Emeritus Professor Chris Bryant AM

I resigned my Chair in 1994, in a rather depressed frame of mind. I had served four years as Dean of Science, and another four as first, a professor in, and then head of the short-lived School of Biology. I seemed to be presiding over an institution with diminishing academic staff and increasing student numbers. One teaching initiative of which I was proud, an award winning multi-media learning laboratory, and one that I considered to be an essential response to the growth of IT, was stifled, without consultation, by non-academic administrators. I had little time for research.

After consulting the Vice-Chancellor, I continued to work on contract, at a fifth of my professorial salary, looking after the newly fledged Graduate Program in science communication. This included the very successful ANU Shell Questacon Science Circus. The reputation of the Science Communication Program continued to grow and I soon had to appoint an additional staff member, Dr Sue Stocklmayer (now Professor). Together, she and I launched the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS) in 1996. Although it was largely Sue’s initiative, I became its first Director because the Dean felt that I had nearly forty years of experience of the ways of the University and should mind the shop until Dr Stocklmayer came up to speed. The hand-over happened in 1998. I continued as her Deputy until I retired for the second time in my 65th year, in 2001.

Although no longer on contract, I continue to work in CPAS, first as Sue’s unofficial deputy, helping with curriculum development, acting as coordinator for the graduate diploma course, presenting seminars and participating in external workshops that provided a much needed income stream for the impoverished Centre.

For last 17 years, I have served on more graduate student advisory committees, at all levels, than I can remember. I continue to advise graduate students, give seminars, run a newsletter for our graduates and write on aspects of science communication.

I started this page on a low note but I wish to end on a high one. The years since 1994 have been amongst the most rewarding of my career. I have been fully in control of my academic life, a luxury I hadn’t enjoyed since I was a senior lecturer. I have had time to read widely in, and think about, my major discipline (zoology, especially evolutionary zoology). I have continued writing and I have begun a book on evolution (jointly, with a former student). The opportunity afforded me by ANU to step down gracefully from the teaching and administrative grind that characterized the work of professors in the Faculties in 80s and 90s has probably lengthened my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my productive ‘retirement’.

The following is a list of my publications from CPAS since retirement.

BOOK


BOOK CHAPTERS, REVIEWS, REFEREED PAPERS


J. Andreassen & E.M. Bennet-Jenkins & C.Bryant.(1999) Advances in Parasitology 42; 224-277. Immunology and biochemistry of Hymenolepis diminuta


Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, the Netherlands


C. Bryant (2003) Does Australia need a more effective policy of science communication? International Journal for Parasitology, 33, 357-361


S. Searle, and C. Bryant (2009). Why students choose to study for a Forestry degree and implications for the Forestry Profession. Australian Forestry, 72, 71-79


C. Bryant (in preparation) John Frederick Adrian Sprent (1915-2010): Contribution to Parasitology in Australia. Historical Records of Australian Science,