I am delighted to accept the invitation of the Editor of Campus News to write a farewell message. As I approach the transition from work to retirement, I find that my thoughts are focused both on the past and the future.

Looking back over my years at The University of Wollongong initially as Foundation Professor of Psychology, then also as part-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) and finally as the first full-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor, brings predominantly pleasant memories. It has been a rewarding experience to work with the first Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Michael Birt, and later with our present Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, and with other members of staff and with student representatives in helping to plan and develop the institution from its earlier very small size University College stage to its autonomous University status and then through its amalgamation with the Wollongong Institute of Education.

In the period I have been here, we have invested much effort in evolutionary and structural changes with their associated debates and tensions as we moved to new states of first autonomy and then amalgamation.

Currently new proposals are being considered by the academic community for further structural changes made necessary because we have grown into a medium-size institution.

An academic friend many years ago said to me that he was concerned, as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, when there were no signs of disagreement and no proposals for change among the academic staff in his University. He firmly believed that tensions and moves for academic and structural change were signs of a normal and desirable state in a university. Without these indicators of institutional health, the members of a university are likely to be lacking in vitality and vigor and to have lost the motivation to evaluate their own perspective on the world or to examine new ideas and theories. The University of Wollongong has been and continues to be an institution that, on these criteria, is a healthy one.

The time and other resources spent on these changes and their associated debates, however, have not inhibited our academic development as a University. We have a right to be proud of our undergraduate programs and the way we care about teaching the students in them. The development of educationally and academically sound undergraduate programs was our first priority as an autonomous university and we have achieved excellent outcomes.

Our postgraduate research and coursework programs are strong and are being developed further. Our research achievements, too, compare favourably with those of similar universities. The general staff of the University also has contributed significantly to the academic progress by providing the administrative, professional and technical support and planning the physical facilities that are essential to the effectiveness of the academic endeavours.

We are located in a beautiful environment between the sea and the escarpment and, thanks to the interest of a group of academic staff and the efforts of our general...
From the left: Dr Lyn Gow, Nicki Papadimitrou, Research Assistant in the Department of Education, and Kerry Davis, trainee in the Human Resources Centre.

THE UNIT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Unit for Special Education (within the Centre for Policy Studies in Education, Faculty of Education) recently consulted in the preparation of a joint submission with two local organisations catering for people with an intellectual disability: the Illawarra Human Resources Centre and Aid Retarded Persons, Wollongong (Dr Lyn Gow, Head of the Unit, is Vice-president of both organisations). The submission was successful in attracting $110,000 from the Department of Community Services for much-needed residential services for disabled people in the Illawarra Region. A large proportion of the grant will be spent on salaries, thus opening up more employment prospects in the Illawarra Region.

Another service currently being offered by this Unit is the development of a staff training program designed to provide TAFE staff, within the Wollongong Division of Basic Education, with the most up-to-date teaching strategies for working with people with an intellectual disability. Initiative for the development of this staff training program came from Ms Sheelah Boleyn, Senior Head Teacher of Basic Education, and Consultant for the Disabled, Illawarra, who recognised that many of her 190 disabled students were not retaining the skills taught at TAFE, nor applying them in other settings.

This program is to be Module 1 in a series of training programs to be offered to TAFE staff by the Unit for Special Education. The strategies to be taught have been developed as part of a University of Wollongong Research Grant which also enabled the trialling of these teaching techniques at several sheltered workshops and activity therapy centres in the region. At one of these centres, the Illawarra Human Resources Centre, the staff are delighted with the positive outcomes achieved by their students through the efforts of University of Wollongong research assistant and teacher graduate, Ms Cherry Hardaker.

With the co-operation of TAFE Wollongong technical staff, the program is to be presented on films in conjunction with discussion/workshops. These films will also be shown at two National Special Education Conferences this year to illustrate the project funded by the University of Wollongong.

Further information about the activities of the Unit for Special Education can be directed to Dr Lyn Gow (ext 3980 or 3961).

