The idea of a university being involved in the community in which it exists is neither new nor innovative. From the earliest days at Bologna and Paris the university was perceived as an active participant in the society in which it lived, breathed and had its being. In other places, regrettably, the expression 'town and gown' signalled a division that was non-productive then and certainly unacceptable now. In 1964 the establishing Act of La Trobe University called upon the University to serve the community and this directive has been acted upon in many ways.

The *Sixth Report of the Australian Universities Commission* observed that one of the purposes for which universities are founded was: 'the critical evaluation of the society in which we live... One of the roles of a university in a free society is to be the conscience and critic of that society'. Throughout the years staff of La Trobe have endeavoured to carry out this role and where they had expertise to offer constructive criticism related to the major problems confronting Australian society. This has been done through media appearances, public lectures, conferences and seminars to which the public and the media have been invited.

Two of the most successful exercises were the seminars on Human Rights and on Social Justice conducted by the Department of Legal Studies in 1985 and 1986. The presence at La Trobe of two international specialists in human rights, Professor Kevin Boyle from Ireland and Lord Tony Gifford from England, facilitated the organisation of the series on Human Rights and six public seminars were conducted at Glenn College in July and August 1985. The topics ranged over South Africa, Ireland, the rights of women, and aboriginal rights, with members of the public and scholars from around Australia attending. The series, chaired by Professor Kit Carson of the Department of Legal Studies, was so successful that the ABC played and replayed them for a total of twenty-four hours on National Radio. The following year a similar format was adopted for the theme of Social Justice and again the ABC broadcast the series nationally. After the Human Rights seminars Professor Carson observed that 'one of the important roles of a university is to sensitize the community to the important issues of the day'.

La Trobe's public lecture program, since the early seventies, has proved to be relevant, widely popular and often provocative. The University's principal public lecture is the C.J. La Trobe Memorial Lecture and since its inauguration in 1975 has featured outstanding speakers both from Australia and overseas. Sir Laurence Hartnet (1976) and Sir Mark Oliphant (1977) directed our attention to Australia's role in science and technology while the Canadian economist, Professor R.G. Lipsey (1979), warned of world inflation. In 1981 a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was held in Melbourne and an invitation was forwarded to Hon. Robert Mugabe, the newly elected Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, to deliver the C.J. La Trobe lecture for that year. On 7 October he addressed a most enthusiastic audience of some sixteen hundred people on the African Revolution. Other speakers throughout the eighties included Emeritus Professor Manning Clark (1982), aboriginal author Mrs Kath Walker (1983), the Hon. John Cain, Premier of Victoria (1986), and Emeritus Professor Charles Birch, formerly Challis Professor of Biology at the University of Sydney (1987).

The other two public lecture series, the Meredith Lectures, named after Mr Ben Meredith
Building La Trobe University

OBE, the first Head of Glenn College, and the Caroline Chisholm lectures have also attracted wide public interest since they were inaugurated in 1972 and 1979 respectively. In 1978 the Meredith Lectures dealt with Australia's multicultural society and the published transcripts have proved to be a best seller to educational institutions throughout Australia and, along with the lecture on immigration (1984) by Hon. Franca Arena, M.L.C. for New South Wales and a former member of the Federal Immigration Task Force, were a major contribution to the continuing debate on multiculturalism and immigration. The Chisholm lectures have dealt with the role of women in Australian society and have regularly attracted wide public attention.

Apart from these regularly organised public lectures the University has also arranged quite outstanding occasional lectures which have attracted the largest audiences seen on campus. In 1984, Patrick White, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist, gave a public lecture and four years later he also participated in the Meredith Lectures. In 1987, both Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress (ANC), spoke at La Trobe. Archbishop Tutu spoke in the overflowing Union Hall to an audience of five thousand and afterwards moved outside to address the thousand or more who were unable to get into the building. Oliver Tambo also spoke to a crowded Union Hall as he related the seventy-five year history of the ANC. Despite disappointing attendances at some public lectures over the years the general community has demonstrated that it will grasp the opportunity to hear a prominent person address a subject that is meaningful in today's society.

