

# NEWS NOTES

**Edited by Ann Archer and Stephen Howell**

**Archives Branch, State Library of South Australia**

*Correspondent: John Love*

Work is proceeding on the proposed joint conservation centre to serve the Art Gallery, Museum, State Library and Archives. Part of the former Trade School in Kintore Avenue is to house the centre. Paradoxically, the most obvious sign of progress so far is demolition of nearby buildings.

A more immediate conservation project is microfilming the Colonial Secretary's correspondence files to the beginning of responsible government in 1857. This has nearly been completed.

There is another project in hand to protect the pictorial collection which consists of some 50,000 to 60,000 photographs and a few other items. Photographs other than albums, outsize items and those in special mountings have hitherto been kept vertically in filing cabinets, supported by sway plates every few centimetres. They are being placed in polypropylene see-through jackets which are mounted in loose-leaf binders. The binders are then put back in the drawers on their fore edges so that the jackets hang from the spines. Particularly fragile prints are copied, the copy placed in the jacket and the original held in reserve. Reduced copies of some of the outsize items have also been put in jackets. The reader is issued with a whole binder instead of a number of individual photographs. This is designed to reduce wear on the prints, to reduce mis-filing and to speed up the issue and return of material.

These conservation projects, and the purchase of some additional workshop equipment, have been made possible by the allocation by the Libraries Board of some of the Mortlock Bequest money.

**The Archives Office of New South Wales**

*Correspondent: Michael Allen*

The Search Room has experienced a 30% increase in attendance since the release, on 6 December 1983, of the microfiche copies of the Indexes to Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1788-1899 by the New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The Registry has supplied the

Archives Office with eight sets of the indexes (each comprising 437 fiche). Four sets have been retained for use in the Archives Office Search Rooms in the City and at Kingswood while the remaining sets have been distributed to institutions in the country areas which hold State archives on long term loan.

The Archives Office is preparing a microfiche edition of its series of manuscript *Returns of the Colony* (Blue Books), 1822-57. To date, microfiche have been produced for 14 of the 35 volumes and it is expected that the project will be completed before the end of the present financial year. Each set of Blue Books will comprise approximately 180 microfiche and it is anticipated that the cost of a set will be around \$75.

The current exhibition on display at the State Archives is entitled "Sydney as it might have been". It reveals through sketches and plans, visions of Sydney with broad tree-lined thoroughfares, harbour tunnels, fountains, parks, grandiose public buildings and an elaborate network of roads and railways. The exhibition features sketches and plans from the *Report of the Royal Commission for the Improvement of the City of Sydney and its suburbs* (1908-1909) together with drawings and plans of proposed harbour bridges, tunnels, a "State House" and various proposals for city and suburban railways and arterial roads.

## **Australian Archives**

*Correspondent: C.D. Pitson*

On 15 October 1982, the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, the Hon. D. T. McVeigh, announced that a contract had been awarded to PA Computers and Telecommunications (PACTEL) to undertake a complex and far-reaching ADP consultancy within the Australian Archives. The immediate aims of the consultancy were to review the systems of the Australian Archives and identify the ways in which ADP applications can improve the Archives' capacity to gather, process and make available a greater flow of information about Government records; to improve the delivery of services to Commonwealth agencies and the public; and to improve the management operations of the Archives. Mr McVeigh said, however, that the benefits of the consultancy would spread beyond the Archives and would help to equip the Public Service as a whole to meet the challenge of the information revolution, and respond to the developing public concern with access to official information. The initiative would improve the arrangements through which the general body of Government records is managed, and would better enable the Archives to play its part in meeting new demands on records which arise from developments in the fields of openness, privacy and administrative law. The work would involve the breaking of new ground in areas of technology and public administration.

On 28 October 1982, the Government announced that it had accepted the need for a prestige headquarters building for the Australian Archives, at an estimated cost of more than \$30 million. The building will be located in the inner Parliamentary Triangle on the edge of Lake Burley Griffin, where it will join other buildings of national significance — the National Library, the High Court and the National Gallery. The building is expected to be completed in 1986/87. In announcing the decision, the Prime Minister said the Government had decided that only a high quality building would be appropriate to serve the National Archives Headquarters in Canberra and cater properly for the research, cultural and social aspects of archival operations. Modern archives were proving to be not just repositories of historic documents, but places of great historical, artistic and cultural significance, and of particular benefit in the fields of education and tourism. Six architectural firms have been invited to prepare initial site planning and design studies.

