



## Restructured BA degree likely

A restructuring of the Bachelor of Arts degree to allow the introduction of 'field' programs, some of which involve cross-faculty co-operation, is among recommendations likely to be implemented as a result of a review of the Faculty of Arts.

The Dean of Arts, Dr Beryl Rawson, is preparing proposals on staffing projections through to 1990 which will give some indication of the future shape of the Faculty and will, it is hoped, facilitate change and ensure future stability.

Dr Rawson told *ANU Reporter* that future stability of the Faculty was essential in the light of events over the past few years involving funding cuts and subsequent staffing restrictions. This had led to some deep academic questioning about the structure of the Faculty and to a request for the review. From the review ideas were developed and on these the Faculty had made a number of policy decisions, some of which would be implemented in time for the 1985 academic year.

The three main policy recommendations relate to Faculty structure, budgeting and language teaching. Others include the aims of the Faculty, the physical location of its sections, relations with other areas of the University and other institutions, and the activities of its graduates.

Faculty has endorsed the recommendation of the review committee that all areas of the

Faculty should be continued — although not every course should continue and not everything should be approached in the same way.

One important recommendation stresses the desirability of fostering interdisciplinary studies and more co-operation between departments.

The committee suggested that departments should be grouped in 'centres' because it accepted the virtues and advantages of larger groupings. The Faculty, however, resolved to find other mechanisms while accepting the desirability of greater academic vitality, rationalisation and co-ordination of advice on staffing matters and budgets.

It considered the recommendation on 'centres' was too rigid and that it made insufficient allowance for staff members' interests and choice in deciding where they could contribute most effectively. Instead, a series of studies committees has been set up to which all members of Faculty belong. These have been very active and have promoted more interdisciplinary discussion by providing a forum for interaction between departments.

The committee's recommendations on languages provoked useful discussion and it has been agreed that the modern language departments should amalgamate under one head, with each language preserving as much identity as possible but working towards a common purpose. (Among proposals by the committee

Continued p.3

## PM opens new telescope



The Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, at the opening of the 2.3 metre telescope at Siding Spring. Seated (from left) are: Professor John Carver and Mrs Carver; the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karmel; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Ross; the Chancellor, Justice Sir Richard Blackburn; and the Director of Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories, Professor Don Mathewson. Seated behind (partly obscured) are (from left): Mrs Karmel, former Vice-Chancellor Sir Leonard Huxley, Mrs Ross and Mrs Mathewson.

The new telescope provided 'first light' shortly before midnight on 14 May.

The whole process of researching, planning and constructing the telescope has taken seven years. Because of its unique design and low cost — a little over \$3 million — it has, in the words of Professor Mathewson, put big astronomy within the reach of small countries. Already astronomers and engineers in many other countries have expressed interest in the novel design and in the telescope's speed and ease of operation combined with great accuracy.

— Full report p.3

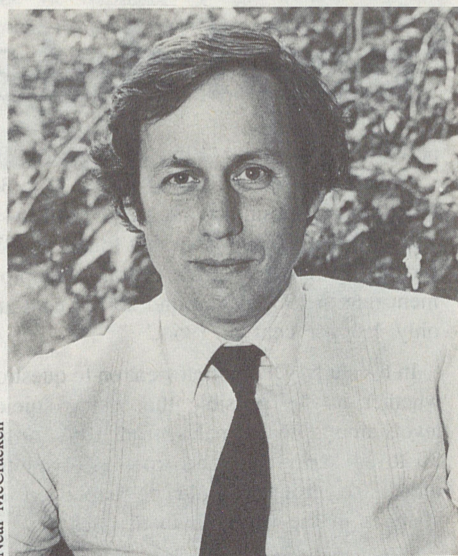
## Researchers closing in on muscular dystrophy

Scientists working in the field of genetic engineering should soon be in a position to isolate and identify the gene causing the often fatal disease of muscular dystrophy, according to a leading British research scientist who was a visitor at the ANU earlier this month.

Professor Bob Williamson, Head of the Biochemistry Department at St Mary's Hospital, London University, told the *ANU Reporter* his research group is already in a position to help identify carriers of muscular dystrophy — which is passed on by women but affects only boys and has an incidence in the population of about one in 2000.

'I would be very surprised if our group, or one of the others working in this field, did not isolate the gene causing muscular dystrophy within the next two or three years,' Professor Williamson said.

The muscular dystrophy research project began only three years ago, yet in that time the London University team and other groups have already identified nine genes which are very close to the mutated gene responsible for the disease. Professor Williamson said isolation of the actual gene would make prevention of the disease 'a definite possibility'. All



Bob Williamson . . . exciting prospects.

women carrying the defective gene in their family could then be positively identified, and ante-natal diagnosis would provide an additional safeguard.

'We are hopeful that even within the next year or two, scientists will be able to make this identification,' Professor Williamson said. 'It will then be possible to say which protein is affected, and from that we may perhaps be

able to devise new methods of treatment. These methods would aim at providing the missing or defective protein which causes muscular dystrophy.

'However, it must be added that there is also a possibility treatment may never be feasible for children who already have the disease. By the time they are two or three years old, boys with muscular dystrophy may be too severely affected for any treatment to work.'

Professor Williamson's team first came into prominence with a study of the diseases thalassaemia and sickle cell anaemia, using cloned genes. Thalassaemia is an inherited type of anaemia which affects some Greeks and Italians, as well as other ethnic groups from regions where malaria was formerly common. Sickle cell anaemia is a related disease which mainly affects Africans.

The London University researchers and a team at Yale cloned the human haemoglobin genes responsible for these diseases independently but more or less simultaneously in 1976.

Professor Williamson's group moved on to a study of muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis about three years ago.

He said the genes cloned by the group so far were very close to the mutations on the

x-chromosome that caused boys to have muscular dystrophy. 'Using this, we can now help women to know whether or not they are carrying the defect. This is particularly important because the biochemical defect is totally mysterious.'

Professor Williamson predicted that one of the most exciting things to be expected in the longer term was that genetic engineering techniques would enable scientists to look at some of the causes of common diseases like heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

'In these diseases we have genes combining together to determine whether someone is at high or low risk — and these genes also interact with a person's diet, smoking habits, stress and so on.

'We may be able to predict at an early age that someone is at high risk of a heart attack and give them advice to avoid certain foods, or perhaps offer medical treatment to prevent illness in later life. My colleagues, Dr Steve Humphries and Dr Jenny Donald, formerly of Adelaide, have already cloned seven genes associated with high risk in heart disease.'

