

REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL
1974



MONASH UNIVERSITY

recursive model theory. This meeting was attended by leading mathematicians from many countries throughout the world.

Accommodation

Building extensions to provide space for Botany, Psychology, and Genetics were nearing completion at the end of the year and have been partially occupied. Further extensions of the science north building, to provide space for Mathematics, Earth Sciences and general teaching areas, scheduled for occupation by the end of the year, were not completed on time. Lack of access to these teaching areas in the early months of 1975 will undoubtedly cause severe difficulties, while the department of Earth Sciences will be compelled to continue for some months in temporary quarters that it has now outgrown.

The increased interest in studies in astronomy will occasion an increased use of the Jeffree Telescope Observatory at Mt Burnett, so that the provision of overnight accommodation and display facilities for visitors has become more urgent—a grant of \$10,000 for the cost of construction has quickly lost much of its effectiveness owing to spiralling cost estimates.

LIBRARY

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

The report for 1973 told of an extremely busy year, in terms both of the acquisition of new material and of its use, and predicted that this activity would continue in 1974. The expectation was fulfilled.

In terms of intake, almost 67,000 volumes were received—about 10 per cent more than in the previous year. In part this was a result of money made available by the Universities Commission to provide the base material Monash was too young to have acquired. This intake figure is actually an understatement because much of the material is available now only in microform, and even an approximation of the volume equivalent of the microforms received during the year will have to await full cataloguing. The number will be many thousands. Total stock, even without them is approaching 700,000. About 12,000 periodical titles are under current subscription.

One effect of broadening the base of the collection can be seen in its increased use by and value to other parts of the community: interlibrary loans rose during the year by over 25 per cent, to 16,416, while borrowings remained stable at 6,500. Overall loan figures can be misleading, but it is significant that, in spite of deliberate restriction of loans in some areas to provide more assured access, loans generally were again higher by 6.6 per cent; their total number including reserved book issues was about 505,000.

Another inevitable result of the increased book intake was, of course, greater pressure on space. The main library book stack was over-full at the beginning of the year. The planned vertical extension could not be begun until after mid-year, by which time complete chaos was being averted only by the ingenuity of the staff and the patience of them and the readers. The clearance of areas required by the builders and therefore the temporary re-location of parts of the collection, frequent minor floodings and the noise and vibration inevitably associated with such an extension fully extended that patience.

Various proposals for easing the pressure on the biomedical library were discussed during the year and one was adopted which provided more adequate staff working space by relocating a bag room. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the proposed hospital (and then of the relationship between the University and the relocated Queen Victoria Hospital) and the attitude of the Universities Commission to the whole medical school development, the building of a bag room seemed an expensive, short-term solution to a small part of a very large long-term problem. The library is now a

more efficient and pleasant place to work, and to work in, but its approaches are both unsightly and dangerous from a carpet of bags.

In all the libraries the programme of reader education was extended during the year, and closer integration established with the teaching courses. To this end, the help and advice of HEARU were of great value, both in themselves and in their promise of further co-operation as the techniques of tertiary education continue to develop. The rapidly growing library collection of non-book materials can be viewed as a matter of embarrassment or pride; the latter only if they are used as part of the learning process.

Two significant appointments were made during the year. Mr P. J. Mitchell was created technical services librarian, as a step in the integration of the processing departments. Mrs V. J. Richards was appointed to a position of training co-ordinator, with the hope that new staff members would be more quickly of value and at ease in the library, and that the potential of others would be more fully realized.

The law librarian, Mr E. J. Glasson, was enabled by a grant from the Victoria Law Foundation, to represent Australia at a board of directors meeting of the International Association of Law Libraries, to attend their short courses, and to visit a variety of law libraries in England and North America.

This was only the latest example of the Foundation's generosity. For example, a very comprehensive collection in the field of criminology is being assembled from Foundation funds. The parents' association too, was again most generous, and the support received from graduates, friends and the general public for the library appeal will be quite essential in what promises to be a most difficult year ahead.

Computer developments were limited to the rounding-out of the acquisitions programmes, general maintenance of the existing wide range of operations, and the phased transfer of these to the newer equipment which became available during the year.

The revaluations of the Australian dollar in 1973 were effective in insulating us from the rapidly rising costs of books and, especially, periodicals. In 1974 this rise was accentuated and devaluation left an unexpectedly high commitment to be met from a proposed lower budget. After a year of expansion in 1974, in terms of both the collection and of services offered, it would be reasonable to look forward to a year of consolidation: it appears rather that it will be one of reduced service in the face of raised expectations and legitimate demand.

7. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

In 1974 the Alexander Theatre Committee implemented the plan worked out in the previous year for the formation of a professional company. This was made the responsibility of the Alexander Theatre Guild under the chairmanship of Dr Logan Francey, director of the theatre. Mr Don Mackay was appointed executive officer to the guild and his company, previously known as the Players' Caravan, became the nucleus of the new professional company, with Mr Mackay himself as the artistic director.

The company, which was given the name of the Alexander Theatre Company, provided two seasons of plays for adult audiences. The first consisted of three productions: *Puckoon* by Spike Milligan, adapted for the stage by Don Mackay, *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas, and *The Signalman's Apprentice* by Brian Phelan. The first two were highly successful and ran for extended seasons. *Puckoon* was enjoyed by a wide variety of audiences; *Under Milk Wood* was a production of very high quality but owed a fair measure of its success to the fact that it was a higher school certificate