



The Chronicle

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Two more Honorary Doctorates



Br Justin Kelty receives his Honorary Doctorate from the Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy.

University representation at installation

Australian Catholic University was well represented at the public installation of the former Pro-Chancellor, the Most Reverend George Pell, as seventh Archbishop of Melbourne on 17 August.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, and 20 senior staff from the Victorian campuses processed in their academic robes to a special section of Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building.

Professor Drake and the Rector, Aquinas Campus, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, read Prayers of Intercession.

The Lieutenant Governor of Victoria,

Sir James Gobbo, who received an Honorary Doctorate from the University in June, delivered the Old Testament reading. Another Honorary Doctor of the University, Fr Francis Harman, read and authenticated the Papal Letter of Appointment. A former Director of Mercy Campus, Sr Marie Kehoe RSM, gave the New Testament reading.

The University involvement also extended to the organist, who was Associate Professor Geoffrey Cox, Head of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Mercy Campus.

Australian Catholic University awarded two more Honorary Doctorates during June graduation ceremonies. Recipients were:

- Br Justin Kelty CFC who was honoured at the Aquinas Campus graduation ceremony in Ballarat on Saturday, 1 June
- Sir James Gobbo who was honoured at the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Education in Melbourne on Monday, 3 June.

Br Kelty is a former Superior General of the Christian Brothers Order and had a long association with St Patrick's Ballarat where he also served as Headmaster.

Sir James Gobbo is the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria and a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria. He continues to serve the community in many roles. He has a long record of service to the Archdiocese of Melbourne and to Catholic Health Care.

In Sydney in April the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University was conferred on Dr Victor Couch. (Full report in previous issue.)

Almost 1100 graduates received their awards at the three Victorian graduation ceremonies.

Awards in the Faculties of Arts and Science, Education, and Health Science were presented to more than 250 graduates at the Aquinas Campus graduation ceremony at Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat, on Saturday 1 June.

Two ceremonies were held in Melbourne at the Dallas Brooks Centre on Monday, 3 June, with more than 820 graduates receiving awards.

The morning ceremony was for the Faculty of Education and the afternoon ceremony for the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, and Health Sciences.

The Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy, presided at all three ceremonies.

Occasional Addresses were delivered by:

- Br Justin Kelty at Ballarat
- Sir James Gobbo at the first ceremony in Melbourne
- Dr Franklin Rosenfeldt at the second ceremony in Melbourne.

Vice-Chancellor's Column

Research on women in the Church



Professor Peter Drake

In this issue *The Chronicle* records the presentation on 17 July of the first Anne Lyons Memorial Scholarship to Sr Imelda Dinh of Vietnam to allow her to complete the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) at Mount Saint Mary Campus, Strathfield.

This was an important moment in the life and in the vocation of Sr Imelda. It was also an important moment, indeed an historic one, in the life of this young University. This scholarship derives from the generosity of the first of our individual benefactors.

The University is now in its sixth year. In its second year of operation when we were working in primitive facilities in rented premises in North Sydney I received a message late one afternoon that a Mr Joseph Byrne was desirous of seeing me. It had been a trying day and I was tired but I felt that I should make the effort to see him.

There and then Joe Byrne walked into my life — wonderful man that he was. He was a retired High School teacher. He was at that stage in robust health, in his late 70s. He was widowed. He had one daughter Anne who had married a Mr Lyons and she died young five years before, without children. He had been devoted to Anne, his only child. It was a crushing loss when she died.

Anne had been a very good student at the University of Sydney. She had distinguished herself in her work. She had a strong interest in social justice, and so Joe conceived the idea of trying to keep a set of ideas flowing that could be traced to Anne Lyons.

He said that we were a young university, a Catholic university, and maybe we could help one another. At the time we were in the process of establishing the University Foundation to garner support, to provide scholarships and so forth. Several of us came to know and love Joe Byrne in the time taken to establish the scholarship. Finally the scholarship was put in place within the new Foundation but, regrettably, Joe died before he was able to see the first beneficiary.

I tell the story of Joe Byrne because he is very important in our history. He was the first to provide tangible, spontaneous support to the University. I tell Joe's story also to remind us how short this life is and how fleeting is history. Although we are still a very young university, only a few of us knew Joe Byrne and his important place in our story will not be known unless we spread it about and write it down.

Many individuals and institutions have joined Joe Byrne as friends and benefactors since he introduced himself in 1992. Each issue of *The Chronicle* has references to scholarships, prizes and developments which flow from the generosity of our friends. (This issue carries a report on details of the achievements of the University's Foundation in attracting increasing financial assistance.) But do not forget that it all began with Joe Byrne.

The University is participating in a nationwide research project examining the participation of women in the Catholic Church in Australia.

The research project is an initiative of the Catholic Bishops of Australia and is being conducted by the Bishops' Committee for Justice, Development and Peace (BCJDP), Australian Catholic University, and the Australian Conference of the Leaders of Religious Institutes (ACLRI).

Representing the University on the Research Management Group are the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Professor Peter Carpenter, the Head of the Religious Education Department, Christ Campus, Dr Marie Macdonald, and Sr Margaret Malone, Senior Lecturer, Signadou Campus.

Bishop Kevin Manning, Secretary of the BCJDP and Chair of the Australian Catholic Social Justices Council, is overseeing the project.

Research objectives are to gather information about the ways in which women currently participate in the Church and how their participation can be increased. It will help the Church to reflect on and promote the Gospel vision of the equal dignity of women and men, to discuss the issue in a constructive way, and to plan for the future.

The research project will accept written submissions from groups or individuals, conduct hearings in a number of capital cities and regional centres throughout Australia in 1997 and gather information provided by a questionnaire administered in a scientifically selected sample of parishes across Australia.

Information gathered from the project will be reported to the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference late in 1998.

USA delegates visit University

A delegation of US independent college presidents visited the Sydney campuses in June to explore opportunities for staff and student exchange and study abroad programs between the American colleges and Australian Catholic University.

Under the sponsorship of the Australian Education Office, Washington DC, dele-

gates met the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, Deans, and other senior members of the University staff.

Acting Director of International Education, Mr Mark Leary said he was certain there would be an increase in numbers of exchange students with the United States by early 1997.

Parishes with unordained pastoral leaders

Australian Catholic University's first graduate in the Master of Social Science course, Churches of Christ Minister, Rev. Alan Niven congratulated by the Chancellor (right), will research how parishes of the future will operate effectively without resident ordained clergy, as part of his PhD thesis.

Rev Niven completed his Masters Degree at Christ Campus in 1995 and graduated at the ceremony on 3 June. He has already embarked on his PhD thesis in this area of vital importance to many Christian churches.

He is conducting his PhD research on an Australian Catholic University scholarship funded by the Pastoral Leadership Board (PLB) established two years ago by the Archdiocese of Melbourne to examine the changing circumstances in Catholic parishes because of the decreasing number of priests.

To be entitled 'New Models of Pastoral Leadership', the thesis will, among other research, look closely at developments at



St Louis de Montfort parish in the Melbourne bayside suburb of Aspendale.

Early in 1995 it became the first parish in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to operate permanently without a resident priest. A layman, Mr Terry Curtin, was appointed Parish Pastoral Leader and con-

ducts 'non-ordained' liturgy such as funerals and baptisms.

Born in Scotland and arriving in Australia in 1974, the Rev. Alan Niven is a full-time lecturer in Pastoral Studies at the Churches of Christ Theological College at Mulgrave, Victoria.

