Writing History from the Archives

The 50th anniversary of the foundation of UNSW this year has been marked by the appearance of several volumes of history in which the University Archives have played a significant role. Planning for all these volumes began some years ago, as for example when in the mid 1980s the University Archivist Laurie Dillon was invited to address a Staff seminar in the History School about the resources in the University Archives for history in the university. Subsequently a steering committee was established to work on plans for an official university history to appear in 1999 and Professor Patrick O’Farrell began work on the necessary research. For some years during the research and writing, one of his assistants, Karen Hutchings, was located almost permanently in the University Archives, accessing and sifting through files as he required them. At the same time, new records were being added or created as interest in the project unearthed additional material and interviews were conducted with various members of the university, past and present, whom it was thought would have interesting and important memories or experiences to contribute. (Continued on page 2)
The result of all this planning, research and writing appeared earlier this year as UNSW A Portrait. It is a handsome volume, and as Tim Peach, specialist Australian bookseller at the State Library of NSW has observed, stands out impressively in any display. A great many readers or potential readers will have checked to see whether their own names appear in the index, and probably a few will have been disappointed. Others may feel less than flattered by what they read. To cover fifty years of the history of UNSW is not unlike writing the history of a large town with its changing structure of government and administration, its dominant figures, shifting population, evolving physical arrangements, component organisations and institutions, and emerging ethos. In working his way through the many different stories which make up the history of UNSW so far, O’Farrell had also to locate UNSW within the wider framework of the history of university education in NSW as well as in Australia as a whole, for from at least 1957 when the Murray committee handed in its report, the federal government became increasingly important in university funding and thus policy making. One of the strengths of O’Farrell’s book is this large perspective which is firmly anchored to the reality of life at UNSW by clever juxtaposition with the text of photographs and cartoons, many of them taken from the superb collection contained in the Archives.

When UNSW A Portrait was being planned it was never expected that it would be able to do justice to the detail of individual faculties or schools or the many organisations which have flourished within the university. It was always Professor O’Farrell’s hope that his activities would encourage or stimulate others to think about their own history within the UNSW framework and to begin collecting material or embark on the writing of detailed or specific studies. Some short studies already exist such as Unique Providers: Money raising and the University of New South Wales U Committee 1963-1993. This year two useful and informative short histories have appeared: Ronald Winton’s ‘look back’, as he calls it, at the first 25 years of teaching medicine at UNSW; and the story of the School of Chemistry, affectionately written by Emeritus Professor Stanley Livingstone, which is also a celebration of the photographs of Max Dupain.

In many ways the early history of the Faculty of Medicine echoes political difficulties with which the University as a whole was beset in its first decade or two, not least the reluctance of the University of Sydney to accept the need for a second university and a second medical school. Winton examines in detail the problems of constructing courses in a forward-looking manner, and acquiring hospitals in which clinical training could be undertaken. This authoritative account of the first twenty-five years also contains reflective comment on more recent developments as they relate to earlier policies.

Chemistry, it seems, is by its nature an amusing subject. If the captions to the illustrations in UNSW A Portrait seem lively and sometimes pointed, those in The School of Chemistry 1879-1999 are both wry and extremely funny. Photographs by the rightly celebrated Max Dupain from a university series commissioned in 1960 and now in the Archives have been supplemented by others of more recent vintage, with the back cover an inspiring piece of montage. The whole book was put together by a group of enthusiasts in the School with special credits for the photographic work going to Martin Dudman and Ken McGuffin. The School of Chemistry is without a doubt the oldest School in the university, dating back to 1879 when classes began in a laboratory of the Technical or Working Men’s College in the Sydney School of Arts in Pitt Street – a building which still stands, just, behind the monorail, and which might well be adopted by UNSW as part of our heritage as well as an important remnant of the educational history of NSW.
The Archives collection of photographs was also raided this year for the exhibition mounted by the UNSW Union and the Archives called Mind, Body and Spirit – Celebrating 50 Years of Student Life at UNSW. Such exhibitions are by their nature unfortunately ephemeral. In contrast, Belinda Webb, the Curator of the UNSW Art Collection devised a ‘walking tour of the sculptures and public art in the UNSW Art Collection’, which, though they may move occasionally, tend to become unnoticed fixtures in the landscape. A brochure detailing locations and providing useful information about the sculptors and their work was also produced.

It is perhaps only coincidental that the memoirs of one of UNSW’s most colourful characters, Ian Channell the Wizard of UNSW 1968-1970 have also appeared recently. It is possible that Channell was encouraged to begin writing these memoirs as a result of an interview arranged in 1991 by the Archives to add to their oral history collection. Readers of the chapters recounting the two years he spent at UNSW may enjoy trying to disentangle the discrepancies with O’Farrell’s account or interpret the veiled attacks on various figures with whom he clashed.

The UNSW Archives has maintained its own steady, though modest, publication list for many years, especially in connection with the Oral History Program, most recently the extended interviews with Michael and Jenny Birt in Not An Ivory Tower (1998). Ongoing work includes a history of the experience of women at UNSW and an illustrated history of UNSW students in the 1950s and 1960s. Anyone whose interest or memory has been stirred to think about writing or compiling a school, faculty, or even a personal history of UNSW is welcome to contact the Archives where there are not only resources in the form of documents but also experienced archivists and historians with whom it would be possible to discuss approaches and ideas.

Bibliography
Ronald Winton With Hand And Mind And Heart. A look back at the first quarter century of the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales 1999. (Available from the Faculty of Medicine)
The School of Chemistry 1879-1999. A contribution to the 50th anniversary celebrations of the University of New South Wales, 1949-1999 (Available from the School of Chemistry)
The Wizard My Life as a Miracle Canterbury University Press, 1998. (Available from bookshops)
Mind, Body and Spirit – Celebrating 50 Years of Student Life at UNSW Brochure and Demountable exhibition, UNSW Union, UNSW.
Public Art at UNSW: A walking tour of the sculptures and public art in the UNSW Art Collection Brochure, UNSW Art Collection.

Beverley Kingston
I pass, like night, from land to land,
I have strange power of speech.

