



# Origins

Newsletter of the UNSW Archives

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**UNSW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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# FOUNDATION DAY

In July 2007 the University Archives created a Foundation Day exhibition, which was on display in the University Library for six weeks. It was organised to coincide with the celebration of Foundation Day 2007, on 2 August, and attempted to capture some of the more memorable moments of past Foundation Days.

An online version of the exhibition is now available on the Archives' website at <http://www.recordkeeping.unsw.edu.au/About/foundationday.html>

Each year UNSW students celebrate Foundation Day, commemorating the establishment of their university on 1 July 1949. Traditionally, the main activities of the day include fundraising for selected charities, a scavenger hunt and stunts.

The first Foundation Day celebrations were held on Tuesday, 4 July 1961. Students had instituted the day to raise the profile of UNSW because they felt that there was little public awareness of the new university. They wanted to impress on the general public that there were *two* universities in Sydney and chose the concept of Foundation Day for that reason. The idea of having celebrations similar to the University of Sydney's Commemoration Day had first been raised within the student body in 1955–56 and was passionately debated in the ensuing years. In mid-1960 Basser College students orchestrated a number of small pranks, including a world record in scooter-pushing, and urged the Students' Union Council to take a lead in establishing a Foundation Day tradition at UNSW. In November 1960 the Students' Union Council formally approved Foundation Day celebrations, and the University Council's approval followed in May 1961; Council also gave students a holiday from lectures for that day.

Students instigated a number of Foundation Day pranks including the takeover of a Mosman ferry by 'pirates', fixing the skull and crossbones to the ABC-TV tower at Gore Hill, draping a three-storey-long banner from the *Sydney Morning Herald* building to advertise the special *Sydney Moaning*

*Tharunka* edition and — most spectacularly — kidnapping Brian Henderson from a live performance of the TV music show 'Bandstand'. Students also broke three world records with a bed-push, a scooter-push and a lawnmower-push.

The main event of the morning was a procession through the city of thirty floats, depicting such topics as traffic fines, Fidel Castro, and the US civil rights Freedom Riders. The afternoon was taken up with a scavenger hunt and the lower campus soon became littered with naked window dummies, stray dogs and cats, American flags and bus conductors' caps. The day ended with a Foundation Day Ball at the University Union building (now known as the Roundhouse).

The celebrations were considered a great success in achieving publicity for the university: as well, 75,000 copies of *Tharunka* were sold on the day and the substantial sum of £3000 was raised for a burns and plastic surgery unit at Prince Henry Hospital. The 1961 Foundation Day director was John Niland, then president of the Students' Union, who later became

UNSW vice-chancellor (1992–2002).

Over the years students have continued to attract the public's attention with a number of Foundation Day pranks — from adorning the Central Station clock in 1980 with pictures of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Fred Flintstone and Malcolm Fraser, to placing a fake 'missile' on Congwong Beach in 1991. But one of the most extraordinary stunts was the 1964 kidnapping of an alligator from Taronga Park Zoo. This was carried out by students Bernard D'Abrera, John Kepski, John Black and John Kazis, with the help of 80 students from a biology class, who formed a screen around the alligator pen while they scaled the fence. Most of the alligators responded by diving into their pool, but the slowest was left behind and then, as Bernard D'Abrera later described, 'Quick as a flash, one of us, John Kazis, sat on his head and tied a rope about his mouth before stuffing him into a cricket bag with tail and mouth poking out one end and half a chicken still locked between its jaws.' The large group of students was able to provide camouflage for the one holding



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*A Foundation Day water-fight on the Library Lawn, following the pram-race, 1972 [CN486/2/12] Photographer: Allan West*

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the bag as they took the alligator through the turnstiles and back to the university. The kidnappers then called the Zoo to demand a ransom. At first, Zoo officials found it difficult to believe that an alligator was in fact missing, but eventually they paid the 'ransom' of £100 and collected their alligator from Kensington.

A number of special Foundation Day editions of *Tharunka* have followed on from the *Sydney Moaning Tharunka* with such satirical titles as the *Greed Weekend* in 1987 and *Nude Scientist* in 2003. Money has been raised for charities from the Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme in 1967 to Our Lady of Snows soup kitchen in 1996. The scavenger hunts have also continued to

entertain, with lists including items such as 'a bucket of swill (bonus for drinking)' in 1968 or 'an eyeball from the Luna Park face' in 1979.

Some of the original concepts from the 1961 program have not lasted: 1983 was the final year that a parade was held and a Foundation Day holiday given to students. In 1971, when the university adopted a two-session year, the date of celebrations was moved to the last Thursday in July and from 1973 this was changed again to the current date of the second Thursday of Session 2. And the Roundhouse balls of the 1960s have transformed into the far more casual evening dance events of the present, with bands and DJs.

Other Foundation Day traditions have come and gone. For several years from 1968 pram-races took place from Liverpool Street to Circular Quay. Flour-fights were another popular Foundation Day pastime that has ceased in recent times. And the selling of fake 'royals', 'dollars' and 'Opera House tickets' for extra charity money, which was a feature of the Foundation Days of the 1960s, does not appear to have continued far into the 1970s.

But, whatever it takes to make up the UNSW Foundation Day experience, it has always been a memorable occasion for both students and the general public — thereby fulfilling the aims of its original founders. ❖

KATIE BIRD

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## THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES IN 2006

The year 2006 was an eventful one for the Archives. As reported in our last *Origins*, we merged with the Records Administration Section to form the Records and Archives Office, in line with the review and restructure of UNSW services. The new unit now reports to the Legal and Compliance Office within the Division of the Chief Operating Officer.

