General

In structure and research interests, the School continued along the major lines of the previous year, with nine Departments, three Units, and an Archives Section for the collection of business records. While the major focus of applied research continued to be Australia and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, comparative and theoretical interests sustained research contacts with many overseas areas and helped to bring many scholars from overseas to work in the School.

The Directorship

In August Professor P.H. Partridge resigned as Director of the School, but he retains his Chair of Social Philosophy and has also agreed to be Acting Head of the Department of Sociology until that chair is filled.

In August the Council appointed Professor W.D. Borrie as Director.

Publications

As in previous years, articles in Australian and overseas journals were an important avenue of publication of current research results, but there have been signs for some time that the output of books was rising as major research projects, built up over the years, came to full fruition. In this regard 1968 proved a significant year.

The following books and monographs by individual authors, or with present or recent past members of the School as major contributors, were published in 1968:

New books:
by current staff ........................................... 22
by previous staff or students based on research done while at the university ........................................... 7
Revised editions of books ........................................... 4

Total ........................................... 33
The international interest in these works is apparent in the fact that seventeen were published overseas.

**Staffing**

There was a net increase of four actually on the pay-roll at the end of 1968 (eleven new appointments, seven resignations) bringing the total staff to sixty-one; a further fourteen posts had been accepted. This brought the total of posts committed to seventy-five, five short of the approved establishment of eighty.

One disappointing feature was the failure once more to fill the Chair of Sociology in response to advertisements. However, by the end of the year some lines of inquiry which were still open offered some prospects that an appointment could be made in 1969.

In November the Council approved the creation of a second Chair in Demography, the occupant to be Head of the Department to replace Professor Borrie.

Eighteen Visiting Fellows spent varying periods with us - 13 from overseas, 15 from other Australian universities.

**Students**

In January 1968, fifty-eight students were enrolled, all but one of whom held scholarships and were enrolled for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The statistics for the year were:

- Students enrolled, January 1968: 58
- Students appointed during 1968:
  - From Australia: 10
  - From overseas: 8
- Graduated during year: 14
- Resigned before completion of course: 2
- Students enrolled, December 1968: 60

The improvement in the quality of applications which was apparent in 1967 was sustained in 1968 and there continued to be a considerable stream of applicants from a wide range of countries.

**Research and Teaching**

During the year there was a marked increase in the use of the computer by both staff and students, requiring an increase in the
programming staff to service this need. A group of three programmers was established on a joint-school basis to serve both the Research School of Social Sciences and the Research School of Pacific Studies.

Another prominent and associated aspect of research was the extensive use of sample surveys, particularly in the Department of Sociology and Political Science. In the Departments of Economics and Economic History there was increasing interest in econometrics and a growing demand for formal courses in this area as an aid to the research work of both staff and students. At the same time, the Faculty of Economics in the School of General Studies has been planning a degree of master by course work and in the latter part of the year discussions were held amongst the economists and economic historians in the School of General Studies and the Research Schools of Social Sciences and Pacific Studies concerning co-ordination of such graduate course work, with particular reference to a common core that could serve the needs of students for degrees of master and doctor.

In general, there was a further move in 1968 towards the use of quantitative and statistical methods in many fields of research, with philosophy perhaps wholly, and history substantially immune from the trend. The computer has changed the dimensions of many fields of social science research, with consequent implications with regard to both the adequate preparation of students and the efficient organisation of staff (e.g. the balance between academic and supporting staff). These issues received preliminary consideration during the year and will require further examination in 1969.

Liaison in research matters between the School and other universities was again assisted by representation from most Departments at the meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in January, and at the annual meetings of the national associations representing the separate disciplines, which now provide for almost every department of the School. In addition, some attention was given to small conferences
bringing in selected people from outside to assist the planning of new research in the School. One such meeting, arranged by the Department of Demography, brought in representatives of both the Administration of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics to assess and discuss the statistical requirements for demographic, medical and social research in New Guinea.

Research Activities

The Department of Demography continued to work mainly in its three established fields: the Australian population, the demography of the Pacific and South-East Asia, and international migration. Three new staff members brought the establishment momentarily to full strength.

A new research project was launched during the year in collaboration with the Department of Economics in the Research School of Pacific Studies, to study traditional practices of family limitation in Javanese villages. The Department's group specialising in international immigration has also worked closely with the Social Science Research Council of Australia in the development of the Council's third major project, a national study of the impact of postwar immigration on Australia. Professor Borrie is Chairman of the Council's Organising Committee and Dr C.A. Price is the Council's Director of social and cultural aspects of the project.

The work of the Department of Economic History also tended to move towards econometric measurement, and to the development of organised industry studies and the examination of policy in Australian economic growth. At the same time, some of the special conditions promoting Australian growth have been taken up for study. This work is illustrated by analyses of Australian consumption functions, a study of the mining industry, a new project dealing with 'industries' of the elite professions, and a study of political economy in the 1920s.

The Department of Economics again directed its main attention to current economic conditions and prospects, theories of capital and growth, and econometric studies. Aspects of specific interest to staff members included oil and shipping, trade practices, the presentation and analysis
of Australian vital statistics, monetary institutions and policies, and the interpretation of econometric models and data.

The Education Research Unit commenced activities in 1968 under the direction of Mr D.S. Anderson, Professorial Fellow. It is intended that the Unit will concentrate most of its effort on sociological and allied studies in the area of education, with projects selected for their national rather than merely local interest.