ST Coleridge
*Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*

Early in 1960 a young electrical engineer said to the Vice Chancellor of the University of New South Wales over lunch ‘Professor Baxter we should build a University Educational Radio Station’. Associate Professor Derek Broadbent of Electrical Engineering had been to the same red brick university in the industrial midlands of England as the Vice Chancellor, where university extension to the community was a tradition, so the young man thought it was worth a go. Baxter was a man that could take this preposterous suggestion in his stride and, immediately, asked why and how much.

Baxter put the project in the portfolio of Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor David Phillips. Like the Vice Chancellor David was a Welshman, but from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales, a coal-mining area. He was a down-to-earth man of great perception in the area of further education. As Foundation Professor of Mining Engineering he wanted the costs and benefits of a university radio dug out, washed, dried and nicely laid out to put before Baxter and the Chancellor, Wallace Wurth, for their approval. He anticipated opposition from some academics.

My proposal was that the radio transmitter be housed in the new project laboratory of the Electrical Engineering School at the Kensington campus, and be used to broadcast refresher courses to our graduates. While at the University of Melbourne, I had been part-time secretary of the University Extension Committee and there had been great demand for refresher courses in Victoria and there seemed no reason why the same should not apply in New South Wales.

David Phillips was right about opposition from some members of the Professorial Board. One quipped that university extension activities should be abbreviated to ‘Unistench’. Another, Professor John Blatt, felt he could not support the recording of his lectures for broadcast because once this was done ‘I will be out of a job!’. John later became one of the most enthusiastic supporters of Radio University using it to present his computer programming courses and school–university bridging courses in mathematics. The total enrolment finished up in the thousands for his courses. Fortunately, there were many supporters for the venture, and radio broadcasting finally was approved by the academics *ad captandum vulgus*.

The Vice Chancellor suggested that David approach the Head of the School of Electrical Engineering Professor R.E. Vowels to ask if Olley Pawloff, a lecturer in the school, might help with the transmitter. Vowels replied back yes but owing to staff shortage he could not reduce Olley’s teaching load. Olley said he was keen to help anyway. What a gem he was and he took over the transmissions until we could finance a full-time radio technician. His enthusiasm typified that of all the staff in those early years. Joyce Oxnam, from the Electrical Engineering School, was the Radio University’s secretary and the daughter of a distinguished electrical engineer. Production was undertaken by John Shaw, who came from the Extension Department of the University of New England, and by David Graham, scalped from Channel 7, Sydney. Later, Laurie Porter joined our radio station from 2WL Wollongong as chief technician. Together, they ensured the success and rapid growth and professionalism that the radio course had in those early days.

A major problem for Radio University, as it was then starting to be called, was the transmission frequency licence. Broadcast licences were issued by the Australian Broadcasting Control Board sparingly. This was because the...
AM broadcast band extended only to 1500 kilocycles per second (and still does though we call them kilohertz now) and was fully allocated to established stations like 2BL, 2GB, 2UE. There was no FM yet, and short-wave was not very attractive because of reception problems. Things looked grim.

Communication channels, however, did exist and were issued to the fire services, police, boating authorities and others. They were allocated by the radio branch of the Postmaster General’s department (PMG) and started from a broadcast frequency of about 1600 kc/s. We thought why not try to get an allocation in this band as near as possible to normal radios. The allocations were narrow bandwidth suitable only for speech transmissions, but then we would be broadcasting lectures and not hi-fi music.

The PMG had up to thirty undergraduate engineering cadets at any one time in UNSW’s Electrical Engineering School. The very sympathetic Superintendent of the Radio Branch believed that radio transmitting would be an important component in their course if we could get it up and running. The result was an allocation at 1750 kc/s with more than usual bandwidth to go with it, but we were not allowed to broadcast music.

There was still plenty of war-surplus equipment about in the 1960s and Olley got hold of an ex-RAAF AT14 transmitter and retuned it to our frequency. The transmitter would deliver 300 watts to a suitably tuned antenna. But all we could muster was a short two-inch water pipe mast on the tower of the project laboratory with a wire strung to the adjacent building. A bit like the mast and wire we used to have years ago in the backyard at home to pick up the ‘wireless’. It was about as equally effective. Nevertheless we could be received from Mosman to Mascot and from Bondi to Burwood (if you were not in a valley). In May 1961 Professor J.P. Baxter opened Radio University, followed by the first lecture course.

The first courses broadcast by Radio University that May were Theatre and Drama, Production, and An Introduction to Feedback Control. Theatre and Drama was offered in conjunction with the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). The lecturer was its Director, Associate Professor Robert Quentin (from the University’s School of Drama). Like the radio station, NIDA was one of the many ventures in the University initiated and strongly supported by Baxter. Many supported us in our task of bringing the University to the community, which was the Baxter objective. An Introduction to Feedback Control offered by Derek Broadbent for the Division of Postgraduate and Extension Studies, dealt with the new theory of feedback of information used to control systems of machines or people which was brought to prominence during the war. Later in 1961 we broadcast a series of lectures, in conjunction with the National Trust, on Australia’s Architecture and Man-made Environment. Also broadcast in 1961 were: Introduction to Operations Research, which dealt with the new theory of system operations; Introduction to the Use of Computers, then a very new topic; and Acting, a sequel to Theatre and Drama. Student enrolment in our first year was over two hundred.

The radio program expanded at a great rate and thirty postgraduate, extension and school–university bridging courses were broadcast in 1962 with over 1000 students paying fees (and probably many more who didn’t). The Concord Council leased us the old 2UE radio mast. A grant from the Commonwealth government enabled us to purchase more equipment, and a larger ex-RAAF AT20 transmitter was donated by Dr Keith King of Lawson, which we installed. The result was infinitely better reception for the students, but they still got no music. They did get the cultured Australian voice of Professor Neil Burgess of the School of English announcing the programmes. Neil was a great character who did this on an honorary basis because he was a believer in the cause. For the longer gaps the listeners heard Richard Burton’s rendition of the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner. The increased signal power and the better frequency response made his rich tones magnificent: ‘I have strange power of speech’.