It is not, however, only lectures that have attracted wide attention to La Trobe's community involvement. The University's Research Institutes, perhaps most particularly the Brain-Behaviour Research Institute, have attracted wide attention over the years through the medium of conferences and seminars. Some of the most notable have been Migrants and the Economy (1981), First Australian Screen Studies Conference (1982), Shiftwork (1983) and Occupational Health (1984), World Conference on Distance Education (1985), Teaching of Italian Language and Culture in Australia (1985), National Conference of Japanese Studies (1985) and the First National Convention of the Indonesian Cultural and Educational Institute (1985). Professor Keith Cole, Physics Department, has also attracted many distinguished visitors and conferences to La Trobe, one of the most important being the Space Science and Remote Sensing Conference of 1988.

In August 1967, an important meeting was held on campus. It was to influence the future development of the campus and to help forge links with the local community and other bodies. It was the foundation meeting of the La Trobe University Conservation Society attended by a small group of staff and students. The declared aim of the Society was to conserve the flora, fauna and habitat of Australia in general and of La Trobe University in particular through the creation on the campus of special areas reserved for native flora and fauna. Those first hesitant steps of the fledgling Conservation Society eventually led to the creation of La Trobe's Wildlife Reserve. Recent visitors to the Reserve have included renowned English environmentalist, Professor David Bellamy and Australia's best known conservationist, Dr Bob Brown.

The on-campus reserve now stretches over twenty-eight hectares and together with off-campus Gresswell Forest, developed with the co-operation of local government, comprises wildlife reserves of seventy-eight hectares. The University's publication for visitors, Introduction to La Trobe, describes the Wildlife Reserve:

The reserves encompass a variety of heathland, grassland, woodland and wetland habitats. The wetlands function as a pollution treatment system using urban waste and stormwater as its water source. Bird observers find the area particularly interesting as around 175 species have been observed making the Reserves the most species-rich, per unit area, avian habitats in the Melbourne area. Gresswell Forest supports the last remaining stand of River Red Gum woodland in the Lower Yarra Valley. With the accompanying understorey of herbs, lilies, orchids and grasses, this 'museum' is much valued by ecologists and residents alike and is home to native reptiles and animals which were once common in the area.
The University and the Community

Professor R.W. (Wally) Thompson, formerly of the Spanish Department, who was the first president of the Conservation Society, later recalled that in the early years the chief interest of members was the listing of on-campus flora and fauna. The Society disintegrated in the early 1970s when some of its members adopted a confrontationist approach to industry but the work was then carried on by the Wildlife Committee. From those early days in 1967 Professor Thompson maintained active support of the reserves and after his retirement in 1987 the University named part of the moat after him.

One of the academics who assisted the Conservation Society in its early days was Peter Rawlinson of Zoology. As one contemporary remarked, he was ‘usually around to reassure us about the venomous snakes which were common in the area and to warn us about the harm we were all doing to the environment’. Rawlinson did not confine his interests and environmental activities to the La Trobe campus but rather they have extended throughout Australia and, at times, have brought him into conflict with government agencies and a variety of lobbying bodies. In 1971 he conducted a campaign that led to the abandonment of an aerial baiting program directed against the dingo population in Victoria’s north-east high plains by the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board. He argued that the technique to be used had not proven effective against dingoes and was more than likely to prove fatal to other wildlife across the plains. While Rawlinson was frustrated in his representations to the Board he was more successful in a direct approach to the responsible Minister. The aerial baiting program was abandoned.

Peter Rawlinson has continued his struggles to protect the environment and in more recent years has become well known for his involvement in the protection of kangaroos. He has not, among La Trobe staff, stood alone in such endeavours. A later history of the University will acknowledge the continuing involvement of many members of the staff, particularly those in the sciences, in the wider community’s striving to preserve the nation’s natural heritage.

For the past twenty years the world of art has played a significant role in the development of the University and these days the University Gallery in the David Myers building attracts large numbers of visitors to the campus. The first art exhibition was held in the council room of Menzies College from 22 October to 1 November 1968. It was organised by Mrs R.B. Lewis, Mr F. Barnes and Dr K. Semmens. Many exhibitions were mounted over the years but it was not until 1983 that the largely unused space behind the Undercroft bus shelter was refurbished and opened as the University Gallery. The Gallery has proved to be an excellent venue to display the slowly expanding University collection, provide an outlet for the artwork of students as well as established artists and, in collaboration with the Anthropology Museum in Glenn College, is capable of mounting a major exhibition such as the Yoruba Exhibition of the art and craft of Nigeria, held in August-September 1988. Artists who have exhibited individually at the Gallery include Noel Counihan, Lawrence Daws, Gareth Jones-Roberts, Victor Cobb, Murray Griffin and John Farmer. Some of the more significant group exhibitions at the Gallery have been Australian Surrealism 1930s-1950s, Romanticism and Classicism in Contemporary Australian Painting, The Eighteenth Century Print, and a most important historical photographic exhibition, Early Italian Migration to Australia.