While at the ANU, Professor Williamson lectured to scientists at the John Curtin School of Medical Research on the current state of his team's research work.

# Reasserting the value of education

**L**AST year, the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Senator Ryan, announced funding guidelines for the Commonwealth Education Commissions for 1984. These emphasised the Government's policy 'to encourage young people over the school-leaving age to participate in useful and fulfilling education and training activities in school and TAFE', and to 'contribute to the goal of increasing participation in higher education'. The Commonwealth Government is therefore committed to a policy of raising educational participation.

This policy is an appropriate response to a situation in which full-time career oriented jobs are becoming scarcer for young people and in which work force participation will require higher levels of general education as well as technical and professional qualifications.

In the first place, education is a worthwhile activity in itself. The argument that a policy of increasing retention at secondary school is merely a device for reducing the statistics of unemployment, misses the point. If employment opportunities are not available for young people, alternative activities must be sought; participation in education is an alternative activity obviously preferable to idleness and the dole.

The trends in work force participation, in the industrial-occupational structure and in technological change are also good reasons for promoting an expansion of educational activity. The evidence is clear that unemployment is concentrated among early school leavers and the least well qualified.

To compete in the labour market young people require an effective education. Also they require a broad education for those areas of employment that are likely to expand in the decades ahead — in particular the service industries; and they need a better scientific education to operate in a world of high technology.

But education is equally important for them if they are to enjoy to the full the leisure opportunities that technological progress is likely to bring. We have been through a period in which there has been a tendency to under-value education, particularly non-vocational education; it is time again to assert the importance of education for work and living.

It is one thing to argue for an increase in educational participation, quite another to bring it about. No one, I hope, would suggest that young people should be forced to

stay unwillingly in school. Such a policy would be self-defeating. It is, therefore, necessary to examine the factors affecting retention in secondary schools with a view to eliminating the large differentials in retention that occur from school to school.

It appears that differences among retention rates are associated both with the environment in which the school is located (i.e. the nature of the student catchment) and with curricula and organisational features of the school. The former is not capable of rapid modification, although attitudes of students, parents and teachers should be amenable to change by appropriate community and political action.

If participation in secondary education is to be raised, changes will also be necessary in curricula, in teaching methods and in school structures. Curricula will have to be devised which will seize and retain the interests of many students for whom the present curriculum does not. Teaching methods may have to become more individualistic and more co-operative. Changes in school atmosphere may have to be made. Structures may have to be created that are not school-like. The possibility of two-year senior colleges, which appear to have been so successful in the ACT, should be considered.

In all this, it will be important for us to keep our eyes firmly on the objective. The objective is not merely to fill in some years to occupy young people when otherwise they would be unemployed — to treat school as a parking lot or a maturing vat. This may be one reason for the promotion of educational participation but it is not *the* objective.

The objective must be to give all students opportunities to participate as adults in the mainstream of social and economic activity. Thus revamped curricula must be seen above all as vehicles for achieving competency in communication — reading, writing, speaking, calculating, computing.

I therefore offer no apology for placing an emphasis on the importance of competency in the basic skills.

Many students have difficulty in coping with the academic curricula of the traditional secondary school. This provides a reason for designing new curricula. However, it is not a reason for designing curricula which require students to make no intellectual effort and which do not contribute to the acquisition of communication skills. Disadvantaged students will be doubly disadvantaged if

they are offered curricula of intellectual pap which will, in fact, segregate them from the majority of students.

Many students appear to perceive vocational skills as more 'relevant' than academic subjects. This is understandable, but they should be made to see that the acquisition of basic communication skills is even more relevant to their lives than purely vocational skills.

In all this I want to emphasise the importance of achieving minimum competencies in a range of educational activities. We need to move from the traditional methods of examining and assessing students in which we rank them and label the bottom third or half as failures. We need to put more emphasis on absolute standards, on what in the educational trade is called criterion referencing. We should, as a minimum, aim to raise the standards of most students to what are the present average standards.

Participation in higher education is closely related to the completion of secondary school. Those who drop out of secondary school early seldom proceed to higher education, although universities and colleges of advanced education now offer non-traditional modes of entry to assist such people. In the final year of high school, disadvantaged groups in the community are under-represented and this under-representation carries forward into higher education.

It follows that if a policy to raise retention in secondary school is successful, increased participation in higher education is likely to take place. Some of those seeking entry will have studied new curricula which differ from the traditional academic secondary school subjects.

Tertiary institutions will need to accept alternative entry qualifications. Again, this underlines the need for new curricula to be vehicles for the acquisition of basic skills. There is no point in a policy which brings people to the threshold of tertiary education and then denies them the possibility of success, not because of the entry requirements of the institutions, but because of lack of competency to deal with the courses offered by the institutions.

However far the secondary syllabus moves away from traditional methods and subjects, there is no place for soft options if there is to be a genuine equality of educational opportunity.

*\* This is an edited extract from the Stawell Oration, delivered by Professor Karmel at a meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria earlier this month.*

## Jobless suicide rates 'need detailed study'

There is a clear indication that present unemployment is leading to increased suicide rates among young Australian males, even though a lack of 'accumulated evidence' means that this cannot be satisfactorily demonstrated, according to Dr Alan Martina, a lecturer in Economic History, Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

He believes that there is a need for a detailed study, perhaps in the form of a case study of a particular area over a period of time, to generate more suitable data than is presently available.

The results of a statistical analysis by Dr Martina show reasonably high correlations between unemployment and suicide for young Australian males over time — particularly for the age group 20 to 24, where the suicide rate in 1982 was 30 per 100,000 population. This is twice what it was in the early 1970s.

Dr Martina undertook the study after stumbling across an apparent anomaly in changes in

mortality rates, which he had been looking at in preparation for a series of lectures on the Australian economy. He found that mortality rates for all age groups and both sexes had been declining since the turn of the century up until about 1968. They continued to decline, or stabilise, between 1968 and 1978 except when it came to males around the age of 20 years, and here there had been a slight increase.

When he attempted to explain this he found a correlation between the rise in unemployment in recent times and suicide rates. In a paper, 'Suicide and Unemployment Amongst Young Australian Males — 1966 to 1982', Dr Martina recognises that other factors, other than unemployment are also having an influence on suicide rates.

He said this could be demonstrated by considering the suicide rates for young males alone over the period 1950 through 1982. 'Through the mid-60s, suicide rates rose for each of the male age groups 20 to 24, 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 respectively. Yet the unemployment rates were relatively low throughout this

period — except for 1962 and 1963.