UNIVERSITY'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Friday August 9 is University Day. As 1985 is the University's tenth anniversary it will be marked by a graduation ceremony for those who have completed the requirements for the award of a degree at the end of First Session 1985. This will be followed by the now traditional Graduates' Reunion Dinner which, to mark the occasion, will be a special one.

This is the one big occasion with which the University is marking its tenth anniversary and we hope that you will help us celebrate it. We expect a large gathering of new graduates, old graduates (particularly from our first graduation back in 1975), staff, ex-staff, and other Friends of the University.

There will be pre-dinner drinks from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Union Common Room, with entertainment from the University Singers, followed by a celebration dinner and further entertainment. Cost is $20 a head.

Bookings close with the Union on Thursday, August 1.

NEW EXECUTIVE FOR UNIVERSITY NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ASSOCIATION

At the annual general meeting held on April 18 a new Executive was elected to the University Nuclear Disarmament Association. New members are: Mark Rix - Convener (Postgraduate, Philosophy); Tracey Lawler - Assistant Convener (Arts student); Jan Sullivan - Secretary (Admin postgrad); Mark Turnbull - Assistant Secretary (Arts student); Peter McDonald - Treasurer (Env Sc student); Rosemary Robins - Co-Editor (Arts student); Harvey Purse - Co-Editor (Arts student); James Dunning - Publicity Officer (Arts student).

WUNDA meetings are held at 12.30 pm every other Thursday. Dates for the remainder of this year are: July 4 and 18, August 1, 15 and 29; September 12 and 26, October 10 and 24, and November 7 and 21.
AWARD TO PHILOSOPHER

Dr. Robert Dunn, lecturer in the Philosophy Department, has won an international competition, organised by the Journal of Philosophy at Columbia University New York, for his manuscript and PhD thesis *The Possibility of Weakness of Will.*

Dr. Dunn flew to New York to receive the Johnsonian Prize, regarded as one of the most prestigious international philosophy awards. As part of the prize, the manuscript will be published by The Hackett Publishing Company, an American academic publishing firm.

The competition attracted some of the brightest young philosophers in the world.

Dr. Dunn received his award during a conference of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association.

Following the presentation by the Hackett Publishing Company, representatives of the company had expressed interest in publishing a companion manuscript entitled *The Possibility of Self-Deception* on which he was present working.

TAXATION DECLARATION FORMS

The Australian Taxation Office has advised that Income Tax Instalment Declarations previously lodged by most employees will cease to have effect on June 30.

Accordingly it will be necessary for those employees, whether academic, non-academic, casual or part-time to lodge new Declaration forms with the Salaries Section NOT LATER THAN July 1.

Employees who DO NOT lodge new Declarations will be liable to higher tax instalment deductions from July 1 onwards.

Supplies of the new Declaration Forms are available by calling at the Salaries Office, Bldg. D18 at the western end of the Administration Building or at any Post Office and the Taxation Office.

RELEASE OF SESSION 1, 1985 EXAMINATION RESULTS

Session 1, 1985, examination results will be released at noon on Friday, July 12 in the Union Dining Room.

Individual result notices will be available for collection until 5 p.m. on the same afternoon. Results will also be displayed on notice boards in student number and course order.

Students should note that results not picked up by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 12 will be posted on July 15 and they will therefore not be available for collection from the Student Enquiry Counter as has been the past practice.

Students who have outstanding library fines, student loans, etc should make appropriate arrangements with the Finance Office by Wednesday July 10.

To mark the tenth Anniversary of the foundation of the University, a Graduation Ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday August 9. All students who meet the requirements for a degree or diploma at the end of Session 1 will be eligible to graduate at this ceremony provided they submit an Application for an Academic Award by June 30.

B.C. Moldrich,
University Secretary.

