

REPORT
OF THE
COUNCIL

1973



MONASH UNIVERSITY

PUBLISHED BY MONASH UNIVERSITY

Printed by Brown Prior Anderson Proprietary Limited, Melbourne

Dr D. F. Dorward (Zoology) presented the thirteenth Crosbie Morrison Memorial Lecture; Professor R. W. Cumming gave the presidential address to the Australian Psychological Society; Professor W. A. Rachinger (Physics) gave the Australian Institute of Physics Youth Lecture; Professor R. Day (Psychology) presented a series of lectures to members of the Victorian Society of Occupational Therapists; Professors P. D. Finch and J. S. Maritz (Mathematical Statistics) gave a course on Statistical and Operations Research Methods for the Australian Minerals Foundation in Adelaide; Professor C. S. Wallace was invited to join a committee to advise the Federal Government on the integration of data systems; Professors G. B. Preston, P. D. Finch and B. R. Morton were invited speakers at international mathematical meetings in the United States during the year.

Members of the Botany department assisted in establishing a nature trail in Sherbrooke Forest.

Accommodation

During the year the extensions to chemistry and physics buildings were completed and occupied, while work commenced on extensions to mathematics and the biological sciences link building. This latter extension is eagerly awaited as the additional accommodation will relieve the pressures for space in the biological sciences areas.

The trend of student preference for these subject areas indicates that extensions to the various departments concerned will become of primary importance in building plans for the next triennium.

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

It appeared likely that 1973 would be a depressed year as far as book intake was concerned, that the University would be unable to support a programme as ambitious as in 1972 in the face of constantly rising prices. In the event, successive revaluations gave a much-needed breathing space in the race against the diminishing dollar and as well a considerable further sum was injected into the budget. These two windfalls alone would have made it an extremely busy year. Volumes taken into stock totalled just under 60,000. Then, as it happened, a pile of book deliveries probably sufficient to provide a new record intake, arrived on the library's doorstep within the last week of the year, too late to be taken into that year's stock. Total stock at the end of the year was approximately 625,000, with 11,100 periodical titles currently received.

As well as from the University itself, support for these purchases was received from students, graduates and parents (the latter both individually and through the indefatigable Parents' Group), the Friends of the Library, and again this year, The American Council of Learned Societies and the Victoria Law Foundation. Very respectable

collections in some areas of study are beginning to show, and thanks must be expressed to all those who have made this possible.

A major policy change by the A.U.C. will have important effects on university libraries; this is the recognition that basic book material is analogous to expensive equipment, and that no university can form a library—or indeed support a collection for a new field of study—from its normal recurrent funds. Much of 1973 was spent in selecting and placing orders for back set material from funds released for this purpose, and the library will clearly be a much more useful research tool as this material comes into stock in 1974.

Even now we are clearly contributing to the book resources of the nation. Loans to other libraries rose from 10,286 in 1972 to a startling 13,100 in 1973. Borrowings fell slightly, from 6,913 to 6,521.

The overall total of loans rose once again, by some 10 per cent to over 390,000.

Mr D. R. May was created deputy librarian, with special responsibility for the further development of reader services, and Miss Patricia White (ex James Cook University) replaced him as humanities and social sciences librarian. His previous position, that of librarian, Hargrave library, was filled by Mrs Marta Chiba.

The library was shocked and saddened by the death after a short illness of its chief cataloguer Miss Joan Winduss, a member of the staff since 1961. Her common-sense approach to her job will be sadly missed.

Mrs Fay Baker, of the biomedical library, spent several weeks in the Philippines, on an assignment for the W.H.O.; a further assignment, in Vietnam, is planned for early 1974.

Space problems beset the library from two angles: as predicted, the main library collection outgrew its housing during the year, and the first instalments (of what will clearly be many) of selected periodical runs, were temporarily moved to the law building. Tenders for the planned extension so clearly reflected the runaway market that early relief seems unlikely.

At the same time the swing in interest from the physical to the biological sciences was reflected in steadily increasing usage of the biomedical library. Continuing doubts as to the future of the Monash medical centre have made long-term planning impossible and short-term action beyond the minimal, unproductive. Conditions for library staff and readers alike are here well below standard.

Plans for data-processing development are to an extent in limbo, during the proving-out of new input equipment and especially while details are awaited of the National Library's projected service for the distribution of cataloguing data.

As suggested earlier, the library's emphasis is changing towards an enhanced service to readers, and it is becoming a partner in more and more teaching programmes. The interest this generates requires better

staffing to satisfy it. We are fortunate in the high quality and enthusiasm of our recruits in this area, as we have been in the capability shown by our present staff.

6. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Alexander Theatre

1973 began as usual with a children's holiday production and proved an extremely busy year, with five major student productions, a production of *Coriolanus* by the department of English, the *Ramayana in Java* by the Music department, and numerous guild-sponsored productions and outside hirings. Attendance at productions in the theatre is estimated at 73,000, of whom 25,000 attended productions originating in the University.

This year also saw the beginning of the Saturday Club, sponsored by the guild in conjunction with the Monash Women's Society. This provides Saturday shows for children and combines live shows with good quality children's films. The Saturday Club was so successful that its frequency had to be doubled. This venture will be continued with increasing emphasis on live productions and educational programmes.

The greatest single problem in the theatre, apart from air conditioning, is still lack of space, particularly for rehearsals and storage. This problem is likely to become even more acute in 1974.

The Alexander Theatre Committee has been concerned for some years with the quality of adult productions in the theatre, and has finally decided through the agency of the guild (which is under the chairmanship of Dr Logan Francey, director of the theatre), to run its own professional theatre company. For this purpose, it has taken over the existing highly successful group known as the Players' Caravan, under the leadership of Mr Don McKay who has been appointed executive officer to the guild. It is proposed in 1974 to run two seasons of plays. The financial resources of the theatre committee and of the guild will be heavily committed, and efforts are being made to obtain the services of a promotion officer to ensure the greatest possible support for this enterprise, both inside and outside the University.

Robert Blackwood Hall

Robert Blackwood Hall must be rapidly becoming one of the best utilized university great halls in Australia. In 1973 it was used for 204 activities taking up 184 days of the year, this representing an increase of a third over the 1972 figures. Attendances showed an even greater increase, with 68,000 (compared with 40,000 in 1972) in addition to those attending examinations and enrolment. Our ex-