatre*, 1989; and samples of greeting cards produced in 1983 by the U Committee featuring campus sketches by Professor J.C. Haskell, Faculty of Architecture. (97A169, 97A177, 97A181).

Correspondence, early 1990s, about the creation of the position of Dean of Emeriti, originally raised by Emeritus Professor C.J. Milner; and congratulatory correspondence about the Deputy Chancellorship from Mrs Ruth Moss in 1981, the daughter of Mr Ralph Symons, whose timber company constructed the Solar Furnace for Physics under the direction of Professor Milner, Dr Milner Davis' father. (98A39).

Biographical audiotapes telling of the Czechoslovak refugee experi-

ence stemming from the 1968 Soviet invasion, and including reference to the trail-blazing intensive English language course, specially prepared for a group of these refugees by the donor, then a student leader, and staff of UNSW's Institute of Languages in 1969; 1991 audiotape feature on Mr Va'clav Havel, then Czechoslovak President, and later recipient of an Hon. DLitt, UNSW 1995. Recordings mainly 1991, 1995. (98A4)

Niland, John and Carmel. Vice-Chancellor; former Commerce (industrial relations) student and President, Students' Union early 1960s; Carmel Hume (Niland) was an Arts student and member of the Students' Union Council around the same time. Items from student days at UNSW and from their time in the USA, late 1960s, where J. Niland undertook doctoral studies (Illinois) then taught at Cornell University, Ithaca. Includes films, photographs, a 1962 dinner program autographed by many key figures at UNSW, and a *Pix* magazine photo-spread on 'Free Love' featuring UNSW students. 1960-70. (98A34)

Orlovich, P. Senior Lecturer, Information, Library and Archive Studies. Collected newsletters, circulars and other information relating to the activities of the Staff Association, University Club and other campus entities. Various years. (98A17)

Reuter, F.H. Foundation Associate Professor of Food Technology. Papers relating to the establishment of the Food Technology course at UNSW; publications and reports relating to aspects of education in this discipline, and to government regulation of food and drugs. 1949-97 (97A238).

Selected printed material relating to the history of the School of Chemistry, Food Technology and Colombo Plan students at UNSW. Prepared for the UNSW History Project in 1998. (Ms Karen Hutchings 98A42)

Reuter, Mrs Irene. Foundation member, Wives Group from 1950.

Memoirs of a Childhood and Youth in Berlin 1911-1933. Typed manuscript 1996. 38p. (98A36)

Thompson, Adrienne. Convenor, Alumni Associates. Former University Council member and Honorary Visiting Fellow, Biochemistry. Photographs of members of Alumni Associates at a revival of 'Elevenses' at Pindari, 22 April 1993. (97A189)

## Governance and Administration

Secretariat. Council, Council committees, Faculties. Meeting agenda papers and minutes, 1993-98; Council Resolution Book 1949-83 and Index; Visiting Committee reports 1988-93; Aboriginal Education Committee records 1988-94. 3.75m (Multiple accessions)

Vice-Chancellor (J.R. Niland). Business records 1995-96, videotape of address to National Press Club 25 February 1997, and duplicate Certificate of Appreciation presented to Mr Ted Spence upon his retirement as driver to the last three vice-chancellors of the university, 1998. (98A21, 98A35, 98A37)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and International (C.J.D. Fell) / News Service. Colour photographs of the first three Anthony Mason Fellows receiving their awards from the Minister, the Hon. Simon Crean at the Australian Embassy, Beijing on 31 July 1995. (97A166)

Registrar's Office. Records of reviews of various units and services within the Registrar's portfolio. 1992-94. (98A18)

Records Administration. University Administrative files. 1970s-97. 1.2m (97A243)

Protocol Office. Conferring of Awards - ceremony programs. 1995-97. (V3)

Publications. Photographs, negatives, proof sheets and transparencies depicting a wide range of university scenes, events and people, 1990-96. 17 archives boxes, 3.0m (98A1)



*The Subiaco Columns. Photographic study by Martin Dudman, 1989. (98A26)*

Student Services. Office files of the Deputy Registrar (S. Croker) relating to student organisations, student equity and services, and to the Campus Planning Steering Committee. Mainly 1989-93. 2.2m. (97A35)