In its recent submission to the Attorney-General's Department's Review of Audio-visual Copyright Law, which is being conducted prior to the introduction of further amendments to the Copyright Act dealing with film and sound records, the Australian Archives has urged, among other things, that Australian Copyright Law should permit archival institutions, without infringement of copyright, to carry out multiple copying of audio-visual records for the purpose of preservation.

## RECORDS

Recent accessions by the N.S.W. Branch include:

- records of the Telecommunications (Davidson) Inquiry;
- records of the Defence (Utz) Review Committee;
- personal archives of Mr Justice Michael Kirby;
- a further transfer of Sir Howard Beale's personal archives;
- animated promotional films, c.1950s, from the Commonwealth Banking Corporation;
- records of the South Head Meteorological Station, 1840-1855;
- 15,000 digital tapes from Esso's exploration off the North-West Shelf. Our tape collection now totals 98,000: the largest in Australia, and the second largest, we believe, in the world.

Recent accessions by the A.C.T. Branch include the papers of Sir John McEwen, transferred by Lady McEwen. The papers relate mainly to portfolios held by Sir John during the 1950s and 1960s. Recent accessions by the South Australian Branch include significant historical plans transferred by the Department of Transport and Construction relating to buildings and structures classified under the Heritage Act.

In the A.C.T., work is continuing on the project to fill gaps in the record of Cabinet business, particularly for the period 1901-1929, by copying from departmental files those Cabinet submissions and minutes of

decisions missing from the records held by Cabinet Office. As at January 1983, there are approximately 70 of these supplementary folders, occupying seven shelf metres. Subject indexes have been prepared by Australian Archives officers.

Another important A.C.T. project is the access clearance of the open period of the records collected by Sir Frederick Shedden, a former Secretary of the Department of Defence. The project, undertaken with the co-operation of the Department of Defence, continued throughout 1982 and is now nearly complete. The collection contains material relating to Australia's defence during the period 1901 to 1971, and a number of researchers have already taken advantage of the clearance programme to study relevant material.

## FACILITIES

Equipment recently acquired by the N.S.W. Branch includes a Crown Walkie-Reach stacker to assist with movement and destruction of records, and a photographic enlarger for use by the Conservation Section. The South Australian Branch has achieved significant efficiencies and savings in staff time through the acquisition of several portable containers to facilitate loading of records that are being taken away for destruction.

At the Villawood repository in N.S.W., a storage area for archives boxes has been completed, while work is continuing on the fumigation chamber (to raise it to standards required by the N.S.W. Department of Health) and on the low-temperature film vault. At the Collinswood repository in South Australia, a ventilation system is being installed in stage two of the building to allow increased use of the ground floor, and the fire protection system has been substantially upgraded. At the Mitchell repository in the A.C.T., the installation of standard shelving in the building is now complete following the recent addition of some 45,000 metres of shelving. This has enabled the location of material in custody to be rationalised and an active transfer programme to be recommenced.

## Australian Joint Copying Project

*Correspondent: Mary-Ann Pattison*

A large consignment of new AJCP microfilm has recently been received from our AJCP Officer in London. Totalling 177 reels, it consists of 108 reels of Public Record Office material and 69 reels of new collections filmed for the Miscellaneous series.

AJCP filming in the Public Record Office has recently concentrated on Colonial Office and Admiralty classes, notably the Admiralty 116 class. Many of the basic policy papers on naval defence, strategy and planning from the late nineteenth century to 1950 are in this important Admiralty

class. Comprising papers and files which were bundled together, usually over a number of years on a subject basis, this material was kept distinct from the general correspondence which is in the Admiralty 1 class. Other Admiralty records filmed by the project include Adm. 7 Admiralty and Secretariat: Miscellanea (1778-1903); Adm. 1/4137-4351 Admiralty and Secretariat: Letters from offices (1778-1839); Adm. 52/3050, 3169 Master's logs and journals of HMS *Glatton* 1802-4; and Adm. 12/9 Admiralty: List of Admiral's despatches, East Indies (1778-1839).

The Colonial Office records filmed were several of the early 20th century official correspondence registers for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Twenty-one reels of our selections from the P. Com. 2 Prison Commission records 1816-66 completed the official records received in this AJCP consignment. These records include correspondence from Australia on the evils of the convict system in the Australian colonies together with copies of prison registers from Millbank and Portland.

The Miscellaneous series microfilm received was the result of AJCP copying at the Warwick County Record Office, Durham County Record Office, Lambeth Palace Library, Hereford and Worcester Record Office, West Sussex Record Office, the British Library and Nottingham University Library.

