



Master  
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1990 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

University House traded profitably during 1990, with an expected net operating surplus of \$198,000. There was tight cost control and active marketing. This enabled the House to continue with its substantial maintenance and refurbishment programme and to undertake some upgrading of facilities.

The Common Room, Drawing Room and Seminar Rooms were air-conditioned to bring them to the standard necessary for the House to compete for business in the very competitive functions market. The air-conditioning installed is for optional use only and in favourable weather conditions, conference visitors will still be able to enjoy the natural ventilation of rooms opening onto terraces and gardens.

In 1987 the University asked University House to take over the operations of the former Staff Centre, which now trades as Old Canberra House, and is incorporated as a department of University House. The building is of historic interest having been the residence of the first administrator of the ACT but the intervening years have taken their toll and University House has been engaged in extensive restoration and refurbishment since its takeover. 1990 saw a major and very pleasing stage with external repainting in the original colours and extensive internal restoration work. The University's Building & Grounds Division assisted with appropriate landscape work.

1990 saw the beginning of major work on the kitchen to bring it to modern standards of efficiency. This involved not only redesign of work areas but also the installation of new equipment of modern design - in stage one this included ovens, commercial mixing equipment, dough moulding machinery, an ice cream machine, ice maker, continuous boiling water equipment.

House Dinner on Wednesday nights was held in conjunction with a number of discussions and debates - e.g. Dr Paul Wild spoke and entered into discussion on the VFT; the Minister for Industry Technology and Commerce, Senator Button and His Excellency the Ambassador for Japan, Mr Fukada spoke on the concept of the

Multifunction Polis; Mrs Margaret Whitlam addressed a Convocation House Dinner on International Literacy Year; and the University Debating Society and the House sponsored a debate on the future of Royal Canberra Hospital. All these functions were advertised in the press as open to the public and they were very well attended.

Music continued to play an important part in the life of the House, with a number of performances at House Dinner, with the revival of Music at Lunchtime with the School of Music; and with music featured at special evenings such as that with the Band of the Royal Military College.

University House continued to provide residential facilities for postgraduate students from Australia and overseas and for both short and long term visitors to the University. Visitors to the University of Canberra, CSIRO, and a number of other institutions were also accommodated. The House was the venue for a number of conferences during the year. It was host to three groups from Japan. Social service directors studying the Australian welfare systems attended a series of seminars given by private and public welfare agencies and participated in a programme of inspections; two groups of students of the English language used the House while testing and developing their skills with University staff and in the wider community.

In the kitchen the Executive Chef continued the training of six apprentices. Their examination results and reports from the ACT Institute of Technical and Further Education were most pleasing. One was second year Apprentice of the Year for the ACT and won a gold medal in his section of the regional work skills competition; another took a silver medal at the international Salon Culinaire in Sydney. Two of the apprentices enjoyed work experience at the Sydney Opera House.

The operational report from the Management is attached.

Susan Bambrick  
Master