YEAR OF 1962

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH QUEENSLAND
YEAR OF 1962

CONVOCATION
James Cook University of North Queensland
Townsville

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:
Aerial view of the University College, Pimlico High School and Botanical Gardens reserve (copied from Townsville Daily Bulletin, 16 August 1962 – Arch Fraley photo).

The Editorial Committee:
(Back Row l to r) Joan Hopkins, Anne Deane, Frank Davison (Secretary),
Joan Innes Reid, Wendy Self. (Sitting, front row) Doris-Camp. (Missing) Joe
Baker, Dorothy Gibson-Wilde.

(photos J.T. Baker)
I often ponder on what would have been the history of European development of Australia if the first land fall of James Cook’s Voyage of Discovery in 1770 had been at, say, Gladstone, instead of Botany Bay.

In such event the first European settlement in this country would probably have been at Gladstone and from that point the exploration of the continent would have spread. It would have led to a more even distribution of population, economic wealth and the political power base right along the eastern seaboard of Australia instead of the concentration in the south eastern corner.

The first European settlement at Gladstone would have probably ensured the establishment of the University College of Townsville by the University of Gladstone in 1911 instead of by the University of Queensland in 1961.

All those circumstances notwithstanding, this University should be eternally grateful to J. D. Storey, Sir Albert Axon and Sir Fred Schonell and the many members of the academic and administrative staff of the Queensland University who worked enthusiastically to establish the new College with the object always to see it established as a University in its own right.

The Queensland Government under the leadership of Sir Frank Nicklin and Joh Bjelke Petersen gave the new College its complete support. Its Ministers for Education, firstly Mr Jack Pizzey and later Sir Alan Fletcher, greatly assisted the development of the new College.
As a member of the Advisory Committee 1961 and a foundation member of both the Advisory Council 1962-1970 and the Council of the University I have had a most rewarding experience in being part of the development of the University College of Townsville and the University itself.

The initiative and enthusiasm of the members of early Councils and members of the staff of the College and University was unbounded. Fortunately they were able to find persons in both Governmental and University circles ready to accept and act on their initiatives, consequently progress in the early formative years of both the University College and later the University was rapid.

In a short period of 22 years the young University has established fine academic and research records. It has been the means of raising the standards of educational achievement in North Queensland.

However by reason of Governmental policies in relation to University education, the progress of the University, in common with other Universities in this country, has been standing still.

As a consequence of a circumstance of discovery which I have already described, this University, the namesake of James Cook and the only University in the tropics, has not been given the funds, facilities and staff given over a period of many years to the older established Universities or, over a much shorter period, to the newer established Universities in the more densely populated areas of Australia.

It is my belief that the Commonwealth Government should now take immediate steps to rectify this imbalance by giving to James Cook, as the only University in tropical Australia, the funds, facilities and staff to establish schools, faculties and courses to study matters relating to the tropics, law, medicine and many other fields of academic endeavour pertinent to the development of tropical Australia generally and North Queensland in particular.

Until this imbalance is rectified North Australia generally and North Queensland in particular will lag behind the rest of Australia in the fields of tertiary education and University Research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"YEAR OF 1962"

Dr. J. T. Baker, Convenor, Editorial Committee.

It is with sincere thanks that I recognize the contribution of many past students and staff in the compilation of this "Year of 1962" booklet. A great deal of work has been done by the Editorial Committee in which Anne Deane, Joan Innes-Reid, Wendy Self, Doris Camp, Dorothy Gibson-Wilde, Joan Hopkins, and Frank Davison efficiently shared the workload.

Our first thought was, no doubt, that this editorial task would be most arduous. This was not the case; the responses from past students and staff were very rapid. Obviously all were willing to be involved. There is a relatively consistent theme through their contributions but sufficient variety exists to show that the University has affected us all in different ways. For the vast majority, the influence has been beneficial and I am sure that future committees will have as much enjoyment as we have had in contacting the past students, in renewing their acquaintances and in compiling the human record which is important in the development of the character of the Convocation of the University and in showing how our graduates are contributing to the skilled workforce of Australia and of other countries.

In compiling the booklet we found many friends of the University who were willing to help in provision of treasured personal records. Arch Fraley, who has been involved in photographing University events right from day 1 of 1961, merits special recognition. We greatly appreciate his willing assistance and permission to use photographs.

I hope that all who contributed so generously and enthusiastically, derive great pleasure from re-reading their contributions and also in living again that exciting year in the development of the University College and of the University... the Year of 1962.

J. T. BAKER O.B.E.
Convenor
Editorial Committee
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- J.R. Brown
- Rod Froyland
- Geoff Hawes
- Tom Hall
- Tricia Kemball and Ray Jones
- Jacqueline Kearney
- Bob Lanskey
- Judith Mons Lawrence (nee Daveson)
- Bev McLean
- Peter Murphy
- Geoff Sherrington
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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

*Sir George Kneipp*

Last year Convocation published *The Year of 1961*, a booklet recording some of the main events of the first year of the University College of Townsville - the forerunner of James Cook University.

I am pleased to see that Convocation’s intention to continue the series has borne fruit in the publication of *The Year of 1962*. The time and care which have gone into the production of this volume are certainly worthwhile.

Our history merits the effort needed to preserve it. Our sense of continuity and cohesion rests heavily on what we know of the past; and we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have taken the trouble to record past events and keep alive the memory of the people who played a part in them.

The present series of booklets provides us with an excellent basis for maintaining a continuing record of the history of our University. I commend Convocation for its effort.
The unqualified success of Convocation's initiative in publishing *The Year of 1961* certainly merits a repeat performance; I will be very surprised indeed if it does not turn out to be the first of a series, with members of staff, Council and graduates all looking forward to "their turn". Imagine the excitement in 1990 when Convocation's special event will be *The Year of 1970* and what a wealth of material the publication will have on which to draw!

Looking forward to that occasion makes publications like *The Year of 1962* so important, because it records the significant events during the formative years leading to autonomy; more importantly it reminds us of the people: staff, students and friends of the University, who made it all happen.

I am sure this publication will bring much pleasure to a very wide range of people — and whet the appetite for future publications.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

*Professor K.J.C. Back*

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**INTRODUCTION**

*By the Chairman of Convocation*

*Mrs Bronwyn Walker*

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It is with great pleasure that I welcome the publication of the "Year of 1962", the second of what we hope will be an annual series.

When the idea of these booklets was first suggested, it was intended that they might include a small selection of the photographs used in the display at the Annual Dinner, interspersed with whatever information was available.

The concept has obviously been broadened to the extent that the Publication Committee has endeavoured to capture the essence of 1962 in all its aspects. Convocation has not asked for a thorough, historical documentation of the year, but rather, that the publication should provide an insight into the people and events of the time. The committee has undoubtedly identified the pioneering and enterprising spirit of the staff and students of 1962 and those people of Townsville who played such an important role in the early development of the University College.

A production of this kind is not done without a great deal of work by a willing few. Convocation is indebted to Dr Joe Baker for his chairmanship of the Publication Committee this year, especially as he is one of the staff members who can claim to have experienced and contributed to the camaraderie of 1962.

I am sure that all members of Convocation are as grateful as I am for the time, talent and effort put in by Dr Baker and the other members of the Publication Committee.

The work involved is made doubly difficult by the fact that relatively few students of the University College between 1961 and 1970 actually joined Convocation when it was officially formed in 1970, so it requires the talents of a Sherlock Holmes to find students whose last-known address (and in some instances, name) is twenty years out of date.
Convocation would like to be able to contact these people as we have started the practice of launching the booklets at our annual dinners, which, of course, also feature a “twenty years later” theme. Many of the earlier students, especially those who have contributed to the publication, would enjoy these reunion dinners which are becoming an annual event on people’s calendars.