Derek Broadbent
Women’s History in the UNSW Archives

This is a story of how historical collections might be created purposefully, arising out of current needs, but be historically relevant.

The ‘Women in the Archives’ project began in 1995 as a glint in the eye of Beverley Kingston, then associate professor in history at UNSW. She had been appointed as one of a nine member working party of the UNSW Vice-Chancellor’s Advisory Committee to examine the position of women in the university. A major finding of the working party was that women were not less successful than men in their applications for promotion to associate professor or professor, but that a smaller proportion applied for these positions. The glint in Bev’s eye came from a recommendation of the working party calling for a survey to ‘profile the career paths of successful women academics’; those who had achieved the status of associate professor or professor.

As a member of the advisory committee of the University Archives, Beverley Kingston knew of what is now the Oral History Program in the UNSW Archives, established some years ago to document the lives of certain members of the University’s community—many of whom were pre-eminent in their academic discipline—in an attempt to understand the functions of a university. In other words, the Oral History Program had long been profiling the careers of ‘successful’ academics.

The proposal that the Program should profile the career paths of women academics was appealing because it was a way to create a new collection in the Archives about women at UNSW. Women academics could tell their stories about how they came to be at UNSW, but be guided by the careful questioning involved in historical surveys to create documents of enduring value. There were just over one hundred women who were senior lecturers or above, yet if only half participated in the survey, there would still be a set of documents large enough to call a collection.

The goal was to start collecting the experiences of women now employed at UNSW in senior academic positions. We also wanted to emphasise that it was ‘experiences’ we were interested in (which of course is the prime reason for most oral history, what you might call its allure). We weren’t collecting statistics. There were other University departments far better equipped to do that.

The questionnaire that became the centrepiece of the survey was long, devised in such a way as to help people compile a memoir of their experiences. We wanted to know how their personal history—their family background, educational opportunities, university experience—had led them to become academics, what they saw as the major influences in their career choices, the most rewarding aspects of academic life, its frustrations, and how they juggled domestic and professional responsibilities. Since many academics often come from other universities, their experiences weren’t limited to UNSW, but might be used, with care, to probe more generally the question of the treatment of women academics over the last forty years. The responses were revealing.

Until the early 1970s, when free university education was introduced, there were no general expectations that bright young women go to university. Nursing and teaching were the main choices for women wishing to continue their education, and neither of these required a university degree. For a woman to choose to go to university it was usually because someone had told them to do so. For one woman, ‘my father discouraged me from further study. He thought I should have a good time, go dancing, have fun ... It was a man I later became close to who encouraged me to go to university ...’. Some followed an established tradition of family members attending universities: ‘no other options were ever really discussed except that we would each go to university’. Others, particularly if they were the first of their family to go to university, noted helpful teachers committed to the idea that intelligent girls should have a university education.

On the question of what course to do, there were several possibilities. One was to take on the challenge of a predominantly male discipline—in the 1960s and 1970s that meant engineering (with law close behind). ‘One of the reasons I chose [my course] was because an older friend remarked that it was very “hard” implying that it was therefore not suitable for a woman’. For others it was a matter of the least unpleasant option: ‘I knew physics was an unusual choice ... It was partly a...
Dr Helen Maguire, June Griffith and Shirley Garvin-Smith (left to right) after receiving their degrees in 1956. Helen Maguire was the first woman to be awarded a doctorate by the University, while June Griffith was the first woman graduate of the University, receiving her BSc (Hons) in 1952 and her MSc in 1956. All three were students of the School of Applied Chemistry. [CN69]
(Continued from page 7)

periods. But why have a women’s collection?

The policy of targeting a particular group is a way of increasing their representation in collections more efficiently than the usual processes might allow. By the mid 1990s there were far fewer interviews with women in the Program’s collection than there were with men—for understandable historical reasons. As a university established in post-war Australia to take up the challenge of developing local industry through technological advancement, most of its first academic staff, let alone those in senior positions, were men. The early rationale for the Archives oral history collection was to interview those people associated with the University’s establishment. Given the times and the technological basis of the University they happened to be men. What had originally been a pressing need to interview the early ‘movers and shakers’, now includes other generations, if the collection is to continue to reflect, at least in part, the institution it is documenting.

Also, a women’s collection picks up on present-day research interests. Researchers in sociology, history, art and theory have all used the collection for their own work on women. In some instances, it was a way into the general collection to research other matters, which they might not have used but for their primary interest in women.

Julia Horne

This survey is ongoing. Any woman who is a senior lecturer or above (or equivalent), and who would like to participate, should contact Dr Julia Horne, Oral History Program in the UNSW Archives.

Bowled Over

Kensington Bowl to Unisearch House

In June 1966 the University of New South Wales bought Kensington Bowl from Bowling Centres (Consolidated) P/L for the sum of $360,000. The site included not only a bowling alley, but also office space, parking for 100 cars, a commercial laundry and a licensed restaurant with views of the bowling lanes.

The purchase had been made possible by a donation from Unisearch of $200,000. The University took out a short-term mortgage to conclude the business since extra funds were earmarked to come from the Australian Universities Commission grant for the triennium 1967–1969 and the university’s special purchase fund.

Officially opened in 1962, Kensington Bowl had been purpose-built at a cost of more than £200,000. Ten-pin bowling then had some appeal as family entertainment. The last proprietor of Kensington Bowl, Jim Lawrence, aimed to encourage the young to take up the sport. Many UNSW staff members still remember the bowling alley as a place where they spent many a good night as youngsters. It was a competitive sport, but not without humour. In 1965 the teams in the Monday nights mixed doubles at Kensington Bowl had such names as Samson and Delilah, Adam and Eve, Dave and Mabel, Romeo and Juliet, and Tarzan and Jane. In April that year Romeo and Juliet were ‘on the balcony of points having won 11 matches and only lost one’.

The University never intended to use its bowling facilities, but was attracted by the proximity to campus of a big building. The large, air-conditioned open top floor provided an ideal examination area. Unisearch moved into the office space, and the laundry continued to be operated under lease from the University for another 10 years until 1976. After the lease expired the university refurbished the area to provide additional classroom and tutorial rooms for the Institute of Languages.