Journals and logs of James Cook, Tobias Furneaux, James Burney, George Vancouver and other early Pacific navigators were part of the selections filmed at the British Library whilst the papers of the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1852-54 and 1859-64, were notable amongst the collections copied at the Nottingham University Library.

Further information on the contents of any of these collections or orders for microfilm can be obtained by writing to the Principal Librarian, Australian Reference, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.

### **Australian National University Archives of Business and Labour**

*Correspondent: Michael Saclier*

Since writing the last news notes five months ago our reader statistics have continued to soar. 1982 continued the promise of its first three quarters by being the biggest year on record and 1983 began with the largest number of readers during January ever recorded for that month — nearly 40% more than the former maximum and less than 5% fewer than the all-time maximum for a single month recorded in September last.

Important accessions since the last note include files of the Australian Dental Association, records and photographs from the Adelaide

Steamship Company Ltd, and important continuation deposits from CSR, Dalgety Ltd (London), the ACTU, the AMWSU and the Australian Insurance Employees Union.

The staff has remained stable (in the sense of not having left, at least) although Colleen Pritchard is trying out the role of mother archivist for twelve months and we expect Tim Godfrey to join us in the near future to fill Colleen's position for the year. Who knows, we might even get our Map Catalogue into production — after all it is the year of the pig so anything is possible.

## **Australian War Memorial**

*Correspondent: R. Gilchrist*

The final quarter of 1982 proved to be a hectic period at the Memorial. With the impending closure of the collections to the public on 1 December, staff were allocated to packing, storage and dismantling material for temporary placement. Despite the closure, reference requests have been constant, particularly with the influx of visitors over the Christmas holiday period. As with many other institutions, the Memorial is experiencing a surfeit of genealogical interest. Work, meanwhile, is well under way in the renovation of the former library area.

Staff are using the closure to carry out much needed work on the collections. A project to re-arrange the WWII photographic collection into categories under a broad classification scheme should see more efficient use of the material. A comprehensive index to the letters and diaries of the Personal Records collection is being developed, broadly speaking, by Unit, Location and Order of Battle.

The appointment of staff, under the re-classification of positions that took place in mid-1982, is gradually being undertaken. Michael Piggott, formerly Chief Librarian, has been appointed Curator II in charge of Written Records. Paul Macpherson, recently of the La Trobe Library, has accepted a similar position with Printed and Special Collections. The third senior position, that of Curator II, Audio-Visual Records is yet to be confirmed. Meanwhile, the seven recently advertised Curator I positions has met with an excellent response. These positions should be finalized shortly. Helen Creagh has been appointed Curator I, Post-1950 Official Records, and is working at the AWM Annex, Mitchell, in a part-time capacity.

Approximately 130 metres of records were transferred by the Department of Defence to the Mitchell Annex in December 1982. These comprised records from Singapore of the Australian Army component of the HQ, Far East Land Forces and its successor ANZUK (Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom) Force, 1959-1975. These

records, together with the earlier transfer of operational records of the Australian Army, Vietnam, will provide a basis for the work of the newly appointed Official Historian, Dr Peter Edwards. His task will be to cover this period of Australia's military history and the involvement in the South East Asian regions. Officers from the Archives and the Historical Studies section, Department of Defence, have been preparing records for public access consequent upon the tabling of the *Report on the Use of Herbicides, Insecticides and other Chemicals by the Australian Army in South Vietnam*, prepared by Army Office, Department of Defence. This work, involving the clearance and de-classification of some specific records of operations in Vietnam, 1962-1972, has been shared by the Army Office, Archives and Historical Studies section and Memorial staff.

A special artificial series related to relics given to the Memorial by the Armed Forces has been developed. Often, the relics are accompanied by detailed records relating to the type of equipment and function. In the case of aircraft or vehicles, the maintenance and equipment logs peculiar to that relic are essential items for restoration and historical research.

Notable acquisitions to the Written Records collection include the manuscript press releases of Capt MacHugh, war correspondent for *The Times* in both the South African War and the Russo-Japanese War; extensive letters from the three Hanrahan brothers, Australian born, Irish raised, to their mother while serving with British forces in WW II; the warrants and papers of Air Commodore Sir Hughie Edwards VC, former Governor of Western Australia; extensive Naval records, including charts, seamen's journals, photographs and official papers, from the Department of Defence; and a photocopy of the diaries of the late Lt Thomas "Diver" Derrick VC that accompanied the manuscript material of Murray Farquhar's *Derrick VC*.