I would hope that as more people become interested in Convocation and its activities there will be some who will be prepared to assist on some future Publication Committee or another of our sub-committees. Obviously, the continuation of our activities depends on our members’ enthusiasm and assistance.

It is not usual to single out one member of a committee when all members have made a valuable contribution, but it is also very hard to mention this publication as one of the activities of Convocation without considering the unrelenting enthusiasm of Anne Deane for this and other Convocation activities. Such involvement and support is rare, if not unique, and is immensely important to the long-term future of Convocation.

Finally, in congratulating this year’s Publication Committee on their sterling effort in producing the “Year of 1962”, I would like to thank especially Frank Daveson, the Secretary to Convocation, who has again given much of his personal time to make the “Year of 1962” not just a concept, but a reality.

YEAR OF 1962 HIGHLIGHTS...
Preparing for the New Academic Year

In January 1962 the College was a hive of industry, preparing for the new academic year. Every effort was made to press ahead with the construction work for the new buildings necessary for the implementation of second year courses in Science, Engineering and Arts. Equipment was being made ready, new staff had been appointed in some departments and the enrolment of students was proceeding steadily.

The ten week delay in commencing the laboratories and workshops for second year classes in Physics and Engineering caused some inconvenience for both staff and students, but a great deal was done by staff to reduce all delays and to avoid as much rearrangement of practical work as was so necessary in 1961.

Enrolments for day and evening students were proceeding smoothly. In 1961 at the closing date for the placing of enrolments, without late fee penalties, only 30 enrolments had been received from full-time day students. The final figure was just under 100. So far under 30 enrolments for 1962 of first year full-time day students had been received, although over 60 applications had been received for reservations for accommodation at Stuart House and 94 for residence at Duncragan.

First year courses were available at the College in all faculties of the University of Queensland, with the exception of Commerce, Economics and Architecture. The Warden, Dr F. J. Olsen pointed out that while the range of subjects available to students in the Humanities was essentially restricted, a sufficient range of subjects was available for such students to plan and pursue worthwhile courses. In addition to being able to choose from a selected range of science subjects, Arts students could choose from English I and II, History I and II, Education I and II, French I, and Geography I, which were available to both day and evening students. Also the students, under special circumstances, would be permitted to enrol for no more than one subject a year externally from Brisbane, if the subject was not offered at the College in Townsville.

Finally, the appointment of a Student Counsellor at the Townsville University College was an important decision for 1962. Since one of the greatest problems that faced students at the outset was choosing the most suitable course to study for their particular needs, a special counselling service was introduced to the University College at the beginning of 1962. Dr E. Scott, the Lecturer in Education, had accepted the added appointment of Student Counsellor for 1962.
Orientation Week

The three days before the start of formal lectures were set aside for the Orientation of new students to the University environment. On the first day, Warden's Day, the students met the academic staff, discussed courses, inspected buildings and so on. In addition they were subjected to a series of tests such as reading ability and habits, intelligence test and health questionnaire. These tests were the same as those administered at Queensland University.

On the second day, Students Union Day, freshers met second-year students and heard about societies and clubs from Ken Rudge, President of the Students Union. They were taken on a scenic drive around Townsville and inspected Stuart House and Duncragan. At night, a Freshers Welcome Dance was held.

On the third day, Sunday, University Commencement Services were held at St James Cathedral, Sacred Heart Cathedral and Central Methodist Church with University College students and staff wearing academic dress.
Matriculation Address — Professor F. J. Schonell

"The University College of Townsville was a wonderful example of co-operation between North and South in the state of Queensland." This announcement was made by Vice-Chancellor, Professor F. J. Schonell when addressing undergraduates at the Matriculation Ceremony on Monday, February 26 1962. "This speaks well for the faith and support which Mr Nicklin and Mr Pizzey have in and for, this University College."

"The Townsville College has made a magnificent start," said Professor Schonell as he paid tribute to the Warden, Dr F. Olsen and his wife, to the parents who had sent their children to the College, to Mr H. T. Priestley and members of the University Association, and to the staff of the College.

The examination results for 1961 had, on the whole, been successful. The 100% pass in Medicine in Townsville was the first in 52 years of university history. "The stage is set for success," said Professor Schonell, but he warned against complacency and too grandiose ideas. "We do not take people who don't mean business," he said. He continued, "The main cause of failure among students is not lack of intelligence but lack of will power." He advised the 120 matriculants to "get right out of the blocks when the pistol goes."

Professor Schonell told the students they were a privileged minority. It was up to them to play their part by working diligently, by giving service to their fellows, hostels, clubs and the University College, by remembering their parents who would often be undergoing hardship.

"Above all, the University seeks to produce tolerant men and women," said Professor Schonell, "we therefore do not expect to have intolerance in important matters. We want understanding people who will not indulge in any form of intellectual snobbery — the craftsman is just as important as the scholar, the technician as the scientist."

Matriculation Ceremony

The Matriculation ceremony was held on Monday morning, February 26, in the new Refectory building at Pimlico. Professor F. J. Schonell, Vice-Chancellor of University of Queensland, and Mr C. J. Connell, Registrar, attended the ceremony and parents and other interested persons were encouraged to attend. Professor Schonell, in his address to the students, reminded them of their obligation to the University, to their parents and to themselves. He urged them to apply themselves to their studies and to make a success of their first critical year.

Formal lectures began the same day at 2 pm. At that time enrolment figures were:

- 1st year day students 116
- 2nd year day students 36
- 1st year evening students 83
- 2nd year evening students 27

These figures showed a 60% increase on the total enrolment of the College for 1961.
Commemoration was set aside traditionally by the University to commemorate its benefactors and the scholars who have brought it distinction. This was the time that degrees were conferred at a colourful, solemn Ceremony. As 1962 was only the second year of the Townsville University College there could be no degree ceremony.

Commemoration Week was also the time when undergraduates traditionally staged a procession through the streets of the city with decorated floats, highlighting or ridiculing activities of their elders. The Townsville students produced their procession on April 26. At this early stage in the life of the University College there was considerable concern lest the students' pranks or floats should not respect "the canons of adult decorum" to quote the Warden, Dr Olsen. He also expressed the hope that the public would view the efforts and pranks of the students with good-humoured tolerance. Painted signs and footsteps appeared in unexpected places but on the whole, the general public accepted the presence of University College students in their city with goodwill and understanding.

Commemoration Week finished with the traditional Commemoration Ball on the Friday night.
College Research

From its very beginning in 1961, the work of the University College was research-oriented.

A prediction that the Townsville University College could become a world centre for special studies in tropical fields was made by the Australian Universities Commission following their visit to the Pimlico campus in September, 1962. This was announced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland, Sir Fred Schonell after seven members of the Commission had inspected the work of the College.

During their visit, the Commissioners had discussions with the College's Advisory Council, staff and students. The Commission had been impressed with the vitality and energy of the 19-month old College, and planned to give special financial help for its development.

As it was the only university college in tropical Australia, the Commission believed that in the next few decades it would attract students not only from other Australian universities, but also from overseas. Special studies envisaged were marine biology, regional geology and botany, and tropical medicine.

It is interesting to note that, with the exception of tropical medicine, the predictions of the Universities Commission have been realised.
THOSE WHO CONTINUED THE WAY...
The Inaugural Meeting of the Advisory Council of the University College of Townsville was held on Tuesday, March 27 1962.