He is well qualified to carry out such important research, having a Bachelor of Arts degree from Leeds University, a Bachelor of Divinity from the Melbourne College of Divinity and a Diploma of Education from the University of Melbourne as well as his new Master of Social Science degree.

Ordained in 1979, Mr Niven was involved in parish work both before and after ordination. He has been founding pastor in two parishes and has combined pastoral work with teaching duties at the Theological College.

His busy ecumenical activities will also assist in his research as he is regularly engaged in leading seminars, sharing his faith and engaging in dialogue with pastors and lay people in the Catholic Church and other denominations.

Mr Niven summed up his PhD thesis thus: "It is hoped valuable insights will be gained into ministry options for an era of challenge and change".

His PhD is being undertaken in the School of Social Science and is being supervised by Associate Professor Marie Joyce.

Death of Beth Blackall



Dr Bettina 'Beth' Blackall (above), Director of Christ Campus from 1975 to 1981, died on 6 June.

Blackall Library at Christ Campus is named after her in honour of the tremendous effort she made to upgrade the collection.

Dr Blackall's six years as Director of Christ Campus were a time of vast challenge, change in a number of areas including more systematic academic procedures, new courses, and differences both within and without the Campus about policies and directions.

One of her significant achievements was securing for Christ Campus 30,000 volumes from Mary Ward College of Education in the UK, closed because of a restructure of teacher training in Britain.

Dr Blackall came to Christ Campus from the Victorian Department of Education where she was a specialist in Mathematics Education.

She had been educated at both State and Catholic schools.

In 1967, at the request of the Commonwealth Government, Dr Blackall toured the Northern Territory on curriculum and research work.

Meanwhile she completed her BA and DipEd at the University of Melbourne and, with a travelling scholarship from the Victorian Education Department, completed an MEd at the University of Alberta, and two years later, a PhD in Education.

After her retirement from Christ Campus, Dr Blackall continued her involvement with Catholic tertiary education in Australia, New Zealand and other South Pacific areas as a consultant to the Sydney College of Divinity, the Catholic Theological Union in Sydney, the Pacific Regional Seminary in Fiji and other theological institutes.

Many wonderful tributes to her work were paid during the Requiem Mass at St Luke's Church, Blackburn South on 13 June, attended by many former colleagues from Christ Campus.

Paintings by Patsy Foard at Signadou

A special exhibition of paintings by Victorian artist Patsy Foard was held for a month in July and August at Signadou Campus in Canberra.

The exhibition was officially opened by ACT Parliamentarian Ms Marion Reilly, MLA, Member for Molonglo and Shadow Spokesperson for Housing, Community Care, Children and Youth Services, Social Justice and the Status of Women, on 9 July at the Arts Factory Gallery, Signadou Campus.

The exhibition featured works based on Ms Foard's experiences living and working in England, the Pacific and Australia.

Most of the large works in the exhibition were conceived in Hawaii where Ms Foard lived while on study leave from teaching at the Victorian College of Art and completing a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Hawaii.



(L to R) Mr Keith Hamburger, Professor Peter Drake, Ken Canning, Lecturer at Weemala, and Professor Muredach Dynan.

Art exhibition by indigenous artists in prison

Art From The Inside, an exhibition of the work of indigenous artists in prison in Queensland, was held at McAuley Campus in Brisbane in July and August.

The Director-General of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, Mr Keith Hamburger, opened the Exhibition which also toured a number of sites in the metropolitan area through the network of the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.

The University's Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Muredach Dynan and members of the University's Senate attended the opening with Queensland Corrective Services Commissioners, McAuley Campus representatives, members of the local Murri community and other guests.

Thirteen indigenous artists were represented in the exhibition which was originally proposed by the University's Weemala Higher Education Centre and the School of Arts and Sciences at McAuley Campus.

The exhibition focused on the diversity of artwork in prison and provided an avenue for artists to express their identity and culture and to demonstrate their talents.

It was the result of the collaborative efforts of staff and students from Weemala, the School of Arts and Sciences, the University's Foundation, Aboriginal Prison Liaison Officers and artists, with support from the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland Inc. and the Queensland Corrective Services Commission.

A duality of involvement

Australian Catholic University Senior Lecturer, Mr Craig Harrison, lectures in two different academic fields:

Media Theory at Christ and Mercy campuses and Visual Arts at Christ Campus.

Mr Harrison also is an artist. After more than twelve solo and group visual art exhibitions both in Australia and overseas, he is eventually finding some balance between his academic involvement in communications theory and his visual art exhibitions.

Many of his paintings reflect his dual roles at the University, both as an expert in visual art production and Media Theory.

His paintings vary from landscape to visual representation of his research over the past 20 years, exploring personae and the social masks people wear.

An example of his landscape representation, on long term loan from Mr Harrison, was recently hung in the foyer of the Mitchell Human Sciences Building at Christ Campus. It is entitled "Noosa Landscape Experience".

In reviewing both the University's visual arts and media programs over the previous two years, Mr Harrison is convinced there are some exciting initiatives still to be realised with communications programs developed to bridge the visual and performing arts, media and writing.

Mr Harrison, who has been with the University since 1990, was formerly a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ballarat and before that at what is now Deakin University's Toorak Campus.

Currently he is finishing a doctorate in Media Theory at La Trobe University, examining the public interest in broadcasting and the Government's position in the new communications environment.

Student exhibition in Indonesia



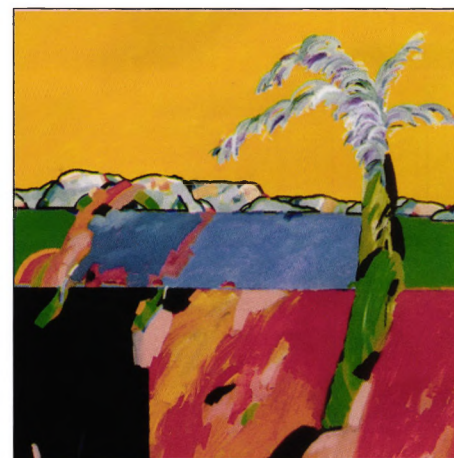
Mr Tatang Iskamra, of the Organising Committee, Dwi Marianto and John Fischer at the opening of the Yogyakarta exhibition.

A combined Student Exhibition of Visual Artworks was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in June to establish links between Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, and Australian Catholic University.

The exhibition included works by young artists from these two universities and also from other Indonesian institutions.

The Director of Universitas Sanata Dharma, Dr M Sastarapratedja SJ, opened the exhibition in a ceremony attended by Visual Arts lecturer, John Fischer of Castle Hill Campus, and Indonesian academic and student representatives.

The opening was followed by seminars given by Dwi Marianto, a writer for Visual Arts, and John Fischer.



Noosa Landscape Experience

Conference on spirituality and prayer in Melbourne

Australian Catholic University provided a focus of world discussion on spirituality and prayer during an international conference in Melbourne from 4 to 8 July.

More than 250 delegates, 42 of them eminent scholars from overseas, gathered for the Conference, sponsored and organised by the University, on Spirituality and Prayer in the Early Christian Church. Because of the size of the event many of the activities were held at the University of Melbourne.

Convenor of the conference, Fr Deacon Lawrence Cross, Senior Lecturer in Theology at Christ Campus, described the event as an outstanding success.

The ecumenical nature of the conference was manifest in colourful evening prayer services over three nights. Each evening those in the packed chapel witnessed early liturgy of the Coptic, Armenian Apostolic and Old Roman traditions.