Karin Brennan continued to act in the position of University Archivist and Katie Bird in that of Assistant University Archivist. We had Dr Paul Wilson working with us on special projects, as well as Mrs Vasco, who assisted with de-metalling and re-folding part of our holdings. Laurie Dillon, Emeritus Archivist, completed an extensive oral history interview with Emeritus Professor John Niland. All interview sessions have been transcribed and are being edited by Carolyne Bruyn. Special project money received from the Vice-Chancellor's Office is assisting with the transcribing and editing of Professor Niland's interview.

The Archives was successful with its grant application to the U Committee for funding towards the production of *Origins* and our current oral history project 'UNSW women in science'. Some research for the project was undertaken during 2006 and Sue Georgevits was contracted towards the end of the year to conduct the interview sessions. Sue is also working on the faculty of

Engineering Interview Project.

During the year we were able to bring a number of major projects to conclusion; these included completion of the Vital Records Microfilming Project and the appraisal determination of UNSW's archival holdings. Other work included the clearance of our publications backlog, processing of the poster collection, updating our databases and Finding Aids and, thanks to the U Committee grant, we were able to publish the *Origins* 2006 newsletter. We also embarked on our next major project, which will dominate our work processes for some time to come and consists of writing short administrative histories and series descriptions for the official records of our existing holdings, to be included on Tabularium. This project gradually expands data held on the database about our holdings, as all incoming material with its relevant agency and series descriptions has been added to Tabularium since 2004. Further activities throughout the year included the hosting and supervision of a work-experience student from COFA; a seminar presentation about UNSW Archives and its uses to honours students from UNSW's school of History and assisting the U Committee at their annual Book Fair.

Our collection was used for administrative purposes as well as in writing histories and preparing

exhibitions; the writing of biographies; the preparation of reunions; academic research, including student assignments; the supply of illustrations for reproduction in publications and media releases. The Kollar papers, for example, were used in a Powerhouse Museum publication and an Opera House media campaign that was attempting to locate undocumented entries to the Opera House design competition.

Both Katie Bird and Karin Brennan attended the 2006 Archives Conference 'Connections and Conversations – Archives at Work', held in Port Macquarie in October. They also continue to be actively involved in the archives profession and value the support they receive from the university in this regard. Katie is a committee member of the NSW branch of the Australian Society of Archivists and, at a federal level, edited the papers presented at the 2006 Conference. Karin is the auditor of the NSW branch and co-convenor of the Society's University Archives Special Interest Group. In that role, during 2006 she undertook the collection, collation and dissemination of University Archives statistics for 2005. Karin is also co-editor of the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA) and responsible for the publication of the PARBICA newsletter, *Panorama*. ❖

KARIN BRENNAN

# 27 YEARS OF ARCHIVES STUDIES AT UNSW

The class of 1986 celebrates their 20th anniversary and remembers the first archives administration course in Australia.

In September 2006 students from the 1986 archives administration class met in Sydney to celebrate the 20th anniversary of completing their course. The UNSW archives administration course was the first in the southern hemisphere when it was established in 1973; for many years it remained the major training ground for archivists from Australasia and the Pacific region. It ran until 2000, when a dwindling number of students and faculty policy on funding forced its closure.

UNSW's postgraduate school of Librarianship, home to the course, had been established in 1960 in response to representations from the Library Association of Australia, the Library Board of New South Wales, and the Trustees of the Public Library Board. The first archives administration subject was introduced into the curriculum in 1963. This was followed in 1973 by the establishment of the first postgraduate diploma in archives administration, as an acknowledgment that archives administration was a professional practice distinct from librarianship. Peter Orlovich was appointed as lecturer that same year and set about laying the foundations for the course, which was made available on a one-

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

year full-time or two-year part-time basis.

Academic staff members transmitted their dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm to their students. As Michael Organ, one of the class of 1986 and later MP for Cunningham, stated so fittingly, 'under the guidance of Peter Orlovich and Ann Pederson, a generation of archivists were trained in both the theory and practice of archives ... The course instilled in many of the participants a lifelong dedication to the archival profession.' Several of the major national archives in the region — including those of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea — sent staff members to UNSW to gain their professional qualifications in archives administration.

The constant need to adapt to developments in the information industry, especially on the technical side, entailed frequent changes in the curriculum. The diploma in archives administration was designed to provide education in the principles and methods of the administration of archives and manuscripts, and various aspects of current records management. In 1981 a major course revision introduced a common core of subjects for both librarianship and archives diploma students, supplemented by specialised courses of study for each strand. The diploma was consequently renamed, becoming the diploma in Information Management – Archives Administration. In 1992, reflecting changing times and the status quo at the school of Librarianship, the school itself was renamed, becoming the school of Information, Library and Archive Studies. In 1997 a third academic stream was introduced into the school's curriculum: audiovisual management. This new course was primarily an internet-based program which had been developed in partnership between the university and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

The UNSW 2000 restructuring process, taking effect in the late



1990s, had major ramifications for the archives course, and for the school as a whole: with the dissolution of the faculty of Professional Studies, the school transferred to the faculty of Commerce and Economics. In 1998 a working-party recommended a merger between the school of Information, Library and Archives Studies and the school of Information Systems so that the faculty would hold its pre-eminent position in the rapidly changing areas of information systems and management. This proposal was endorsed by Council in June 1999, leading to the establishment of the new school of Information Systems Technology and Management. However, in 2000 a decision was taken to close the archives and audiovisual management courses. For the archives profession, the closure of the course has meant that employers, especially those in New South Wales, have experienced difficulties in recruiting qualified staff just at the time when the first wave of archives graduates is retiring.