Today Unisearch House, as it is now known, is familiar to many as a place of enrolment and for the highly successful Book Fair, run by the U Committee.

Sources

‘Unisearch House’ UNSW Archives CN1160, 370864; Tenpin Bowling Magazine Vol. 4 (6), April 23, 1965

Karin Brennan

Those were the days when you could wine and dine at what became Unisearch House, and watch a game of tenpin bowling at the same time. (Photo from Tenpin Bowling Magazine) [Chris O’Sullivan 99A117]
In August 1970, the recently completed Sir John Clancy Auditorium on UNSW’s upper campus was the venue for a stunning new theatrical production considered at the time to be a landmark for drama in Australia. It was also a highpoint in the life of the Old Tote Theatre Company, founded and located on campus in 1963. This was Tyrone Guthrie’s production of *King Oedipus*, an adaptation by John Lewin of Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex*.

Among those with leading roles were Ron Haddrick (Oedipus) and Ruth Cracknell (Iokasta). The sets, and the remarkable costumes and masks, were by Yoshi Tosa. The music was composed by UNSW’s Roger Covell.

In her autobiography published in 1997, Ruth Cracknell names this production as unquestionably one of the great highlights of her career. She sees this as due largely to the creative and executive force of Tyrone Guthrie, and less so to the venue, which presented substantial staging challenges. She writes:

‘*King Oedipus* had its season in Sydney at the totally inappropriate Clancy Auditorium at the University of New South Wales, which had caused even Guthrie’s optimism to plummet when he first saw it. But ‘rise above’ reasserted its rightful place within him, and he somehow managed to convey Thebes with such soul-reaching conviction that not many who saw the production will forget. He always said he didn’t want people to experience a wallow of emotion, but rather that Oedipus be with them forever, so that at odd moments through life it would surface, unbidden … . Ron Haddrick was majestic – in every sense. The masks added another dimension and I couldn’t reach him, only approach Oedipus. There was a barrier to any comfort or connection in the human sense …. And yet the masks did gain expression, and some will swear they saw tears falling.’ (Ruth Cracknell, *A Biased Memoir*. Viking/Penguin 1997, p.162).

Laurie Dillon

Cast members clad in Yoshi Tosa’s striking costumes and masks for Tyrone Guthrie’s *King Oedipus*, Clancy Auditorium, August 1970. The first two figures standing (from left) are Oedipus (Ron Haddrick) and Iokasta (Ruth Cracknell). [CN122/819]
UNSW’s Olympian Connections

Since the 1964 Games held in Tokyo, athletes who have had a one-time UNSW club affiliation have been selected to represent Australia or other nations and compete in sports ranging from cross-country skiing to water polo—and there have been some outstanding successes, as the following list shows:

1964 Tokyo: Peter Vassella (Industrial Engineering 1958-63); Finalist – 400m. Track.

1968 Mexico City: Michael Wenden (Marketing 1968-73, BCom. 1974); Gold – 100m freestyle (world record), Gold – 200m freestyle, Silver – 4 x 200m freestyle relay, Bronze – 4 x 100m freestyle relay. Swimming.

1972 Munich: Michael Wenden (see above); Swimming.


1976 Montreal: Andrew Ker, (Building 1973-80); Water Polo.

1980 Moscow: Graeme Brewer (Building 1977-79); Bronze – 200m freestyle. Swimming.

1980 Moscow: Mark Carew (Electrical Engineering 1972-75, BE 1976); Judo.

1980 Moscow: Andrew Kerr (see above); Water Polo.

1984 Sarajevo (Winter): David Hislop (Civil Engineering 1977-81, BE, 1982); Cross-country Skiing.


1984 Los Angeles: Andrew Kerr (see above); Water Polo.

1984 Los Angeles: Andrew Richardson; Judo.

1984 Los Angeles: Matthew Spies; Modern Pentathlon.

1988 Calgary (Winter): David Hislop (see above); Cross-country Skiing.

1988 Seoul: Geraldine Dekker; Judo, demonstration sport for women.

1988 Seoul: Andrew Kerr (see above); Water Polo.


1996 Atlanta: Natalie Galea; Judo.

1996 Atlanta: Kevin Lim (Malaysia); Sailing.

1996 Atlanta: Carl Probert (Fiji); Swimming.

1996 Atlanta: Jane Saville (Social Science, BScSc, 1996); Walk.

The Archives welcomes any information from readers which may enhance the accuracy of this list.

Our thanks to staff of the UNSW Sports Association, UNSW’s Centre for Olympic Studies, and Public Affairs and Development.
Arthur Denning was the subject of one of the most dramatic actions in the early history of the university. In December 1952, only three and a half years after foundation, the Council of the University, at a special meeting, voted narrowly in favour of replacing Denning as Director with Professor Philip Baxter, effective 1 January 1953.

So ended Denning’s influence upon the shaping of the fledgling New South Wales University of Technology. He had been a principal proponent and planner of a new, higher technological institution for the state since the mid 1940s. Denning had risen from Head Teacher, Mathematics at Sydney Technical College in the mid 1930s to become Deputy Director, then Director, Department of Technical Education in 1950. Immediately prior he had also been appointed — on an annual basis — as the first Director of the new university, incorporated on 1 July 1949.

‘I believe that there is a serious shortage of technologists with sound work experience’  
(Arthur Denning, 1952)

The two hats Denning wore fitted in with his post-war vision of a hierarchically-structured, fully co-ordinated technological education sector to secure the needs of the state. He was regarded as hard working and dedicated, but his personal management style was reputedly close to autocratic. He appeared not always comfortable in dealing with those of intellect and a more independent frame of mind within the university.

Strains soon developed between Denning and a number of newly recruited professors, who were keen to advance the new university and their respective academic careers in a context of greater academic freedom and collegial decision making. Among these was

Max Hartwell, Professor of Economic History, whose activism in support of autonomy for the university from the Public Service Board played a major part in accelerating the events which led to the Council vote which ended Denning’s directorship.