Supported by a wide range of Christian churches and communities, the conference incorporated two special events.

More than 400 people attended a concert of ancient church music by the Sydney Byzantine chanters at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, North Melbourne.

An exhibition of icons ran during the Conference at the George Paton Gallery, University of Melbourne and continued until 28 July at the Pastoral Gallery, St Francis Church, Melbourne.

Welcoming delegates at a reception hosted at Ormond College, University of Melbourne, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake said the University was pleased and proud to present the Conference.

"As a community of scholars, Australian Catholic University is conscious of its responsibility to sustain the great tradition of Christian scholarship



The Venerable Tejaddhammo Bhikku, a Buddhist monk, and another delegate, at the exhibition, 'The Art of the Icon Writer in Australia'.

while at the same time serving with sensitivity the needs of Australians in the modern world.

"Our approach is charitable and ecumenical and in that spirit I expect that through contacts made at this conference, the delegates will come to know and value many of the staff of Australian Catholic University, especially those whose work is focused on the theme of the conference," Professor Drake said.

Delivering the conference opening address, the Chancellor, Cardinal Edward Clancy, ranged over a broad spectrum of subjects relating to prayer and spirituality and the writings of scholars.

His Eminence concluded a scholarly address on a pastoral note saying:

"The difficulty of interesting people today, especially the young, in the

Church's traditional teaching about God, about the Church itself, about the next life, and about the morality of human behaviour, is a difficulty experienced universally.

"The challenge that faces the Church, and those who teach in the name of the Church, is to find ways to meet the minds of today's generation, to engage their interest and attention, to stimulate their search for truth, and to open their minds, their hearts, their souls to the full light of divine revelation, to make them responsive, in a word, to God's grace.

"One is left wondering, in the context of this conference, if perhaps in the prayer, the spirituality, the theology of the Early Church and the Eastern Churches of today one might find valuable assistance in gaining access to contemporary hearts and minds."

Swedish exchange program

A program of lecturer exchange between the School of Nursing and Human Movement, MacKillop Campus and Gävle University College of Health Sciences, Sweden, first established in 1995, was continued earlier this year.

Senior lecturer, Mrs Jennifer Hardy and lecturer, Ms Marianne Wallis (right), from the University's Department of Professional Nursing Development, exchanged with Mr Ola Dahlberg and Mrs Ragnhild Raak from April to June.

The aims of the exchange program are to develop an international perspective on nursing education, to increase cooperation between educational institutions and individuals and to develop collaboration in

nursing research between the two countries. A third exchange will take place in October — November 1996.

In Sweden Mrs Hardy and Ms Wallis participated in undergraduate and post-graduate nurse education programs. They also travelled extensively to other educational institutions, including the Centre for Caring Sciences at Uppsala University.

Mrs Hardy and Ms Wallis met a number of Australian colleagues when they attended a conference entitled "Professional Development in Nursing and Midwifery" held in Gävle. They also participated in a video conference between Mercy Campus, MacKillop Campus, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne and Gävle.



Reduction in civic commitment

Australians are witnessing a reduction in civic commitment, according to Sir James Gobbo, Lieutenant Governor of Victoria and former Supreme Court Justice, in his Occasional Address to the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Education in Melbourne.

Sir James received the degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* before delivering his address.

He defined civic commitment as involvement in civic associations, including sporting bodies, cooperative groups and societies.

"Some of these are professional groups which are important for you even if only for economic self interest," he said.

"Another group of associations are those, such as parents' associations, which are directly relevant to the welfare and upbringing of your own children, and the institution of the family.

"There may even be leisure groups such as bush-walking or choral societies.

"Finally, and perhaps on a somewhat more philanthropic plane, are groups and organisations where citizens provide voluntary services to assist others.

"Charitable organisations for the sick and disabled and disadvantaged are in this category.

"In all these examples of civic involvement, there is a coming together, a civic connectiveness, which is fundamental to a healthy democratic society.

"Even more so when the involvement is predominantly motivated by a desire to help others."

Sir James said there was much evidence that there was better and more effective democratic process likely where there was also in existence a highly developed civic association.

If people could learn to cooperate and discuss and compromise, there was more likely to be true civic involvement and democracy rather than apathy, or worse.

Sir James then stated what he believed was happening in civic involvement.

"At many levels there is reduced participation in cooperative organisations. This was especially so in traditional organisations such as churches, political parties, service clubs and Scouts or Guides," he said.

"It may be said that new groups are springing up, but many of these are merely lobby groups, where members pay their dues and otherwise do not inter-relate with other members. They have no more social connectiveness with each other than does a group of persons sitting in a cinema.

"If this trend continues, more particularly if your generation maintains this decline, there may be serious repercussions, especially in the area of voluntary services and charitable work generally," Sir James said.

He told the graduates they had benefited from the civic responsibility of those who



Sir James Gobbo receives his honorary Doctorate from the Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy.

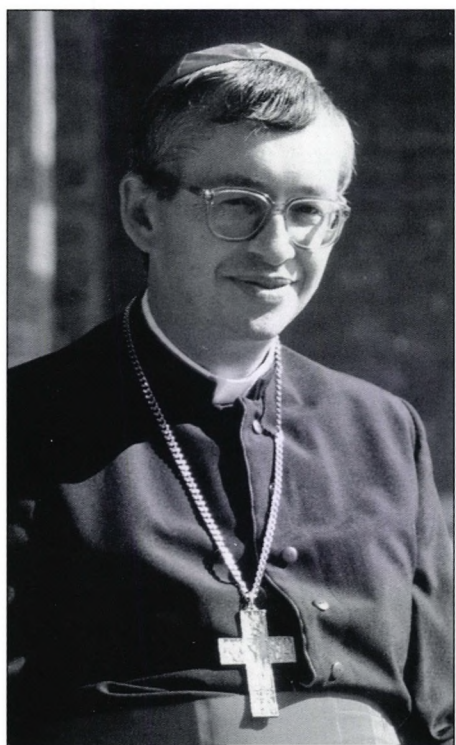
helped them and those who went before them.

"It is reasonable to expect you to repay some of this and to pave the way for those who follow you. The ideal way to do this is by some form of voluntary service," Sir James said.

In his conclusion, Sir James said there was a great need for community organisations which were close to the people, and which assisted in the care of the sick and the isolated in their own homes.

"Here is a rich field of endeavour for those of you who would wish to contribute your talents to your local parish or similar community bodies," Sir James said.

Religious Education area always contentious



The area of Religious Education was always contentious, the Archbishop of Auckland, Dr Patrick Dunn (left), said in his Occasional Address at the Graduation Ceremony in Auckland in May.

"The task of religious educators is somehow to pass on to succeeding generations the treasures of the Faith drawn from the past, while also eliciting a faith-filled response to the Gospel in the present," he said.

Religious Education was now conducted not in the stable decades of the 1940s and 1950s, but rather in the transitional years of the 1990s and the beginning of the third millennium.

"This work is our challenge, our privilege, perhaps also our 'headache'.

"As we engage in this vitally important enterprise of Religious Education, it is important that we keep a deep appreciation for the History of the Church.

"This helps us to see how the Spirit of God has been at work through the centuries, and also gives us a healthy sense of

perspective — a realisation that our own age is neither the worst of times, nor the best of times.

"None of us likes to be different, but we must always be gently challenging the current fashions or truisms. Even those in the Religious Education area.