For us as students, one of the great advantages of the course was the close link it provided to the profession and the employment market. The active engagement of the academic staff in the profession encouraged students to join the professional association, the Australian Society of Archivists, which made the students feel very welcome. Strong links were also formed by having guest lecturers, as well as through visits to institutions in



*The class of 1986, at the 2006 reunion*  
Photographer: Jane McGee

the Sydney metropolitan region and to some of the major archival institutions in Canberra. One of the most important aspects of the course for preparing students for the workforce was the supervised fieldwork assignment, which was undertaken by the archives students in many large and small organisations. The fieldwork component was important for both students and the host bodies. As students, we were able to put theory into practice while experts were often at hand to be consulted whenever necessary. At the end of the assignment the host body received a detailed report which provided an overview of their archival holdings, or of particular aspects of their holdings, and also made recommendations for further action. A number of archives in Sydney, for example in the local government sector, were established as a result of fieldwork assignments and they often employed graduates straight out of the course.

Many friendships were formed, and some marriages came about, through the time spent learning and working together; it was therefore gratifying to see so many students from the class of 1986 coming together from as far afield as New Zealand, Melbourne and Canberra. Paul Wilson, who coordinated the get-together, managed to contact all former students and lecturers of the class. He called, most came. The evening was a great success, and we intend to repeat it in the near future. ❖

KARIN BRENNAN

## PROFESSOR JUDITH ROBINSON-VALÉRY

Dr Judith Robinson (as she was then) was the first woman to be appointed to a full professorship at UNSW, on 12 November 1962. She took up her appointment in the foundation chair of French and as the head of the school of Western European Languages on 21 February 1963. With this appointment, Professor Robinson also became the first woman in Sydney to hold a full and permanent chair (though the University of Sydney had previously employed two female acting professors) as well as the first female professor in Australia to be the head of a university school — all achieved by the age of 29 years.

*Professor Judith Robinson-Valéry, prior to delivering the fifth Wallace Wurth Memorial Lecture, 1987*  
[CN1127/16]  
Photographer: Rob Simms



Born in Canberra in 1933 as Judith White, she gained her BA in 1954, with first-class honours and the university medal in French, from the University of Sydney. After moving to Europe, she gained her doctorate in 1957 at the Sorbonne, Paris, and an MA from the University of Cambridge in 1960. Dr Robinson was also the foundation holder of the Sidney and Marguerite Cody senior research fellowship at Girton College, Cambridge, until returning to Australia to take up her UNSW appointment.

Professor Robinson's arrival at UNSW attracted considerable media attention. She later commented that she felt 'very much like Marilyn Monroe as the journalists beset me from all sides'. She said that her professorial colleagues 'were very courteous, though a little bit shy in

certain cases, not knowing exactly what subjects to raise with this strange animal, a woman professor'.

Professor Robinson played an important role in the establishment of foreign languages as a discipline within this university. In 1972 the French government, in recognition both of her personal research and her attempts to revitalise the teaching of French in Australia, made her an Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques — an award given for outstanding civilian services to the French people. When she departed UNSW on 3 December 1974, the Professorial Board paid tribute to 'her outstanding contribution to the university in founding and building up the teaching of Western European languages'.

In 1975 Professor Robinson returned to France, where she served as visiting professor at three universities — the University of Nanterre, the Sorbonne and Université Paul Valéry — before being appointed director of Research in the department of Sciences of Man and Society at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in 1982. In 1976 she married for a second time, taking the name Robinson-Valéry.

In 1987 she received an honorary Doctor of Letters from UNSW in recognition of her contribution of distinguished eminence to French studies in general and to French studies in Australia at UNSW in particular. At the ceremony she gave the occasional address. The previous day she had also given the fifth Wallace Wurth Memorial Lecture, entitled 'An ethical code for the year 2000'.

In 2005 she was awarded the Legion of Honour, France's highest decoration, for her contribution to the promotion of the teaching of French and French literature, both in Australia and internationally.

UNSW Archives holds biographical information about Judith Robinson-Valéry, as well as an audio recording, a transcript of her occasional address and a printed copy of her Wallace Wurth lecture. ❖

KATIE BIRD

## SIR ROBERT WEBSTER



British army in France and shortly afterwards became a staff captain in the quartermaster-general's department — the first Australian officer to receive an appointment on Sir Douglas Haig's staff.

After his discharge from the AIF in 1919, Webster did not return to his pre-war job in the public service but, instead, went on to the land. He took up a selection in the South Burnett area of Queensland, which he worked for nearly eight years. During this time he also served as chairman of the Murgon Shire Council and was a director of the South Burnett Dairy Co. In the 1923 State election Webster stood, unsuccessfully, for the Queensland seat of Nanango as the endorsed Labor candidate.