UNIVERSITY UNION SEEKS TUTORS

Wollongong University Union seeks tutors for the following:

- aerobics  
- astrology  
- assertiveness training  
- acrobatics  
- basketry  
- budget shopping  
- circus skills/clowning  
- computers  
- calligraphy  
- cookery  
- car maintenance  
- drama  
- dressmaking  
- disco dancing  
- first aid  
- floral art  
- guitar  
- hairdressing  
- herbal healing  
- iridology  
- jazz ballet  
- jewellery making  
- leadlight  
- leatherwork  
- life drawing  
- massaging  
- meditation  
- macrame  
- needlepoint  
- oil painting  
- photography  
- pottery  
- paper making  
- public speaking  
- precis writing  
- spinning and weaving  
- screen printing  
- silk painting  
- self defence  
- speed reading  
- shorthand  
- typing  
- tai chi  
- tap dancing  
- toy making  
- upholstery  
- woodworking  
- yoga

additional suggestions welcome.

Enquiries to Dianne Haines, Activities Officer, phone 297833.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

1975 – 1985
CAMPUS INTERVIEW PROGRAMME

Stage 1 – July 16

Australian Customs Service
An information session and individual interviews will be given to all students interested in a career in computing. Both second and final year students are welcome to attend.

Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce
Informal information sessions will be held for final year students. The Department is currently recruiting for Accountants, Economists and Assistant Research Officers.

Bookings for the above visits must be made at the Counselling Centre by WEDNESDAY JULY 10.

1984/85 CSIRO/UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FUND

A joint CSIRO/University Committee meeting was held on May 30 to consider applications for grants for the period ending June 30, 1985.

Present at the meeting were: Professor L. Kane-Maguire, University of Wollongong (chairman); Professor P. Arnold, University of Wollongong; Dr W.R. Blevin, CSIRO; Dr G. Taylor, CSIRO; Mr G. Boswell, CSIRO; Mr T. Smith, University of Wollongong (secretary).

Mr Smith provided a financial report with both the University and CSIRO contributing $30,000 each and with interest accrued to 30 June 1985 to be added to the grants to Arnold/Pham and Clarke/Peck to be returned to the fund, there was approximately $73,500 available for allocation.

Allocations
Proposals were ranked by committee members and after interviewing Dr G. Delamore and Mr B. Harper and following extensive discussions, the Committee agreed upon allocations totalling $61,040.

Publicity
As in previous years, the University or CSIRO would publicise the grants as they saw fit.

Advice to Chairman, CSIRO and Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong
In consideration of the Committee’s advisory role, it was agreed that:

Of the six grants supported for 1985/86, a majority will probably terminate and staff should now be encouraged to develop contacts and establish collaboration with a view to lodging applications for 1986/87.

The Committee was disappointed with the number of new applications received and feels that this may be due to previous competition resulting in a low success rate.

In future, the Committee will look for greater evidence of collaboration between the University and CSIRO when assessing grant applications. The Committee would like applicants to provide the following when making applications:

More detail in the application.
Evidence of specific goals.
How and where the work is to be done.
Where the project is a sub-program of a broader program, notes on how the project fits into the overall setup.

WUNDA INFORMATION RESOURCES

The following peace journals, newsletters and pamphlets are available from the Secretary.


Peace Dossier

American Bases in Australia, By Desmond Ball.
Why we have a War to Stop, Alan Roberts.
Is there a Soviet Threat? Andrew Mack.
Nuclear War: The threat to Australia. A.B. Pittock.
Medicine and Nuclear War. J. Andrews et al.


Armed Neutrality - Australia’s Alternative. David Martin.

Personal Responses to Nuclear Threat. Louise Arnold.

A CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

A career development workshop for women will be held in the Counselling Centre on July 2 and July 4 from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm. It is particularly designed for women studying at postgraduate level, although other women may apply.

The workshop will cover the areas of career planning and interview and application writing skills.

Contact Beth Urwin (extension 3592) if you wish to attend.

METEORITE TALK

The Port Kembla Branch of the Australian Institute of Metals last week held its June meeting in the Department of Metallurgy. The topic for discussion was “Meteorites”.

The address was presented by Dr Max Hatherly, who recently retired from the School of Metallurgy at the University of NSW. Dr Hatherly is a distinguished Australian metallurgist with an international reputation. He has been interested in meteorites and their origin for many years and recently presented this lecture at the Los Alamos Research Facility in the United States.