"Our age, like every age, tends to regard itself as the most enlightened. It is a very human failing.

"This can lead us, and I have done so myself, to contrast the pre-Vatican II Church and the post-Vatican II Church as if we are talking about chalk and cheese — as if we are talking about radically different animals. But it is actually the One Church. The Council built on currents of thought that had been flowing through the Church for decades.

"If we too simply dismiss the pre-Conciliar Church as somehow belonging to the Dark Ages, we close ourselves to the richness and the beauty of our own roots," Bishop Dunn said.

Five principles to cope with change

Five principles of coping with the challenge of change were outlined in the Occasional Address by Dr Franklin Rosenfeldt at the graduation ceremony for the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, and Health Sciences, in Melbourne.

Dr Rosenfeldt is Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Cardiac Surgical Research Unit at the Baker Institute in Melbourne.

"In the modern world, the rate of change is increasing every day, more things are being discovered and communication is getting faster," Dr Rosenfeldt said.

"Much of what you have learned will be superseded in the next 10 or even five years.

"Before you retire, most of you will have had at least three different jobs or occupations.

"High university marks are no guarantee that you have learned to cope with the changing world.

"To succeed in this changing world you

amusement that comes along.

"In life, there are some things we can discard, the non-essentials; and some things we must hang on to, the wisdom and lessons of experience, the enduring values.

"Often, these will be of a spiritual nature."

3. Be open to new ideas and accept or reject them on merit.

"We have to strike a balance between taking up every new fashion that comes along, and being overly conservative and waiting until every new idea or technique has been exhaustively proved to be superior, before adopting it.

"All ideas must be looked at objectively in the light of our guiding principles."

4. Don't neglect the spiritual dimension.

"Many people would have you believe that the rate of advance of science is so great that it has made God and religion obsolete.

"But as a scientist myself I do not believe this is so.

"Belief in God is quite compatible with science and, I believe, complements it.

"Without the spiritual and moral dimension to your profession you will be incomplete."

5. Be prepared to initiate change yourself.

"As leaders in society we must be prepared to change the environment in a new direction, rather than just accept or reject what happens to come along," Dr Rosenfeldt said.



University to have significant effect

Australian Catholic University could have a significant effect on the spread of Christian principles and traditions in Australian society, Brother Justin Kelty CFC (above) told the Aquinas Campus graduation ceremony in Ballarat.

At the ceremony Br Kelty received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University and delivered the Occasional Address.

Br Kelty told the graduates their future careers would involve them in close contact with many people as teachers or nurses or some allied career.

"In point of fact, all graduates will be teachers, not as teachers in a classroom or by giving instruction to others, but by the manner in which they live according to the Christian principles and traditions which have been placed before them during their career on Aquinas Campus," he said.

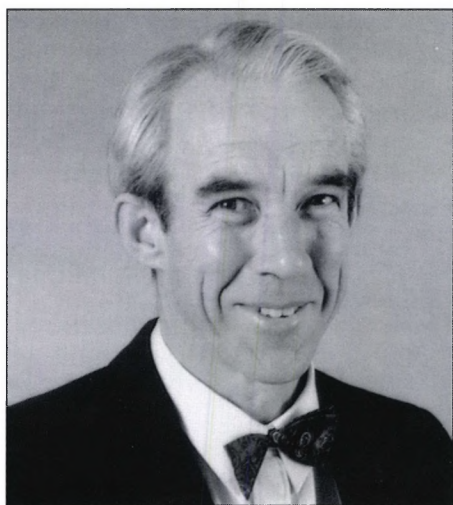
"It is this manner of teaching or leadership which will have a real impact on the society in which they pursue their professional careers.

"The wide spread of Australian Catholic University campuses would add to the significant impact on Australian society".

Br Kelty outlined the development and growth of Catholic education in Australia, from the time of the pledge by Catholic Bishops in 1869 to provide Catholic education wherever the Church was established.

He said news of the advent of Australian Catholic University was received with great enthusiasm by Catholic people generally.

"A particular spirit is being developed through interaction between faculty members and students, and student management and participation in activities," Br Kelty said.



Dr Franklin Rosenfeldt

must learn to expect change, cope with change and even thrive on change."

"To survive in the modern world we must be adaptable. Here are five guiding principles:

1. Practice the 3 L's: Life Long Learning.

"Within your professional lifetime, much of what you know now will be reduced in importance by new disciplines that will come along, and you must be prepared to learn these."

2. Concentrate on life goals and don't become sidetracked.

"If we concentrate on the important and bypass the unimportant, we will not be continually diverted by every new fad and

New Zealand graduates

More than 20 New Zealand graduates in the Faculty of Education received the awards of Graduate Diploma in Religious Education and Master of Education (Religious Education) at a graduation ceremony in Auckland in May.

These courses are conducted by the Catholic Institute of Theology under licence from Australian Catholic University and with support from University academic staff.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, was the Presiding Officer and the Occasional Address was delivered by the Bishop of Auckland, Dr Patrick Dunn.



Aquinas Campus Graduation Ceremony (above and centre).

First male midwives graduate

Australian Catholic University's first male midwives graduated on June 3 in Melbourne after completing a Graduate Diploma in Midwifery course at Mercy Campus.

The two new graduates are Mr Paul Forde and Mr Peter Askey-Doran.

Both graduates travelled interstate to do the course.

Mr Forde travelled from Perth and Mr Askey-Doran came north from Huonville, Tasmania.

After completing his Diploma of Nursing at Edith Cowan University, Perth in 1990, and his degree from the same university in 1994 Mr Forde chose Australian Catholic University for his midwifery studies because he 'liked the Catholic aspect' of the University's course. He hopes to use his course skills working in a developing country.

"Midwifery is a very useful skill in a developing country. I may well find myself in an isolated area where I will need to be able to handle anything that comes through the door", said Mr Forde.

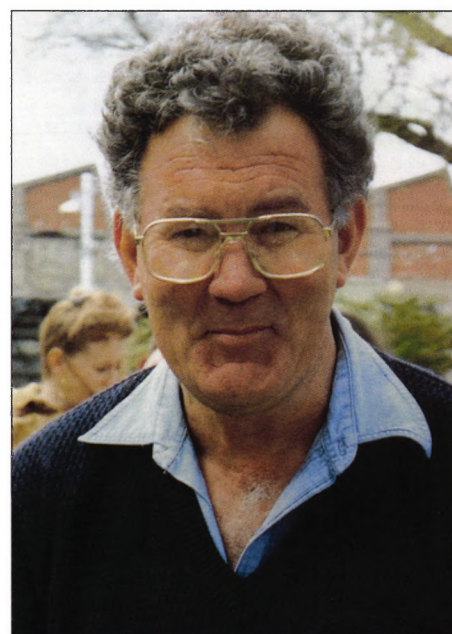
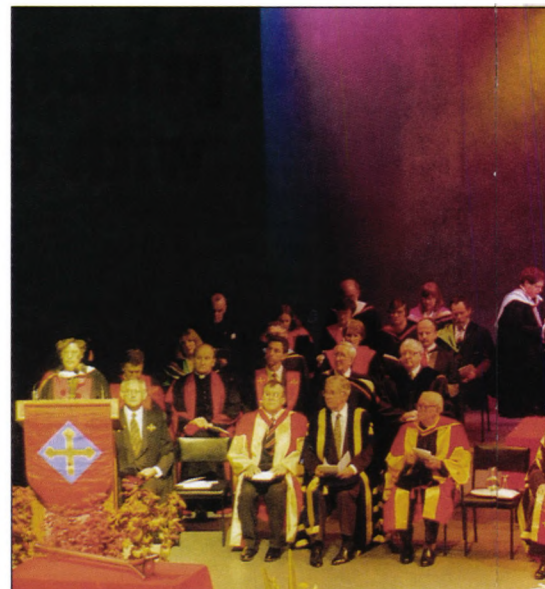
Mr Forde is currently working in Melbourne with a nursing agency while awaiting the result of his application to serve abroad in a developing country.