Three projects were started in 1968, all concerning higher education. A study of professional socialisation is being made in engineering, law, medicine and teaching, using students in six Australian universities as a source of information. Several progress reports have been published and the work is due to be completed in 1970. The second study is of colleges of advanced education and is being made with the aid of a grant from the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education. The study will examine the students, teaching arrangements and policies of a representative selection of advanced colleges in all states. The third project in higher education is a survey of part-time students in the Australian National University. A Visiting Fellow, Dr I.S. Turner, is also working on the prospects for decentralisation of educational administration in New South Wales.

The main work of the Department of History is research in Australian history and its relations with British and Commonwealth history. There is an active section concerned with modern (nineteenth and twentieth century) Indian history. A semi-independent unit under Professor D.H. Pike works on a long-term project, the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Work was completed on the third volume of the Dictionary, the first of four to cover the period 1851-90.

Work in the Department of Law covered topics in public, private, international and comparative law and legal theory. The regular staff was depleted during the year by the departure of Mr D.J. Whalan, Senior Fellow, to take up a Chair of Law at the University of Queensland, and of Dr N.N. Singh, Research Fellow, who returned to India. Two staff
members were on study leave. Mr J.G. Starke, Q.C., Senior Fellow, spent the year at the International Court at The Hague, and in July Professor G. Sawyer left to spend some months at the Max-Planck Institute for Comparative Law, Heidelberg, before taking up a Visiting Fellowship at the University of Oxford. The gap was substantially filled by visitors, in particular Dr L.S. Sealy, University of Cambridge, who spent nine months concentrating on the law of sale of goods.

The special interests of the Department of Philosophy are well illustrated in the books prepared in the Department during 1968 for publication in 1969. These include a number of books on such basic concepts of social and political philosophy as power and equality; studies in Marxism and intellectual ideas in the Soviet Union; interpretive essays on individual philosophers and schools of philosophy; studies in higher education. The Department is now stronger than it has been for some time past in the field of moral philosophy and philosophy of mind, but it expects in the near future to continue to emphasise political philosophy and intellectual history. Two new research fellowships were filled in the latter part of the year, thus overcoming some of the staffing problems alluded to in the 1967 Report.

The only permanent staff member of the History of Ideas Unit, Dr E. Kamenka, was on study leave during the year. Dr R.F. Brissenden, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, completed his term as a Senior Research Fellow with the Unit, and towards the end of the year Mrs D. Green, also of the Department of English, was appointed to a visiting fellowship for one year to enable her to work on a history of Australian Literature.

The Department of Political Science continued to pursue a wide range of activities, with Australian Studies at the centre of the work. A second seminar was held on Australian politics. Guest speakers included a number of Members of the House of Representatives, as well as leaders from industry and the Commonwealth Public Service.

Quantitative studies continued to play a major role in the Department's research and were accompanied by an extension of course
work on modern political research design, survey methodology and other social statistics.

The Department also participated in an interdisciplinary study of the Papua and New Guinea House of Assembly elections, which involved a group of thirty anthropologists and political scientists from universities in several countries. Professor R.S. Parker, M.B.E., was co-editor, with Dr A.L. Epstein and Dr Marie O. Reay of the Research School of Pacific Studies, of the volume to contain the research results.

The interests of the Department in international politics were sustained in the work of Professor A.L. Burns on the conditions of international stability, and of Dr T.H.R. Rigby and Mr P. Dibb on the structure of the Soviet Communist Party and on the economic development of the Soviet Far East.

Any substantial expansion of the staff of the Department of Sociology is necessarily curtailed until the Chair is filled but plans were laid to bring another senior American sociologist to the Department as a visitor in 1969.

The small group of four academic staff and four students continued to press forward with several established lines of research: social stratification, the sociology of religious groups, aspects of urban life, factors affecting the scholastic achievement of children entering secondary schools, the impact of university experience on a sample of undergraduates of the University of Melbourne, the relations between Italian migrants and Australians in a Victorian rural area, a study of 'deprived' citizens in an inner Sydney suburb and the implications of social deprivation for social policy, and a study of registered social clubs in New South Wales.

Members of the Department continue to carry the main responsibility for teaching and supervising the students enrolled for the degree of Master of Arts in sociology. This course has continued to attract a reasonable body of able students, and is fulfilling one of its main purposes of producing trained sociologists to fill vacancies in newly developing departments of sociology in Australian universities.
The Department of Statistics continued research on pure and applied probability theory. In statistics much attention has been paid to problems of classification and discrimination in multivariate problems and in the application of these methods to medical (mainly psychiatric) diagnosis. Consulting work for other departments has greatly increased, with the growing emphasis in many parts of the School on quantitative studies. A full-time programmer was appointed to assist in large scale computational experiments.

During 1968 the major preoccupation of the Urban Research Unit has been its Sydney project, 'The Process of Urban Development'. This project, which includes elements of economics, town planning, public administration and sociology, is designed to shed light on the way important decisions are made, and their effects. Apart from interviews with officers in public authorities and private enterprise the main effort has been devoted to interview surveys and the processing of property information from Valuation Rolls. Two sessions of the Joint Urbanisation Seminar held during the year dealt with School planning and public health in relation to urban development respectively. A doctoral thesis was commenced on the social welfare role of Australian state housing authorities.

The Archives Section secured two notable collections, namely records of Dalgety and Company Limited and the New Zealand Loan Limited, and the right to microfilm the complete records up to 1957 of the Australian Workers' Union.