During his lecture Dr Hatherly discussed the origin of meteorites, their composition, recorded incidences of meteoric showers and the locations of some of the known meteoric craters on the Earth.

He described some of the tests that he had conducted on specimens of meteorites and related unexplained differences in properties of similar metallic specimens of terrestrial origin. His lecture was illustrated with slides and specimens of metallic meteorites.
WHEREFORE ART THOU, AMADEUS?

The University Singers have limited vacancies for altos, sopranos, tenors and basses interested in joining the choir for an October performance of Mozart's *Requiem*.

Weekly rehearsals begin mid-August with a preliminary meeting on July 28, at 2 pm.

Those interested in auditioning are invited to contact David Vance on ext 3617.

THE GREENERY — OPENING HOURS

Until Friday, June 28 restricted opening hours 10 am - 2 pm.

Closed Monday, July 1 to Friday, July 12.

Monday, July 15 to Friday, July 19 restricted opening hours 10 am - 2 pm.

As from Monday, July 22 normal opening hours will apply.

Seminars

Further details about the seminars are shown on the ‘Campus News’ noticeboard.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM — FARM ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTING

The Royal Agricultural Society of England’s symposium on Farm Electronics and Computing will take place in the UK on October 20 to 25. The venue is the Moat House International Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, at the National Agricultural Centre and the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe, Bedfordshire. The symposium program is being circulated worldwide. Applications are requested by August 16. Details from Challice Moldrich.

EDUCATION IN LITERACY

A conference under the title of Education in Literacy will be held by the Illawarra Region Educational Research Council on Saturday August 10. The Conference will take place in the Pentagon Building, beginning with registration at 8.45 am and ending at approximately 4.15 pm.

The address of welcome will be given by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, and the opening of the conference address will be given by Alderman Frank Arkell, Lord Mayor of Wollongong.

Papers during the morning sessions will be presented by Professor Dame Leonie Kramer (Literacy in Relation to Reading), and Mr Chris Maher, Training Officer A.I.S. Pty Ltd (Community Demands on Literacy).

In the period immediately before the lunch break prizes for the student writing competition sponsored by the Illawarra Mercury and the Illawarra District of P & C Associations will be presented by Mr David Jones, President of the Illawarra P & C Association, and Mr Peter Newell, Editor of *The Mercury*.

Afternoon sessions will focus on Before and After Pre-School Years - Mrs Deanna Morgan, Principal, Montessori School, Wollongong, and Adult Education - Mrs Pat Mansour, Adult Education Adviser.

Later in the afternoon the conference will be addressed by Dr Brian Cambourne, Head of the Centre for Studies in Literacy in the University, and Mr Tony Ball, of the NSW Department of Technical and Further Education (TAFE).

Summing-up will be by Mrs Ethel Schouten, Deputy Principal of Oak Flats Primary School.

CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Friends of the University of Wollongong will again host the Annual Commonwealth Bank High School Chess Championship at the University Union Hall on Sunday July 7.

This will be the fifth Championship to be contested by teams of four school students, with the team gaining the highest number of points being declared the winner; for each win by a team player one point is awarded, and for each draw half a point is awarded.

The Commonwealth Bank will provide the following prizes for the Championship: $100 for the winning team, $100 for the leading Illawarra team, $25 each to the boy and girl with the highest number of points in the match.

A perpetual trophy is also awarded to the winning team.

Owing to the large number of teams which enter this championship, it will be necessary to restrict it to six or seven rounds with the Swiss System used for pairing teams. The games will also be conducted with clocks and a time limit of 15 minutes is given to each player in a game. The usual tournament rules, including touch-move, will also be applied.

The tournament will begin at 1.30 pm and is expected to finish at about 6 pm. Light refreshments will be available at the University Union. Chess sets and clocks will be provided, though it would be appreciated if the owners of chess clocks would bring them.

