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THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
THE EDITH AND JOY LONDON FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 1975

[KIOLOA FIELD STATION]

Introduction

The Foundation was inaugurated on Saturday 1 March, 1975, when Miss Joy London and the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Dunbar) signed the documents conveying the property to the University. The ceremony took place in Miss London's home and was followed by a garden party attended by about 125 guests, Miss London's friends, neighbours, representatives of local authorities and of the University.

The University Council appointed the following to the Management Committee: Miss London, Dr R.E. Barwick, Dr L.T. Carron, Mr W.C. Fairbanks, Mr R.A. Hohnen, Dr W.L. Nicholas, Mr W.P. Packard and Professor D. Walker. At its first meeting, the Committee elected Professor Walker as Chairman for two years. Subsequently, at its meeting on 12 July, the Committee made the following appointments from amongst its member to facilitate more speedy progress:

Bailiff (field affairs)	Dr R.E. Barwick
Steward (buildings, accommodation)	Mr W.P. Packard
Chief Curator (collections, etc.)	Dr W.L. Nicholas

Mr J.C. Mitchell has acted as Secretary to the Committee assisted, since July, by Mr C. McGregor.

The Committee has established good relations with the Kioloa Progress Association, the Shoalhaven Shire Council and has consulted with the N.S.W. Parks and Wildlife Authority, the N.S.W. Forestry Commission and the N.S.W. Coastal Protection Committee.

In March, the Foundation was promised a gift of \$50,000 by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous; the Committee decided to use this generous donation to provide a simple field laboratory on the property. Several Departments have made funds or materials available to the Foundation.

The Committee has not made so much progress in preparing the property for regular use as it might have hoped. This has largely been due to the difficulty of ensuring action on its decisions within the University and by local authorities and contractors. There have also been changes of plan as unforeseen problems and possibilities have arisen.

Grounds and buildings

Negotiations were opened with the Shoalhaven Shire Council for the allocation of about 0.6 hectares of Foundation property as a vehicle parking area and pedestrian access to the beach. Arrangements have been made with Shire authorities to make good the roadside verges (partly on contract) and to improve the condition of the Avenue (on contract). Only a token amount of this work has been completed.

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Enclosure of hitherto unfenced areas has begun but cannot proceed further until the Shire authorities have prepared the roadsides and gazetted the transfer of the public reserve land. Several small fencing and track maintenance jobs have been carried out within the property boundary.

The Committee was informed that an application for rights to prospect for minerals over a part of the property had been lodged with the N.S.W. Department of Mines. A document was prepared setting out the Foundation's purposes and seeking the reservation of the property under the N.S.W. Mining Act. At the time of submitting this document the Committee was informed that the prospecting application had been modified to exclude the Foundation's property. The application for reservation is still being considered.

A start has been made on an overall management plan for the property to accommodate Miss London's continuing interests, the development of teaching and research facilities, fire protection and so on. Members of several university departments have generously advised the Committee on various aspects of this. Some initial surveying has been carried out.

One cottage has been converted to house eight persons, complete with living and kitchen space and septic toilet system. Initial plans for the laboratory have been approved. Decisions about the rest of the accommodation to be provided have been made and await execution. Sundry minor repairs have been made to existing buildings.

In co-operation with the Kioloa Bush Fire Brigade, a start has been made on a building to house the fire-fighting equipment belonging to the Foundation and to the Brigade.

Members of the ANU Biological Society and of the Department of Geography have energetically assisted in general clean-up activities on several occasions.

Scientific and related activities

The Committee attaches great importance to initial surveys of the natural features of the property and to the recording of the history of the region. Towards achieving these surveys and building up appropriate records and reference collections, the Committee has appointed the following honorary curators whose work is integrated by the Chief Curator:

Mr J.C.G. Banks (Forestry)	woody plants
Dr R.E. Barwick (Zoology)	reptiles and amphibia
Dr J.A. Carnahan (Botany)	marine algae
Mr H.J. Gibbney (RSSS)	local history
Dr V.A.P. Harris (Zoology)	crustacea
Mr H.A. Nix (CSIRO)	birds
Mr C. Tidemann (Zoology)	mammals
Dr N.M. Wace (Biogeography and Geomorphology)	herbaceous plants

Some curators, notably Mr Gibbney, began work during the year.

The Chairman has begun the formulation of a long term programme of observations and experiments which, in addition to their intrinsic value, will provide an accumulation of data to inform and contribute to individual research and teaching exercises.

The Committee anticipates that significant scientific work will begin at the Foundation during 1976 as its concern for initial organisational matters abates.

D. Walker
Chairman of Management Committee
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