Reflecting on the academic spirit of the time Professor Hartwell later explained:

‘No one from Denning or Macauley [Registrar] or Joe Bourke [Bursar] had ever been administrators in a University. That’s the way their careers were and they were running the show like they did the Technical College. Of course when you get a bunch of prima donnas like myself, we were not going to be treated — especially being brought in with a great flourish — like Tech College lecturers, it’s as simple as that. We were keen; we wanted to get going. There was a lot of fire around. I was just over thirty and I was top of my physical form. I had just been to Oxford and I was full of research and ideas and go. It was an exciting time, and I think the others felt that too.’  

[Oral History Interview, UNSWA OH13]

In the years after leaving the university, Denning’s career took a major change in direction. In 1958, aged 57, he went to New York as Commissioner for New South Wales in the USA. He developed business contacts and a personal taste for business which he pursued upon his return in 1967. He came to hold several company directorships and was chairman and chief executive of Value Search Pty. Ltd.

He received an honorary doctorate from UNSW in 1957, and was appointed CBE in 1962.

Arthur Denning’s portrait by Henry Hanke hangs in the university’s Council Chamber. It remains the only public sign of recognition of his contribution to be found on the university campus.

Special acknowledgement

Laurie Dillon
Pacific Archivists gather in Fiji for PARBICA 8


Formed in 1981, PARBICA is one of ten branches of the International Council on Archives. It represents government agencies, non-government organizations and individual members from over twenty nations, states and territories in the Pacific. PARBICA aims to establish, maintain and strengthen relations between archivists in the region, to stimulate and organize archival activities, to provide professional training and to facilitate the use of archives through public education and improved access. Most archivists in the region have to work in isolation and the conferences provide an opportunity for them to make and renew contacts with fellow archivists and to work together on common problems and solutions.

I have been involved with PARBICA since 1990, and have participated in an historical records survey for the Western Samoa Government and a disaster planning workshop in Yap. As Secretary General of PARBICA (1994-1999) my responsibilities included seeking conference funding, and increasing PARBICA’s membership and communication between its members. In addition, I helped develop the conference program for PARBICA— to provide workshops on topics relevant to archivists in the Pacific.

The conference was opened by the Hon. Lekh Ram Vayeshnoi, Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and responsible for the Ministry for Information. Over fifty delegates and observers participated in the conference, one of the best-attended yet.

The program included sessions on training and education, the impact of new technologies on government recordkeeping and accountability, the vital role of archives in establishing land ownership and/or land rights, access policies in different countries and the preservation and conservation of records for display in exhibitions.

Workshops were a feature, with plenary sessions providing the chance for general discussion. In one case I chaired a panel and working group session where members shared their personal experiences and discussed the latest developments and current state of archival work in different environments. Panellists included members from Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Yap, Tonga, and Kiribati.

Other activities complemented the conference sessions. The Pacific launch of training packages on the management of public sector records, produced by the International Records Management Trust in conjunction with the International Council of Archives, was held on the first evening of the conference and formed a useful adjunct to the day’s discussion of training needs. A visit to the Fiji Lands Department records section reinforced land-related issues. Staff provided an excellent demonstration of the computer-based Lands Information System, showing how land records could be used to predict crime rates and the nature of floods.

Conference delegates also visited the Fiji Museum and the Fiji National Archives. The visit to the Museum was relevant to the workshop on the mounting of exhibitions and small displays, providing a practical demonstration of the conclusions reached. Archivists were on more familiar territory during their visit to the National Archives, where they could observe local archival practices and compare them to their own. Fiji Archives staff were very generous with their time and explained methods of storage, description of records, appraisal of records, fumigation, microfilming, and provision of access.

At the conclusion of the conference PARBICA members voted on the adoption of a number of resolutions to continue to support archival activities in the Pacific. The new PARBICA Bureau plans to carry out a number of these resolutions as special projects: training records managers and archivists; providing suitable storage for archives in the tropics; and initiating legislative models for establishing archival institutions.

The conference, of course, would not have been possible without generous assistance from AusAID, the Australian Society of Archivists, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Fiji Government (Ministry for Information), the International Council on Archives, the New Zealand Good Governance program, Telecom Fiji and UNESCO.

For more information visit PARBICA’s website:

Karin Brennan

Official Opening of PARBICA 8 on 9 August 1999 at the Tradewinds Hotel in Lami, Suva, Fiji Islands, with delegates from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Yap State (Federated States of Micronesia), Fiji, Hawaii, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sweden (ICA), Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, and Vanuatu. [Photo by Caines Jannif Ltd, Suva, Fiji, supplied by Karin Brennan]
Below is a selection of records received by the Archives from July 1998 to July 1999. 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.

Allen, D.B. (Herts., UK). Photographs of student life in the 1950s, including intervarsity tennis teams, student balls and own graduation day. [98A56]

Berman, G.W. Video copy of home movie of 1958 open air graduation, showing the Main Building, the sparseness of the campus, and the donor with fellow graduate J. Dossetor. 2 min. [99A53]

Bersten, I. Own portrait at 21. 1960. [99A63B]

Bitmead, R.C. Graduation photograph with wife and child, BSc(Hons) 1954. [99A69]

Bowman, R. Colour and B&W photographs of the early 1960s campus, Basseter College, UNSW Rifle Club competitive shoots, and of the Queen and Prince Philip outside the Medical School in 1963. 1961-63. [98A82]

Burdon, R.G. Video copy of home movie of 1954 University of Technology graduation (external shots), held in the Great Hall, University of Sydney. [99A58]

Coyle, J. Photographs of student activities in the 1950s. [99A63A]

Elliott, G.F. Memorabilia from the late 1950s and early 1960s including: Callendar Steam Tables, 1955, given to all students in thermodynamics; library cards STC 1958-59, NSWUT Kensington 1955-59; life membership badges and card, Sydney University Union and UNSW Union; and ties, UNSW and UNSW Union, c.1961. [99A23]

Hamaker, E.H. Photograph at architecture graduation, with wife, 1965. [98A66]

Hampton, J. (Maryland, USA). Photographs of students in the mid 1950s, including at graduation ceremony in April 1956 and at the Graduation Dinner and Ball afterwards. [99A29]