Both the Gallery and the Anthropology Museum have played a vital role in reaching out to the community and have served as a focus for community interest. The Museum began as a small teaching collection in the then Division of Prehistory. In 1981 it moved into Glenn College, which was able to provide better facilities for display and storage, and since that time has been able to accommodate visits from school groups and other organisations. Its contribution to Victoria and Australia was recognised in March 1982 when it was officially commended for its quality in the form of an award in the Museum of the Year awards.

With such a large and splendid campus it was inevitable, given a commitment to community involvement, that the grounds would be used by the wider community. In May, 1970 the Sixth Australian Paraplegic Games were held on La Trobe’s campus. Teams of paraplegic
and quadraplegic athletes from five states competed and both athletes and officials stayed in Glenn and Menzies Colleges. Basketball, table tennis, snooker, weightlifting and fencing events were held in the indoor sports centre; field events, including archery, shot put, javelin, discus and club throwing, took place on the sports ovals while car parks and roads were used for wheelchair races. A number of La Trobe students, including representatives of the SRC and the Sports Union, freely gave of their time to help the Paraplegics Association prepare for the Games and also assisted with transport and the judging of events. The Games were officially opened on 18 May by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe and the University Registrar, Major-General T.S. Taylor, was appointed Chief Judge of the Games. It was appropriate, after the United Nations declared 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP), that the National Paraplegic and Quadraplegic Games should return to La Trobe in November and December of that year.

It was not only through these games that La Trobe was involved in the IYDP. In 1973 the University established the Committee on Facilities for the Handicapped with Professor John Salmond of the History Department as chairman. One of the reasons why the campus had been chosen as a suitable venue for the 1981 Games relates to the original planning and the many improvements that had been introduced by this committee. The policy of the committee was not to achieve total conformity with handicap design requirements in all respects as such conformity was considered impracticable and unnecessary. Instead, it aimed to establish particular entrances and specific routes within and between buildings which would make all parts of the University accessible to the handicapped.

In the early days of the University the Bank of New South Wales, later to become Westpac, instituted an annual award to be granted to a La Trobe undergraduate who had carried out the most selfless community work either within or outside the University. In 1971 the recipient was Brian Lennon, a student in the School of Physical Sciences. Brian had been elected to the Fitzroy City Council in August 1970 and was extremely active in community work, particularly as a member of the Fitzroy Community Youth Centre Project. He was also the co-ordinator of an education group which arranged free tuition for disadvantaged children in the inner city area. Brian was one of a large number of students who, over the years, have quite selflessly given of themselves to assist these many underprivileged in our society.

It was in 1971 that the University's Academic Board took decisive action to extend opportunity for further education to a much wider spectrum of the community. The Board accepted a recommendation from the School of Humanities that twenty unmatriculated students be admitted to that School in 1972. The Dean of Humanities at the time, Professor A.W. Martin, explained that the success of a similar scheme at the University of Sussex had led to the suggestion that carefully chosen students who had left school before matriculating be admitted to La Trobe in 1972:

What research we have makes it clear that in Australia inequalities of opportunity exist similar to those which the Sussex scheme hoped to ameliorate in Britain and that, despite notable recent growth in the secondary school population, it is still the case that much wastage of potential university talent occurs because promising students do not stay on to take the higher school certificate examinations. Even within the framework of the present quota system, it seems both just and desirable that students of this type should be given the fullest opportunity of undertaking university studies. And given a situation in which the School faces in 1972 a heavy intake of first-year students, we may be additionally glad to have a group of unmatriculated entrants if they are of high intellectual calibre. As selection committee members will ruefully testify, mere possession of the higher school certificate is not necessarily a guarantee of intellectual excellence.