Concerts, Exhibitions and Entertainment

SAVE ON TICKETS TO THE AUSTRALIAN OPERA

A limited number of tickets to Australian Opera productions during the winter season are now available. Generous concession prices make this an attractive offer: for most productions, $28 buys an A reserve seat. Make your booking now, by contacting David Vance, Music Development Officer, English Department, ext 3617.

*I Puritani* (Bellini) (with Dame Joan Sutherland)
Saturday, July 6, 1.00 pm — $38

*A Masked Ball* (Verdi) (new production)
Saturday, August 3, 1.00 pm — $38

*La Boheme* (Puccini)
Friday, August 16, 7.30 pm — $28
II Trovatore (Verdi)
Saturday, September 14, 1.00 pm — $28

Madame Butterfly (Puccini)
Saturday, September 28, 1.00 pm — $28

Don Pasquale (Donizetti)
Saturday, October 12, 7.30 pm — $28

Tosca (Puccini)
Saturday, October 19, 7.30 pm — $28

Katya Kabanova (Janacek)
Saturday, October 26, 1.00 pm — $28

SPECIAL OFFER
Two performances of ‘The Mikado’ (Gilbert and Sullivan)
Saturday, August 31, 7.30 pm — $25
Saturday, November 2, 1.00 pm — $14

ART ARENA EXHIBITION
An exhibition of paintings and prints by John Telford and of ‘things made from clay’ by Pat St. George will be opened by Art Arena (Central Chambers, Crown Street, on Friday July 5 at 7.30 pm.

Art Arena is, of course, the foundation brainchild of 15 Wollongong students who wanted to stay together and needed a place to work. Friday’s exhibition will continue to run from July 6 to July 24 from 4 to 8 pm on Thursdays and from noon until 4 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

ANZHES CONFERENCE
The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society (ANZHES) will be held in Sydney from August 26 to 29.

The venue will be International House, University of Sydney.

Accommodation can be booked at International House. Papers are welcome from historians/educationists and should be sent to Geoff Sherington, Department of Education, University of Sydney, 2006, by Bastille Day, July 14.

Further information from Dr Noeline Kyle, ext 3968.

VIETNAM – TEN YEARS ON
A national conference entitled ‘Vietnam - Ten Years On’ will be held at the University on July 6 and 7. Papers will be delivered by many Indochina experts; and opening address will be by Dr Stuart Harris, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra.

At the conference dinner, on the evening of Saturday, July 6, the guest speaker will be Mr Peter Hastings, the well-known Sydney writer on foreign affairs.

Details and registration: Dr Allan Healy, History Department, P.O. Box 1144, Wollongong, 2600 or telephone ext 3626 or 3775.

Scholarships and Prizes
Details of the scholarships and prizes below are displayed on the Campus News Notice Board situated at 49 Northfields Avenue. Application forms are available from the Student Enquiries Office.

CSIRO VACATION SCHOLARSHIPS 1985/86
The Division of Physics is currently building the Australia Telescope -- a bicentennial project -- to ensure a future in Astrophysical Research. In connection with this project, CSIRO scholarships are offered to undergraduate students who have completed not less than three years of full-time courses in Electronics, Electrical Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, Computing Science or other closely allied subjects.

Eight to ten scholarships will be available for a period of ten working weeks in the period December to February. Apply in writing to The Chief, CSIRO Division of Radio-physics, PO Box 76, Epping, NSW 2121.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUSHO) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1986
The Japanese Ministry of Education (Monbusho) is offering scholarships to Australian citizens for study in Japan beginning in 1986.

Both undergraduate and research scholarships will be offered.

Undergraduate category
The undergraduate scholarships are tenable for five years and a successful student will return to Australia with a degree of “Gakushi” in Law, Politics, Economics, Business Administration, Education, Sociology, Literature, History, Philosophy or Japanese Language. Applicants in this category must have reached matriculation standard and must be between 17 and 22 years of age on 1 April 1986.