Horwood, Robyn. *Sydney Morning Herald* of 10 November 1959 with the headline ‘University … to get Golf Course for Medical School’. [98A75]

Leung, E.C.C. (Hong Kong). Graduation ceremony booklet 1 May 1963 with covering correspondence (1999) to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Niland, recalling their graduation on this day in Architecture and Commerce respectively. [99A91]

Ly, N. Photographs documenting many aspects of Vietnamese student life at UNSW and in Sydney generally, with descriptions, 1968-74; copies of the Vietnamese student Song Book, 1971; a 1974 issue of the magazine of the Vietnamese Overseas Students Association, and a film, with video copies, of VOSA members performing in national dress at a cultural night for the general public, 1969. 1968-74. Includes 84 photographs. [98A72]

McGill, Mary Ann. Photographs of students and student events in the mid 1960s, and one of the ‘girls reunions’ of former fellow students in 1997. [99A62]

MacRae, K. Annotated photocopy of photograph of UNSW Intervarsity Australian Rules football team, 1960s. [99A82]
Niland, Carmel (then Hume). Card for admission to own graduation ceremony, Architecture and Arts, 21 April 1965. [99A72]

O’Brien, K.R.A./ Whiffen, N. Correspondence (1999) containing Mr O’Brien’s reminiscences of student life at Sydney Technical College in the 1940s. [Mr O’Brien held positions of Secretary and President, STC Engineering Association, and also graduated from NSWUT in 1952.] [Mr Neville Whiffen 99A49]


Robins, M. Graduation photograph, April 1967. [99A79]


Personal papers/items
Angyal, Mrs Helga and Ms Annette. Papers relating to fund-raising by the U Committee and U Ball Younger Set Committee for International House. 1964. [99A73]


Hora, Mrs Rosa / Miss Rachel Davis. Oral history interview conducted by Miss Rachel Davis with Mrs Rosa Hora (b.1932, Germany), wife of Emeritus Professor Heinrich Hora, Theoretical Physics. Contains reference to political reasons for their leaving Germany. Tape and transcript, 9p. Content: mainly 1930s-1960s. Recorded: 1994. [Dr Jessica Milner Davis 98A87]

Horn, R.V. Economics lecture and course notes, handouts and support literature; selected examination papers for subjects: Public Finance, Introduction to Economic Statistics, and Labour Economics. 1970-88. 0.25m. [98A74]

King, Rev. Fr. J. Issues of the Roman Catholic journal Manna (1957-58, 1964, 1968); publications of the Newman Society, UNSW relating to seminars at UNSW 1956-59; printed sermon for the University Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney, 1963. [98A77]

King, R.J. Photograph of racegoers at Kensington racecourse, 1880s [later UNSW’s lower campus], and copy of self-authored history: Randwick and its School: A Social History 1883-1983, 1983, 152 pages; photographs of the construction of the Biological Sciences building early 1960s, and copies of printed items including the UNSW General Biology Laboratory Manual 1963,
Zoological and Botanical Society constitution 1969-74, and Staff Association constitution and by-laws 1980. [99A76, 99A87, 99A100]

Lawrence, L.J. Letter of thanks from Pro-Vice-Chancellor David Phillips for assistance given following the fire in the School of Applied Physics, Main Building in 1957. Signed original. [99A64]

Milner, C.J. Scientific research papers on aspects of electronics, microwaves and other areas of applied physics. Personal papers, including correspondence, addresses given at UNSW and elsewhere, patent specifications and documents relating to the Godfrey Bequest to the School of Physics. 1920-96. [98A84, 98A85]

Milner Davis, Jessica. Correspondence, including a biographical profile, relating to Emeritus Professor John Cawte. 1994, 1998-99. [99A55]

Myers, R.H. Address given at the dedication (naming) of the new Rupert Myers Building on UNSW’s lower campus on 30 June 1999. [99A93]

Newton Barber, H.N. Papers and correspondence as professor and head, School of Botany. 1968-70. [R.J. King 99A101]


O’Farrell, P.J. Research records and final proof for the fiftieth anniversary history UNSW A Portrait: The University of New South Wales 1949-1999 by Professor O’Farrell. Content coverage: mainly 1940s-98. Compiled: 1994-98. 4.7m. [98A69, 98A95]

Personal records relating to thirty-five years as an academic on the staff of the School of History, from lecturer to professor. c.1960-94 2.2m. [99A102]

Copies of selected correspondence and reviews received by Patrick O’Farrell from readers of UNSW A Portrait. [99A102] [UNSW Press 99A88]

Oldroyd, D.R. Personal correspondence files covering activities as academic and author throughout his career at UNSW. 1967-97. 1.5m. [98A71, 99A75, 99A80]

Orlovich, P. Office files relating mainly to Advisory Committee meetings, course outlines and restructure within the School of Librarianship/Information, Library and Archive Studies; photographs of students protesting for more funding for public libraries, reprints of early papers by John Metcalfe, and other items. 1944, 1963-64, mid 1970s-99. 0.5m. [99A90]

Paxinos, G. Copies of photographs (held by G. Paxinos) of the general meeting held in March 1989 in the Clancy Auditorium to oppose moves to amalgamate UNSW with certain state regional institutions. 80 images. [98A78]


Reuter, F.H. Reports, lectures, award citations and other items relating mainly to food technology and food technology education. [99A78]

Robertson, R. Copies of photographs collected during the first decades of the university while a senior staff member of the School of Mechanical Engineering. 1950s, 1960s. [R. Robertson through UNSW History Project 98A80]

Watson, A. Press cuttings and copies of selected items from personal records relating to efforts to prevent the closure of UNSW’s St. George Campus. 1996-98. [99A21]

Whiffin, N. Various items including a copy of his biographical sketch of the life of R.K. Murphy, prepared in 1995 for the Australian Dictionary of Biography; photographs and a copy of the citation relating to the award to Mr Whiffin of the US Medal of Freedom for services in World War II (awarded 1947, presented Washington 1996); and 1990s press cuttings relating to alumnus Dr Robert Buchanan, and to Mr Whiffin as a UNSW pioneer. [98A88]