## CSIRO Archives

*Correspondent: Colin Smith*

Thanks again to all the colleagues in other small Archives, who put so much work into answering questionnaires sent out on behalf of the CSIRO Archives Review Committee. The data collected regarding your commitments and resources is indeed of value — both for giving a comparative basis to arguments regarding the resources required for CSIRO's archiving, and for promoting reflection on the various ways there are to skin a cat.

The Committee is now well-advanced with the preparation of its report, and there are grounds to hope it may mark a significant step forward — not just for CSIRO but for science archives generally.

## **The Council of the City of Sydney Archives**

*Correspondent: Janet Howse*

The City Archives staff, with the assistance of two temporary staff (archivist, Marion Sully, and labourer, Paul Thistleton) and the Planning and Building Department's Plans Custodian, completed the boxing, labelling and listing of the Planning and Building records in the Queen Victoria Building.

The records from the Queen Victoria Building, the overflow from the archives vaults under the Town Hall, the records from two city basements under the control of the Archivist and the impending accessions from the former South Sydney Municipal Council are all to be housed in a warehouse-type building located in Erskineville, approximately six kilometres from the Town Hall. Approximately 1,000 square metres has been allocated for this use. Plans have been in progress for the basic refurbishing of the building (including air conditioning) and the purchase of equipment (such as shelving, furniture, etc.).

The Archives Officer, Sandra Hinchey, tendered her resignation, effective from 24th February. Sandra, who has most effectively and ably contributed to the operations of the Archives Section, is to go to a position of Research Officer, in the Archives Section at the Reserve Bank. She will be sorely missed. Applications for the position of Archives Officer have been called.

In the latter part of 1982, a combined team of Archives and Records staff culled fourteen years of a core series of Council records, the Town Clerk's Department Correspondence Files 1963 to 1976. Of 74,907 files for these years, 11,586 files were retained, a percentage retention of 15.5%. Under the Local Government Act, of 1919, records of Local Government Councils must be kept for a six year period before destruction is allowed. Previous culling operations meant that the following years have been culled: 1914-1918; 1939-1945; 1950-1960.

During 1983 it is planned that the records of the former South Sydney Municipal Council now stored at Waterloo and Alexandria town halls, will be appraised and decisions made as to their disposition. A preliminary survey was carried out in February, 1982.

## **The Mitchell Library State Library of New South Wales**

*Correspondent: Baiba Berzins*

The Mitchell Library was closed, for the first time in 23 years, from 29 November 1982 to 2 January 1983, so that a major stocktake of its holdings could be carried out.



During the stocktake, nearly half-a-million books and magazines, 60,000 maps, and 20,000 microforms were checked. The aim of this major operation was to put all items in correct order, to identify those which required repairs or clearer labelling, and to edit the catalogues so that the Library's records of its holdings were accurate.

To ensure minimal inconvenience to users of the Library, publicity about the closure commenced six months previously. During the stocktake, a limited telephone service was available to assist with referrals and basic reference enquiries.

### **J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History**

*Correspondent: Susan Byrne*

The Australia 1983 Oral History Project has made it possible for the Battye Library to increase its holdings of oral history interviews, supplementing those already produced by its own Oral History Programme. Jean Teasdale, the Western Australian co-ordinator, has been co-operating with Nancy Lutton and Sue Byrne who are arranging the copying of the tapes for the Battye Library. Fortunately, the Friends of Battye Library had recently donated a speed tape duplicator. More than ninety interviewees, so far, have spoken of their experiences in all areas of Western Australia and in particular in Fremantle, Subiaco and Peppermint Grove. The interviews contain valuable and interesting material which might not otherwise have been collected. They will be restricted to the public until 1988.

Mike Cordell, field officer for the National Film Archive at the National Library spent three weeks of January 1983 touring Western Australia in search of old films for the Last Film Search. Mike, who was based at the State Film Archives in Perth, collected film from over thirty sources during his stay.

Deputy State Archivist, Chris Coggin, attended the 21st International Conference of the Round Table on Archives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 29 November to 4 December 1982. Chris represented the Library Board, which is a member of the International Council on Archives, and found the theme of the Conference "Microfilm Policies" of particular relevance to the work of the Battye Library. He was also able to visit the new National Archives building allowing him to make valuable comparisons with the plans for the Alexander Library Building.