'In addition, in the case of males 30 to 34, for example, the suicide rate peaked in 1964 at a level little different from that found in 1930 for this age group, yet the overall unemployment rate in 1930 was round 20 per cent and only 1.6 per cent in 1964.'

In his study, Dr Martina went on to question whether it was possible that rising suicide levels among young males, from 1968 for the 20 to 24 age group, and from 1974 for the older age groups, could be explained by changes in the unemployment rates.

'It could be argued that there is little point in carrying out such an examination because, as some might assert, such a relationship between suicide and unemployment rates obviously does exist.

'But there is no published examination of relevant recent evidence for Australia to support this assertion — at least as far as I am aware. Also, the empirical evidence relating to the United States has been interpreted by one author to show that there is no apparent

relationship between unemployment and suicide in that country. Perhaps the same may be found to be true for Australia.'

Nevertheless, Dr Martina said, with the available evidence, 'it is not unreasonable to argue that the increased levels of unemployment experienced in Australia in recent times have induced the suicide rates for young males to be higher than they would have been had unemployment been at much lower levels'. This conclusion had been arrived at after taking demographic information into account.

While some of this youth unemployment could be explained by changes in the supply of young Australian males to the workforce, this unemployment could always be eliminated, or at least considerably reduced, if the effective demand for labour was set at high enough levels by changes to national macro-economic policy.

He added that suicides among young Australian men could be viewed as one of the not-so-obvious costs of anti-inflationary economic policies over the past decade.

# Mr Hawke praises ANU's advanced technology telescope

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, congratulated the ANU for setting new standards in astronomical engineering when he opened the 2.3 metre advanced technology telescope at Siding Spring Observatory last week.

Describing the telescope as 'the most advanced optical telescope ever built' Mr Hawke paid particular tribute to the Director of Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories, Professor Don Mathewson, whose entrepreneurship, he said, had sought out the elements of the project from a variety of sources and had been responsible for their synthesis into 'an impressive piece of research equipment'.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the contribution to optical astronomy by Dr W.G. Duffield, who established Mount Stromlo and to Dr Bart Bok who established Siding Spring (Dr Bok died last August). Dr Bok's foresight in establishing Siding Spring was one of the major factors that had allowed Australian astronomy to preserve its place in international science, he added.

'As in astronomy, Australia has shown the ability to undertake research and develop space science initiatives equal to any in the world,' Mr Hawke said. 'We have the latent capability to develop a national space science and technology effort comparable with those of other advanced economies.'

He added, however, that the costs and benefits of meeting the prerequisites for achieving such capabilities would need to be carefully weighed. A commitment of national resources to space science and technology on a scale sufficient to establish a viable local industry or even to fund particular space projects must be considered against other priority areas of technology identified by the Government and of interest to industry.

As a consequence of the national space symposium in March this year, the establishment of a working group was being considered which could identify goals for Australia and recommend on a structure to implement them.

Mr Hawke went on: 'There is an international as well as a domestic dimension to our

interests in outer space. Australia has a long and proud tradition of international co-operation in space matters, reflected in the fact that we were founder members of the United Nations Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space.

'Even now, Professor John Carver, Director of the Research School of Physical Sciences at the ANU, is Chairman of the important Scientific and Technical Sub-committee.

'These committees are involved in a wide range of space activities which directly affect Australian interests and include remote sensing, communication, resource management and development and such areas as astronomical research and meteorology. New areas are being explored, such as search and rescue satellites.

'The most urgent task posed by our representation in the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space appears to be a requirement for strong co-ordination of Government involvement in space activities.'

Turning to education issues, the Prime Minister referred to a recent address to the Medical Society of Victoria by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karmel, which he said 'gets us back to the basics'.

Mr Hawke said Professor Karmel had addressed the matter of priorities in education in a thought-provoking and realistic fashion when he said his priorities were for more resources to raise educational participation in post-compulsory schooling and tertiary education, to establish a rational training system and to raise the minimum competencies in compulsory schooling — and that until these had been achieved, demands for richer provisions per teacher or per pupil would have to be postponed.

Mr Hawke said the 'conspicuous success' achieved by ANU endeavours associated with space activities reflected well on some of the strengths which in the past had been evident in the education system.

The Government was at a critical juncture in the development of that system and the problems posed in defining educational priori-



David Fetherston

Gregory and Peter Abrahamffy, from Duffy, examine some of the exhibits in the Aboriginal art and craft exhibition staged this month at Burton Hall. The exhibition featured work by many of the major art producing communities in the Northern Territory.

ties in the years ahead were considerable. The decisions taken would significantly affect Australia's capacity to improve the technological skills of its work force and ultimately improve living standards.

He added: 'Our education system must be geared, again as Professor Karmel has said, to provide for the contemporary demands for a more highly qualified workforce, for workers with communication skills and ability to deal with people, and for men and women who, with necessary scientific and technical training, will contribute to the successful management of technological change.

'Certainly the Government is at one with Professor Karmel in acknowledging the essential need for an educational system which will at once provide for excellence and, at the same time, equip all Australians for the tasks of contemporary life.

'Our judgments in education funding will

reflect this approach.'

Mr Hawke said this obviously implied continued support for a national research effort which would, however, necessarily have to be selective.

If Australia was to maintain its lead, or indeed survive in a wide range of national endeavours — whether they be pure science or new technology for industry — it would be necessary to identify the best and most forward-looking research workers and to ensure that their excellence and enterprise were properly supported.

If quality and opportunity were made the key criteria for support, then the results would flow back to the nation as a whole.

The new Siding Spring telescope, he said, provided no better proof that Australia could lead the world in those areas 'where we focus our attention and exert our will and enterprise'.

## Arts review

From P.1

was that a 'language centre' be established which should seek a close relationship with the Asian languages taught at ANU).

On the recommendation of the committee, the Faculty is examining ways of maintaining contact with its graduates to obtain feedback on their activities and to assist the standing of the University in the community.

Dr Rawson said the establishment of studies committees might be a slower way of getting changes to the structure of the Faculty than the 'centres' which had been recommended by the committee, but they had the advantage of involving all members of the Faculty and were achieving discussion across boundaries essential to the concept of 'field' programs which would be basic to the restructured Bachelor degree course.

'For a long time students have been putting together their majors in a very ad hoc way,' she added. 'A departmental major will now be required and inter-departmental field programs will be available to complement these. The aim is to provide greater coherence in students' courses.'