Zikking, P. Photographs of family scenes at the Migrant Reception and Accommodation Depot, High Street, Kensington in 1954; and correspondence. [P. Zikking through UNSW History Project 99A68]

Governance and Administration

Council, Committees of Council. Agenda papers and minutes. 1994-99. 1.5m. (multiple accessions)

Vice-Chancellor (J.R. Niland). Business records 1997-98; photographs of members of the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, 29 May 1998, and of the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Ottawa, August 1998; and samples of art work and designs for the cover of UNSW A Portrait. [98A50, 98A86, 98A89, 98A93]

Continued on page 16
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and International (C.J.D. Fell). Submissions prepared by UNSW and Lend Lease to build a University Clinic, 1994; files containing responses to a review of computing services; and papers for a UNSW Council management retreat to look at improving the role and effectiveness of Council and its procedures, held June 1989. 0.5m. [99A35, 99A71]

Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research (M.S. Wainwright). Meeting documents, annual reports and other records relating to Cooperative Research Centres. 1994-98. 1.4m. [99A33]

Registrar (C. Condous). Records relating to Kensington Colleges, and University 2000; and reports on aspects of the administration of sport and recreation activities within the university. 1994-96. 0.7m. [98A68, 99A61]


St. George Campus. Records upon closure, including meeting records of the Institute of Education Academic Board 1985-89; Admissions/Progressions Committee 1982-87 and 1989; and Dean’s Advisory Committee 1993-96; annual reports, handbooks, student yearbooks and photographs; and office files of the Manager, St. George Campus, Mr Angelo Bavaro. 1980s, 1990s. 3.5m. [99A26]

New South Wales University of Technology / TAFE. Early files kept at the senior executive level of NSWUT at Ultimo and located by the Historian, TAFE. Mainly 1948-52. [N. Neill 98A70]

Faculties, Schools and academic organisations

Faculty and Board agenda papers and minutes. Biological and Behavioural Sciences, Law, Science and Mathematics, Taxation. 1994-97. 0.2m. [98A96]

(Continued opposite)

Bill Pardy, an Arts/Law student, with presenters Nicky Buckley and Glenn Ridge after winning the inaugural University Challenge series of Sale of The Century, Grundy/Nine Network, telecast May 1998. [S. Stark/Grundy 98A76/1]
(Continued from page 16)

Biotechnology/Life Sciences.

Mines. Logo in adhesive transfer

Information, Library and Archive

Food Science and Technology.

College of Fine Arts (Paddington). Records, publications and objects from the office of the Director, Professor Ken Reinhard. Mainly 1986-96. 1.3m. [98A51]

Engineering. Correspondence and reports relating to the move of Industrial Chemistry to the Faculty of Engineering. 1984-90. [M. Wainwright 99A30]

Food Science and Technology. Special feature in Food Australia magazine, November 1998, entitled ‘50 Years of Food Technology at UNSW’. [K. Buckle 98A90]

Information, Library and Archive Studies / Librarianship. Reports on special projects and student field-work projects presented as a requirement of the Archives course, established in 1973 within the School of Librarianship. 1973-99. 4.25m. [P. Orlovich 99A103]

Mines. Logo in adhesive transfer form: UNSW - School of Mines. n.d. prob. 1980s or early 1990s. [P. Rickwood 98A81]

Physics. Biographical information and funeral service items collected by the Head of School for obituary preparation and related commemorative purposes following the death of Emeritus Professor C.J. Milner in February 1998. [J. Oitmaa 98A91]

Social Work. Course information packages 1996-98; and a printed compilation entitled Student Experiences of First Year Social Work, 1989. [99A84]

Surveying. Video copy of film, with sound, entitled 1978 Opera House Survey. [99A34, Film 97A204/1]

Other University organisations

University Union. Mounted brass plate from the Wuruth Room, Roundhouse, explaining the naming of the room, that the Students’ Union had funded its furnishing, and that it was formally opened on 16 April 1961. [99A94]

External organisations

University of Wollongong. Colour slides of the Kensington campus c.1963-64. 19 slides. [M. Organ 99A51]

Student or alumni related

Aboriginal Student Support Centre. Address by Ms Pat O'Shane at official opening of Centre, 18 March 1986. [G. Nettheim 99A22]

Mathematics/J.B. Douglas. Photographic portrait, with personal correspondence and notes, relating to a get-together overseas in 1993 of three distinguished women graduates, who were among the first students to hold UNSW cadetships in mathematics, 1962-66. [J. Douglas 99A86]

Student Guild. Clubs and societies on campus (CASOC): alphabetical office files for student clubs, with constitutions – C to S, 1996. [99A37]


Opunka. Records including minutes of meetings and office bearers’ reports, 1984-87; original nightly film-screening sheets sampled for 1985. [8A59]

Grundy Entertainment. Video copy of the final of the 1998 University Challenge series of the quiz program Sale of the Century (Ch.9) won by UNSW Arts/Law student Bill Pardy; colour photograph of winner with presenters Glenn Ridge and Nicky Buckley. Telecast 12 May 1998. [Ms Suzanne Stark 98A76]

UNSW public affairs/media


Public Affairs and Development. Photograph of the debaters and audience in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Parliament House, Sydney during Re-enactment debate, 24 March 1999. [Jenny Crocker 99A74]


Video feature entitled 50 Years On, students at UNSW. Made in 1998 for Australia Television’s telecasts into Asia in 1999. [Tracey Beck 99A60]

Video feature entitled UNSW: Working With You, promoting the benefits of collaborative ventures between business and the university. 1995. [99A50]


Centre for Media Resources, ADFA. Promotional video made to highlight the achievements of the partnership between the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra and UNSW, and to mark the first decade of this association, 1986-1996. Produced 1996. [PAD 99A1]

Oral History Program - interviews, surveys and publications

Interviews with the following senior members of the university covering their life and times – audiotapes, with transcripts where available:

(Continued on page 18)
Honorary Appointments to University Archives

During 1999 the University has been pleased to appoint Associate Professor Beverley Kingston as Honorary Adjunct Associate Professor in the University Archives, and Dr Peter Orlovich as Honorary Visiting Fellow in the University Archives.