The Warden, in opening this Inaugural Meeting, referred to its historic significance in that it marked the first step on the long road to full University status. Initially the duties of the Advisory Council would be to advise the Senate on the library, research, equipment and other needs of the College, and on ways in which the College and its two Halls of Residence, Stuart House and Duncragan, might best be developed. As the Council gained administrative experience the Senate would delegate to the Council certain executive responsibilities, defining these by University Statutes, thus paving the way to increasing local autonomy for the management of the University College.

The Warden paid tribute to three groups of people who had made important contributions to the rapid and successful growth of the College, namely:

1) The Government, the Senate and the Professorial Board of the University of Queensland;
2) The North Queensland University Association, the University Society and the 1961 Advisory Committee of the University College;
3) The foundation staff and students of the University College.

Mr H. T. Priestley was elected Chairman of the Advisory Council and Mr G. V. Roberts Jnr was appointed Deputy Chairman.

The following Committees of the Advisory Council were set up:

- Standing Committee of the Advisory Council
- Public Relations and Lectures Committee
- Library Committee
- Research Committee
- Buildings & Grounds Development Committee
- Stuart House Committee
- Duncragan Committee

Representative of University College of Townsville Staff Association
E. Scott BA PhD ABPsS MACE

Secretary
J. W. Marshall
The Services of Community-Based Organizations

The Townsville and District University Society and the North Queensland University Association were the two bodies of North Queenslanders which played the major role in promoting the setting up of the Townsville University College, the forerunner of the James Cook University.

The University Society was a graduate body which emerged from the initiatives of Dr Reeve Palmerston-Rundle. It was established in 1958 with the main objective of working for a university in North Queensland. With the help of outside bodies the University Society organized a Scholarship Scheme designed to help gifted secondary school students stay on and matriculate.

By 1960 such remarkable progress had been made towards the establishment of a northern university college that the need became obvious for a North Queensland University Association consisting of a wide membership of interested citizens of North Queensland. The N.Q. University Association set up during that year was responsible for the launching of an appeal for £50,000 and for the establishment of the two residential hostels at Stuart and Duncragan. These were ready just in time for students in 1961, a tremendous achievement involving a lot of hard work by many dedicated people. In February 1962 the University of Queensland set up the Advisory Council and advised that it had taken over the administration of the hostels.

Now that most of the objectives of the Association had been met, and many members closely connected with the University College were on the Advisory Council or Halls of Residence Councils, the last committee meeting was held on June 22, 1962.

As an interesting piece of history a letter was sent from this meeting to the Townsville City Council congratulating them on the gift to the University of land on the south side of the Ross River.

The University Society which still had an important role to play in bringing together Town and Gown continued to function. On October 18, 1961 the Society organized a social function to farewel! their Founder President, Dr Palmerston-Rundle who was presented with a framed photograph of the Townsville University College.

On February 26, 1962 a social function was organized to welcome new members of the College staff. Six scholarships were awarded to students with high Junior passes, making a total of 20 scholarships. It was a matter of gratification to the Society that all five scholarship winners in 1960 matriculated, gained Commonwealth scholarships and enrolled at the University College in 1962.

An Annual Dinner was held in June and attended by 96 people. Dr P. Rowland took over as President from Dr I. Dickson and Mr F. McKay became Secretary. During the year a Film Group with 170 members functioned successfully.

The last function of the year 1962 was a farewell to Dr and Mrs Olsen who had become such good friends of North Queensland. At the end of this year the Society decided to commission the painting of a portrait of Dr Olsen to be presented to the University College at a later date.
Mr H.T. Priestley, President of the North Queensland University Association, 1962.

Dr I. Dickson, President of the Townsville and District University Society, 1962 (Arch Fraley photo).

**Staff**

**Warden**
Frank Jackson Olsen MEd Melb BSc PhD Qld

**Senior Lecturers**
Chemistry: Joseph Thomas Baker MSc Qld ARACI FCS MACS
Engineering: Kevin Percy Stark BE BEd Qld AMIE Aust
Geography: Francis Harry Bauer MA Calif PhD ANU
Geology: Philip Jon Stephenson PhD DIC Lond BSc Qld
History: Ian Newton Moles MA Qld
Physics: Eric Hewstone Carman MSc PhD Melb

**Lecturers**
Botany: Margaret Muriel Mackay BA StAnd MSc Melb
Chemistry: Leslie Frederick Power BCom BSc AAUQ Qld AASA
Education: Edward Scott BA PhD Sydney ABPS MACE
Engineering: Baden Suttor Best BE Qld AMIE Aust
English: Ross Stanley Smith BA Qld
John Richard Strugnell BA Leeds
French: Rex Keith Moss BA DipEd Melb DHELF Grenoble
Mathematics: Bill Bateup Newman BSc BEd Qld
Kenneth Capell BSc Qld
Physics: Bruce Cater Gibson-Wilde BSc Qld (temporary)
Zoology: Ronald Patrick Kenny BSc WAust

**Senior Demonstrators**
Chemistry: Rodrick Francis Norman Hutchins MSc Qld (temporary)
Physics: Brian Patrick Kilfoyle BA Sydney
William Morton Coleman BSc Qld

**Junior Lecturer**
English: Constantine Castan BA AEd Qld

**Demonstrators**
Botany: Jean Vessey BSc Qld
Zoology: Judith Anne Bryan BSc Qld

**Librarians**
Library Assistant: Desley Anne Jeffries
Jennepher North

**Administrative Officer**
John William Marshall
College staff were very active in the Public Lecture programme in 1962. Following is a list of lectures presented in that year indicating the range of subjects offered and the wide range of areas covered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr F.H. Bauer</td>
<td>Water in Arid Australia</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr B.B. Newman</td>
<td>Relativity</td>
<td>Mt Isa, Mary Kathleen, Richmond, Hughenden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr F.J. Olsen</td>
<td>University of the North</td>
<td>Mareeba, Cairns, Mackay, Bowen, Charters Towers, Ingham, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Richmond, Julia Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr E. Scott</td>
<td>Breakdown—the Psychology of Mental Health</td>
<td>Innisfail, Atherton, Cairns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr R. Smith</td>
<td>Douglas Stewart</td>
<td>Cairns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr P.J. Stephenson</td>
<td>Saltoro Expedition</td>
<td>Townsville, Cairns</td>
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**Education Conference**
Professor G.W. Bassett (on behalf of the University College)

- Educating the next generation Townsville

**Commonwealth Literary Fund Lectures**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr R.D. FitzGerald</td>
<td>This Modernism</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr R.S. Porteous</td>
<td>The Puzzle of Judith Wright</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing Successful Fiction</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
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**Science Teachers’ Association**
(sponsored by University College of Townsville Public Lectures Committee)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Townsville</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr R. Kenny</td>
<td>Zoology in Queensland Aspects of Teaching of Research</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr E. Scott</td>
<td>The Aims of Science Teaching in the Contemporary Scene</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr K. Stark</td>
<td>The Training of Engineers</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr P.J. Stephenson</td>
<td>Some Aspects of Time in Geology</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr E. Carman</td>
<td>The Application of Television Techniques to the Problems of Science</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
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</table>
Changes to the Pimlico Campus, 1962/63
B. Gibson-Wilde

The year 1962 saw the start of a rapid extension of the original buildings on the Pimlico campus to the appearance which exists today.

With the decision to continue most of the undergraduate courses on to the second year of study, further space was needed for lecture rooms, staff offices, laboratories, workshops and other services. Also, the Departments of Zoology and Botany, located during 1961 across Hugh Street in buildings of the Pimlico High School, were required to be moved to a permanent location on the campus.

The Physics and Chemistry wings (wings 2 and 3) were extended to their present length during 1962, and linked at the western end by a ground level walkway.