For Mr Askey-Doran the vocation of nurse and midwife is his third career. Aged 57 and a grandfather, he was first exposed to paediatrics while working as a laboratory manager at Monash University more than twenty years ago.

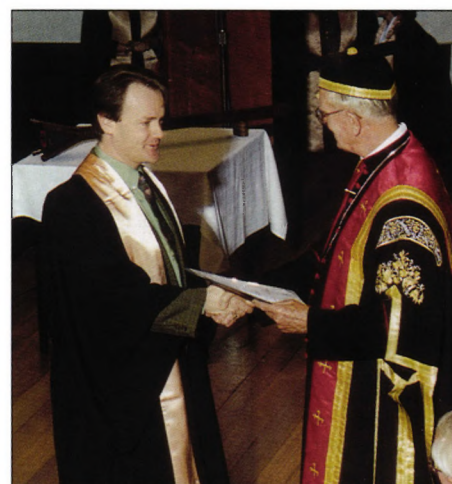
He later moved to Tasmania and ran a local company before selling it in 1989 to commence a nursing course at the University of Tasmania in 1990 with the express purpose of becoming a midwife. After gaining his nursing degree Mr Askey-Doran and his wife moved to Melbourne to enable him to do the Diploma in Midwifery course at Mercy.

In early May Mr Askey-Doran and his wife, Helen, moved to the township of Wagin, 230 kilometres south of Perth, to work in the small local hospital.

"I hope to gain the experience in Wagin to help me in my ambition to work in an isolated Aboriginal community. The



Mr Peter Askey-Doran (above) and Mr Paul Forde receiving his degree from the Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy, (below).



Australian Catholic University midwifery course, with its philosophy and attitude towards midwifery practice, fitted me well for the work I want to do", Mr Askey-Doran said.



(Left to right): Carmen Mazzarotta, Rosalba and Angeline Salpietro.

Graduation a family affair

It was a family affair when Ms Rosalba Salpietro, and her two nieces, Miss Angeline Salpietro and Miss Carmen Mazzarotta, graduated at the Faculty of Education ceremony in Melbourne.

Ms Salpietro received her Graduate Diploma in Education (Religious Education) and Miss Salpietro and Miss Mazzarotta received Graduate Diplomas in Education (Secondary) from the Chancellor, Cardinal Clancy.

In the audience was Ms Salpietro's sister, Ms Linda Salpietro, a lecturer in Religious Education at Mercy Campus together with other members of the extended family.

Ms Salpietro returned to study for her

Graduate Diploma after initially completing her Teaching Certificate at Mercy and later a Bachelor of Education degree at La Trobe University. She is currently enrolled for her Master of Education degree at Christ Campus.

Miss Salpietro and Miss Mazzarotta both completed Bachelor of Arts degrees at La Trobe University before undertaking their studies for Graduate Diplomas at Mercy Campus.

Ms Salpietro is RE Coordinator at St Clare's Primary School, Thomastown West. Miss Mazzarotta teaches at Ave Maria Secondary College, Essendon and Miss Salpietro teaches at Catholic Regional College, Sydenham.



A well-earned Master's Degree

Thai English language teacher, Ms Karuna Cacharin (above), saved hard for 10 years to pay her own way through her Master of Education (TESOL) course at Mercy Campus.

She saved from her meagre salary at a technical college at Chaityaphum to spend a year in Australia in 1994 to study for her course at Mercy Campus as a full fee-paying student. She chose Australian Catholic University after examining closely the content of TESOL courses at a number of universities.

Ms Cacharin saved for another year to pay for her fare back to Melbourne for the graduation ceremony on 3 June.

Ms Cacharin, who gained her first degree at Srinakharinwirot University at Chonburi, flew back to Thailand the day after the graduation ceremony.

First Human Movement graduates in Victoria



By dint of being first in alphabetical order, Ms Sally Armstrong (left), became the first student to graduate as Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Movement) from the University in Victoria.

Ms Armstrong, who lives in East Malvern, very close to Christ Campus where she completed the three year course, was the first of 20 students to receive Human Movement degrees at the ceremony on 3 June.

She is continuing her studies, doing an Honours year at Victoria University of Technology and a part-time Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) in Mathematics at Christ Campus. At the same time she finds time for part-time work as a fitness assessor at a local gymnasium.

Chris Sheargold appointed Director, Libraries



The appointment of Mr Chris Sheargold (above) as Director, Libraries, is the latest step in the process of integrating and upgrading the eight campus libraries which have, until now, operated under state-based structures.

Previously Divisional Librarian of the former Victorian Division, Mr Sheargold now has responsibility for the equivalent of 80-full time library staff and a combined collection of half a million volumes.

Mr Sheargold's long career as a librarian gives him the background and experience for the task. After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Sydney, and later the Registration Certificate of the Australian Library Association, he was employed in a number of positions at the Department of Technical Education in NSW and then at Sydney Teachers' College.

In 1990 he joined Mercy Campus as librarian.

"Even without a unified structure", says Mr Sheargold, "the libraries have accomplished much in raising the standard of their services and collections. However, there is still a long way to go before we can claim to support adequately the teaching and, particularly, the research activities of Australian Catholic University".

The libraries were the first functional area to go on-line after the University's creation. At the time of the amalgamation the constituent colleges were already members of UNILINC, a NSW-based consortium established to provide automated services to its university library members. This meant they shared a common automated system.

Funding provided from the Quality

Assurance Grants enabled the libraries to introduce a very impressive array of on-line data bases. These are available not only in libraries but also to remotely located users, including students studying as far away as Hong Kong, who have access to the University's network, ACUNet.

Initially the databases were limited to abstracting and indexing services but now include more than a thousand full text journals. One very notable acquisition is Religion Indexes published by the American Theological Library Association.

Although the libraries have developed substantially in the six years since the University was created Mr Sheargold acknowledges a number of challenges.

"We have a very committed, well focused and dedicated staff who provide our clientele with a level of service which compares favourably with that offered in other universities. The challenge is to maintain this level of service while improving the acquisition budget", he said.

Three students win JET places



Australian Catholic University graduates Rachael McPhee, Katherine Stonestreet, and Jennifer Graham (above) were among 22 graduates selected from New South Wales to travel to Japan on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program in July.

The program began in 1987 and aims to promote understanding between Japan and fifteen other countries by bringing young graduates to Japan for a year to teach English in schools throughout the country.

This is not a "first" for Australian Catholic University, but it is the first time that so many of its students have been chosen to represent Australia.

Public Affairs appointment

Mr Peter Castleton, Director of the Australian Catholic University Foundation since September 1993, has been appointed Director of Public Affairs (incorporating the position of Director of University Foundation) from 1 September 1996.

Announcing the appointment, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, said that the redesigned position incorporated the formal role of Foundation Director and extended further to the closely related responsibilities for developing the public profile of the University in ways which would both enhance its image and assist in gathering high level financial and other support.