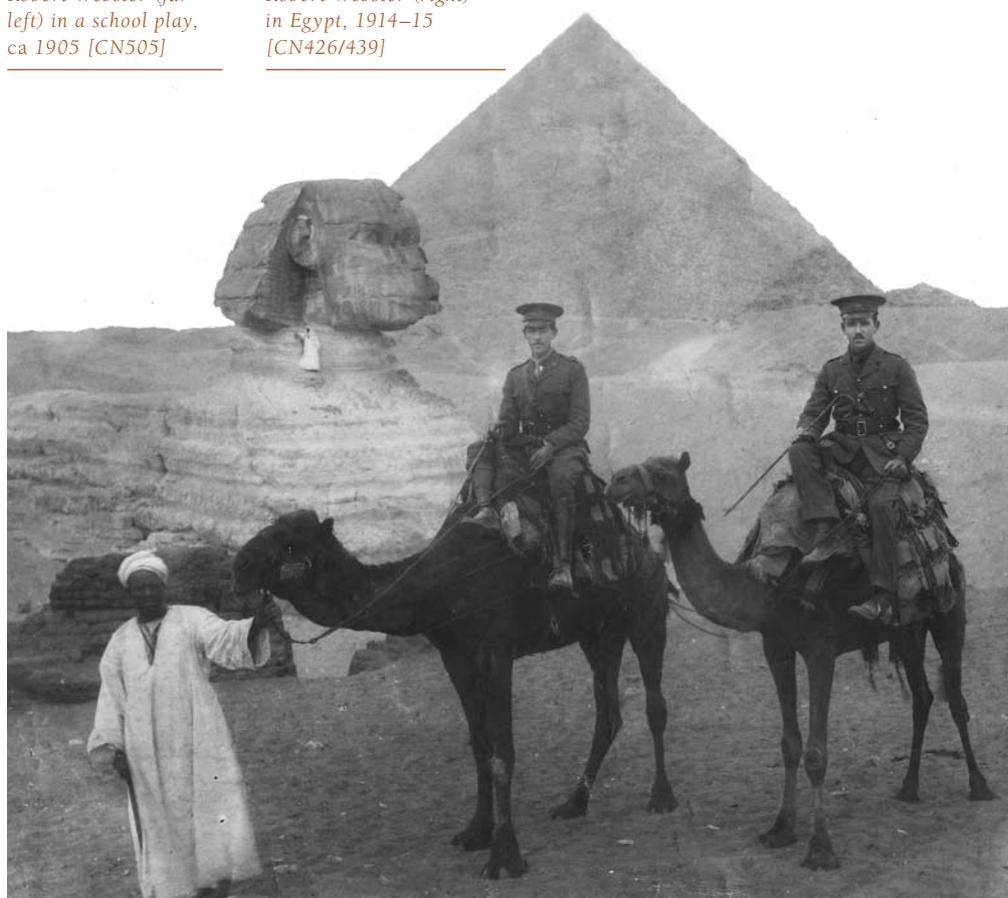
In 1926 Webster relocated to Brisbane to set up and manage the newly formed Queensland Cotton

Robert Joseph Webster, UNSW's third chancellor, was born on 10 June 1891 at Hillgrove, NSW. Two years later his family moved to Charters Towers in Queensland, where his father worked as a mine-manager and Webster attended the boys' state school. He left school at 15 years of age, joining the Postmaster-General's department in 1906 as a telegraph messenger-boy and, after ten months' service, became a telephonist. Webster later passed the Commonwealth Public Service clerical examination and was transferred to the inspection branch in Brisbane in 1910 and, subsequently, to the electrical engineers' branch.

At the outbreak of war Webster enlisted in the first Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and sailed from Brisbane on 23 September 1914. He served in Egypt, Gallipoli and France, initially as a lieutenant in the First Light Horse Brigade Train, being promoted to captain in 1916. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1917 for distinguished service in the field. Webster was then recruited to the General Headquarters of the

*Robert Webster (far left) in a school play, ca 1905 [CN505]*

*Robert Webster (right) in Egypt, 1914–15 [CN426/439]*



Board. He moved to Sydney in 1936, when he joined Bradford Cotton Mills Ltd (later Bradmill Industries Ltd), where he remained until his retirement in 1976; initially appointed the company's general manager, he later became managing-director and chairman of the board of directors. During the war, in 1942–46, he was also the Commonwealth controller of cottons. Webster received a number of honours: a CBE in 1956 and CMG in 1959, followed by his knighthood in June 1963; he was made a companion of the Textile Institute of Great Britain in 1967.

In 1921 Webster had married May Twigg; they had three daughters (Evelyn, Jessica and Mary) and two sons (Donald and Ray), before May passed away in 1949. Webster's second marriage was in 1954, to Daphne Kingcott.

Webster's association with the university dates from its very beginnings. As a member of the Developmental Council from 1947 to 1949, a foundation member of the University Council, and through serving on the executive and other Council committees, he played a significant part in the planning and development of the institution that became the University of New South Wales. He also served as deputy chancellor, 1960–70, and as chancellor, 1970–75. Over his five years as chancellor Sir Robert conferred more than 16,000 degrees

**WHAT HAVE  
YOU GOT THAT MIGHT  
INTEREST US?**

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

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



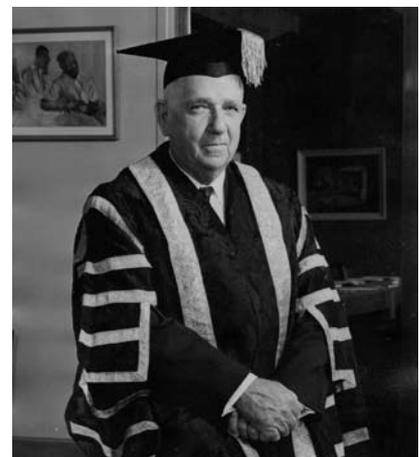
and diplomas. He took continuing and personal interest in the work of the university across the whole range of its activities and, to honour his contribution, the university awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science in 1962 and the title of chancellor emeritus in 1976.