The Refectory was also built during 1962, the main auditorium being subdivided by partitions for use as temporary lecture rooms. The original canteen was housed in the end room of wing 2 on the ground floor; this room became a book shop after the completion of the new refectory building.

A caretaker's residence was added on the north-eastern corner of the refectory early in 1963, the first resident caretaker being Mr Harry Bedford, followed later by Mr Graham Smith.

By the end of 1962, improvements to the grounds and the construction of car parking areas were completed.

The final major extension to the Pimlico buildings was wing 4, commenced early in 1963, to house the Departments of Botany and Zoology, a larger library, a large lecture theatre (called "E3") and the re-located Departments of Geology and Engineering.
Beautification Plans for College Campus

On April 5, 1962, the Warden, Dr. F. J. Olsen announced that a scheme for beautification of the grounds of the Pimlico campus had been drawn up by the Public Works District Architect in Townsville (Mr. McNamara), and the Curator of the Botanical Gardens (Mr. A. Wilson).

The beautification was to include the planting of trees, the establishment of lawns and shrubbery, and sporting fields. Dr. Olsen estimated that the project would take approximately two years.

The existing oval which had recently been top-dressed and grassed could not be used until water had been reticulated to the area. Water was to be drawn both from the city water supply and from underground water close to Fulham Road.

In the meantime, two temporary football and hockey fields were being readied for use. For sporting fixtures the teams were relying on Council fields.

The Ross River Site

The inadequacy of the original Pimlico site of the University College was evident from the very beginning and plans for an expansion site on the southern bank of the Ross River were discussed as early as 1961. It was not until 1962 however that action was taken by the Advisory Council (at its inaugural meeting in March) to have an area (originally 780 acres but subsequently reduced to about 480 acres) along the foothills, set aside for University purposes. The University Senate supported the recommendations as did the Universities' Commission when it visited Townsville in September. The site was visited by members of the College Building, Grounds and Development Committee on July 29. Some idea of the conditions prevalent in the area at the time can be gained from the following account forwarded by Miss Moya Merrick who was later to establish (in 1964) a residential college for Catholic Women students. She writes of one of her preliminary visits to Townsville in 1962.

"I came to Townsville a number of times in 1962 accompanied by Miss Pat Sheeran from the Grail Centre, Mackay. We met with Dr. Olsen, Bishop Ryan and others and on one memorable occasion in 1962 visited the site of the proposed new Campus. We drove with Mr. Priestley and Monsignor Vande/eur across the Meat Works Bridge to a farm house. From there we went by landrover or 4-wheel drive for a rough trip to the present site of James Cook University. The countryside appeared barren with stunted trees and I remember very vividly a dry creek bed with great stones. Mr. Priestley was very enthusiastic, pointing out the different features and possible sites for Colleges and other buildings. I was less enthusiastic! Townsville was hot and dry even in what was the northern winter."
The determination of recommendations for capital expenditure on the University College during the triennium 1964-66 was the object of the visit by the Universities’ Commission to Townsville on Friday, September 7, 1962.

The Universities’ Commission had been appointed by the Prime Minister, the Hon. R. G. Menzies, to advise the Commonwealth Government of the realistic needs of Australian universities.

Under the chairmanship of Sir Leslie Martin, the Commission inspected all aspects of the work of the University College and interviewed the executive heads of academic committees, including the Advisory Council, the Staff Association, and Students’ Union, and the Management Committees of Stuart House and Duncragan.

A case for the progressive development of the University College was presented to the Commission by the University Vice-Chancellor, Sir Fred Schonell, the Registrar, Mr C. J. Connell, and the Warden, Dr F. J. Olsen. The Advisory Council took advantage of the visit of the Commission Chairman, Sir Leslie Martin, to make a submission on the development of tertiary education in North Queensland.

The Chairman of the Advisory Council, Mr H. T. Priestley and the Deputy Chairman, Mr G. V. Roberts informed the Commission of the good will which the community had toward the presence of the University College.
Plans for College Development

In its submission to the Universities Commission in September, 1962, the Advisory Council stressed the need for a vigorous programme of expansion of the University College, arguing that the problem of the development of north Australia was a challenge to all the people of the Commonwealth.

Thirty-nine percent of the continent, that is, the area north of the Tropic of Capricorn, had a population of 450,000 people. Exports from this region were higher per capita (£219) than the rest of Australia (£89). It was argued that, with further development, the North could be of inestimable value to the whole of Australia. The mineral, pastoral and agricultural resources were capable of tremendous expansion and there were, in addition, moral, social and political reasons why the expansion should be accelerated. Apart from the obvious benefits, the development of north Australia "will satisfy our moral obligation to the rest of the world to utilize to the fullest extent the whole of the Australian continent."

In this prospective growth, there would be a need for increasing numbers of graduates, and the University College was seen as the nearest source of supply for qualified personnel. The objectives of an adequate contribution by the universities to the development of the north could be obtained in a number of ways: extension of the basic degree courses at Townsville to provide qualified persons in North Queensland; introduction of courses having reference to particular northern problems in engineering, agriculture, veterinary science, etc.; introduction of some postgraduate courses in the College related to tropical problems and adaptation to living in the tropics; and the convening of symposia and presentation of public lectures.

The sheer distances of North Queensland from the well established university studies in Brisbane had discouraged northern parents from seeking tertiary education for their children. The establishment of the University College would enable greater numbers of North Queensland children to have the benefits of a university education, particularly Senior girl students. A survey in 1962 had established that the number of Sub-Senior students in North Queensland was about twice the number of students in the present Senior forms.

The submission pointed out that a review of the work of the University College and the four technical colleges in North Queensland indicated the limited provision of facilities for tertiary education in the north.

Library Beginnings

Jennifer Stephenson (nee North)

The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, houses a collection of over 2 million items. While working as a graduate assistant at SOAS I was appointed librarian to the then University College of Townsville in 1962, and arrived in time to persuade a local Customs Officer that texts dealing with the sex life of Bufo marinus were unlikely to corrupt the morals of North Queensland undergraduates.

The contrast between working at SOAS where I handled Mongolian birch bark books, housed in jewelled boxes and other assorted fascinations, coming to a library, established as something of an afterthought and struggling to reach a bare minimum standard in texts and serials for teaching purposes, was something of a cultural shock.

So great was the urgency to acquire adequate primary material in 1962 that collecting anything else was unthought of — until Slim Bauer (Geography) returned from a field trip in Western Queensland with account books, letters and photographs snatched from the flames of a bonfire on a station property. The Manager had been getting rid of "rubbish" — all the old records of the property. From this experience the first appeal for North Queensland historical material was issued by the library and the Advisory Council. The appeal stands today.

If SOAS houses and preserves the records of life over 600 years, in hundreds of years from now the James Cook University library should be the repository for materials from North Queensland’s earliest beginnings.

Records like this are not just of nostalgic interest nor theses material for historians. The minutiae of everyday living recorded in diaries, letter account books build a picture of life as it was — and help us to understand life as it is.

Those 1962 undergraduates still living in Townsville, or returning from time to time must be aware how enormously Townsville has changed in the brief period of 21 years. The citiscape then, daily life on campus, the quality and scope of what was learned then have shaped what you are today. The rapidity of change and destruction of the old makes record-preservation an appeal of continuing urgency, so don’t throw away those old photos or grannies’ letters — if they relate to North Queensland, send them to the James Cook University library, and encourage others to do the same.
All enrolled students in 1962 were required to become members of the Townsville University College Union. (Fees were - Full-time £5-0-0, Evening £2-10-0, External £1-5-0.) The aim of the Union was to promote the welfare of the student body in social life and sport and to encourage student clubs and societies (Dramatic, Christian, Debating, French and Chess). The Union, through its Sports Council supported and encouraged many sporting clubs.