Facilities Department. Certificate of Title relating to part of UNSW's *Cliffbrook* Campus site, Coogee, 1953. (Director's Office 97A231). Fitting out reference manual used by UNSW: *Details of CSIRO Standard Laboratory Fittings*, 1959; site and landscaping plans for Kensington Campus 1949-78, 12 items; sketches and plans for Stage I, Grandstand, David Phillips Field, by Kevin J. Curtin & Partners, 4 items; colour photographs of site for Samuels Building, c.1987. (N. Siminsky 97A63, 97A120, 97A121, 97A160)

## Faculties, Schools and academic organisations

Applied Science. Selected office files of the last Dean of the Faculty (G.J.S. Govett), including corre-

spondence relating to *UNSW 2000* which recommended abolition of the Faculty. (97A4, 97A5)

Biological Science. Photo display boards showing field work at Smith's Lake, Herron Island and elsewhere 1960s, 1970s; photographic portraits of early staff; and biographical information about Dr Mary Hindmarsh compiled 1954-90. (R. King 97A250)

Chemistry. School minutes and newsletters; videotapes. Mainly 1987-93 (K. McGuffin 97A69)

Engineering. Letter of appreciation written to Professor Mark Wainwright by Emeritus Professor Harold Brown, aged 86, UNSW's first professor of Electrical Engineering and first Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, following his visit to UNSW in early 1997. (M. Wainwright 97A180)

Industry Linked Education. Files relating to the establishment of the Master of Business Technology program, including the initial consultancy and steering committee. 1989-92 (M. Brennan 7A239)

Law. Photographs taken of participants in the Future Directions Seminar, July 1994. (K. Daley 97A191)

Mechanical Engineering. Sample of examination papers 1964-69; crafted descriptive geometry teaching aid showing two intersecting cones enveloping a sphere and their tangent plane. n.d. poss. 1940s or 1950s. (A. Bauman 97A53, 97A54)

Postgraduate Extension Studies / Institute of Professional Education. Videotapes of lectures, most produced for teaching by closed circuit television. 1968-77. 14 tapes. (97A227)

Spanish and Latin American Studies. Audiotapes of noted speakers at three conferences, including a major international conference held at UNSW in 1986 entitled *When Strangers Meet: Australia and Latin America*; the poster for this conference, and other audio recordings. 1978-92. 23 tapes. (J. Levy 98A10)

## Other University organisations

The Asia-Australia Institute.

Director's Office files, general correspondence, booklets and other printed items. 1990-95. 1.1m. (97A83)

Kensington Colleges / Milner

Davis, Jessica. Files relating to the governance of Kensington Colleges 1992-96, including a set of meeting papers 1994-96, maintained by Dr J. Milner Davis, a director and member of the College Board. 1m. (J. Milner Davis 98A3)

## External organisations

Eastern Sydney Area Health

Service. Media release pack, with photographs, conveying the announcement of a \$160 million plan to relocate or enlarge certain hospitals, including the Royal Hospital for Women and the Prince of Wales and Prince Henry hospitals, which are principal teaching hospitals of the university. 1993. (97A168)

The Winston Churchill Memorial

Trust. Records relating to the New South Wales administration of the Trust, and in particular to Churchill Fellowship Awards, 1965-1990. 1.7m. (Mr Bill Farley 98A7). (The NSW Regional Office was established in the 1960s with the assistance of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Philip Baxter. Since that time UNSW people have played a major role in the running of the Office)

## Student or alumni related

Commerce and Economics. Baseball-style cap, available on Careers Day 1997, with text *UNSW-Commerce and Economics*. (P. Orlovich 97A88)

Medicine. Photographs of the class of 1995. (J. Horder 97A79)

Newman Society. Copies of selected publications including programs for seminars, e.g. *The Scientist and Society*, 1959. 1956-68. (Fr. J. Bosman 98A44)