Research Category
The research awards are tenable for 18 months or two years. Applicants must be willing to study the Japanese language and to receive instruction in that language. There are opportunities for postgraduate study in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Applicants in this category must be graduates or final year students under 35 years of age on 1 April 1986.

Application forms from: The Secretary, Department of Education, (Japanese Government Monbusho Scholarships), PO Box 826, Woden, ACT, 2606. Closing date 9 August 1985.
FRANCE

The French Government is offering a number of awards to young Australian teachers of French, or final year students who propose teaching French in the future, who wish to take up positions as "Assistant" in French high schools for eight months from 1 October 1986.

Benefits: (a) Living allowance of approximately 3,000FF per month, (b) Assistance with accommodation, (c) Medical expenses.

Note: Travel to and from France is not included.

Further information and application forms from:
The Secretary, Department of Education (French Government Assistantships), PO Box 826, Woden, ACT 2606. Closing date 27 September 1985.

ITALY

The Scuola Superiore Enrico Mattei has again announced a competition open to Italian and foreign citizens for the admission to one year of study at post University level, in the field of Economic Management subjects.

The courses will begin in November 1985 and terminate in June 1986.

An intensive course of Italian will be organised for the foreign students during the months of September and October.

The courses' structure consists of a wide range of subjects and will enable the participants not only to integrate the scientific background acquired at the University but also to attain a deeper knowledge of topics of specific interest.

The main opportunity offered by Scuola Superiore Enrico Mattei is the possibility of dedicating eight months to study, research and discussion in the several fields covered by the programs.

After a number of introductory courses, the subjects of basic interest to the Scuola will follow: Energy Economics, Business Administration, Finance, Systems Analysis, Industrial Organization and Business Strategy, E.D.P., Economics of the Firm, Operations Research.

A certain number of scholarships will be granted.

The essential requirement for the application is the equivalent Italian degree in: Engineering, Chemistry, Geology, Economics, Business Administration, Statistics, Political Science, Law, Informatics, Mathematics.

Further details on Campus News Notice Board.

BESSIE FOSKETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP...CONCERT

In February this year Wollongong lost an indomitable patron of music and a tireless community worker in the person of Miss Bessie Foskett. The Wollongong Business and Professional Women's Club, with the support of the Principal of the Conservatorium, has undertaken a project to establish a Bessie Foskett Memorial Scholarship as a means of perpetuating Miss Foskett's interest in the young student of music.

Consequently, a concert will be held in the Union Hall on September 7, proceeds of which will go towards the scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a Wollongong student.

The September concert will feature violinist Bill Hennessy from South Australia (formerly from Wollongong), and other local musicians. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the concert.

Further details will be announced as the date draws nearer.

Enquiries should be directed to the Conservatorium of Music on 281122, or Miss Ruth Ross of the W.B.P.C. on 291860 during working hours.

Donations to the scholarship fund, which are tax deductible, would be warmly welcomed by the Committee.

Job Vacancies

Details of the following positions are displayed on the Campus News Notice Board situated at 49 Northfields Avenue.

ANU

Postdoctoral Fellow Grade 1/Research Fellow, School of Biological Sciences, Dept. of Developmental Biology

Postdoctoral Fellow Grade 1 (Biochemical Studies), Faculty of Science, Dept. of Biochemistry

Monash

Postdoctoral Fellowships, all departments

Wollongong

Secretary, Dept. of Philosophy

Programmer or Programmer-in-Training, Computer Centre

James Cook

Lecturer/Snr Lecturer in Mathematics Education, School of Education

Administrative Officer (Salaries), Personnel and Industrial Relations Division

Massey (NZ)

Registrar

Macquarie

National Research Fellow, Centre for Environmental and Urban Studies

Postdoctoral Fellow, Mathematical Seismology

Tutor in English (Drama Studies), School of English and Linguistics

Senior Lecturers/Lecturers in Slavonic Studies

Sport

WOLLONGONG MAKES WAVES

The Rugby League Cup is seeing the Wollongong Uni teams emerge as probably the strongest in the series and proving particularly successful on home ground.