The extra-curricular activities of students centred on the Student Common Room which provided some amenities for leisure time activities. A canteen served morning and afternoon teas and light meals. A Refectory was built during 1962.

The 1962 sporting calendar provided plenty of outlets for student energies during breaks from study. A sizeable number of students from the University College of Townsville participated in the activities of a variety of sporting clubs which were financed by the Students Union. Teams were fielded in sports such as football, hockey, basketball and tennis and they competed with varying degrees of success in local fixture competition. For the No. 1 football team and the No. 1 men's hockey team, it was certainly a year to remember.

Two teams, known as University Blue and University Red, took part in the Townsville Rugby League Junior Competition. By June the Blue team, having lost only two games was a joint leader of the competition. In the process, they had convincingly defeated the Red team 32-6.

After being challenged by the First XIII of All Souls School, the University Red team headed off to Charters Towers on Saturday, June 30. Mr Joe Baker refereed the match but he was of little use to the University team who were defeated 25-11 in a game where all the fans were screaming, “Souls, Souls, Souls”. Two University players were injured in the match and the mini-bus in which the team was travelling temporarily became an ambulance on the way back to Townsville.

During the first week of the August vacation, the Townsville University College Football Club sent two teams by train to Brisbane for a series of matches against Queensland University and the Brisbane Under 20 side. The team coach, Mr Joe Baker, spent considerable time and effort organizing the trip. Support for the venture also came in the form of doubles and raffle tickets which were sold to help finance the journey. The first few matches resulted in defeats for the University side; but the night match held at the Gracemield Oval between Townsville No. 1
and Brisbane No. 1 had a very different result. The Townsville players produced a magnificent display of football and came off the victors with a score of Townsville 26, Brisbane 0.

Another crowning achievement of the football year came when the University Blue team won the Townsville Rugby League Junior Competition by defeating West End Athletics 12-11 in a thrilling match. They were urged on, as usual, by a boisterous cheer squad.

On the hockey scene, two men’s hockey teams were fielded in the A2 grade of the local competition. The University No. 1 team started the season well and their continued winning form enabled them to clinch the minor premiership before the August vacation. During this first round of matches, they were also able to defeat the University No. 2 side 7-1 despite Dr Olsen’s blatant barracking for the No. 2 side. Finally, in September, a wildly cheering crowd of supporters saw the University No. 1 side take out the A2 Hockey Premiership in Townsville.

The ladies’ hockey team, captained by Colleen Ahern, started the season short of the required number for a team and with only four experienced players. Their first match against Parks resulted in a disastrous 12-0 score against University. However, as the season progressed, the ladies began to show a definite improvement. Full teams of 11 players were fielded and players reshuffled. The beginnings of a team combination could be seen and novice players began to wield their sticks like veterans.

Two men’s basketball teams represented University in the Townsville competition, one in the B1 grade and one playing B2 grade. After a successful season, including five wins from five successive games, the B1 team had high hopes of winning the Premiership. Unfortunately, they were eliminated in the semi-finals. Their defeat was attributed to the lack of time spent training together for a sport which requires a great deal of teamwork. “Spud” Tait was given credit as the only player to show any sort of form. Earlier in the season, lack of training had been an issue but the promised erection of a basketball ring at Stuart House was seen as the answer to the problem.
Practically the entire B2 team had never played basketball before but they were crowd pleasers because of their antics. Captained and coached by “Snick” Snarski, the keen B2 team was unable to reach the finals even though they won their last five games on forfeit.

The University Tennis Club entered a team of four male and two female players in the A2 grade of the Townsville tennis competition. Fixtures were played on Saturday afternoons and social matches were held on Wednesday afternoons at the Association Courts in North Ward. The team fared badly during the season and lack of practice was again a contributing factor.

With an average of eight players in attendance, the University Golf Club held coaching sessions every Sunday morning at 10.00 am. The professional employed by the Townsville Golf Club gave the lessons to club members at the considerably reduced cost of only 6d. for ball money. Highlights of the golfing year included a field day and bar-b-que early in the year, a competition between University and Townsville Grammar School in June and another all day “match and bar-b-que” during the August vacation. Tony Agar, partnered by a Townsville Golf Club member was able to win a competition between other Townsville members and junior players and he was praised for his high standard of play.

Towards the end of 1962 it was announced in Magnus Taurus that “Football went out with Queen Anne” and “Now was the time to play the greatest sport on earth -- Cricket”. The Union had acquired £80 worth of cricket equipment and a cricket team was to be formed. To overcome the shortage of players over the Christmas vacation it was suggested that secondary school players be asked to join.

On a lighter sporting note, a gala swimming carnival was held in conjunction with Commemoration Week. Teams came from Arts, Science, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Engineering to take part in a few regulation style races and other “University” style races. The announcer was biased and cheating was rife. The Engineers were dismayed to learn that their entry in the men’s plain diving championship had actually won the ladies’ novelty diving. Although some of the spectators had their enthusiasm well and truly “dampened”, the night proved to be a most enjoyable one.

When the Universities Commission visited the University College in September of 1962, the Students Union was able to state its case in relation to sporting facilities. It was reported to the Commission that there were “no real facilities of any kind”. The number one oval was described as languishing due to lack of water and the number 2 oval could boast goal posts and nothing else. Number 3 oval was completely undeveloped. The need for tennis and basketball courts was highlighted by the fact that the tennis team had to hire a court three miles away for practice. Teams generally were suffering because of the lack of suitable training venues. The students asked that all these sporting facilities be upgraded in priority.

Despite the difficulties encountered with facilities, 1962 was a very successful year for sport at the University College. What teams lacked in equipment, they made up for in enthusiasm. A keen band of supporters, not the least of whom was Dr Olsen, cheered and barracked the various teams throughout the year.
The Question Mark and the Saint

Early in 1961 the Question Mark appeared on the cliff face of Castle Hill. On 18 January 1962 it was removed — it had been painted out. Four young members of the RAAF claimed that they had succeeded in obliterating the offending Question Mark on their second attempt — an earlier try ended in failure when the "painter", lowered at the end of a 120 ft length of rope, had spilled the paint. The second attempt the following night was successful. The painter was quoted as saying, "We were fortunate to have an experienced rock-climber in our party. We went down to the bottom lookout and we made the descent from there — three held the rope while I was lowered." Asked why it was painted out, he replied, "We thought the Question Mark was an eye-sore which defaced the beauty of Townsville's unique monument."

However, North Ward residents woke up on Saturday morning 17 March to find the Saint towering above them. Complete with halo, the giant white figure was painted on the cliff face during Friday night. A group of Mackay and District students attending the University College claimed responsibility for the painting. One told how he had hung 170 ft down the cliff face for 35 minutes to do the job. He said his friends had lowered him by ropes from the lookout on the top of Castle Hill early on the Saturday morning. It was 3.45 am when they finished. It is still there today.

The historical record is less detailed. On 19 March 1962, the Townsville Daily Bulletin reported that "a 20 ft long white illustration of the literary figure — the Saint, had appeared on Townsville's Castle Hill over the weekend", taking over pride of place on the cliff face from the splash of green paint, which had taken over from the original hill mystery — a 15 ft long Question Mark.
Early in 1962 Dr F. J. Olsen revealed that the Townsville University College enrolments exceeded the estimates prepared towards the end of 1961. There were 299 students attending day and evening classes at the College. Dr Olsen said, “There were two particularly encouraging features of the 1962 enrolments — the first was that full-time day enrolments increased by almost 50%, from 84 in 1961 to 121 in 1962. With no more students in the Senior forms at the end of 1961, this revealed that Northern Senior students were already becoming more university-conscious. The second feature was the fact that many more students than had been expected had elected to remain in Townsville to study the subjects that were offered. A total of 40 students were enrolled in second year courses. The enrolments of full-time students were: Arts—14, Science—32, Engineering and Applied Science—29, Medicine—5, Dentistry—11, Pharmacy—10, Agriculture—15, and Veterinary Science—2.