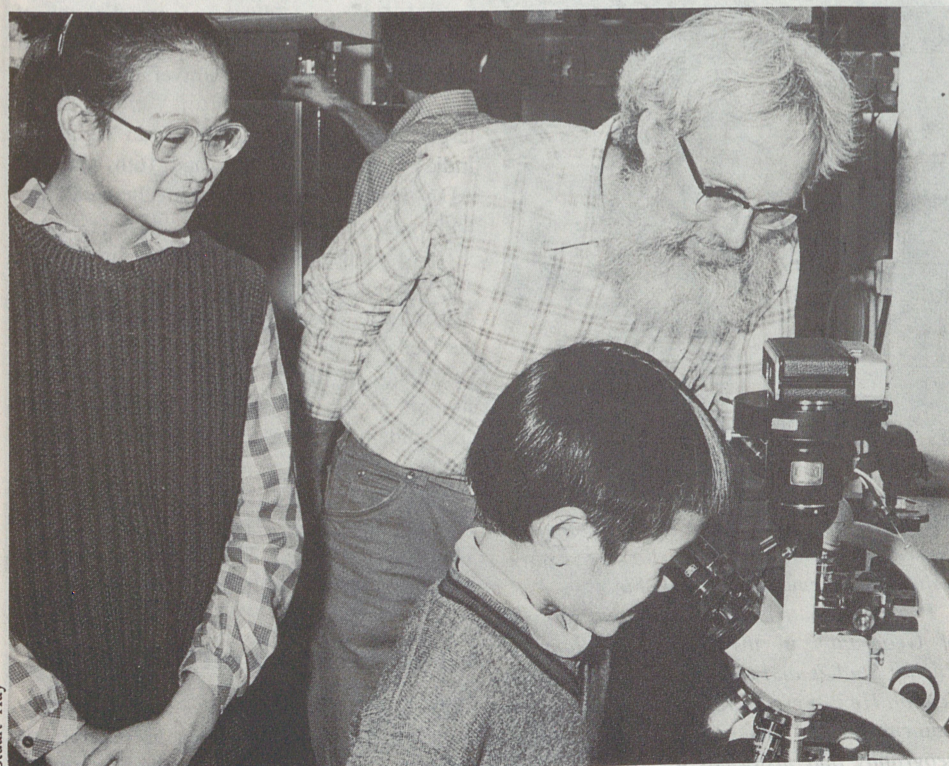
## Workshop planned on participative student learning

The Director of the Office for Research in Academic Methods (ORAM), Mr Allen Miller, and a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Continuing Education, Mr Bob Dick, are planning a workshop for those interested in increasing students' participation in teaching and learning.

They know of a number of university teachers who have experimented with involving their students in determining the objectives and content of a course and how the course will be taught and assessed. These experiments have met with varying degrees of success.

Some teachers, including Bob Dick, have encouraged students to take responsibility for part of the teaching and for helping to assess their own and other students' work.

The workshop will be held in the Common Room of D Block, Childers St, from 1.30 to 4.30 pm on Friday, June 1. Those wishing to attend, staff or students, should register for the workshop by ringing ORAM on 4594 or 2669.



Eight-year-old Bach Long takes a close-up view of an exhibit illustrating evolutionary genetic change at one of the open days held by the Research School of Biological Sciences. Looking on, at left, is Bach's sister, Chi.

# Women in Arts and Social Sciences 'a good thing' says Dame Leonie

It was a good thing that women continued to be attracted in large numbers to the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Dame Leonie Kramer, Professor of Australian Literature at the University of Sydney, said in her address at the Conferring of Degrees for the Arts.

At the ceremony, Dame Leonie was herself the recipient of an honorary degree — that of Doctor of Laws, for her distinguished creative contribution in the service of society.

'I see no reason why women should feel obliged to populate with equal enthusiasm faculties of engineering and departments of physics, in the interest of creating a mathematical symmetry of the sexes which some people seem to mistake for equality,' Dame Leonie told the graduands.

'You should go where your inclination and talents lead you, not where ideology dictates.'

Dame Leonie said a 'disinterested examination' of the Australian university system would show that it was well in advance of British institutions, notably Oxford and Cambridge, in the recognition of women. Australian universities had developed procedures for the admission of students and the selection and promotion of staff which were in intention and overwhelmingly in practice, scrupulously fair.

'Since universities are made up of people, they will make mistakes, but in fact they set an example to many of the institutions in our society — including political institutions — of liberal, enlightened and democratic government,' she said.

Dame Leonie also commented on the need to restore the concept of 'disinterestedness' to its 'proper, but now sadly neglected meaning.' She referred to the author Matthew Arnold and



Dame Leonie with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Karmle, at the post-conferring reception in Melville Hall.

his definition that disinterestedness meant 'the setting aside of all practical pressures and demands, and one's individual preferences and attitudes, in the interests of an impartial and objective analysis of ideas'.

'The interests of criticism can be served only by a disinterested approach to exercise of one's critical capacity,' she said.

'That the concept is so little understood now might well be a reflection of the regrettable politicisation of so much contemporary thinking.'

## Industrial development 'depends on research'

Industrial development of the future would depend on today's fundamental research just as surely as it had in the past, the Pro Chancellor, Sir Rutherford Robertson, told science graduates at this month's Conferring of Degrees.

'One current dilemma in our country required much thought and advice from members of the scientific and technological professions,' he said. 'It concerns support for fundamental research on the one hand and for industrial development on the other.'

Sir Rutherford said it had been seen that Australians were very good at research but were not so good at ensuring that the results were carried through to industrial successes with consequent benefits to the country.

Australia carried out about 2 per cent of the world's research and held about 0.7 per cent of the world's patents, but was responsible for only 0.1 per cent of the world's profitable technological developments.

'Currently there is, quite appropriately, a swing to putting relatively more support into stimulating technology in industry. But putting relatively less into fundamental research is a problem which is becoming acute for institutions such as this University.'

'It is, of course, very important that we should give attention to ensuring that our

efforts should be directed into obtaining better financial returns for this country rather than benefitting our already wealthier competitors.

'A proper balance is a large and complicated problem, requiring thought and interpretation to the general public and to the decision-making politicians, a problem to which people with scientific training can make important contributions.'

Sir Rutherford earlier commented on the difficulty many people had in obtaining employment, particularly the unskilled. This, he said, was a 'science-linked' social problem and success in coping with it required the best minds in the country.

'It is a paradox that ever since man and woman left the Garden of Eden they have been striving to take the unpleasant labour, the "hard yakka" . . . out of their lives.'

'Now we have succeeded as never before. With automation, computerisation and robots, we have created a whole new problem with increasing numbers of people for decreasing numbers of jobs.'