Sports Association. Office and Board of Management records, and records relating to the Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarships, 1989-95; video of the Intervarsity volleyball final, 1971. (97A225, 97A237); Blues Committee minute book 1978, Register of Graduate and Life Members, and business records, mid 1970s-93; Guest Book, inaugural dinner, Ben Lexcen Sports Scholarship Fund, 24 February 1989. 1m. (98A8, 98A22)

## UNSW public affairs/ media

Keating Lecture. Written version of the public lecture entitled *The Perilous Moment: Indonesia, Australia and the Asian Crisis* delivered by the Hon. P.J. Keating, Visiting Professor of Public Policy on 25 March 1998. Typescript 19p. (Vice-Chancellor's Office 98A25)

News Service. Press cuttings



*A lighter moment at the farewell for the Chancellor, the Hon. Gordon Samuels and Mrs Jackie Samuels at a special Foundation Day Dinner, 1994. (98A1)*

Cricket Club. Annual report 1996-97. (A. Jones 97A73)

Rugby Club. Annual reports 1996-97. (K. Godfrey 98A30)

Alumni Association. Agenda papers and minutes for meetings of the Board and Executive, 1985-87; and for AGMs 1985-89. (97A226)

Heath, R. / HPA Architects - Mirvac. Publication paying tribute to the work of Robert Heath, Senior Architectural Director of HPA and an architecture graduate of UNSW. 1997. (Mr Victor Guy 97A198)

Niland, J.R. Vice-Chancellor. Photograph of the UNSW Rugby Club Golden Oldies team, the Wobbly Wales, in Dublin, Ireland 1993; photographs at a BBQ for student leaders hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, 1997. (97A228, 97A241)

relating to UNSW and members of the UNSW community, 1996-97. 1.5m. (G. Croker 97A242, 98A20)

Public Affairs and Development. Research notes compiled by the University Archives detailing the relationship between BHP and UNSW from the 1950s to the mid 1990s. 1997. (97A195); Bound sets of various campus publications including *Focus*, *Uniken*, *Quarterly* and *University News*, with an index to stories in *Focus* and *Uniken* 1989-93. 1950-1997. 7.5m. (98A33)

## Oral history special surveys and publications

University Oral History Project (UOHP) / Special survey *Students in the 1960s*. Background and



university experiences of some of the second-decade students of the University of New South Wales. Over 80 completed survey questionnaires received to June 1998, each 16p. (97A86)

UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary History Project / UOHP. Women in the University research report by Ms Karen Hutchings drawing upon some of the responses to the survey questionnaire for senior

women at UNSW undertaken by the University Oral History Project 1996-98. 1998. 41p. (98A11)

*Continued on page 13*

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## Can You Help?

### Documenting university sport

Some not so good news is that the Archives holds only moderate amounts of material relating to the university's sports clubs. We wish to improve this situation.

In the years 2000-2003 alone, many of the following clubs may seek to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, aided by any records held by the Archives:

Clubs established by 1950: Athlet-

ics, Basketball (Men's), Golf, Rugby Union, Swimming, Soccer (also 1956), Tennis.

1951: Boxing, Cricket, Fencing, Rifle, Rowing, Swimming and Water Polo, Table Tennis, Weight-lifting.

1952: Squash, Volleyball.

1953: Hockey, Judo.

Anyone having written records, annual reports, photographs, film or video, parts of older club uniforms or memorabilia of other

kinds (dinner menus, club pennants, ties etc.) is warmly invited to make contact with the Archives in the first instance.

It is understood that many items held privately may not be available for outright donation. In these instances the Archives is always prepared to arrange for copies to be made, or for photographs to be taken of non-copyable items.

Please help if you can. Our contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.



*The pennant, the players and the presidents. Captain Mark Ray, fourth from left, Alan Davidson, President, New South Wales Cricket Association, fifth, and John Ingleson, President UNSW Cricket Club, end right. (CN1127)*

Continued from page 12

UOHP publication / Horne, Julia  
*Not an Ivory Tower: The making of an Australian vice-chancellor.*  
Compiled and introduced by Julia Horne, and based upon interviews with Michael Birt, UNSW Vice-Chancellor 1981-1992, and Jenny Birt. UNSW Archives, 1997. 150p. (V620)

(Currently available through all booksellers/UNSW Press. \$14.95 RRP)

UOHP publication – related records. Photographs used in *Unique Providers*, an illustrated history of the U Committee; programs of U Committee events; and audio and video tapes recorded at the launch of the book in May 1994. (V566, 97A171)

(*Unique Providers* is available from booksellers/UNSW Press. \$19.95)

## Special interest and historical accounts

See also the Oral History section above.