Dr Olsen said it was essential for a university to maintain a reasonable balance between the Humanities, the Sciences, and the Technologies. He stated that steps would be taken later in 1962 to acquaint students in the secondary schools of the vocational opportunities for Arts graduates in an attempt to attract more students to the Faculty of Arts.

The enrolment of women students had redressed the earlier position of a diminishing proportion of women students. In March 1962, there were 30 women and 90 men in first year studies and this ratio of 1 to 3 was slightly better than in 1961. The enrolments in second year classes were: Arts—4, Science—20, and Engineering—16. “These members”, said Dr Olsen, “would form a good basis for third year courses in 1963 if the Senate should choose to proceed to these courses next year.”

The enrolments in evening courses in 1962 had almost doubled to 129 students studying a wide range of subjects in the Faculties of Arts, Science, Education and Law. “The establishment of the Townsville University College was therefore filling a definite need in the educational life of Townsville people.”
Establishment of the University College Vindicated

The Honourable G.F.R. Nicklin, Premier of Queensland.

(Photo from Official Opening Program 1961)

Visiting Townsville in March 1962, the Premier, Mr G. F. R. Nicklin, stated, “The success of the Queensland University College at Townsville was a complete vindication of the Government’s policy to decentralise tertiary education.”

Mr Nicklin said that enrolments at Townsville in 1962 had increased 50% to 275 students. This enrolment exceeded considerably the members at New England University in New South Wales at the end of its first five years and compared favourably with students at the new Monash University in Melbourne. Mr Nicklin said he could not praise too highly the academic staff of the North Queensland College. The 100% pass in Medicine in Townsville was the first in 52 years of Queensland university history. “This was a remarkable achievement that highlighted the capacity and dedication of a young staff gathered from many parts of the world and given the high task of starting a university from ground level.” He said, “The State Government and the University of Queensland would combine to give every assistance to this new and rapidly growing seat of learning in the North.”

Commonwealth Literary Fund Lecturer – R. D. Fitzgerald

Leading Australian poet, Mr Robert D. Fitzgerald, accepted an invitation from the University College of Townsville to inaugurate in Townsville the annual Commonwealth Literary Lectures. On July 19, he lectured on “This Modernism” and on June 20 on “The Puzzle of Judith Wright”.

Announcing the lectures, the Warden, Dr F. J. Olsen, said that the early recognition of the University College of Townsville by the Prime Minister’s Department, for a grant under the terms of the Commonwealth Literary Fund was most encouraging. “It will mean”, said Dr Olsen, “that each year we should be able to invite to Townsville at least one outstanding Australian writer to give a series of lectures on some aspects of Australian literature.”

Dr Olsen said that these lectures were intended primarily for University students but in all cases they could be delivered in the largest lecture room of the College so that the public of Townsville could be invited to attend.

“I am sure”, continued Dr Olsen, “that there are very many people in Townsville who will be anxious to know more about our Australian literature. The Literary Fund lectures are to be given by Australian authors who have themselves won distinction for their literary works — so I am sure the lectures will always attract appreciative audiences in Townsville. The impact on the cultural life of Townsville over the next decade will be considerable if we can meet and listen to, and talk with some of the more outstanding Australian literary figures.”

Mr Ross Smith, lecturer in English at the University College of Townsville, said that Mr Fitzgerald had already delivered three Commonwealth Literary Fund Lectures at St Lucia in 1961, taking as his subject “The Elements of Poetry”. “These lectures were well received in Brisbane,” said Mr Smith, “and the proposed topics for Townsville proved equally interesting. Townsville is very fortunate in having such an outstanding contemporary Australian poet to inaugurate its Series of Commonwealth Literary Fund Lectures in conjunction with its new University College.”
Open Day

The University College of Townsville was "At Home" to the citizens of Townsville on Wednesday afternoon and evening, July 11 1962. All phases of academic work at the College were on display.

Students in academic dress met the visitors in the foyer and conducted them over the buildings and the grounds. The Library prepared a special display of some recent valuable gifts, including 17th century books donated by Professor Osborne.

Teaching aids in English, French, History and Geography were shown as well as prints from the recent purchase by the College for the Art Gallery. The Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Geology featured some of the latest equipment to arrive. Students demonstrated with this equipment. The extensions of both the first year Chemistry Laboratory and the Optics Laboratory for Physics were on view for the first time.

The Drafting Offices, Applied Mechanics Laboratory and the Workshop were all on display to the visitors. The visitors also inspected the grounds where some of the 400 trees which were planned had already taken root in the parking areas and on the lawns that surrounded the building extensions.

The refectory building which was planned to be opened in 1963 was also on display showing the partitioning established to provide temporary lecture rooms, staff studies and a drawing office.

A general invitation was extended to the citizens of Townsville to come and see the University College at work. As the Warden, Dr F. J. Olsen, commented on Open Day, "We are striving to make the University of the North the people's university, a place of which you can all be proud. We invited you to come out today to see the progress we have made since you visited us last Open Day in 1961."

Public Notice in Townsville Daily Bulletin

University College of Townsville's
OPEN DAY

The Warden and Staff and Students invite the citizens of Townsville to inspect the science and other displays and the buildings of the University College, Wednesday, 11th July 2.00-4.30 p.m./7.00-9.00 p.m.

J. W. Marshall, Administrative Office
Early in the days of preparation of the Townsville University College, scholarships were being awarded. The organizations and business firms were eager to assist the Foundation Students in 1961.

In February the giant northern firm Mount Isa Mines, joined other business centres to encourage and assist the students of North Queensland. The winner of the Mount Isa Student Scholarship in 1962 was D. P. Pellora, son of an engineer on the staff of Mount Isa mines.

Bursaries were offered also by a number of business firms including the D. D. Hastings Bursary which was a Memorial Prize presented in honour of Mr D. D. Hastings who died in 1962. The Bursary was awarded to a deserving student 20 miles north of St Lawrence who was physically disabled.

An award by the members of the Townsville Business and Professional Women's Club was introduced the same year, the first recipient being Joan Thurecht.

The photograph shows Mrs W. England (right) President of the Townsville Business and Professional Women's Club presenting Miss Joan Thurecht with the Club's Bursary to study at the University College of Townsville. The presentation was made at the Club's International Night. Miss Thurecht, who won the Bursary for her Pass in the Senior Public Examination, began her studies in Pharmacy at the University College of Townsville in 1962.

The B.P. (Aust.) Bursary of £250 was made available to a second year student of the Townsville University College. The Bursary was designed to assist a student who, having completed the first year of his course successfully, wished to proceed to second year, but was not in receipt of any other award or scholarship.

Such bursaries assisted students who would otherwise not be able to continue their university education.
Australian Diary features the College

The News and Information Bureau of the Department of the Interior filmed a Series centred on the University College at Townsville in the mid-months of 1962. Movietone News completed a film designed to show the College buildings and the teaching, research and recreational activities of the College. Also the halls of residence for country students were highlighted, including Duncragan and Stuart House.

The film featured in particular many facets of the Open Day of the College including views of the library and a coverage of the display of the recent purchase of prints and recorded the developmental stages of the University College at the Pimlico site.

The Warden, Dr F. J. Olsen, said “The timely recognition of the importance of the establishment of this University College of Townsville to the educating progress of the Commonwealth is particularly gratifying.”