This very successful La Trobe University initiative was subsequently taken up by other Victorian and Australian universities. La Trobe can claim to have been in the forefront of the drive to make university education more accessible to those formerly confronted with forbidden admission and a wall of indifference.
The University and the Community

A year after the special entry scheme was introduced La Trobe staff were involved in the experimental Diamond Valley Learning Centre. Professor Glenn Evans, the then Chairman of the School of Education’s Centre for the Study of Innovation in Education, saw the Learning Centre as ‘enabling people to gain increasing control over their own lives through knowledge and participation’. The Centre’s activities were principally located in the Shires of Diamond Valley and Eltham and in its newsheet was described as:

‘a group of people who talk to each other, find common interests and worries, organise situations and ways in which people who want to get together to learn or discuss something or find information they need, can do so. The group is not a restricted one; anyone who wants to find others with common interests, or is worried about their own or their children’s education, can be part of the Learning Centre’.

There were, of course, direct advantages to La Trobe’s educationists in their association with this Learning Centre. They were able to study initiatives and developments promoted by the existence of such a centre within a particular community. Many of the classes at the Centre were taught by La Trobe Diploma of Education students. Rather than impose preconceived ideas the Centre set out to establish what people in the area responded to and identifying those groups most in need of guidance. It was important to keep members of the community aware of the available resources. One lecturer at the Centre commented: ‘It doesn’t provide things so much as opportunity for initiatives, for people to find out the things they want to know. It provides a non-bureaucratic education’.

In 1975 Gwen Wesson, a lecturer in the School of Education, was awarded one of eleven grants made by the Australian Government for International Women’s Year. The grant was to cover the cost of publishing a collection of the writings — poems, essays and short stories — of suburban housewives. The contributors to the book, fourteen of them, aged thirty to sixty, were all students in the Learning Centre’s HSC classes. The book, Brian’s Wife — Jenny’s Mum, was the result of Gwen Wesson encouraging the women ‘to write and talk about the way they felt about themselves.’ It was an unusual experiment and offered an insight into the self-perception of these suburban women. La Trobe’s involvement in this Centre must be considered as one of the most significant and productive contributions the University has made to the community.

When the Learning Centre opened, staff of La Trobe’s Department of Philosophy had already been involved in a voluntary teaching program at Pentridge prison for two years. This program had been initiated by Professor Allan Martin in co-operation with the Principal of the Pentridge Education Centre following discussions in 1971. Ray Pinkerton, then a Lecturer in Philosophy, became the program co-ordinator and five other members of the Department, including postgraduate student John Briton, were involved. The classes were conducted in A Division which held long-term first offenders, and were perceived to play an important role in the rehabilitative process. The La Trobe staff were able to provide an invaluable link, intellectual and emotional, between the prisoners and the wider community from which the prisoners were alienated by more than stone walls. While it was generally agreed that the greatest educational need for most prisoners was tuition at a primary level there were others to be encouraged to aspire to higher education.

La Trobe staff have responded over the years not only to the needs of the local community, and to state and national needs, but also to international calls for assistance. In September 1974, Dr Robin Burns, of the School of Education, returned to La Trobe. She had been contracted by the United Nation’s Food and Agricultural Organisation (Action for Development Section) to carry out a survey and evaluation of development education in Europe and North America. This project was designed to assess how institutions of higher education were helping to rouse public awareness of the conditions prevalent in countries receiving development aid and one of her roles in the School of Education’s Comparative Centre was to devise ways of introducing such a subject into Australian curricula. She had long been associated with the World University Service, stressing its commitment to the social role of the university. Such a commitment was perceived variously as sensitising students to development issues by teach-
Building La Trobe University

ing them at the university and devising support structures to enable school teachers to introduce the subject as normal class room teaching. All this activity was reinforced by her involvement with the Council for Overseas Aid, on which body she served as an executive member.

There were throughout the seventies, and are to this day, many members of the La Trobe staff who are actively involved in offering expert advice to governments. In 1973 Dr Alan Ward of the History Department, now Professor of History at the University of Newcastle, was given leave-of-absence to work as a full-time consultant to Papua New Guinea’s commission of enquiry into land matters and was author of a series of cabinet submissions suggesting the best way of implementing the commission’s recommendations. Assisting the commission, he sought out the cultural and social importance of land to Papuans and New Guineans through discussions at village level, and through an analysis of the existing structure of land ownership was able to pinpoint areas of contention. He also compared the experience of other recently independent countries in relation to land transfer.