Mr Castleton's responsibilities include overall direction and coordination of:

- University Foundation activities
- production and sale of memorabilia and other merchandise
- development of Alumni organisations and guidance for their chapters
- promotion of the University, VIP contacts, external publicity, media relations, The Chronicle, and promotional material
- the University image and visual standards, and graphic standards manual;
- design and production of University publications

He will also assist the Vice-Chancellor in planning and conducting effective liaison with Catholic communities, business, commerce and industry, and government and community organisations with involvement of Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Rectors and others from University executive and governance as appropriate in accordance with their local roles.

Chaplain commissioned

Fr Stephen Hinkler was recently commissioned as Chaplain of McAuley Campus.

The Liturgy of Commissioning was conducted by Fr Kevin Burman, Vicar for Education in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

During the liturgy Fr Hinkler was presented with a plaque, a plant and a candle as symbols of his ministry.

He will work at McAuley as a member of the Campus Ministry team.



Sr Maria Cunningham, Brigid Tracy, Ian Mill, Sr Clare Nolan RSC, CEO, Sisters of Charity Health Service, Professor Susan Ronaldson, Professor Peter Drake and Mr Peter Castleton, Director of the Australian Catholic University Foundation.

Professor Ronaldson installed at St Vincent's

Professor Susan Ronaldson was formally installed as Professor of Nursing in a welcoming ceremony at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney on 5 June.

The new Chair is sponsored by St Vincent's Campus, which is operated by the Sisters of Charity.

Professor Ronaldson who took up her appointment in April is located on St Vincent's Campus in Darlinghurst but is a staff member of Australian Catholic University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter

Drake and senior University staff joined leaders of the Sisters of Charity and St Vincent's staff at the June function.

In addition to Professor Drake and Professor Ronaldson, speakers included Sr Maria Cunningham RSC, Regional Chief Executive Officer, Sisters of Charity Health Service Darlinghurst; Ms Robyn Brown, Director of Nursing, St Vincent's Hospital; Ms Brigid Tracy, Director of Nursing, St Vincent's Private Hospital; and Mr Ian Mill, Chief Executive Officer, Sacred Heart Hospital.

Success for Foundation

The University's Foundation has raised almost \$4.6 million in cash and pledges since it was established in 1993.

The Report of the Foundation's Director, Mr Peter Castleton, to the Senate in July, noted that the Foundation had provided three new professorial positions, one endowed and two annually funded for five years each. The total value was \$3.175 million.

These positions are :

Chair in Educational Leadership

Chair in Nursing

Chair in Children's Sport and Exercise Science.

The Foundation has also assisted students through bursaries, scholarships, prizes and sponsorship to a value of almost \$100,000.

Other activities of the Foundation have included:

- funding the development of new courses such as the Bachelor of Social Work at Signadou Campus — \$45,000 in 1995, \$50,000 targeted in 1996
- securing the funding base for the next three years of the John Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care
- developing and marketing a growing range of memorabilia
- forming a University-wide Alumni Association
- sponsoring promotional functions across the University.

Dr Backhaus Scholarship in Ballarat

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, and the Bishop of Sandhurst, the Most Reverend Noel Daly, presented the first Dr Backhaus Scholarship to Karinda Rae Mitchell at Aquinas Campus on 24 July.

The award, donated by the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (Bendigo) to Australian Catholic University, will be granted each year to an undergraduate student from the Diocese of Sandhurst enrolled at the University's Aquinas Campus in Ballarat.

The criteria for determining the winner of the scholarship are a balanced combination of academic merit and community service.

The scholarship honours the memory of Dr Henry Backhaus, the first priest



(Left to right) The Episcopal Vicar of the Diocese of Sandhurst, Monsignor John Druffus, the Rector of Aquinas Campus, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Karinda Rae Mitchell, the Bishop of Sandhurst, Most Reverend Noel Daly, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, after the presentation ceremony at Aquinas Campus.

appointed to the Victorian goldfields.

Dr Backhaus, who was from Paderborn in Germany and had studied in Rome, responded to a call for priests for the missions. After serving in India Dr Backhaus came to Australia in 1846.

Soon after his appointment to the Victorian goldfields, he settled in Sandhurst and established churches and

schools in Bendigo, and was active in community affairs. Dr Backhaus was also a distinguished scholar, and it is fitting that he is remembered through this award to students of the University.

Karinda Mitchell, from Echuca, is currently undertaking studies towards the degree of Bachelor of Nursing at Aquinas Campus.

Raising the profile at Ballarat

The Rector of Aquinas Campus, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, is raising the profile of Aquinas Campus in Ballarat by serving on a number of community bodies.

"I believe it is vital for Australian Catholic University to be seen to be participating widely in the community, not just in an academic environment but also in a range of other ways", says Professor McMullen.

Professor McMullen estimates that she attends two community group meetings or functions per week.

Since becoming Rector of Aquinas in April, 1995 Professor McMullen has become:

- A Director of the Ballarat District Community Fund which raises and administers funds to support local charities
- A Board Member and Vice-Chair of St Patrick's College
- Australian Catholic University representative on the Ballarat Education Export Consortium which encourages overseas students to study at Ballarat
- A Member of the Ballarat International House Working Party, currently endeavouring to establish an International House for overseas students. It is estimated the 200 overseas students currently in Ballarat contribute \$3.7 million annually to the Ballarat economy.
- A Member of a Task Force working to establish the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts, a collaborative initiative of Australian Catholic University, the University of Ballarat and the School of Mines to develop local students' musical and theatrical skills
- A Member of the St John of God Hospital Postgraduate Foundation which promotes further educational opportunities for hospital staff
- A Board member of the Ballarat Adult & Further Education Centre, providing services for continuing education, career enhancement and placement
- A Member of the Committee of Management of the Ballarat Diocesan Family Welfare Services Inc, the Diocese's Centacare organisation
- The Tertiary Education Representative on the Diocesan Education Board which oversees Catholic education in the Ballarat Diocese.



Manifold House estate 'turns a full circle'

A building (above) in the grounds of the elegant Victorian-era Manifold House estate, the historic site of Aquinas Campus, is undergoing refurbishment to house a Physics and Chemistry laboratory for Ballarat's first degree course designed to help protect the environment.

The Senate of Australian Catholic University has approved the introduction of a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) course at Aquinas Campus beginning in 1997.

The first intake is expected to comprise 20 students. The Aquinas program will be essentially the same as that offered successfully at Castle Hill.

For two decades the estate was the

home of mining magnate Cyrus Retallack, whose considerable fortune was based on the largely environmentally-disastrous gold mining practices of the 19th century.

An elaborate double storey bluestone mansion, originally named Carn Brea after a castle in Cornwall, Retallack's birthplace, was completed on the site in 1881 and was renamed Manifold House when acquired by Queen's Church of England Girl's Grammar school in 1919.

The Sisters of St John of God purchased the property in 1973 and a year later the Diocese of Ballarat acquired it to house the new Catholic teachers' college, Aquinas College, which became part of Australian Catholic University in 1991.

Medieval fair



Students and staff at McAuley Campus were involved in a medieval fair during May as the culmination of activities in an introductory unit from the School of Arts and Sciences. In preparing for the medieval fair, students had to assume a character from the period and produce appropriate sets, costumes, food and entertainment. The fair featured music, games, puppetry, acrobatics, juggling and dancing.