Reflections of 1962
H. H. Hopkins

One of the remarkable and extremely gratifying things about the new University College, in my opinion, was the speed with which it won an honoured place in the community at large.

In early 1961 only a small percentage of the Townsville population had had any contact with tertiary education or its products, apart from the learned professions. Ignorance and suspicion were normal. To very many people, in all walks of life, a past association with a university, unless it was really necessary for professional qualification, meant that the person concerned was somewhat impractical and unreliable, not to mention elitist. To many others, a university was just something remote and nothing to do with them.

In only two years, all this had largely altered. It was only a very small university community. But it quickly had a large and extensive influence. Those few students seemed to have had enormously wide family support and generated an extraordinarily wide pride. Before 1962 was out lots and lots of people were proud to claim association with a student and his aspirations or had made revised plans for their own children.

This was vividly brought home to me when I was doing a door-knock late in 1962. It seemed that in every third house there was somebody wanting to talk University to me.

This dramatic change in public attitude was not due only to contact with students. It was actually in no small part a public relations success achieved by that marvellous early staff. It made its own special contribution, too.

Prior to the University College coming to Townsville there had been a rather amateurish speculative attitude prevailing in the community about all sorts of things. It came to be realised that we now had professional expertise in our midst, on all sorts of matters; indeed in every field in which there was an appointment.

We had also a very good dose of the other two things which good university people are noted for, viz., very hard work (in the 80 hours and above of study a week class) and that marvellous thing, real academic integrity (arising out of the basic “no thesis may be overstated”). As far as I know, the early staff all had this, all 100%.

Yes, staff and students had all done a wonderful job in 1961 and 1962. I found it thrilling.
Fred McKay

Responding to a request to give one's recollections of events which happened over 20 years ago is fraught with difficulties, not the least being the imprecision of sequences and the blurring of edges by time. Several things stand out nonetheless in my memories of the relations between the University College of Townsville and the local community.

I remember the wariness with which many of the people whom I knew greeted the news that a university college was to be established in Townsville. There was even a fear that the free-wheeling, free-thinking, free-loving "academics" (a word used in a wonderfully pejorative sense in some contexts) would subvert the established lifestyle of "The North". The small band led by Frank Olsen rapidly established themselves in the local scene, however, and the sun continued to rise each morning. Their assimilation was undoubtedly accelerated by the reputation of Joe Baker as a footballer and his involvement as a coach, on the one hand, and, on the other, by the well-publicised exploits of Jon Stephenson as an Antarctic explorer. The "ordinary" North Queenslander could relate to them.

But there were some individuals, of course, who found it difficult to come to terms with this new breed of resident. Indeed I well recall that one of the prominent figures of the day publicly attacked one of the members of staff for calling himself a "doctor" when he didn't have any medical qualifications.

Townsville's adjustment to its embryo university was not without some pain, particularly during the Commem. Week activities. The painting, first of a question mark and later of a "Saint" symbol, on the face of Castle Hill was a case in point. Although some people thought it humorous most thought it to be an act of desecration against Townsville's principal identifying feature. Even the critics, however, grudgingly conceded some admiration for the perpetrators.

In those far-off days it was realised that Townsville's population was not large enough to support a university college, let alone a full university, and considerable efforts were made to publicise throughout North Queensland the advantages of having this tertiary institution in the region. Even members of staff went into the widespread northern communities to promote the University College's advantages to its potential clients. It was realised, too, that since most of the students would come from centres other than Townsville, the provision of accommodation for them had to have a high priority. Although the University of Queensland generously funded some of the property purchases, the main responsibility for the conversion of Stuart House and Duncragan - the fore-runners of University Hall - into acceptable (by the standards of the day) living accommodation for students was given to the people of North Queensland. The understandable attitude of the University of Queensland and of the Government at the time was that if North Queenslanders wanted a university then they should be prepared to support its establishment in a material way. The people and commercial and industrial establishments responded well to the appeals of the North Queensland University Association which for a short period employed a full-time fund raiser to meet the obligations it had taken upon itself as a partner with the University. I recall however the anxious moments when it was feared that the targets might not be reached. But they were met and the small band of people, dedicated to the development of a full university, grew confident that their efforts would, sooner or later, be rewarded.

The vision, faith and efforts of those people in particular are my most enduring recollections of those early days.

Creating a Great New Venture

John Saint-Smith

When a group of people bring a great new venture such as a University into existence, each of these people is likely to follow the routine of first visualising a mental picture of the finished structure. This picture appears clearly in their minds complete with all the people who are to inhabit it. The operations which are to take place in it can also be seen to be in progress and the feeling of success which these operations will bring is beginning to be felt by those who hold such a picture in their minds.

This vision continues in the minds of the planners throughout the days, months or years which are needed for construction. The building process then settles down into a persistent application of effort. During this sustained effort the mental pictures take on more detail and are gradually transferred from a plan into solid structures of brick, mortar, concrete and steel. The establishment of a new University, of course, contains also the building of a "University Spirit" encompassing an enthusiastic quest for learning and achievement which has to be created just as surely as the buildings. This is how I remember our efforts.

By 1962 the "Vision of a complete University" at Townsville which had emerged clearly as far back as 1956 was being moulded and reinforced in the minds of those leaders whose efforts have been recorded already in the booklet "Year of 1961."

But there were many obstacles still to be overcome. This "Vision of a Complete University" was being obstructed by much political pressure towards merely providing a "UNIVERSITY COLLEGE" and not developing a complete University. The Universities Commission came to Townsville. They met upstairs in the western wing with the Advisory Committee of the already established College. Most of our Committee still doubted, however, whether the commission had been convinced that a full autonomous University was needed.

This was where Dr Olsen had perhaps, the "finest hour" of his years of enthusiastic support for the development of the University which he had come north to nurture. A special session was arranged whereby he made personal contact with the Commission. We all waited in suspense and the rejoicing can well be imagined
when next morning, before the Commission departed south, word was passed around that they had been so impressed by Dr Olsen's approach that they now intended to include in their report to the Commonwealth Government, a recommendation supporting the establishment of a "University of the Tropics", to be located in Townsville!

By now the "College" was growing fast in enrolments at Pimlico and the enthusiastic staff had embarked not only on a vigorous teaching programme but also a role as ambassadors to penetrate the outlying areas of North Queensland to spread information and enthusiasm for taking advantage of the opportunity now becoming available to young people to gain professional training locally, instead of having to travel a thousand miles south to get it!

Within the University staff there were many who made contributions in the general community. We all remember different contributions. I recall that Joe Baker brought enthusiasm and interest not only in the teaching of science, but also generated a happy unity and considerable success in areas of sport particularly football, while Ted Scott attracted renown as a public lecturer both in expounding the important role of the tertiary education facilities now available and as an interesting and helpful lecturer in the field of human behaviour. His wide acceptance and assistance to industry in this regard was most valuable and would never have happened if the "College" had not begun to operate. To encourage our local efforts we all got great support from Prof. Fred Schonell who made many problems easier through his influence as Vice Chancellor of the University in Brisbane.

Enrolments increased. Senior students of North Queensland schools became interested in enrolment for the following year. While this was going on more building accommodation and teaching equipment at Pimlico brought greater efficiency and a constantly improving solidarity to the project. Underlying the whole programme vital steps were being achieved in areas of politics and finance due to the influence and hard work of men like George Roberts and Angus Smith. The site at Douglas became more and more secure as roads and stock routes "adjusted" to permit ownership of the large campus the University now occupies to be made secure. One interesting job was to bring influence to bear to have a large high tension power line relocated so that the tropical green tree lined hills which provide the backdrop to our present campus site would not be scarred forever by being cut down.