He told the graduands: 'Whatever you do, you can take some special responsibility to use your scientifically trained and analytical minds, and your understanding of what science and technology are all about, to predict their consequences and to use your influence to see their effects are beneficial.'

She said Arnold's advice was particularly apt at present — we should not 'as soon as we get an idea or half an idea, be running out with it into the street and trying to make it rule there. Our ideas will, in the end, shape the world all the better for maturing a little'.

Emeritus Professor Richard St Clair Johnson, Secretary of the Department of Education and Youth Affairs and former head of the Classics Department, The Faculties, gave the address in the ceremony for the Conferring of

Degrees in Asian Studies, Economics and Law.

He commented on the lack of 'real appreciation' of how much the country as a whole owed the education system, and in particular the institutions of higher education.

The financial squeeze on higher education had gone forward with little protest, with the acquiescence of most of the Australian electorate and with vociferous applause from many, he said.

## Women's issues big draw at ANZAAS Congress

About 2000 people attended the 54th ANZAAS Congress hosted by the ANU last week. A predicted rush of late enrolments increased the numbers to a point where the congress became a financial success, according to the organiser, Mrs Dulcie Stretton.

There was some concern in the weeks prior to the Congress because the number of registrations was less than the number of scheduled speakers, many of whom had also not registered.

Mrs Stretton said that at the time of printing the program she had only 800 registrations. Nevertheless she had printed 1700 programs. Enrolments continued well into the Congress, and before the end of the week the numbers had reached almost 1700. A series of group bookings by students pushed the number up to around 2000.

Attendance at individual sections varied greatly — some sessions attracted only a handful of interested people while others managed to fill halls and lecture theatres.

Consistently the best-attended sessions were held by the Women's Studies section. It had the highest number of registrations of any individual section, at 99. It also was among those to receive the widest and most comprehensive media coverage.

Several other sections also drew large attendances, notably some of the sessions dealing with nuclear war, health, nutrition and social issues.

The central feature of those sections which were most successful in getting their message across at ANZAAS was good organisation coupled with an imaginative program well integrated with other sections of the Congress.

A survey of the media response to ANZAAS by the *ANU Reporter* showed a predominance of stories in certain areas, with women's issues being the most popular overall. Notably, copies of papers delivered in this area were the most readily available to the media — and usually well in advance.

Other areas of high media interest were social welfare, health, nuclear war, advances in medicine, biotechnology and microbiology. Papers dealing with communication and new technologies, the Antarctic, crime, the environment, the law, economics and education were also reported.

## Basham Lecture on ruined Indian capital

This year's Basham Lecture, arranged by the Faculty of Asian Studies, is on 'Where Kings and Gods Meet: the Imperial Capital of Vijayanagara'. It will be an illustrated lecture by Dr George Michell, of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and Dr John Fritz, of Chicago University.

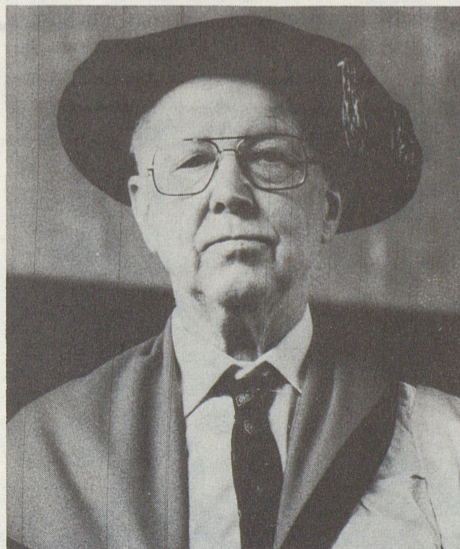
Vijayanagara, the 'City of Victory', is the largest and best-preserved Hindu capital in India. Between the 14th and 16th centuries AD it was reputed to be one of the wealthiest and most magnificent cities in Asia.

Dr Michell and Dr Fritz are co-directors of the Vijayanagara project and are currently in Australia as Visiting Research Fellows with the Department of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne. They hope to find support for an Australian team of architects and students to work at Vijayanagara in the future.

The lecture will be held in the Asian Studies/Law Link Theatre at 8.15pm on Thursday, 31 May. The lecture is free and members of the public are invited.

## Graduation journey

Chee Kheung Lam made a special journey from his home in Malaysia to receive his Doctorate. Dr Lam worked in the Department of Demography, RSSS, with supervision by Dr G. Jones and Dr T. Hull. His topic was 'The population of Sarawak'.



Emeritus Professor Oskar Spate, of the Pacific and South-East Asian History Department, RSPacS, who was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters for his distinguished achievement as a scholar.

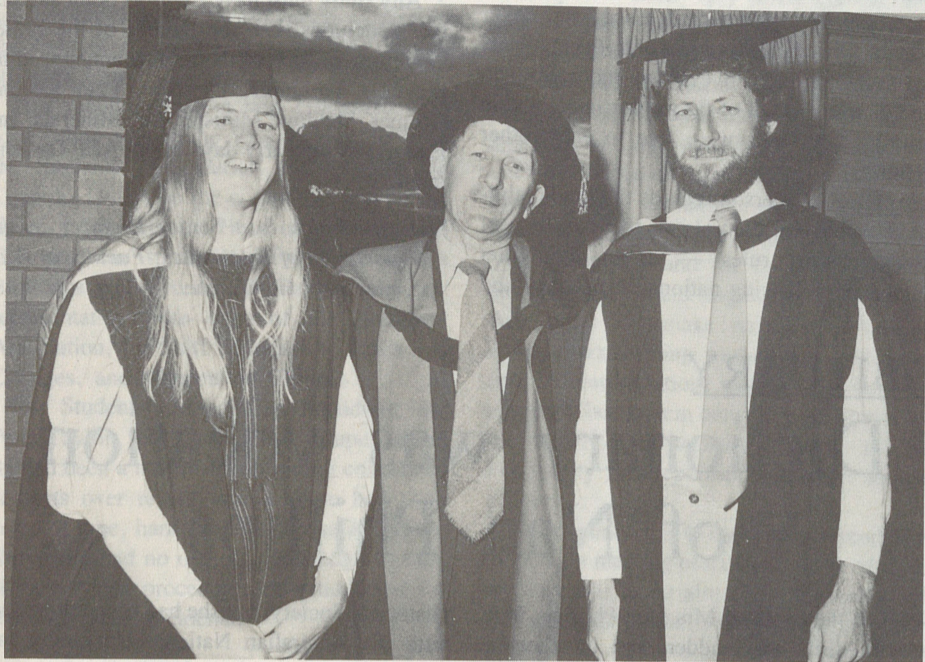
Professor Spate is the Foundation Professor of Geography in the Research School of Pacific Studies and a former Director of the School. He is a graduate of Cambridge and an eminent scholar and author in the fields of geography and historical geography.