Upon his return to La Trobe he delivered a lecture ‘Some more equal than others? The land question and egalitarianism in independent Papua New Guinea’, one of a series of Department of History lectures which illustrated the many practical and topical applications of historical studies. He pointed out that the guiding philosophy adopted by the Papuans and New Guineans depended, more than anything else, on land laws. He felt the big test for independent Papua New Guinea will be whether, unlike other recently independent nations, it will be able to overcome the problem of alienating people from their land. Ten years later Dr Ward spent eighteen months in Vanuatu advising the government on similar issues.

Dr Robert Newton of the School of Education was another member of the staff to lend his expertise to Papua New Guinea. Dr Newton returned to La Trobe in 1975 from his fifth assignment with the new nation’s Office of Information where he had concentrated on decentralising and simplifying communications throughout that geographically and linguistically disparate nation. Working out of Goroka and Rabaul, Newton led teams of the local residents in a project that was to spread information at a local level by providing simple equipment which could produce material of local interest and which was readily intelligible. This was then used by the Office of Information, other government departments, local councils, and various community groups to convey information on specific subjects or, more generally, to help foster a greater sense of national awareness.

Dr W.R. (Bill) Stent, formerly of the School of Economics, also worked in the Third World environment. In 1979 he was chosen as one of the two Australians for a Commonwealth reconstruction mission to Uganda. The aim of the mission, sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, was to determine ways in which the Commonwealth could assist in the economic rehabilitation of Uganda. An expert in the economies of developing countries, Dr Stent had previously worked in Trinidad, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya and what was then Rhodesia. This involvement in international consultancy and support has continued over the years and today many staff are committed, including Professor Bruce Stone of Biochemistry and Dr John Quilkey of Agriculture who, through the International Development Program, are involved in the Philippines and Indonesia respectively.

At its March meeting in 1977, the La Trobe University Council resolved that the University would hold a Community Week Festival in September of that year. It was perceived as a progressive and desirable move to invite more people onto the campus as part of an on-going strategy to publicise the contributions La Trobe was making to the community. The designated theme, Your University — a Growing Place, highlighted the intent. This first Community Week ran from 15-21 September and was opened by the then Commissioner for Community Relations, the Hon. A.J. Grassby. The Week comprised lectures, seminars, departmental displays, a wide-ranging presentation of theatrical and musical offerings and, on Sunday, 18 September, La Trobe’s Open Day. The Community Week and the Open Day of 1977 were an important stage in the University’s growing awareness of the need for community involvement. For the
The University and the Community

first time the entire University had been on show, accessible to the community and the public responded with some 7000 people attending the campus on Open Day alone. By 1981 it was becoming apparent that a one-day display was a more effective means of reaching the public. As a consequence, the Community Week was dropped and since that time La Trobe has presented itself through the medium of an annual Open Day.

In 1978 the University, through the Department of Legal Studies, embarked upon one of its most socially significant endeavours. Philip Molan, a lecturer in Legal Studies, was given the responsibility to initiate and supervise a legal aid clinic attached to the West Heidelberg Community Centre. Mr Molan, a former senior tutor in the department, had been a foundation member of the Fitzroy legal service and the first lawyer employed by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service. At the time of the inauguration of the clinic he commented that the philosophy behind the clinic was that it should help local people start thinking about legal problems and even to train some to act as para-legal community workers. It was designed essentially as a self-help scheme rather than one which merely provided 'experts.' However expert advice was available from the staff of the Legal Studies Department and this could be called upon, if the need arose, to fight test cases in those areas of the law which disadvantaged the underprivileged of our society. Additionally, the service provided by the clinic would enable the West Heidelberg community to have access to the University as a wider resource centre, particularly in such areas as Sociology and Social Work.