Webster was a leading figure in textile technology, expertise he brought with him in his service to the university, in addition to his considerable industrial and managerial experience. A tireless worker in the fields of education and textile technology, he bridged the gap between the academic and the business worlds. He knew the value of research and was at the forefront of those demanding a more scientific approach to management. UNSW's school of Textile Technology, which he had a leading role in establishing in 1955, offered the only degree course in that field in Australia, and was housed in the Sir Robert Webster building, named in his honour. Unisearch Ltd, the university's research and development company, owes much to his support and guidance as he was chairman of Unisearch Ltd when it was first established.

Sir Robert passed away on 4 August 1981 and his private records were donated to the University Archives. The papers include many photographs and cover aspects of his

*Robert Webster, when he was general manager of the Queensland Cotton Board, with Captain J. Francis (left) and the minister for Trade and Customs (right), 1930s [CN426/683]*

*Deputy Chancellor Robert Webster, 1961 [CN486-3-18A] Photographer: Max Dupain*



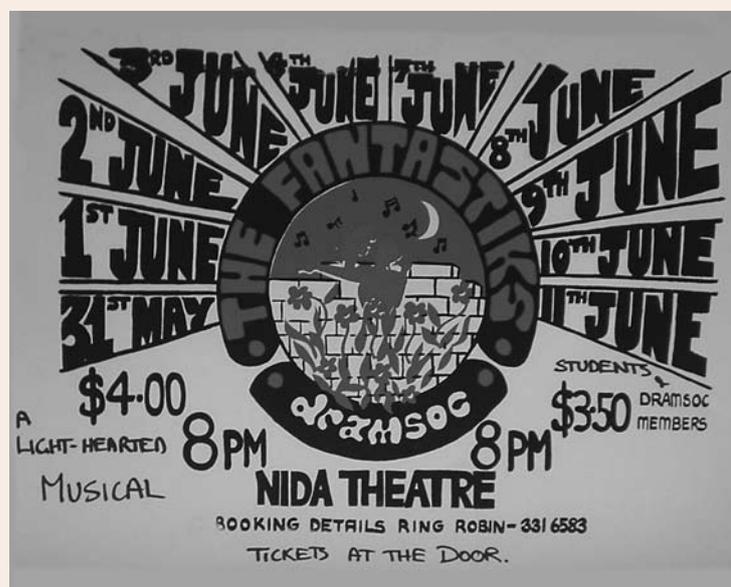
family life and his career as soldier, farmer, manager, industrialist and university chancellor. Particularly notable features are his war diaries, letters home and photographs from various war zones over 1914–18, as well as his business correspondence from Bradford/ Bradmill for the period 1936–80. ❖

KATIE BIRD



*Students' Union  
Annual Ball poster,  
1958 [V1066]*

*The Fantastiks,  
Dramsoc poster,  
1983 [V1057]*



## COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

# POSTERS IN THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Posters have been a part of the University Archives' holdings since its establishment in 1980. However, until last year it was not always easy to find them because they were scattered across various donations and not grouped together. Posters, like much of the rest of the Archives' collection, were mainly arranged under the donor's name. This has proved a less practical method of accessing posters and so, in 2006, they were rearranged by origin — being listed, instead, under the name of the organisation/group that was responsible for creating them.

A poster donation generally consists of posters that a donor has gathered during a limited time period, depending on how long the donor was at university; it might also cover a very wide spectrum of university activities. One typical donation might have posters from a variety of organisations that could include, say, a couple of Law Revue posters, several from the Students' Union, a Foundation Day poster, some that advertise musical events and still more from a number of clubs and societies — all from within a period of two to three years.

Such individual collections can provide an intriguing reflection on events in the university over a short period but, of course, such

collections may not be a complete record of all the events that took place over a particular year. Not all events would necessarily have generated posters and, in any case, only a minority of the posters that were created would have reached the Archives. A more effective means of gathering information on the events of a single year, if that was required, is to consult the Archives' holdings of university publications. Equally, when Archives' users seek out posters, they are generally not looking for a miscellaneous collection of posters from a particular donor but for a series of posters from the same organisation — they might, for example, want to see a succession of Dramsoc posters over a number of years.

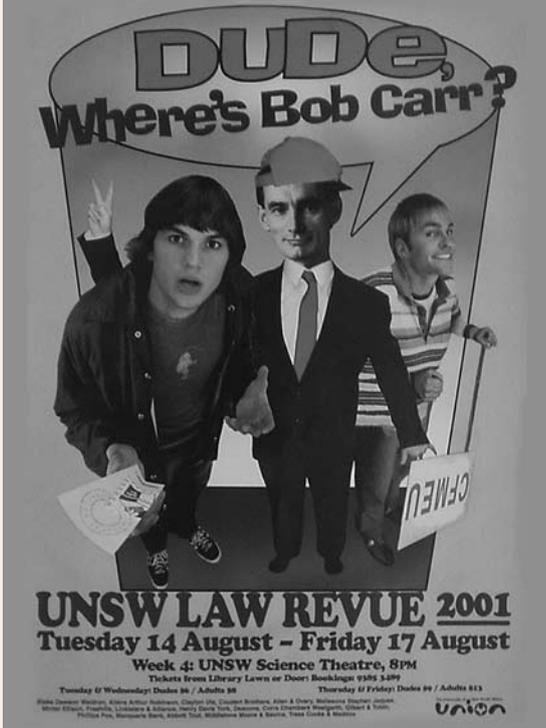
Thus, to improve access to the ones already in our possession, the Archives embarked upon a project in mid-2006 of rearranging the posters into series, according to whatever group/organisation had created the poster. Better storage conditions were also provided for the posters by placing them in inert polypropylene sleeves, as the large sheets of cardboard that had previously housed the posters were proving impractical.

