

THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

The establishment of *Wollongong University College* in May 1961 owed much to support from the local Community. A University Division of the University of Technology (later to become the University of NSW) had been operating at the Wollongong Technical College since 1951. At that time 171 Diploma students enrolled in the subjects of Metallurgy and Mechanical Engineering had become the responsibility of the University. This allowed students to undertake first and second year study at university level. Students were required to transfer to the Kensington Campus in the third year of their studies.

By 1958 University enrolments at Wollongong had increased from 132 to 205 far exceeding those of any other University Division. The range of courses had expanded to include Science, Chemistry, Civil and Electrical Engineering. This prompted calls for the establishment of a University College of the University of NSW to be established in Wollongong. During 1957-58 the *Wollongong Technical Education District Council* lobbied hard for support of Tertiary Education needs in the district, emphasising serious deficiencies in buildings and equipment.

Financial resources were a major factor in the University's reluctance to accede to the Councils' request. However, following the purchase of the present University Site (approximately 202 acres) by the NSW Government in 1958, Sketch Plans were drawn up and funding sought from State and Federal Governments.

In 1959 a working committee comprising prominent community members was set up. Five major Port Kembla Industries contributed a total of 230,000 pounds towards the cost of the University College and a subsequent "*Mayoral Appeal Fund*" raised a further 190,000 pounds. In total, well over two thirds of the total cost of construction was raised by the local community. *Wollongong University College* was formally constituted on 8th May 1961 when the position of College Warden was created and Professor C.A.M. Grey was appointed to the position. The Official opening of the College by Viscount de L'Isle, Governor-General of Australia, occurred on March 1st 1962.

In 1962 the University had an enrolment of 300 students, a teaching staff of 18 and offered four courses: Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Metallurgy and Science. In 1975, when autonomy from University of NSW resulted in the establishment of the University of Wollongong, student numbers had increased to 2135. Further expansion occurred in 1983 when the University amalgamated with the Wollongong Institute of Education located on an adjacent site. This resulted in the University expanding to include such diverse courses as Human Movement Science and Creative Arts.

In 1989 a total of 8298 students are enrolled in 21 postgraduate and bachelor degree courses. The University employs over 1000 general and academic staff.

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