Angyal, S.J. *The Andrews Lectures.* 1997. 8p. A brief history, by its founder, of this noted UNSW series of lectures given by internationally eminent persons in Chemistry. Coverage: 1960-1997. (97A183)

Castle, Josie *The University of Wollongong: an illustrated history 1951-1991.* 1991. 68p. (V768)

Cavill, G.W.K. *Australian Jewellers, Gold and Silversmiths: Makers and Marks* 1992. 336p. Signed copy. (97A74). (Emeritus Professor Cavill was the recipient of the first personal professorship awarded at UNSW (1964) and is one of Australia's leading experts on the subject of his book.)

Titmuss, K.W. *The History of Computing at the University of NSW.* Revised 1997. 11p. (98A13)

Waugh, J. *Kensington Racecourse 1890-1942.* Randwick and District Historical Society 1997. 37p. (98A19). (The Kensington racecourse site became UNSW's lower campus.)

## New State Records Legislation

New legislation will require the University — including faculties and schools — to account for all material generated in the course of university business.

The State Records Act 1998 became law on 2 June 1998 and replaces the Archives Act 1960. The Archives Authority of New South Wales will become the State Records Authority and its jurisdiction broadened to include universities, which will become subject to the Act in late 1999.

The purpose of the legislation is to facilitate business through improved recordkeeping practices, make Government and other public institutions more accountable, implement standards, codes of best practice and guidelines for managing official records in all formats, and to ensure the orderly disposal of official records and the preservation of records deemed to be of continuing value.

### How will this affect UNSW?

The Act has the effect of placing responsibility on those who generate records in the course of university business to safeguard and dispose of them according to the 'standards and codes of best practice for records management'. The types of records likely to be subject to the Act include minutes of school meetings and those of faculties and other units within the University, as well as

course outlines, school correspondence, and records generated as a result of dealings with students. The Act also extends to electronic records, including computer databases and official correspondence sent by email.

The University already has a central records management program, but over the next year this will be extended to other parts of the University.

Records currently in use remain the property of the University, but will need to be maintained in accordance with the Act. Records more than twenty-five years old will be controlled by the State Records Authority. The Authority is not required to take possession of the records, but in such circumstances it will make arrangements for the University to have custody of the records. Those arrangements are to include provisions to ensure public access to the records in accordance with the Act and the safe keeping and proper preservation of the records. Disposal, transfer of possession or ownership, damage or alteration of State records is not allowed without the approval of the State Records Authority.

The Chief Executive Officer of the University (the Vice-Chancellor) has the responsibility to ensure that the University complies with the Act. Compliance audits will be conducted on an annual basis by the Audit Office of NSW and failures in compliance will be reported to the Minister responsible for the University.

### General publications, printed items

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

UNSW Calendars and Handbooks;

UNSW Sports Association and clubs annual reports; newsletters – various UNSW units; posters, programs and other items relating to UNSW public events and celebratory occasions; the campus newspaper *Uniken*; student newspaper *Tharunka*, and publications of the Student Guild, student clubs and societies.

# The UNSW Fiftieth Anniversary History Project

## Notes from a Researcher's Desk

The manuscript for the UNSW fiftieth anniversary history has gone to press. Patrick O'Farrell's *UNSW: A Portrait 1949-1999* will be launched in March 1999, a centre-piece of the anniversary celebrations.

Professor Patrick O'Farrell and researchers Damien McCoy and myself have been most fortunate in the generous responses to our call

access restrictions. The following is a sample of the kinds of facts and anecdotes that you may or may not find in the pages of the official history.