Students of Italian as storytellers

During the first semester four BA/BTeach students majoring in Italian at Mercy Campus, Melbourne, conducted a series of Storytelling sessions for primary school-children at the Italian Resource Centre.

The Centre is conducted by CO.AS.IT., the major Italo-Australian educational and welfare organisation in Victoria, which manages the vast program of Italian teaching in many State and Catholic primary schools.

Senior Lecturer John Lando of Mercy Campus organised the project in association with the cultural program coordinator for CO.AS.IT.

350 primary schoolchildren from nine primary schools listened to the stories and joined in the activities.

The Mercy students were asked to follow the guidelines of the CSF (Curriculum and Standards Framework) for the planning of their sessions.

They were informed of the level of Italian of the pupils so that they were able to adapt their activities accordingly.

During their methodology course the students became familiar with how to present a story, how to acquire vocal confidence, how to pace a story, how to use gestures and facial expressions, how and when to use props.

The presentation of each story was followed by a series of activities, aiming to teach the children the new vocabulary and



Two of the Italian storytellers with the children.

idiomatic expressions used in the story.

This was achieved with the development of exercises, memory games, word search and drama activities.

All exercises and activities were original and were mostly conducted in Italian to

reinforce the language already heard in the story.

The teachers accompanying their children gave an extremely positive evaluation and congratulated the students for an entertaining and pedagogically sound program.

Increase in Japanese students

Nagoya University plans to send more students to the Centre for Communication Studies following a visit to the University

by the Director for the Centre, Mrs Valerie Hoogstad, earlier this year.

The President of Nagoya University of

Foreign Studies and Aichi Woman's Junior College, Kenichiro Nakanishi, spent the day with Mrs Hoogstad reviewing Nagoya's Study Abroad program which began last year.

President Nakanishi and his colleagues discussed the possibility of increasing the number of students coming to the Centre which is located at MacKillop Campus in North Sydney.

This year 33 students came at the end of August with 80 students expected next year.

The program involves students coming to Australian Catholic University for 11 weeks in their second semester and studying subjects related to English, business, and office and computer skills. They also gain work experience with a local business corporation.

The students are in the International Secretarial Training Course within the Department of Management. They gain credit for their course from their Australian study.



Mrs Valerie Hoogstad and Professor Kenichiro Nakanishi with, at rear, Nagoya University Professors.



Sr Imelda Dinh with the three Sydney campus ministers, Sr Kim-Maree Goodwin (Castle Hill), Anne Ferguson (Mount Saint Mary) and Sr Maree Marsh (MacKillop).

Presentation to Sr Imelda Dinh

Sr Imelda Dinh of Vietnam received the first Anne Lyons Memorial Scholarship at a ceremony at MacKillop Campus, North Sydney, on 17 July.

The Scholarship will allow her to complete the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) at Mount Saint Mary Campus, Strathfield.

The Anne Lyons Memorial Fund was established by her late father, Joseph Byrne, as a tangible memorial to the life and contribution of Anne Lyons, a scholar, wife and teacher who died of cancer in 1987 at the age of 42.

Her prevailing passion was the study and pursuit of social justice in Australia and the aim of the scholarship is to promote the concept of social justice in Australia from a Catholic viewpoint.

Sr Imelda who has a university degree in which she majored in English came to the University in the second semester of 1995 with the encouragement and support of Fr Peter Rees who had met her in Vietnam.

Fr Rees, a Diocesan priest of the Maitland/Newcastle diocese, met Sr Imelda in Nha Trang where her Order runs a boarding school. Fr Rees was in Vietnam as part of his work as coordinator of development education and promotions for the National Council of Churches.

Fr Rees funded Sr Imelda's fees in 1995 while several religious congregational leaders and a Bishop contributed to her first semester costs.

The scholarship will allow her to complete her studies and undertake a period of practical application in Catholic schools in Sydney in the first half of 1997.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Professor John Coll, presented Sr Imelda with her scholarship at the July function, organised by the University's Foundation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, described the history of the founding of the scholarship by the late Mr Joseph Byrne.

(See "Column" on Page 2.)

Students at Conference

"Overwhelmed, inspired and affirmed" was how a group of fourth year BA/B Teach students from the Victorian campuses described their experience after attending the National Catholic Education Conference (NCEC) in Canberra in May.

The Victorian student delegation consisted of two students from each of the three campuses and was sponsored to attend the Conference by the Department of Religion and Philosophy.

"This conference presented us with a more holistic view of Catholic education

— that it occurs from 'the cradle to the grave'," the students reported.

"Catholic education takes in the spheres of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Schools, Adult Education and Tertiary Education."

During the Conference the students also attended a workshop presented by Dr Marie Macdonald, Head, Religious Education Department, Christ Campus, and her associates.

This workshop focused on the formation of religious educators for Catholic schools.

Roundup

Marine science camp at Jervis Bay

Worms, water and dolphins were all part of a marine science camp held at Jervis Bay on the NSW south coast in late June.

Second year students from the Bachelor of Environmental Science course at the Castle Hill Campus were involved in the week-long camp at the University of Canberra field station, together with UTS students.

Students had a hands-on approach during the week with demonstrations of a variety of field skills used in marine science.

A day was spent on the bay itself conducting plankton tows and collecting data on water quality with the highlight being the magnificent display of several pods of dolphins, riding the bow waves of the vessel.

The camp also required students to participate in group research projects to investigate zonation in mangroves, fish community structure, habitat preference for marine worms, oyster distribution and desiccation tolerance in seaweed.

Dr Scott Wilson and Dr Neil Saintilan from Castle Hill and UTS lecturers presented a series of lectures to complement the field work component of the camp.

The culmination of the week was the presentation by the students of their project results.



(L-R) Carl Fokkema (ACU), Peter Ralph (UTS) and Steve McLoughlin (ACU) discussing a global positioning system instrument.

of events

School student enrichment seminars

Mount Saint Mary and Castle Hill campuses hosted seminars for gifted and talented secondary students in June.

The seminars were coordinated by Mr Peter Bastian, Mount Saint Mary Campus, for the Parramatta Catholic Education Office.

Students from years 9 and 10 looked at the design process involved in creating costumes for the theatre. The students designed and printed fabrics and used papier mache techniques to create props to accessorise the costumes.

Fabric decoration and costume design was conducted by Ms Louise Duvernet, Computing and Technology. The seminar was supported by Ace props of Petersham and sewing machines were provided by Janome for the duration of the seminar.

Poverty lecture series at Signadou

In recognition of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1996, Signadou Campus has held a series of seven lectures on Poverty between April and August.

Among the aspects of Poverty covered by the lectures were: Definition and Measurement; Alleviation; Urban and Neighbourhood; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples; Rural; Asia Pacific; and Families.

Speakers have included:

Professor Peter Saunders, Director, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW;

Professor David Cox, Graduate School of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, La Trobe University;

Professor Bob Gregory, Economics Program, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU;

Mr Brian Butler, CEO, SA Aboriginal Child Care Agency, and Chairperson, Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency; and

Fr David Cappel, former Director, Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission.



Dr Martos and his wife, Arden.

Winter Institute at McAuley

Dr Joseph Martos, Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A., presented a Winter Institute at McAuley Campus 24 to 28 June.

The Institute addressed the topic Sacramental Leadership and was attended by thirty students mainly from postgraduate courses in Leadership and Theology.