During 1982 the Battye Library co-operated with the Western Australian Institute of Technology's course supervisor of System Project 303/304 to give a small group of students the experience of doing a feasibility study on a computerised subject retrieval system for the Pictorial Collection. The students showed it would indeed be feasible to

design a system that would retrieve by the subject of the image and the date, the name of photographer and related information, the source of the photograph, its donor and any restrictions, copyright information and technical information such as the physical characteristics of the negative, the positive, prints and mounts. It could also cater for location. While the implementation of such a system is not being considered by the Library Board at the present time, it was nevertheless a valuable exercise.

**La Trobe Library  
State Library of Victoria  
Australian Manuscripts Collection**

*Correspondent: Tony Marshall*

The storage problems of the Collection have been eased by the provision of further space both within the State Library building and the Library's store at the inner suburb of Abbotsford. Retrieval from this store is possible at 24 hours' notice.

Following the recent death of the Hon Dr Samuel Merrifield, the remainder of his collection of labour history records has been transferred to the Library. Other notable acquisitions include the papers of the soldier and politician, Colonel Richard Armstrong Crouch; papers of the Hon Adelaide Lubbock, a writer of note and the daughter of Victoria's governor from 1914 to 1920; the records of St Mark's Anglican church, Fitzroy; and the records of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Collections to which material has been added include the records of the Children's Protection Society, the Independent Order of Rechabites, the Royal Society of Victoria and the private papers of Sir Rupert Hamer.

Two senior members of staff have recently left the La Trobe Library. Shar Jones, formerly Picture Librarian, has moved to Elizabeth Bay House in Sydney. Paul Macpherson, formerly Manuscripts Librarian and more recently Deputy La Trobe Librarian, has been appointed to a position at the Australian War Memorial.

In recent months the Library has been able to reduce some of the pressure on its services by the provision of finding aids and self-help facilities for two large groups of users, family historians and senior school history students.

**National Library of Australia  
Manuscripts Collection**

*Correspondent: Pam Ray*

Significant additions to the national manuscripts collection during the past few months include several collections which augment the Library's

strong holdings of material relating to theatre, namely the records of the publishers of *Theatre Australia*, the papers of Jigsaw Theatre (a Canberra company), and papers of theatrical personality Willa Hokin and the singer Arnold Matters.

Material has been received from the writers Alan Marshall, Murray Walker, Eric Rolls, Humphrey McQueen and the poet Alan Gould. A pleasing feature of some of these additions is their pictorial component, the Alan Marshall photograph albums and Murray Walker photographs being particularly notable. Politicians Bill Hayden, Jim Keefe and Ken Fry have transferred further papers to our custody.

Some unusual collections acquired include a small collection on Welsh people in Australia; records of the Commonwealth Games Foundation; copies of letters written home by an Australian teacher in New Guinea 1961-73; a visitors' log book from the Simpson Desert; and the papers of the late David Fenbury, an Australian who worked for many years as a public servant in Papua New Guinea.

### Queensland State Archives

*Correspondent: Lee McGregor*

The Public Search Room at Queensland State Archives will be closed from 28 January to 10 June 1983 inclusive in order to increase the seating capacity of the room and to provide improved access for handicapped persons. Archives staff will continue to undertake research in response to written and phone enquiries. All other services offered by Queensland State Archives will be continued as normal.

Space will be made available for up to two people to do research work in another area of the building *in case of extreme hardship only* e.g. a student with a one year thesis to write whose main source of material is Queensland State Archives. Unfortunately, noise and dust from jackhammers, cement mixers etc. will make working conditions for researchers very difficult. Persons in *genuine emergency situations* are requested to write or phone the State Archives to be considered for a place. Reservations will be allocated on the basis of greatest need.

The State Archivist, Paul Wilson, is working on the records of the Queensland parliament at Parliament House from 13 December 1982 to 13 April 1983. It is intended to restore these records to their original order and to prepare suitable finding aids.

The State Archives building at West End (a very old and unsuitable building) has been vacated at the request of the Works Department so that it may be used for other purposes. The records previously stored at West End have been moved to a modern warehouse at Acacia Ridge. This

building, although not air-conditioned, is far more suitable for the storage of records. It will be used purely for intermediate (i.e. semi-current) records.

### **University of New South Wales School of Librarianship**

*Correspondent: Peter Orlovich*

Nineteen students fulfilled all of the requirements for the Diploma in Information Management — Archives Administration in 1982, of whom three were overseas candidates on leave from the National Archives of New Zealand and Malaysia, and three were employees of archival institutions in Australia.