His books on the Pacific region have received critical acclaim. Currently he is a Visiting Fellow at the University.

# Graduation snapshots

More than eight hundred degrees and diplomas were awarded to students from The Faculties and research schools at the Autumn graduation ceremonies, held over two days at the Canberra School of Music earlier this month. Honorary degrees were awarded to Dame Leonie Kramer, Professor of Australian Literature at the University of Sydney, who was made an honorary Doctor of Laws, and to Professor Oskar Spate, former Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies and a prominent historian and geographer, who received an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. The recently-appointed Chancellor, Sir Richard Blackburn, officiated at two of the ceremonies, while the Pro Chancellor, Sir Rutherford Robertson, presented degrees at the ceremony for Science graduates.

PHOTOS: Marlee Maxwell.



Professor John Mulvaney, head of the Department of Prehistory and Anthropology (centre) with his son Richard and Mary Ransom, who both graduated Bachelor of Letters.



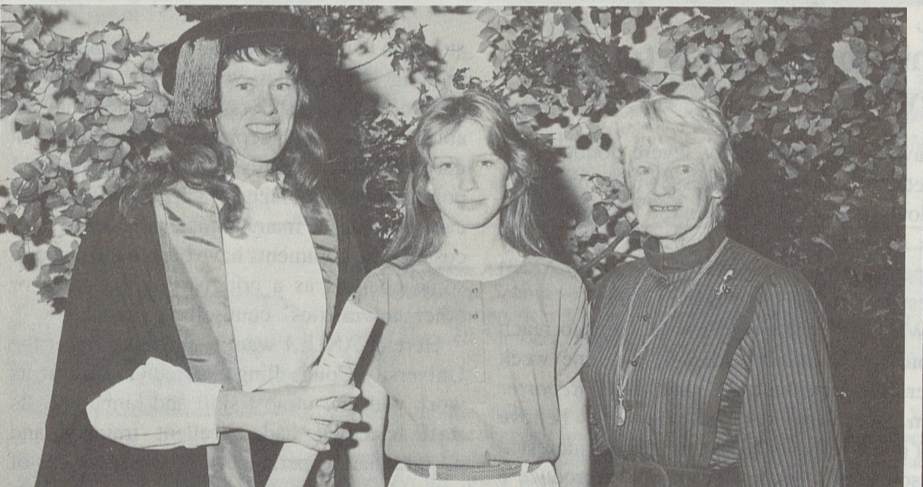
Members of the ANU Choral Society giving an item at the conferring ceremony.



Mrs Rosemary Keating, wife of Dr Michael Keating, Secretary of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, receives her Bachelor of Arts Degree.



Aboriginal rights advocate Ms Marcia Langton with her 14-year-old son, Benjamin, after graduating in Arts with first class honours. Ms Langton is a Research Officer with the Institute of Aboriginal Studies.



Ms Sonia Tidemann after receiving her Doctorate, with her daughter Kristin and mother Mrs Isabel Smith. Ms Tidemann is a Visiting Fellow in the Zoology Department, Faculty of Science, and Deputy Warden of Burton and Garran Hall.



University Medal Winners from the Faculty of Science. Top row (from left): Siiri Epp Ismaa (Botany), Philip Chapple (Physics), Bethanne Slatyer (Zoology), Peter Whigham (Computer Science). Bottom row: Malcolm Anderson (Theoretical Physics), Charles Marshall (Zoology).

# Mining investment controls analysed

David L. Anderson, *Foreign Investment Control in the Mining Sector: Comparisons of Australian and Canadian Experience*. CRES Monograph 10, Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, ANU. \$14.95 plus \$2.50 postage.

By Susan Bambrick\*

The Australian and Canadian economies have some similarities, and academic, government and industry studies in Australia frequently look to Canadian experience to suggest policies we might adopt or even avoid. Of course, as well as similarities in population distribution, federalism and industry structure there are differences, too, that have to be taken into account — for manufacturing industry, the proximity of the US must be a very significant parameter in the Canadian policy climate.

Particularly helpful to Australians can be Canadian studies of Australian policies. Detached yet knowledgeable, sympathetic and experienced analysis by Canadians of common issues can give us new insights on our own situation.

In the minerals and energy sector, there have been a number of Canadians who have contributed to the analysis of Australian policy. Garth Stevenson's monograph on *Mineral Resources and Australian Federalism* (written while he was visiting the Centre for Research on Federal Financial Relations some years ago) remains a notable example. This book by

## Book review

Associate Professor David Anderson from the University of Regina is a meticulous comparison of the operation of foreign investment regulation in his country and ours.

The author examines the rationale for controlling foreign direct investment, discusses the development and operation of Canada's Foreign Investment Review Agency, outlines the historical development of the Australian system of foreign direct investment controls and describes and analyses its operation. The author's detailed references to published sources provide a valuable start for those following in his footsteps.

Professor Anderson regards Australia's controls on foreign investment in the minerals and energy sector as an effective policy instrument, generally accepted by opposing interest groups. He suggests there is greater confidence in the Foreign Investment Review Board than in Canada's Foreign Investment Review Agency, and that this — and the fact that controls apply to all new projects in Australia — has made the Australian measures more successful.

Does this greater success of Australian measures, discerned by Professor Anderson, arise simply because the grass is greener on the other side of the fence? I certainly gained that same impression at the conference on

Foreign Investment held in San Francisco in August 1982 by the Law Institute of Australia and North America: that, in practice, the Australian practice is superior to the Canadian. (Representatives of the US, the other country at the tripartite conference, were eager to learn from the experience of both countries, as limiting foreign investment and control in the US was by then of far greater interest than ensuring US funds were free to enter other countries).

Professor Anderson regards the predictability of Australian controls — the existence of fixed decision rules — as an important element in balancing national aspirations and

the interests of potential overseas stakeholders. Predictability should not, however, be interpreted as certainty — the Foreign Investment Review Board is advisory; guidelines do allow some flexibility in interpretation; and there is always ministerial discretion. Towards the end of the Fraser Government, there appeared to develop a more stringent approach to the issue.

Any study must have a cut-off point and this one concludes with the demise of the Fraser Government, before the review announced by the new Treasurer, the Hon. Paul Keating (former Shadow Minister for Minerals and Energy) in the early days of the ALP Government.