Dr Martos is a well known author, especially for his book on sacramental theology, "Doors to the Sacred". Other titles include "The Catholic Sacraments", "The Great Themes of Scripture", "Why Be Catholic?" and "The Wild Man's Journey".

Professor Peter Carpenter, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, joined the Institute at lunch on its final day.

Dr Martos's visit was jointly sponsored by Australian Catholic University and Catholic Education authorities in Townsville, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Religious Education series completed

The Head of the Department of Religious Education, Dr Marie Macdonald, has completed a major Religious Education series for secondary schools.

The Series, *Growing Together In Faith*, was directed by Dr Macdonald and produced by Harper Collins Publishers. It is sold in all States for junior, middle and secondary religious education classes.

It comprises eight books: four student texts and four teachers manuals —

Book 1: Our People's Story

Book 2: Journey in Faith

Book 3: Living the Good News

Book 4: In Search of Meaning

The series was prepared in conjunction with religious educators and theologians throughout Australia including Sandra Carroll, Graham English, Margaret Cassidy and Brenda Lynch of Australian Catholic University.

The series is basically academic in orientation as its focus is on the study of Christianity from the Catholic tradition.

A look at laughter

Christ Campus Lecturer in Drama and Politics, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Mr Gerard Matte, presented a major paper at the International Society for Humour Studies Conference held at the University of New South Wales in July.

The annual conference was held in Australia for the first time and featured discussions and lectures on laughter and comedy.

Mr Matte also edits the Australian Journal of Comedy. First published in August, 1995, the fourth issue features selected proceedings from the conference.

For further information regarding the Journal contact Mr Gerard Matte on (03) 9563 3646.

Teaching rounds

Final year BA/BTeach students from the three Victorian Campuses participated in teaching rounds in Fiji in June and July.

Five students, Lisa Bratina and Shirley D'Alfonso (Mercy Campus), Deidre Thomson and Nicole Dudman (Christ Campus) and Andrew McCarter (Aquinas Campus) spent a month at Stella Maris or the Marist Brothers primary schools in Suva.

Currently students at the Victorian cam-

puses are raising funds for four Fijian students from Corpus Christi Teachers College in Suva to do teaching rounds in Victorian primary schools later this year.

It is seven years since cooperation between the University and Corpus Christi began, with this being the first time all three Victorian campuses became involved. Aquinas Campus first established contact in 1988 and a number of student exchanges have taken place since.

Videoconferencing: a big success for the University

A year ago it would have sounded like science fiction. Live video links from an operating theatre in a city hospital to an auditorium of the University's nursing students at their metropolitan campuses; masters students in Cairns arriving at the Catholic Education Office for their videoconferencing tutorial with the Australian Catholic University lecturer in Brisbane.

These and other initiatives are becoming commonplace within the University, since the installation of videoconferencing facilities at the eight campuses in August 1995, with funding provided by the Commonwealth.

Videoconferencing involves the almost instantaneous transmission of digitised video and audio signals. It is a technology particularly suited to Australian Catholic University, given the spread of campuses from Ballarat to Brisbane.

Director of Finance, Mr Des McCammon, who has overseen the development of videoconferencing in his role as Chair of the Information and Communications Committee, believes the technology is enabling the University to better achieve many of its goals.

"We have a number of objectives for 1996-97 for the videoconferencing network, including that the use of the facilities leads to improved use of Faculty staff resources and provides better access to course options for students. Already we are seeing the realisation of these objectives," he said.

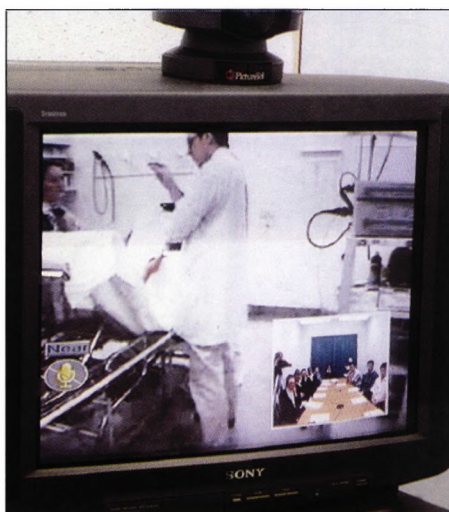
Ideal for small groups

Videoconferencing is ideal for small groups of postgraduate students, for seminars or tutorials and for guest lectures. Honours students in Human Movement recently broadcast their colloquium from Christ Campus to MacKillop Campus, using the videoconferencing network.

Lecturers also find the facilities enable them to combine small numbers of students from different campuses to form a viable class group. Groups of nursing students at Aquinas Campus are being combined with students at Mercy Campus, using videoconferencing, during Semester 2, 1996.

The videoconferencing network also allows faculties to provide courses at campuses where there are no staff members in a subject and to provide electives and core subjects in courses where there is not a full complement of experienced staff. The Education Faculty at McAuley Campus provides tutorials for Masters of Education students in Cairns, where the University has installed a desktop videoconferencing unit.

Many meetings are conducted over the



Students from Aquinas and Mercy campus participating recently in a special videoconference project between the University and Melbourne's St Vincent's Hospital. They watched a technical procedure (endoscopy).

network and these have proved to be most effective when the meeting is well structured, the chairperson trained, and clear protocols set at the start of the session.

Researchers have found the network invaluable for discussing grant applications and for meeting visiting researchers.

Each campus has a room with videoconferencing facilities and the University has also installed 14 desktop videoconferencing units, and is currently evaluating their usefulness for educational and administrative purposes.

Over 1500 hours of use were recorded in the first year of operation and usage levels have climbed steeply in 1996.

Videoconferencing has proven to be highly cost-effective to operate, with savings to the University in both travel time and travel costs, particularly when used over long distances.

All staff who use the facilities for teaching purposes are required to undergo special training. Last year approximately 200 staff undertook the three hour Basic Methodology program and the Advanced Methodology program.

The Basic program focuses on using the keypad controls, the document camera, preparing graphics and presenting oneself on camera. The Advanced program involves practice in conducting sessions over three or more sites at once and emphasises the need to include a high level of interaction in a session.

A course is also available on how to effectively chair sessions. This is very popular with non-teaching staff.

The network was formally evaluated at the end of the first six months of operation in December 1995 and evaluation forms are used regularly.

Videoconferencing makes the barrier of distance disappear.

When Jenni Hardy from MacKillop Campus visited Sweden recently she conducted live videoconferencing sessions between Sweden, St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne and MacKillop Campus.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, has become a regular user of videoconferencing for senior staff meetings. One of these occasions involved a visit to the University by a Commonwealth Senator, who was delighted to be able to meet with the senior staff without either his or their travelling large distances.

The videoconferencing network is managed by a team of four, who are based in Sydney, Brisbane, Ballarat and Adelaide and who meet monthly, by videoconferencing.

Mr McCammon summed up: "Already we have seen the power of this technology. Our biggest challenge is to embed it in the daily life of the University, so that staff ask themselves the question 'Why not use videoconferencing?' whenever problems of distance arise in planning discussions."

Minister in link



The Queensland Minister for Education, Mr Bob Quinn, was linked from McAuley Campus, Brisbane, to Sydney and Melbourne campuses on 22 August in a videoconference discussion with senior academics who will be responsible for a new course to be offered at McAuley Campus.

The new course is the three-year Bachelor of Information Systems program, already offered at Castle Hill Campus in Sydney.

Mr Quinn welcomed the new program and commended the University on its innovative approach with the use of videoconferencing and other information technologies.

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