Eight years later, in 1987, La Trobe staff and students made another major contribution to the local community when the Preston-Heidelberg Neighbourhood Mediation Centre was established. The Centre's first Co-ordinator was Marie Bird, a 1979 graduate of La Trobe's Department of Sociology. This Centre was one of four in Victoria to be funded by the Legal Aid Commission as part of a three-year pilot project. The project was introduced following recommendations made by the Commission's Dispute Resolution Project Committee which had drawn heavily on the research and recommendations of former La Trobe Legal Studies Senior Lecturer, Dr Jeff Fitzgerald. The Centre was established to deal with those local disputes not well served by the current system of legal justice. The Neighbourhood Mediation was designed to be voluntary, free of charge, and covered by special enabling legislation to keep proceedings confidential and non-enforceable in courts of law. The mediators were to be perceived to be 'ordinary' community members selected to mirror some of the demographic characteristics of the Preston-Heidelberg area. The La Trobe mediators were: Dr Tom Fisher, Senior Lecturer in History; Terry Lee, student in Legal Studies; Sandra Ferguson, a public accountant and student in philosophy; John Daniiluc, student in Sociology; and Sally Stockman, student in Legal Studies and Sociology.

The seventies also saw the establishment of two other centres which, over the years, have demonstrated a potential to reach out and serve the wider community. They were the Language Centre and the Human Resource Centre. The Language Centre began full-time operation in January 1975 under the direction of Robert Hooke, formerly a senior lecturer with the French Department. The teaching of English as a second language quickly became the major single activity of the Centre and continues to be so to this day. Initially there were four categories of students to be catered for: overseas students under the Special English Fellowship (SELF) part of the Colombo Plan; overseas students under the Special English Language program (SEL); private overseas students required to undertake a certain amount of English before being allowed to proceed to Australian secondary or tertiary institutions; and members of Melbourne's migrant community sponsored under the NEAT scheme.

From its inception the Centre was intent on being community-oriented. It was involved with the private sector enabling management to attain greater understanding and communication with immigrant workers; it responded to a request from a prison education officer to conduct language classes at Fairlea Women's Prison; it has provided language courses for government officers, including diplomats, industry personnel and members of the general public. La Trobe's Language Centre has continued to grow and flourish over the years and
Building La Trobe University

today is one of the most respected centres for language tuition in Australia.

Another University institution that has proved an invaluable resource to the wider community has been the Human Resource Centre. Established in 1978 by the Department of Social Work it was co-sponsored by the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences from 1982-1987. The Centre was designed to develop links between the community, health and welfare practitioners and academia by providing an educational, training, and research resource.

In February 1978 Eva Learner was appointed the first Director of the Human Resource Centre which was established by the Department of Social Work in the School of Behavioural Sciences. She held this position until her resignation from La Trobe in November, 1983. Prior to her appointment she had been in Canberra working for the Social Welfare Commission and, after its abolition, the Department of Social Security. While with the Department she completed an extensive study of the wide range of education and training for social welfare personnel in Australia. That experience alerted her 'to the major educational gaps in social work and the massive gaps between the theorists and those who work in the field'. Eva believed 'the [Human Resource] Centre can break down the barriers between academia and the practice field and bring together the resources of both'. Over the past eleven years the Centre has provided an invaluable resource to community service practitioners. The Centre's objectives have been best illustrated by its activities: service in selected areas to individuals, groups and organisations to test a range of practice methods, techniques and strategies used in human services; consultation services to agencies and other organisations, both from the Centre and the Department of Social Work staff; the development of educational packages, workshops and seminars, independently and jointly with other departments, agencies and institutions and the encouragement of activities using multidisciplinary approaches to investigate common problems and to provide joint services.

In 1982 Eva Learner was appointed a member of the Committee of Inquiry into In-Vitro Fertilisation, established by the State Government and chaired by Professor Louis Waller of Monash University. This type of wider involvement has typified the activities of many La Trobe staff since the University's inception. To name just a few: Professor Tony Blackshield, of the Department of Legal Studies, (now at Macquarie University), was appointed a consultant to the Federal Government's Human Rights Task Force; Dr Jeff Fitzgerald, also of Legal Studies, accepted a secondment to the post of Senior Policy Adviser in the Justice Section of the Premier's Department; Professor John W. Freebaim of the School of Agriculture (now at Monash University), was seconded to the role of Director of Economic Research with the Business Council of Australia; Mr Peter Rawlinson of the Department of Zoology was elected to the Council and to the office of Vice-President of the Australian Conservation Foundation; Dr Don MacPhee, of the Department of Microbiology, was appointed as a specialist adviser to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation; Professor John Scott, Vice-Chancellor, chaired a working party for the Ministerial Review of Postcompulsory Schooling (Blackburn Report); former Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Myers, was chairman of the Federal Committee on Professional Qualifications; Emeritus Professor R.J. Magee for long played a formative role in the development of the Phillip Institute of Technology being both a long-time member of its Council and President between 1976-80, and Dr Alan Frost, History Department, was seconded as organising secretary of the Australian Bicentennial History Conference, 'Terra Australis to Australia.'