\* Dr Bambrick is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

## OBITUARY

### Dictionary was vocation of Nan Phillips

News of the death of Mrs Nan Phillips, MA, on 19 April, was sudden and unexpected. Since her retirement in 1980 she had been the indispensable secretary, then library and resource officer, of the Canberra and District

Historical Society, but she had been connected with the Australian National University for nearly 20 years before that.

In 1961 she joined the ANU as a departmental assistant in the History Department, RASS. She then helped Professor Douglas Pike to establish the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* in the old Canberra Hospital building in Liversidge Street.

The Dictionary was the vocation of Nan Phillips' dedicated maturity and her organisational skills were partly responsible for the early pattern of its development. Among her notable contributions was the library she helped build up for the Dictionary by her personal and avid collecting. She shared many of the thousands of books that she bought with the Dictionary, and they have now been bequeathed to it. By her patience and persistent care in compiling bibliographies she developed a masterly system of abbreviations and thereby helped to build the Dictionary's high reputation for accuracy.

Nan Phillips also contributed articles to the Dictionary. These included articles on a naval explorer, a master mariner, a public servant, a solicitor, an architect, a doctor and two bushrangers. They comprise a fine set of what Douglas Pike, the foundation general editor, called 'samples of the Australian experience'.

Nan Phillips was well known throughout the University for her devoted work for the Staff Amenities and Welfare Association. Her outstanding achievements were recognised by the University when it conferred upon her the degree of Master of Arts, *honoris causa*, on 23 April 1981.

Nan's serenity, loyalty and kindness were a constant and cohesive force in the day-to-day office life of the ADB. Her former colleagues will sadly miss her good humour, friendship and continued interest in the Dictionary despite the many demands of the historical society which occupied her last years. Her life could well be summed up in the motto by which Essington Lewis lived: 'I am work'. — *Suzanne Edgar and Martha Campbell*.

## Research award

Dr Christa Critchley, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, has been awarded a National Research Fellowship for a study of the molecular basis of salt tolerance in higher plants.

## Letters to the Editor

### Philosophy Department review

I have always had pretty severe doubts as to whether the review process which has been following for some years in the University has any merit whatsoever. The item 'Philosophy Department review' (*ANU Reporter*, 27 April) does nothing to allay those doubts.

Written submissions, I note, were to reach Professor Neutze by May 4, *i.e.* one week after the appearance of the *ANU Reporter* item. Does Professor Neutze seriously believe that one week is enough time for an interested person with other commitments to produce a submission which is likely to be at all useful to the committee?

What really frightens me, though, is the second of the committee's terms of reference — to judge 'the quality of the research and the extent to which it is related to issues of national, intellectual and practical importance'. If the work emerging from the Philosophy Department is of high quality, why should we worry if it is not of national importance? It is a grim thought that the commitment in the motto of the University to understand above all the nature of things might be subordinated to a perceived need to justify a Department's activities to the ANU's source of money, the Federal Government. If this happens, the Research School of Social Sciences will die a lingering death, and the ANU itself will be on its way down the Gadarene slopes.

William Maley  
Royal Military College,  
Duntroon

### Counselling services

In the February 1984 edition of *Education News*, I was the author of a solicited article on the epidemiology of student mental health in Australia. I drew attention to the lack of research in this field during the last decade, despite its social importance. I also drew

attention to the need for minimum standards of training in clinical psychiatry for physicians and student counsellors, so that they may be able to recognise depressive illness, which may present atypically in younger persons. I pointed out that diagnostic errors in this field can be lethal, as many clinicians know to their cost. These comments have been interpreted in some quarters as a criticism of the ANU or other universities' counselling services.

Here at ANU, I want to emphasise that the University Counselling Service carries out its work with the utmost skill and humanity. Its staff have all had excellent training and postgraduate experience, in some instances of a world class. In no way were my comments directed at our own University. It seems likely to me that in many other countries counselling services in tertiary education establishments may be much less fortunate.

A.S. Henderson  
Director,  
NH&MRC Social Psychiatry  
Research Unit, ANU

### Sex discrimination

I feel it is my duty to point out yet another instance of blatant sex discrimination right here on campus, which seems to have escaped notice hitherto. I refer to the University Credit Union. I quiver with indignation every time I visit its office, for on the other side of the counter there is hardly a male soul to be seen. Almost the entire staff, from tellers to top management (with one or two token exceptions) seems to be female.

Will the University's new Equal Employment Officer be able to put this matter right? I certainly hope so. (The Bookshop might be worth checking too.)

Which reminds me: I have been worried for some time about the appointment of the EEO. In order that there can be no dispute about discrimination in filling that position itself, can we assume that *two* people will be

appointed — one male, one female — each on a half-time basis?

Since 'equal opportunity' has quite rightly been taken by Council to mean equi-proportional representation of the sexes, this seems to be the only sensible solution to this delicate problem.

R.H. McLeod  
Department of Economics  
Faculty of Economics and Commerce

### Norma McArthur obituary

Dr Norma McArthur's obituary (*ANU Reporter*, 9 March) is quite misleading. It leaves one with the impression of a difficult, boring third-rater.

In fact, as it is particularly worth pointing out as the report on women in the ANU goes forward, Dr McArthur was one of the most distinguished scholars and certainly the most distinguished woman ever employed by the Research Schools of the ANU — and one with a world-wide reputation and renown.

The obituary states that Norma McArthur was a member of the Demography Department of RASS from 1957 to 1970. What it does not record is that she was well and away its most distinguished member and that she resigned when, upon Professor Borrie's retirement in 1970, the chair went (at a time when her reputation was at its peak) to one of her former students. With characteristic courage, she forged for herself a new and remarkable career in Pacific pre-history, starting from square one.

Dr McArthur's chequered career comes as no surprise to anyone familiar with the ANU's long history of rewarding mediocrity and punishing merit.

J.E. Moyal  
Cook, ACT  
(Professor Moyal was Reader in the  
Department of Statistics, RASS,  
1958-64)

# Committee to study campus security

A committee headed by the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Mr Colin Plowman, is to study security problems on the University campus in the light of a recent serious assault on two students from Toad Hall.

This recommendation was contained in a joint submission to the Vice-Chancellor from the Students' Association and Women on Campus. Others on the committee will be the Dean of Students, the Head of Buildings and Grounds, one student representative of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and one representative from each of the Students' Association, the Staff Association, Halls and Colleges, and Women on Campus.

The Students' Association President, Mr Peter Taylor, told Council that campus security had been a matter of continuing concern to students over recent years. There had been cases of rape, harassment and assault and the University had no official knowledge of this. He urged that procedures be established for reporting such incidents.