Both appointments are for an initial period of two years.

The appointments have been made to honour their contributions to their respective disciplines, and to provide each a formal base for their ongoing research projects.

They both have been long-serving members of UNSW’s academic staff, and are continuing active professional lives following their recent retirement.

Professor Kingston is an historian and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. She has published widely in Australian history, her first book, *My Wife, My Daughter and Poor Mary Ann* establishing a new approach in the study of women in Australian history. She has served as a Member of the Archives Authority of New South Wales and is a current member of the University Archives Advisory Committee.

Dr Orlovich is an experienced archival educator, who established the nation’s first university award course in archives studies in 1973. He specialises in training Pacific archivists and co-ordinating the safekeeping of community and local government archives. He is both a foundation (1980) and current member of the University Archives Advisory Committee.

(Continued from page 17)

Nessy Allen, Science and Technology Studies [OH912].

Philip Brown, Australian Graduate School of Management [OH105].

Ron Edwards, Food Technology [OH108].

Harry Heseltine, English; University College, ADFA [OH110].

John Kennedy, Wool and Animal Science [OH97].

Gordon Samuels, Chancellor [OH93].

Interviews with the following alumni, focusing upon student life in the 1950s and 1960s – audiotapes, with transcripts where available:

- Peter Conyngham, 1950s [OH106].
- John Donovan, 1950s [OH96].
- Ron Edwards, 1950s [OH104].
- John Engel, 1950s [OH94].
- Tony Farmer, 1960s [OH101].
- Greta James, 1960s [OH98].
- Julie Kelly, 1960s [OH99].
- Argo Kurz, 1950s [OH95].
- Lyn Langtry, 1960s [OH103].
- Nhan Ly, 1960s, 1970s [OH109].
- Judith Miller, 1960s [OH100].
- Jessica Milner Davis, 1960s [OH102].
- Lizabeth Tong, 1960s [OH107].

UNSW 50th Anniversary History Project / OHP – no. 315.

Research Report prepared by Ms Karen Hutchings in the form of a thematic compilation of responses from UNSW graduates from the 1960s who participated in the OHP’s survey of students from that era. Includes responses received up to October 1998. [99A25]


Birt, L.M. and Jenny; and University of Wollongong Archives. Copies of photographs selected for consideration for use in *Not an Ivory Tower*. 1960s-1990s. [98A62]

Samuels, G.J. – no. 317.

Address at the launch of *Not an Ivory Tower*, 26 November 1997. [98A63]

Research files for oral history interviewees, organised alphabetically. [99A45]

National Library of Australia / OHP acquisition. Transcripts of interviews from the Hazel de Berg Collection (NLA):


Special interest and historical accounts


Winton, Ronald. *With Hand and Mind and Heart: A Look Back at the First Quarter Century of the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales*. 1999. 190p. [99A43]


General publications, printed items

These are selectively acquired from UNSW offices and organisations, personal 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.
Oral History
Program in the
UNSW Archives

Our name has changed! The University Oral History Project is now the Oral History Program in the UNSW Archives. The change was made to reflect the Program’s development since its establishment almost twenty years ago. Our contact details remain the same, and are listed on the back page of Origins.

Women in the
Archives

‘Women in the Archives’ is an ongoing survey of senior women academics, and in combination with published items in the Archives now forms the basis of a collection on women. The collection also has oral history interviews and lengthy questionnaires undertaken with other groups of women, including U Committee members, secretaries and students. Nessy Allen, a graduate, former secretary, senior lecturer and sub-dean in the Faculty of Arts, was interviewed earlier this year about her professional life. (Full story p6)

Oral History on
the Web

The Oral History Program now has its own homepage. It includes a thematic index to the oral history collection, an annotated list of interviews, guides to establishing oral history projects and editing transcripts, selected articles from Origins as well as a pdf version of the latest issue, and the beginnings of a biographical register. The homepage also has links to the UNSW Press (to order our publications), and to oral history websites around the world. Visit us at www.oralhistory.unsw.edu.au

Interviews

Transcripts of interviews with the following people are now available for research purposes in the University Archives (subject to access restrictions): Ron Edwards, Peter Conyngham, Lizabeth Tong, Irene Reuter, Philip Brown, Christopher Fell.

Video History

The use of video in historical research is best when used to record people at work—perhaps in a factory, laboratory even a quarry—explaining artefacts, demonstrating processes or in group discussion, according to Pamela Henson, director of the Smithsonian’s Institutional History Division. The Division uses professional video crews to produce 1-2 hour videos. But the background research to the videos is immense, often including oral history interviews to determine what aspects of the interviewee’s work might best be recorded on video. The videos are then transcribed and an annotation made of what is shown. Video segments have been used in documentaries and in programs made for cable and public television. A book on the Division’s videohistory program is available: T A Schorzman (ed.) A Practical Introduction to Videohistory (Krieger Publishing Company 1993). The Division also maintains a substantial oral history collection and organises other projects to increase ‘the knowledge and understanding of the history of the Smithsonian Institution’. For more information, visit their website: www.si.edu/organiza/offices/archive/ihd/ihdhome.htm. Or contact Pamela M Henson, Director, Institutional History Division, Arts and Industries Building Room 2135, 900 Jefferson Drive SW, MRC 414, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560, USA.

Frontline Diplomacy:
Oral History and
CD-ROMs

The US Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection, maintained by the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training to encourage the study of American diplomacy, grows at the rate of about 100 interviews a year. With well over 1000 interviews there is the problem of how to access the collection, hence ‘Frontline Diplomacy’, the name of its CD-ROM project. Interview transcripts are stored on CD-ROMs and made accessible through detailed research guides, which include references to people, cities and countries throughout the world. The interviews are largely with retired diplomats about their foreign service, and includes specialised histories of women ambassadors. For more information, contact Charles Stuart Kennedy, Director, Foreign Affairs Oral History Program, Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, 4000 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22204, USA.
Are You Leaving the University?

Please tell the University Archives!

The Archives would like to be 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.

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.

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