## Resourcefulness in the days of shortages

In the early days of the university, teaching and laboratory space at Ultimo was often at a premium, along with chronic shortages of equipment and furniture. Lateral

was solved by 'borrowing' furniture from another department of the technical college, forcing the then registrar to purchase some more to replace it.

Similarly enterprising were some Asian students staying in the Anzac Parade Student Hostel in the 1960s, who, wishing to cater for a large student party, cooked genuine lamb curry in the community laundry boiler. The result? Plenty of curry for the partygoers and bright orange linen smelling strongly of Madras curry for many wash days to come!



*Open the doors and windows, the rugby men of '62 are here. John Niland is in the back row, second from right. (CN1196)*

for reminiscences and documents from both past and present staff and students of this university. We are greatly indebted to these people for helping to make the history come alive by giving us unique and personal insights into everyday life at UNSW over its first fifty years. Although it has not been possible to include all material in the book, much of it will be lodged in the University Archives and available for research purposes, subject to

thinking was often resorted to in efforts to remedy limited supplies of materials. Thus, survey gear for Civil Engineering was acquired through army contacts who declared their surveying instruments surplus to requirements and donated them to the fledgling university.

On another occasion students were compelled to use packing cases because of a shortage of desks. This

## Crashing through glass

Crashing through glass seems to have been something that happened quite a lot in the early days, given that building and construction was constantly underway. In Building M on the Western side of Anzac Parade, staff of the School of Mathematics adopted the habit of bypassing the door to the building, entering instead through the door-sized opening next to it that had not yet had a glass panel installed in it. Of course, the inevitable happened when glass was installed: a lecturer went crashing through it and though suffering no major damage to his person, totally demolished the plate glass panel.

Vice-Chancellor Baxter, a ubiquitous presence around campus at the time, very soon learnt of this event and took immediate action by having wooden frames installed across all the glass panelled entrances to the building. Meanwhile up at Basser College it seems that our current Vice-Chancellor Professor John Niland spent a lot of time crashing through glass doors, whether in pursuit of sheep brought in by wool technology students or while being hotly pursued by other athletically-inclined members of Basser College.

*Continued on page 15*



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## Baxter – the person

Stories about Baxter are legion, and popular memory views him as high-powered and authoritarian. Yet, some of the anecdotes supplied to us by his contemporaries present him as very approachable and sociable, especially on an informal basis.

Baxter apparently made a habit of dining in the cafeteria in the Main Building, along with any guests he might have been entertaining, so that prominent academics and politicians were often queuing up with students and general staff.

Then when the upstairs dining room was opened in the Roundhouse, Baxter ate there several times a week joining whatever table had a spare seat. After lunch he would leisurely wander back up to the Chancellery via Basser Steps, and was most open to casual conversation along the way.

Information of this kind about Baxter – or indeed any other members of the university – helps to leaven what can otherwise be a heavy and deadly serious view of any one facet of university life, and provides the researcher with an alternative perspective.

These are some brief accounts of the range and type of evidence collected as part of the research project. None of this would have been possible without the generous sense of community that so strongly binds staff and students – then and now – to UNSW, and creates the desire to contribute to the preservation of its historical heritage. For that, we are thankful.

The history will be available through most major booksellers and the UNSW Press (tel. 02 9664 0999 or [info.press@unsw.edu.au](mailto:info.press@unsw.edu.au)).

Karen Hutchings

For details of anniversary events, contact the Office of Public Affairs and Development (ph: 9385 3277 or [www.unsw.edu.au/50th/festival.htm](http://www.unsw.edu.au/50th/festival.htm)).

# Biographical Profile

## Fritz Reuter . . .

'The prevention of food spoilage is only possible by knowing what are its causes. That is food technology' explains Fritz Reuter in an interview conducted for the Oral History Project, and now available for consultation in the University Archives.

Fritz Reuter became Associate Professor of Food Technology at the New South Wales University of Technology in 1952, an appointment that recognised food technology was a viable university subject. Educated in Germany as an organic chemist, with a doctorate from the University of Berlin and research experience in biochemistry, he migrated to Britain in the 1930s – there were few positions for young scientists of Jewish extraction in Hitler's Germany. By the late 1930s, he had arrived in Sydney as part of the Carnegie Fellowship scheme, having recently married Irene Eyck.