The role of the media should never be under-estimated when considering the relationship of the staff of the University with the wider community. Large numbers of the staff from many disciplines have regularly appeared in both print and electronic media since the University's inception and continue to do so to this day. To name just a few: Professor Tony Blackshield on law, Mr Bill Horrigan on economics, Dr Barry Carr, Dr Steve Niblo and Dr Rowan Ireland on Latin America, Professor Brian Crittenden on education, Dr John Jenkin on science, Dr Peter White on media, Professor John Salmon on the USA, Mr Peter Rawlinson on the environment and Dr Rick Thompson on cinema.
The University and the Community

In 1982 the Australian Broadcasting Corporation presented one of its most ambitious television productions — GENESIS. This seven-part series, written and presented by Tim Ross of the ABC, was made to counter the image of urban Australia as living in a single or two-storey brick house, with the garage full of cars. The series depicted a more diverse and complex Australia, one that has been developing since the 1950s. The series was well received, and it brought about a significant change in the way the public perceived Australia. The introduction of the open campus policy has proved to be a success over the years, and it has contributed to the success of La Trobe University.

Another example of the sharing and dissemination of news of La Trobe can be found in the University's regular publications, the Bulletin and Record. Some two hundred and fifty copies of the Bulletin are mailed each fortnight to schools, other bodies, and individuals while several thousand copies of the Record are distributed each quarter. These publications receive extensive media coverage and are received by politicians and business houses and play an important role in reaching out to the community.

The Record regularly features articles on and information for members of Convocation. This association of graduates and diplomats has played a significant role in keeping its members informed of University progress and activities. The development of Convocation has been somewhat spasmodic but the University is well aware of the critical role that its graduates can play in La Trobe's further development. The organisation's enthusiastic Steering Committee has contributed to the success of Open Day, lecture series, support for the library and many other University activities.

Another organisation that has, in recent years, dedicated itself to the continuing development and welfare of the University is Friends of La Trobe. The first chairman of Friends was Dr Roy Simpson, the Master Planner of the La Trobe campus, and the Committee has, since its inception, organised programs to attract support for the University. Two notable features of the University's further development. The organisation's enthusiastic Steering Committee has contributed to the success of Open Day, lecture series, support for the library and many other University activities.

Research in the University is dealt with in another chapter but, at a time when Government priorities are attempting to direct applied research, it is a salutary and encouraging exercise to note the very substantial volume of community-oriented research that is carried on at La Trobe. There have been scholars in practically every academic department involved in such research, from the Brain-Behaviour Research Institute to Legal Studies with its work on the protection of juveniles in the legal system, from Psychology's Professor Margot Prior with her work with children, to scientists and philosophers protecting the environment; community studies such as the Mill Park project, multiculturalism and immigration; consultancy aid for overseas universities and bilingual education for aborigines; pollution monitoring, extensive agricultural research and Dr Harvey Cohen's help for the disabled. The list could go on and on, and the cumulative effect indicates a very substantial contribution by this University to the common wealth and health of the community.

Little has been said of the extensive use of the campus made by members of the wider community. The sports centre is available to the public as is the cinema and the Agora Theatre has long been used by schools and other bodies. The ring road is a favourite venue for cycling organisations, the colleges are booked for conferences and seminars during the vacations as is the Union which also plays host to those attending social functions and leisure classes. The open campus policy has proved to be a success over the years, and it will continue to present La Trobe as a university for and of the people.

We are witnessing radical changes, both political and economic, in the educational environment. La Trobe, while it has responded well to change over the past twenty-five years, will be required to continue to adapt to that changing environment. The introduction of technology precincts, science parks, amalgamations and a host of other foreshadowed and still...
unknown developments will oblige the University to extend its vision. Yet the young University can claim major involvement with the wider community throughout its short history and there is every confidence, given the good will and dedication of staff and students, that that involvement will develop and flourish. It is essential that it do so.