

REPORT
OF THE
COUNCIL

1972



MONASH UNIVERSITY

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Professor M. Canny was elected president of section 12 of ANZAAS, Professor R. D. Brown was elected vice-president (physical sciences) of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor B. O. West vice-president of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, and Professor R. W. Cumming President of the Australian Psychological Society. Professor B. R. Morton has been appointed to the permanent council set up to direct the establishment of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Professor R. Street, who is chairman of the Australian Institute of Physics and of the Australian Research Grants Committee, was appointed to the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Science and Technology.

Dr T. P. O'Brien spent a period of study leave as Leverhulme Fellow and visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Professor B. W. Holloway as visiting research fellow at University College, London, and Professor R. H. Day as the Association of Commonwealth Universities Visiting Professor at the University of Exeter.

General

During 1972 it became evident that the swing towards biological sciences in the faculty was likely to pose severe problems in accommodating all those qualified students who wished to study biological sciences. At the same time the current 1970-72 building programme was based on predictions made in 1967. This affected the biological departments in the faculty of Medicine as well as the faculty of Science. The faculty is grateful to the Comptroller, Mr F. H. Johnson, for contriving the means of financing both an extension to block E of the Medicine school and additions to the biological sciences-zoology completion building project, and for securing the agreement of the Australian Universities Commission to the change of programme. These new buildings, scheduled for completion at the end of 1973 and in mid 1974, respectively, should be able to accommodate most of the predicted student numbers in 1975, but the trend indicates that planning should begin soon for further biological buildings for the 1976-78 triennium.

Library—Librarian: Mr T. B. Southwell, B.A. (Syd.), A.L.A.A.

Early in the year the library acquired its half-millionth book; a significant achievement considering the University's brief history. During the year another 70,000 volumes were added, some 6,500 of these representing material acquired in previous years, and now taken into stock as part of a special programme involving minimal listing and deposit storage of lesser-used material. The intake was impressive by Australian standards, and approximated the figure needed to reach the agreed target of seventy books per student by 1978. Total

stock at the end of 1972 amounted to 567,300 volumes, and 9,900 periodical titles were currently received.

This achievement was made possible largely by the support of parents, students and graduates to an appeal for funds. Individual letters of thanks have been sent to all donors, but it is seemly that thanks also be recorded here. Financial support from the University itself was also clearly essential and clearly forthcoming, and it is disappointing to see that finance available in 1973 will apparently not match the expected increase in costs.

Service to readers was expanded in all libraries, with particular emphasis placed on reader education; this was a feature in the bio-medical library, but was expanded considerably in the Hargrave and main libraries and plans were put in hand for a considerable expansion in law.

Loans for the year rose by nearly 6 per cent to 354,357. It was reported for 1971 that borrowings from other libraries had fallen for the first time; this trend continued markedly in 1972, and only 6,913 borrowings were reported, as against 9,130 in the earlier year. Of equal significance is the figure for loans to other libraries, of 10,286 as against 9,148 in 1971.

The space problems in the Hargrave and Alfred Hospital libraries were solved during the year, the former by the completion of a new wing, which also makes provision for a more adequate abstract and bibliography room, the latter by expansion into a further area of the medical school, allowing a much-needed rationalization of space.

A new service was introduced in a small way during the year. From a donation received to assist blind students, a tape recorder was purchased; volunteer readers were organized, and with assistance from the audio-visual aids section, text-books required by blind students were recorded and made available for their use, in the library and in their homes.

Audio-visual material generally began to show as normal library material, and much time was spent in devising techniques to meet the unfamiliar problems set by it. A start was made in the purchase of equipment for use in the library, but it is clear that with the variety of standards and the constant release of new equipment, progress must be more than usually cautious.

Development in the computer field continued on budgetary control within the acquisitions area, and creation of the massive "Inventory" file. In this latter area, the biomedical library was completed, and the open access section of the main library and the Hargrave brought near to completion.

Mr D. R. May transferred from the Hargrave library early in the year to become reader services librarian for the main library, a position later re-titled humanities and social sciences librarian. Following Mr T. B. Southwell's appointment as University librarian, a considerable

survey of the library's administrative structure was undertaken, which will hopefully lay more stress on service to users in the years to come.

6. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

The Alexander Theatre has been heavily booked throughout the year, although some of its previous regular bookings (e.g., for graduation ceremonies, lunch hour concerts, examinations) have been taken over by the Robert Blackwood Hall. Bookings by local amateur companies (especially for musicals and light opera) increased. These attract large audiences to the theatre and provide useful revenue, but do little to establish the theatre as a centre for entertainment such as a university might be expected to provide. The Alexander Theatre Guild sponsored a successful pantomime in January, and there were several student productions of merit, including *An Indonesian Adventure*, done in association with the Music department.

The committee has given much thought to the problems of developing a worthwhile and successful programme, as opposed to merely providing a venue for groups who will pay. It seems clear that research into audience potential is needed, and steps have been taken to embark on this in 1973. In the meantime, with the aim of giving further encouragement to dramatic activity within the University, the committee has allocated part of the outside earnings towards the salary of a director of student drama.

During the year a number of improvements have been made, in particular to the equipment. The most urgent need at the present time is for more storage space.

Mr Gordon Troup resigned from the position of director in October when he went on study leave. His place has been taken by Dr Logan Francey.

Audio-Visual Aids

The most important event in 1972 was the occupation of offices and technical areas which were completed as extensions to the television studio and mobile television unit garage in the west medical car park area. For the first time in the history of the audio-visual aids section, staff and equipment were housed as a single unit. The most obvious result was an increase in efficiency of operation. Although the areas occupied are not adequate to meet all activities of the section, the situation is much better than past arrangements where staff and equipment were not only in separated rooms, but occupied rooms in two buildings.