Of the thirteen students, therefore, actually seeking appointments to archival positions, only one had secured such an appointment by the end of January, 1983, although two had been employed on a part-time temporary basis within archive institutions in Sydney upon completion of the course. In contrast to previous years, the employment prospects for graduates of the course by the end of January were not encouraging. Neither the Commonwealth nor the State governments were actively recruiting archivists, and vacancies, when they occurred, were only tardily being filled, if at all. The advertising of several senior archival positions throughout Australia, in previous months, offered some prospect of employment opportunities at a lower level in the long run. Some caution however, is required in advising prospective candidates of the employment prospects for archivists in the ensuing year, and it is anticipated that more resourcefulness and initiative will be required in future by graduates of the course to secure professional appointments.

Appointments will need to be sought in future in areas of employment formerly considered to be peripheral to archives administration, and a more aggressive approach required to secure appointments with commercial organisations, the inclination in the past having been to depend upon the government archives to absorb a large proportion of the graduates.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich of the New South Wales Regional Office of the Australian Archives will be responsible in Session 1, 1983, as a part-time lecturer, for those aspects of the course normally presented by Peter Orlovich, who will be on study leave from February to July, 1983.

### **University of Sydney Archives**

*Correspondent: Ken Smith*

In 1981 and 1982, strenuous efforts were made to create space by culling

a large group of semi-current records, and some two hundred shelf metres were eventually made available for new accessions. This is significant, as the total available shelving only runs to approximately eleven hundred metres. We now have nine hundred and fifteen shelf metres of records.

During 1982, twenty-three shelf metres, comprising sixty-two separate deposits, were received. This may not sound much to multi-people archives, but it is enough here. We also had one hundred and sixty-one separate researchers "sign on" in 1982, the total number of users being seven hundred and forty-two for the year, or 2.96 per working day. This, of course, meant that we had four or five in quite often, again quite sufficient given our human resources.

Other activities during 1982 included mounting a campaign for the records of science by circularising every academic in the Faculty of Science; taking a seminar of history post-graduate students on the subject of archives; mounting an exhibition in the Great Hall on the subject of "A Salute to a Century of University Women"; producing two editions of *Record*, the publication of University of Sydney Archives; and having a week's special duty overseas (in the United Kingdom).

### **University of Western Australia Archives**

*Correspondent: Christine Shervington*

As reported in the last issue, the re-organisation of the current Central Records System is still the Archivist's major project. It is anticipated that the computerisation of the new KWOC indexing system, using the Datatrieve indexing package, will commence in May.

Implementation will be staggered over the year; the old system will be closed gradually and non-current files then transferred to the Archives or destroyed according to established retention and disposal schedules. Some University departments have also evinced interest in adopting a similar records management system for their own decentralised files.

New acquisitions to the Archives include the records of the late Professor Mary Lockett, the University's first female professor, and foundation professor of Pharmacology; missing Bursar's Office ledgers covering the period 1920s to 1930s; and oral history interviews with one of the first graduates from this University, Sheila McClemons, and ex-Senate member and Under Treasurer, Sir Kenneth Townsing.

### **Papua New Guinea**

*Correspondent: Judith Hornabrook*

Two expatriate archivists took up duty in Port Moresby at the end of

1982. Andrew Griffin, formerly of the India Office Library and Records (British Library) became Archivist, in the University of Papua New Guinea and Judith Hornabrook, formerly Chief Archivist, National Archives, New Zealand, became Chief Archivist, National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea.

A training programme for staff of the National Archives is in progress — it comprises a series of talks, visits, practical sessions and tests. Work has begun on the fuller listing and description of the fascinating source material comprised in patrol reports. In an effort to upgrade storage conditions regular tests are being made to determine levels of relative humidity in the repository. Indications are that, despite air conditioning, the level is too high.

The new year programme includes plans for increased activity in the appraisal of records in government offices and the upgrading of National Archives' finding aids. There will be a revision of the microfilming programme and investigation into conservation facilities, for which the need is great but resources minimal.

At the University, Andrew Griffin is sorting and listing church and missionary archives and continuing the active acquisitions policy begun by Nancy Lutton.

**Note:** It was reported in New Zealand News Notes last issue that Judith Hornabrook is UNESCO funded in Papua New Guinea. This is incorrect. She is, however, endeavouring to obtain UNESCO funds for PARBICA, of which body she is Assistant Secretary-General.