This project has resulted in our discovering much more about the Archives' poster collection. Now we know that the Archives has a

reasonably complete collection of Law Revue posters, but that the Med Revue poster collection is not quite so comprehensive. Drama is a particular strength: groups such as Dramsoc, the Greenroom Society and the New South Wales University Theatrical Society (NUTS) are all represented. The Foundation Day posters we had proved useful for the Archives' recent Foundation Day exhibition. And from the variety of University Union, Students' Union and Student Guild posters much is revealed about changes in popular events, in political activism and in higher education issues over the years.

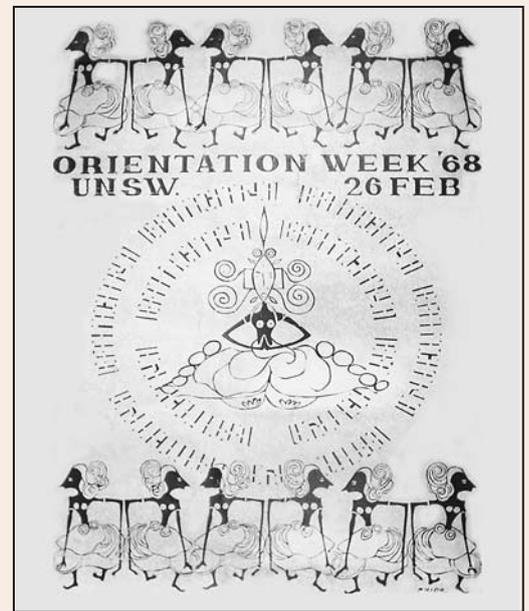
The poster rearrangement also allows for a better comparison of poster design over time. In the 1950s and 1960s posters were almost always originally created by hand, which required considerable artistic talent. As the use of computers has grown, however, so too has the university poster's level of sophistication. But while it's no longer as necessary to have strong drawing skills, creativity in ideas is still essential. After all, the purpose of a poster is to inform, and it will not succeed without the benefit of an eye-catching motif — and it is here that the creators of university posters have always been successful. ❖

KATIE BIRD



Dude, Where's Bob Carr?, Law Revue poster, 2001 [V1023]

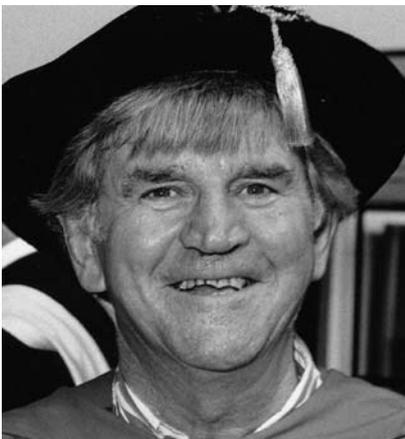
Orientation Week poster, 1968 [CN130/18]



PERSONAL PAPERS

## PROFESSOR FRED HOLLOWES

In this edition of *Origins* we look at one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of private papers held within the University Archives, the papers of the distinguished ophthalmologist and humanitarian, Professor Fred Hollows. During his life-time, and even in death, Professor Hollows was honoured for his contribution to overcoming preventable eye-disease in Australia, especially in indigenous communities, and also in parts of the developing world. In 1990 he was chosen as Australian of the Year; in



Professor Fred Hollows, after receiving his honorary Doctor of Medicine, 1991 [00A31]  
Photographer: Tony Potter

2004 he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the inaugural New South Wales Aboriginal Health Awards; in 2006 he was named by the *Bulletin* as one of the 100 most influential Australians of all time.

Most of the Hollows papers date from 1965, when the eye-specialist, who was born and raised in New Zealand, accepted an appointment as founding associate professor of Ophthalmology at UNSW and chairman of the division (later department) of Ophthalmology at Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals. They cover key aspects of his distinguished career from then until shortly before his death in 1993.

One of the enduring legends about Professor Hollows is that he showed little interest in administrative detail, including record-keeping. The size and complexity of this collection shows that this legend may have been somewhat overstated. The office records that Professor Hollows maintained as part of his official university and hospital duties reveal a dedicated professional devoted to his calling and one who was committed to the education and training of Australian and international eye-surgeons. The comprehensive files he kept on the Aboriginal Medical Service and the

National Trachoma and Eye Health Program reveal why his work was so highly regarded but also why sometimes it could be tinged with controversy.

The Hollows papers can be divided into four main categories: office records generated by Professor Hollows as an academic, specialist and administrator at UNSW and Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals; subject files primarily concerned with the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program, the Aboriginal Medical Service, the Coloured Glasses Study, and the Visual Display Unit Study; typescript and published research papers written by Professor Hollows solely or in collaboration with members of his team; personal papers of a private and domestic nature that reveal some of his outside interests such as house restoration, mountaineering, and land- and water-conservation.

Owing to the medically sensitive nature of much of the collection (for example, the subject files relating to the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program), and also because of the private nature of the personal and domestic material, access to the records may be restricted and potential researchers should contact archives staff for advice on access conditions. ❖

PAUL WILSON

## UNSW WOMEN IN SCIENCE

In 2006 the University Archives obtained funding from the U Committee to conduct a series of ten extended interviews with female scientists from the University of New South Wales. The aim of this project was to expand the existing information-base on the academic experience of female scientists at UNSW and in Australia, and to bring the achievements of some of our best scientists to the attention of our fellow Australians and the international research community. Another important reason for conducting this series of interviews was that, to date, most of the academics interviewed for the Oral History Program have been male. The resulting interviews document the changing experience of women at UNSW since its foundation and explore how these women have seen their position, in the past and the present, at UNSW and in their chosen academic field. The project has expanded the Archives' oral history collection and has also enriched the level of information in the Archives about UNSW's past and the role of science in its history.