Even though organic chemists aren't generally interested in food, an opportunity arose during World War Two for his involvement in the new American discipline, Food Technology.

Those involved in the American war effort were looking for places in Australasia where canned food might be processed under strict quality controls for US troops stationed there.

Fritz Reuter and others from CSIR and the Sydney Technical College (where he had taught since 1938) decided to take up the challenge: how to educate industry in minimising food spoilage. He devoted the next few decades to this aim, taking a leading role in the new Food Technology Association, establishing and editing the professional journal *Food Technology in Australia* and advising organisations around the world, including the governments of Asian and African countries, on aspects of food technology.



Hosting visits of overseas food missions arranged under the Colombo Plan was a nationally important task carried out by Dr Reuter and staff of Food Technology from the early 1950s. Dr F.H. Reuter, far right, with Dr K. Shridharani, Mr Durga Das and Mr A.K. Gupta at Food Technology, School of Chemical Engineering, March 1957. (CN682/14)

## Oral History in the Archives

### Students in the 1960s

A major survey of student experience at UNSW in the 1960s is currently underway. More than eighty graduates have completed and returned detailed questionnaires, many also providing photographs of their time at university. Anyone wishing to participate should contact the Oral History Project. (Full story p1.)



### Michael and Jenny Birt talk about their life and times

On 26 November 1997, the Governor of New South Wales and former UNSW Chancellor, the Hon. Gordon Samuels, launched *Not an Ivory Tower: The making of an Australian vice-chancellor, based on interviews with Michael and Jenny Birt*. About 120 people attended the launch, hosted by Professor John Niland, UNSW Vice-Chancellor and Principal. In launching the book, the Governor said that its title, *Not an Ivory Tower*, 'provides an excellent frame for the Birts' account of the endless diversity and exposure, concentration and application and real-politik of a vice-chancellor's life.' In 1998, Jenny Birt was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University for 'her contributions ... to the cultural identity and spirit of UNSW'. (For more about the book, see p4.)



### Interviews

Transcripts of interviews with the following people will soon be available for research purposes in the University Archives (subject to access restrictions): Michael Blunt, Malcolm Fisher, Stephen

Angyal, Ray Golding, Jessica Milner Davis, Harold Oliver, John Kennedy, Fritz Reuter. (See also 'Biographical Profile' p15.)



### Australian Graduate School of Management

Professor Philip Brown, the first director of the AGSM, has been interviewed about his life, including his undergraduate years at UNSW in the 1960s, as a postdoctoral student at the University of Chicago in the late 1960s, and his contributions to the AGSM in the 1970s. A transcript of the interview should be available in the University Archives late 1998. Other people to have been interviewed about the establishment of the AGSM are Sir Rupert Myers, Malcolm Fisher and John Stringer. Transcripts of these interviews are available in the Archives.



### Storage and Handling of tape recordings

Thinking of recording something for posterity? The problem is that current recording materials, including cassette tapes and digitised formats, can deteriorate rapidly unless stored appropriately, according to sound conservators attending a technical workshop at the National Library of Australia conducted by the Australasian Sound Recordings Association. Appropriate storage means a stable temperature between 12-18 degrees celsius and a relative humidity of no more than 40%, and that can only be achieved by installing a special air-conditioner. The Oral History Project has prepared a manual on the storage and handling of tape recordings, which can be consulted in the University Archives.

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



## How to contact the Archives

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

**Closed** weekends, public  
holidays and from Christmas  
Day to New Year's Day.

**Advance notice**  
of your visit will enable us  
to assist you better.

**Address**  
University Archives  
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Sydney NSW 2052

**Telephone**  
University Archivist  
(02) 9385 2907  
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(02) 9385 2906  
Oral History Project  
(02) 9385 2908

**Facsimile**  
(02) 9385 1228

**Email**  
Archives@unsw.edu.au

**World Wide Web**  
University Archives:  
[www.library.unsw.edu/  
~archives/archives.html](http://www.library.unsw.edu/~archives/archives.html)

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