The Vice-Chancellor said the problem of security was under very active consideration and meetings had been held in recent weeks with senior officers and students. The Dean of Students had had discussions with him about the matter and the heads of residential colleges and halls had discussed it among themselves.

Professor Karmel said he had recommended that a group, including student representatives, the Dean of Students, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor and the Head of Buildings and Grounds should inspect the campus on a dark night and make recommendations on where extra lighting was needed. Other student recommendations included the provision of a night bus system between the libraries and the halls, extra security officers and the availability of telephones to contact security officers.

The committee is to make recommendations to the next meeting of Council, some of which are expected to be already in operation with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

## ANU joins program on affirmative action

The ANU is to take part in a pilot program with other higher education institutions and companies to improve the employment position of women through affirmative action policies and programs.

The invitation to take part in the program was contained in a letter to the Vice-Chancellor from the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke. The letter said the Government would be releasing for public comment a policy discussion paper in which affirmative action was described as 'a systematic means, determined by the employer in consultation with employees and unions, of achieving equal employment opportunities for women'.

It added: 'The Government does not propose, nor advocate, the use of employment quotas for women or any group, since it believes that genuine progress in reducing occupational segregation can be made only if jobs are awarded on merit.'

It pointed out that although the Government would legislate to require Government depart-

ments to develop affirmative action policies, it would not legislate for the private sector and other non-government sectors until it had had the 'fullest possible opportunity' to consult with the parties concerned, observe the operation of the pilot program and gain broad-based agreement that what was sought by Government was 'equitable and just'.

The Prime Minister said it was the intention of the Government to offer participants in the pilot program assistance from officers in an Affirmative Action Resource Unit which was to be established in his Department. Such officers would have particular knowledge of the needs and practices of organisations taking part in the program and would be available for consultation with senior personnel officers or other staff.

The policy discussion paper will contain details of how to go about setting up an Affirmative Action Program, and a detailed implementation manual will be supplied to participating organisations.

## Extra Council meeting needed

There will be a full meeting of the University Council on 8 June in order to avoid further delay on two matters.

This will allow Council time to complete its consideration of the General Services Fee procedures for 1985 in light of the impending passage through Parliament of a Bill to amend the Australian University Act.

Debate will also be continued on the future of ANU Press — another matter on which Council was unable to complete its discussion at its May meeting.

The new date was originally set down for a meeting of Standing Committee of Council, with Council not due to meet again until 13 July.

The Chancellor does not wish to delay consideration of these items, particularly the

General Services Fee, until July, according to the Acting Registrar, Miss P.M. White.

Certain recommendations in the Equal Opportunity report which have been referred to other sections of the University for comment may also be ready for consideration by Council at its June meeting.

• A full report of this month's Council meeting will appear in the next issue of the ANU Reporter.

## ANU Reporter

ANU Reporter: Editor, Peter Trickett. Staff: Peter Quiddington (journalist), Betty Bohmer (advertising). Produced by University Information (Director Maureen Barnett) and printed by Canberra Publishing and Printing, Fyshwick.



The Phillip Lions Club has made a grant of almost \$20,000 to the John Curtin School of Medical Research for work on diabetes being carried out in the School's Transplant Biology Unit, Department of Medicine and Clinical Science.

The work of the Unit concentrates on the transplant of insulin-producing islet cells from the pancreas in an effort to reverse diabetes. So far all experimental work has been carried out on mice, but it is hoped that the possibility of working with human subjects would be considered within a few years. The transplants would have application to juvenile-onset di-

abetes which affects 0.5 to 1 per cent of the population. The clinical applications of the research work are being explored in a collaborative effort with doctors at Woden Valley Hospital.

Diabetics are 25 times more prone to visual impairment than the normal population. In the case of insulin-dependent diabetics, 2 per cent are totally blind and a further 63 per cent develop eye disease after about 15 years.

ABOVE: The president of the Phillip Lions Club, Mr Alan Cunningham, hands a cheque for \$19,853 to the Director of the JCSMR, Professor Robert Porter, on behalf of the club's Save Sight Foundation.

From p.8

### Visitors

**Dr N. Kaushika**, Indian Institute of Technology, Visiting Fellow, Engineering Physics, RSPHysS 24 April-15 July 1984, interests: Energy Conversion, Heat Transfer Analysis and Space Plasma Physics, 2467.

**Associate Professor Chan Heng Chee**, National University of Singapore, Visiting Fellow, Political & Social Change, RSPacS, 21 May-July 1984, interests: Political life in Southeast Asia, 2677.

*The Australian Associated Brewers, Grants and Scholarships for Research*, Closing date 15 June 1984, Contact: Mr D.H. Fraser, x3692.

Details on the following scholarships may be obtained from the Graduate Students Section located on the lower ground floor of the Chancery Annex.

*Peterhouse, Cambridge*, Bursaries for Overseas Affiliated Students. Closing date 31 October 1984.

*Department of Education and Youth Affairs*, German Exchange Scholarships 1985/86. Closing date 29 June 1984.

*Australian Institute of Medical Laboratory Scientists*, Closing date 31 October 1984.

*Weizmann Institute*, Postdoctoral Fellowships 1984/85. Closing date 15 November 1984.

*National University of Singapore*, Research Scholarships. Closing date 31 October 1984.

*Department of Education and Youth Affairs*, French Government Scientific Fellowships 1985. Closing date 31 May 1984.

*Department of Education and Youth Affairs*, French Government Postgraduate Scholarships 1985/86. Closing date 28 September 1984.

*Australian Meat Research Committee*, Postgraduate Awards 1985. Closing date 31 July 1984.

### Meetings

*Curriculum Evaluation for Change: an International Seminar*, 2-14 Dec. 1984, University of London Institute of Education, Closing date 14 August 1984, Contact: The British Council, PO Box 88, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.

*New Zealand Psychological Society Annual Conference*, 16-19 August 1984, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, Closing date 30 May 1984, Contact: Conference Secretary, NZ Psychological Society Conference, Social Sciences Extension, Massey University, Palmerston North, NZ.

*Developing Tropical Uplands Symposium*, July 23-27, Manila, Philippines, Contact: Ms Virginia Santos, National Council on Integrated Area Development, FBI Bldg, 60 Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

### Call for papers

*New Zealand Psychological Society Annual Conference*, 16-19 August, Closing date 30 May 1984, Contact: Conference Secretary, NZ Psychological Society Conference, Social Sciences Extension, Massey University, Palmerston North, NZ.