Participation was invited from women broadly across scientific specialities (including mathematics, psychiatry, botany, cancer research, safety science, engineering science, risk management, physiology and pharmacology) in order to canvas a wide range of UNSW experiences and lives. All the participants who agreed to be interviewed have had a long association with this institution in varying capacities — as undergraduate and postgraduate students, for instance, as teachers, researchers and mentors to future researchers.

These extended interviews offer insights into a wide variety of topics affecting women at university beyond their academic experience. There was discussion

of what opportunities existed for women to study at university and how much more limited such opportunities were for them than for men — simply on gender grounds or, more particularly, because of marriage or family commitments. It became very clear that most of the women interviewed felt that UNSW offered far more equal opportunities to establish satisfying career paths than they believed were available in the commercial world.

One of the interviewees, Helen Ramsay, a foremost botanist specialising in Australian bryology, was inspired to take up botany because of a subject choice at secondary school and a particular teacher. In her interview she explained that at school she'd had to do botany because she had not wanted to study languages, particularly Latin. She then found she was very good at botany and was fortunate enough to have a wonderful teacher. This began a lifelong interest that was consolidated when she began

university in 1946: she continues her research in retirement today. Helen's story is particularly interesting as she began teaching at UNSW when the school of Biological Sciences was still at Ultimo. She remembers moving to the top of the Kensington campus and having to climb over the sandhills to hold tutorials and lectures on lower campus. Helen has vivid memories of the changes that took place between 1961 and when she retired in 1988 — changes in the teaching of science, in opportunities for women in science and in the built environment at UNSW.

It was interesting to find that these women had a thirst for knowledge stretching beyond their own discrete areas of interest and were also strongly committed to future generations of researchers. All the women interviewed were quick to acknowledge the importance of other academics at UNSW who had been prepared to offer support and guidance throughout their careers.

Consequently, many of these women see it as their role now to mentor other young men and women working in scientific research and to offer clearer career pathways than were available to them.

This project has been a pleasure and a privilege to conduct. These interviews open a new window to other researchers to explore the lives of these significant women at UNSW. We are indebted to the U Committee for funding the project sufficiently to conduct extended interviews, thanks to which we have been able to develop such a valuable collection for the University Archives. We are also grateful to all the women who agreed to participate and took time from their busy lives to contribute to the project. ♦

SUE GEORGEVITS



*Dr Helen Ramsay provides guidance to a botany student, 1979 [CN1127/1]*  
University Photographer

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## ACCESSIONS

This is a selection of records and private papers received by the University Archives during 2006. The Archives extends a special thank you to all depositors. Access enquiries to the collection are invited. In some instances access is restricted or special conditions apply.

### Personal donations

Cheong, Simplicius. CDs of live performances: Simplicius Cheong with Tom Baker, Carl Vine and friends, 11 May & 17 August 1987 & 27 February 1992; Simplicius Cheong and friends, Manly Jazz Festival/Clancy Auditorium, 3 October 1988 & 24 September 1996; Simplicius Cheong Trio and Quartet Live in Singapore and Simplicius Cheong Quintet Live at Oatley Campus, 21 July 1989 – 28 March 2001; Simplicius Cheong Quintet, Jazz at the Clancy, 26 March 1996, 15 May 1997 & 8 September 1998 [06/135].

Deane, John. *UTECOM: A Turing Engine for the University of New South Wales*, Australian Computer Museum Society publication, 2006 [V1101].

Douglas, Dr J.B. Speech made by Dr Jim Douglas at the presentation of the J.B. Douglas Postgraduate Awards of the Statistical Society of Australia, 27 November 2002 [06/159].

Dwyer, Emeritus Professor John M. Records relating to the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific, the University Hospital Project and his newspaper column on health issues [06/164].

Haynes, Janice. L.M. Haynes to Jacques Cadry: statement by Haynes about Cadry's contribution to Hans Eberhard Wulff's research into the traditional crafts of Persia [06/168].

Huckstep, Emeritus Professor R.L. CV, list of overseas lecture tours and reference list relating to various implants/applications designed by Professor Huckstep, 2006 [06/162] (Emeritus Professor Huckstep's papers have been deposited in the National Library of Australia).

King, Professor Robert. First Year Biology Teaching Unit Director's Report for 1985–86, March 1987 [06/129].

Orlovich, Dr Peter. Student Guide 2004 [S308].

Pederson, Ann. Photographs of school of Information, Library and Archives Studies archives students undertaking fieldwork, 1981–98, and of Australian Society of Archivists' conferences, 1983–97 [06/161].

Radford, Dr Neil. Private papers of Professor Wilma Radford relating to her retirement and the establishment of the John Metcalfe Scholarship, 1973–82 [06/143].

Reed, Henry (son of former jockey and UNSW watchman, Harry Reed). Photographs and scanned images of Harry Reed and family, ca 1920s – ca 1980s [06/140, 06/150].

Wilson, Dr Paul. Eulogies and other material related to the celebration of the life of Professor Wilma Radford held at the State Library of NSW, 18 October 2005 [06/138].

### Governance and administration

Chief Financial Officer, office of. Records of CFO, Chris Lidbury [06/155].