Teams are fielded in Grades 1 and 3 this year - the first of league here. The Wollongong first grade team has won all five of its matches and the third-division team has won its last three games, has drawn one and lost one.

Against Sydney Uni teams last Saturday the third grade team won 16-0 - four tries - and the first-grade team won 30-0 - seven tries and a goal kick.
GONGLY REFLECTIONS

by Professor A.D. Brown, of Biology, who retires today

When I first started coming down to Wollongong during 1974, I was surprised by the beauty of much of the Wollongong area and of the University. My surprise reflected my ignorance of both, notwithstanding my position at that time on the staff of the University of New South Wales. The relatively minor impact made by the Wollongong University College on the consciousness of UNSW staff was a matter of some significance in the relations between Wollongong and Kensington.

It doubtless contributed to the resentment by many Wollongong academics of what they saw as a colonialist attitude of Kensington. This produced a determination wherever possible not to adopt any academic administrative practice of the UNSW. No suggestion of any type of agenda or executive committee was countenanced (today’s Faculty Planning Committees would have caused an attack of the vapours across the campus). Participatory democracy was the way of things and any suggestion of division of labour was obviously the work of the devil. The work of the Vice-Chancellor was made much more difficult than necessary but this was probably seen, if it was seen at all, as a good thing. A case can be made, of course, for the general principle of giving Vice-Chancellors hell.

With the passage of time and the progressive appointment of new staff, things changed. Attitudes softened, academic administrative structures became more realistic, in some directions at any rate, and today the University is probably less neurotic than most.

Another characteristic of the place at the time of its autonomy was a Family Economy Size collective inferiority complex. This was unjustified but a residue of it remains today.

For me, at least, Wollongong University has always has an appealing freshness and informality that are rare in large universities. We do not yet have many academics who looks like George Molnar’s caricatures; they are thick on the ground in the metropolitan universities. No doubt they will appear as Wollongong “matures” and especially when the Staff Club is fully operational.

The preferred environment for the cartoon academic, of course, is The Common Room, replete with leather armchairs, a pipe smoked here and there, mugs of ale held meticulously by the barrel (in no circumstances by the handle) and occasional ripples of erudition keeping things moving at a family pace. In a good university, there should be no more than one or two bodies with a knife protruding from the back.

If that is the goal there are, I suppose, reasons for feeling a bit out of the mainstream of academic activity. On the other hand, we do have some staff of very high calibre and there is no reason for embarrassment or apology at that level. There has always been cause for concern about the physical resources, the Library and, for the past two years, the student:staff ratio. If this last were to be sustained it would destroy the intellectual foundation upon which any university must be built. It is, I hope, a transient problem, a painful but necessary growing pain in reaching a size at which we can legitimately claim to be one of Australia’s more significant universities.

Recently the University has embarked upon a number of initiatives in the direction of technology, Industry and hopes of significant private funding. These are to be welcomed. I think that universities will inevitably turn more to industry for funding and, in the process, will undertake progressively more commitments through to be of immediate or prospective commercial application.

Running a university is now so expensive that we should not be too astonished if the governments that foot the bill become a little bit testy from time to time about the cost of allowing academics to amuse themselves with what might seem to be esoteric trivia. For that reason, technology, industry and commerce are likely to assume much greater importance in our thinking than they have previously. Up to a point this is a sensible and welcome development, but there are dangers.

The dangers lie in the possibility that too large a proportion of the University’s activities will be directed to short-term projects and to servicing society’s own perception of its immediate needs. Historically, one of the strengths of universities has been to provide a haven and a sympathetic environment for iconoclasts, non-conformists and even ratbags, people who question conventional wisdom and challenge the assumptions of contemporary society. I hope, therefore, that the University does develop a strong and profitable relationship with industry but not to such an extent that only success in that direction is valued and individual idiosyncratic initiative is discouraged.

Finally, in these disjointed reflections, I should like to pay tribute to the University’s gardeners who have shown a rare combination of competence and imagination. During my time here the campus has become very attractive overall with some special areas having great beauty and charm. Please keep them that way.