Chief Operating Officer, office of. Awards given to UNSW in recognition of the university's achievements: the 2003 Finalist for the Australian Greenhouse Office Greenhouse Challenge Award; a November 2004 Elite Athlete Friendly University endorsement from the Australian Institute of Sport / NSW Institute of Sport / Participating Professional Players' Associations; the 2005 Leading Organisation for the Advancement of Women (more than 500 employees) Finalist, Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) Business Achievement Award [06/170].

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs/ Planning & Resources), division of. Day files, 1999–2002 [S1285].

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), division of. Research @UNSW annual edition 2005–06 [S1352]; UNSW Research Review papers 2003–05 [S1393].

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), division of. Day files, 2001 [S1284].

Legal Office. Photographs of St George campus, ca 1990s [06/146].

Library. A CD with photographs of 'ETD2005: evolution through discovery', 8th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) held at UNSW, 28–30 September 2005 [06/134]; digital photographs of Library staff members, created for a farewell function for long-standing staff members, February 2006 [06/136]; the Simpsons UNSW Organisation Chart, ca 1995 [06/145]; UNSW publications, various dates [06/158]; Library Guide 1967 [S506]; staff newsletters, 2006 [S1266]; photographs of the official opening of the Ethnic Affairs Archives on 28 October 1981 by Dr Paolo Totaro, chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW [06/165]; photographs of Library staff and Library publications [06/167, V213].

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality Improvement), division of. UNSW Performance Portfolio and Supplementary Material produced for the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) Audit, 2005 [06/154].

Records Administration Section.

Administrative files relating to the removal and disposal of asbestos, 1970–2001 [06/156]; Chancellery administrative files [06/171].

Secretariat/Secretary to Council. Minutes, papers and agendas for Council and its committees; copies of Academic Board minutes, agendas and papers and faculty and committee minute books, 2002–06, various consignments.

Student Records. Student subject result schedules and sheets [06/160]; Conferring of degree booklets 2004–05 [S303].

UNSW. Calendar 2006; Annual Report 2002; UNSW Statistics Bulletins 1999 & 2001–03 [06/137]; Statement of Affairs & Summary of Affairs, 2005–06 [S775].

UNSW Archives. Preservation microfilm negatives of the minutes of Council and its committees, faculties and Professorial/Academic Board [06/166].

Vice-Chancellor, office of. Digital



*The UNSW Rugby Union team at Sydney Airport, about to board their TAA flight prior to departing for Adelaide, 1963 [06/163/7]*

photographs of the naming of the John Niland Scientia Building, 22 February 2006 [06/141]; photographs of farewell function for Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Wainwright, 13 June 2006 [06/153]; agendas & papers of the Executive and Senior Management Group, 2002–04 [S247]; Day files of the Vice-Chancellor, 2002 [S248]; correspondence files [S1286–1287]; agendas & papers of the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee, 1996–2004 [S261]; Commercial Activities Review papers 2004–05 [S1394].

Workplace English Program. Annual Report 2003 [S903].

#### UNSW Asia

Singapore Prospectus 2007 [S1289].

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

Administration, Institute of. Course programs, 1960–79, transferred by the Australian Graduate School of Management [06/132].

Asia Australia Institute. Records, photographs and cassette tapes of the Asia Australia Institute, 1990–2003 [06/169].

Australian Centre for International Business. Annual Report 2002 [S1216].

Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse (linked to Centre for Gender-Related Violence Studies, based in the UNSW School of Social Work). Newsletter [V1104]; issues papers, 2007 [V1087].

College of Fine Arts. ORDAD Report 1991; ORDAD Bulletin 1992; COFA Bulletin 1993 [S1395].

Engineering, faculty of. Annual reports of various UNSW schools and centres; UNSW reports and publications, various dates [C642–647].

Gilbert and Tobin Centre of Public Law. Newsletter, July 2006 [S533].

History, school of. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Conferring of Awards Booklets, 1998–2004 [06/130].

Law, faculty of. Office records of the dean of the faculty, 1973–2004 [06/151].

New South Global. Annual Report 2005 [S1233].

#### University organisations and associations

Alumni Association. Private papers of Jenny Horder, Alumni Association office-bearer, relating to Alumni Association business, 1996–2005 [06/142].

Alumni Association (Malaysia chapter). Correspondence of Quah Choon Huat to the Alumni Association (Malaysia chapter) concerning fellow graduates of the 1950s, 1999 [06/139].

Chocolate Society (Chocsoc). Photographs and newsletter, 2006 [06/144].

Law Revue Society. Posters 1977–81 [S1295]; leaflet, 2006 [S1085].

Law Society. *Poetic Justice* magazine, issue 4, 2005 [S1087].

Rugby League and Otago Club. Club records, 2000–05 [06/131].

Rugby Union Club. Photographs, 1955–2005 [06/163].

Source/University Union. DVDs containing first and second prize-winners in UNSW Source's Orientation Week film competition, 2006 [06/147]; publication *Unsweetened*, 2006 [S1256].

Sports Association. *The Pavilion on the Village Green – The History of the Sports Association*, by Richard Cashman, Anthony Hughes and Zolton Zavos, 2005 [V922]. Annual Report 2001 [S387].

Staff Association. Records of the Staff Association transferred from the former Community Research Archives in the Library [06/157].

University Club. Committee/Board papers of the University Club collected by Tony Cargnelutti while a club committee member, 1993–95 [06/149]. ❖

KARIN BRENNAN

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

Closed on public holidays and 24 December to 1 January

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