The detailed planning of our campus had now begun. As chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, I had the honour to lead a band of enthusiastic engineers, architects and other helpers, so that soon an efficient plan emerged. Aerial contour surveys were made, flood levels examined and soon the basic design which now exists in brick, concrete and steel began to emerge on paper.

As 1962 ticked over into 1963, and the new Warden Dr K. J. C. Back took over from Frank Olsen, the success we had achieved carried us forward confident that if we continued we were assured that the centre of scientific research and learning which was already deeply rooted would grow into a University of the Tropics to serve North Queensland for hundreds of years into the future.

The year of 1962? The memories are somewhat blurred with regard to specifics, but there are some things which are deeply etched in my mind. The excitement of events already achieved; the expectation of greater things to come!

One of the nicest memories I cherish is that of Dr Frank Olsen, who was entrusted with the daunting task of getting the fledgling University College on its infant's feet. Gentle, kindly, scholarly Dr Olsen, appointed by the "Mother" Queensland University was very much in the hot seat, and was oftentimes the target of sharp questioning from the Advisory Committee as to why bigger and better things were not happening more quickly. They concerned mostly matters pertaining to more funding, over which, of course, Dr Olsen had no control. But the "Priestleys", the "Roberts’s" and the "Saint-Smiths" of Townsville were men with a mission and in a hurry. Hardly had the concrete on the Pimlico site dried out when there was persistent clamouring for the new site at Douglas to be developed.

Thanks to the foresight of Mr Angus Smith, George Roberts and other aldermen of that time the magnificent Douglas site had been acquired, and became the chief bargaining weapon with the Queensland Government. Oftentimes my sympathies were with Dr Olsen when he was under siege, as I felt the "New Site" were years ahead of their time and asking for the impossible. How wrong I was! I feel certain that Dr Olsen would also have been satisfied that he was made a punching bag to such good purpose.

My memories of my association with the Advisory Committee, and the various sub-committees on which I served — Buildings and Grounds, Library, Stuart House — are happy ones indeed. I was struck with the high standard of debate, always of a constructive nature, mostly harmonious, rarely acrimonious. From the inception there was a splendid working relationship between "Town and Gown", with a nice mix of splendid academics such as Dr Olsen, Dr Joe Baker and Ian Moles, with equally splendid civic-minded men such as Tom Priestley, George Roberts, John Saint-Smith and others too many to enumerate. The enthusiasm and drive of Tom Priestley and others was completely intoxicating and contagious.

I recall very vividly an early visit — and I can't remember how many years I am jumping — of some members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee under the guidance of Tom Priestley, to the now Douglas site. After travelling as far as possible in a four-wheel drive we walked for some hours through spear grass as high as our heads and scaled the hill on the western boundary behind which now stands St Raphael’s College, until we could get a view of the sea. From that vantage point Tom Priestley, in prophetic language, unfolded the vision splendid of the things that lay ahead. We all of us, thank God, including dear old Tom, lived to see his dream realised.

I recall, too, the many meetings of the Stuart House Committee under the skilled and sensible guidance of Ian Moles. Stuart House was a vivid reminder of Townsville's war-time connection. Ian Moles was a splendid choice as mentor and...
'locum parentis' to the young undergraduates. Amenities were few, but I feel certain that the young men who lived and worked under such spartan conditions, were the better for it.

The year 1962 was a year of consolidation as well as growth, just one more link in what was to become a glorious chain of educational and civic achievement. An honoured year for “Town and Gown!” As a nobody of 1962 I salute my confreres and the end result — James Cook University of North Queensland. Prospere, Procede et regna!

CAREERS IN CAMEO...
The year of 1962 forms a watershed in my life: in that year I undertook an activity (preparation for entrance to the engineering profession) of major importance with long term significance that was completely different from anything any other member of my family, a relative or friend had done, and I met Joan.

I enjoyed two years at the University College before transferring to St Lucia where I completed a BE(Elec.) from the University of Queensland in 1965. In 1966 I returned to join the Townsville Regional Electricity Board. Joan Izatt (Pharmacy I, 1962) and I were married that year. In 1968 our first daughter, Fiona, named after a relative of my family, a relative or friend had done, and I met Joan. In 1970 we travelled to the United Kingdom where I worked for a firm of international consulting engineers. Our second daughter, Karen, was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1973. We returned to Australia in 1974 to take up an appointment with the State Electricity Commission of Queensland, in Brisbane. In 1982 I transferred to SEQEB where I am currently the head of the Development Investigations Department. During this period I have taken an active role in the activities of the engineering profession through membership and committee work for the Association of Professional Engineers, Australia and the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Although I was not conscious of it at the time—maybe I was too involved in what I was doing or simply philosophy is not the province of youth, in 1962 I was shown how to think as well as act. In that year I was exposed to a classical Confucian learning experience orchestrated by a small group of people whose interpersonal communication skills would make Berne envious. I quickly learned that there are three types of people in the world:

- those who think,
- those who think they do, and
- those who think, and do. Thankfully several of the last-mentioned group had found their way to Pimlico.

My lasting impressions of the College in 1962 are that it contained a group of personable, self motivated, extremely capable people who were aware of the necessity to establish the College as a place of learning, and were conscious of the long-term benefits that would flow to North Queensland from the College becoming an integral part of the community.

The College was relatively new but Characters and Institutions soon established themselves. In retrospect I am deeply indebted to the College founding fathers, in particular the late Mr H. T. Priestley, and to all the staff members especially J. T. (Joe) Baker, K. P. Stark, Les Power (an untimely and truly sad loss), Baden Best, and Killjoy—I cannot recall whether that was his name or his nature.

It has not escaped my notice that many people from the North and in particular those who passed through the College, have prospered in their chosen professions and in the community. Indeed I have often remarked on this to friends from Brisbane who reply: If the North is so good why don’t you all go back there and give us a chance. 1962, fond memories.

E. J. (Joe) Abercrombie

In those first few weeks life didn’t seem to be too much different from my previous year at the local high school. The buildings seem to have been built along similar lines—the egg crate approach to architecture had been maintained and we dutifully attended classes on time. The old “uniform” had been changed slightly, the matching colours of our shirts and blouses had disappeared. Some even put their shoes away and wore sandals and thongs.

Many of those faces were also familiar. Hadn’t I competed against you at last year’s North Queensland Athletic carnival? Yes, we were a familiar group, and I guess looking back a fairly unique group. With little tradition of what tertiary education was all about, we came together—mainly North Queenslanders to start that path to a professional career.

Although we were few in numbers and class sizes seemed reasonable, the challenge of being responsible for our own learning and management of time became very daunting at times. It was perhaps an advantage to live in at a college for those reasons—the opportunity to work closely with one’s friends during those uncertain academic times. The dedication of the small but talented academic staff made the task somewhat easier. However there was little tradition to cling to—the library and student support services were by today’s standards very meagre. Instrumentation in laboratories was basic and small scale. It is perhaps in these areas that beginning students of the Townsville University College were greatly disadvantaged when compared to their southern counterparts.

Although physically separated from the University of Queensland, there was an expectation that students would be the ‘same’ at the end of each year. The assessment procedures seemed to be dominated by “big brother” down south. To any North Queenslander this seemed a bit too much at times.

What was it that made those beginning years so memorable? It was the people. We were a large family with academic staff and students being equal members. Frank Olsen, “the Warden of the College” wasn’t too proud to share your doubts. But like it or not the “Saints” had arrived. Castle Hill was never the same again.

People were interested in each other and the support structures of playing and studying together made the College a pleasant challenging place to be.

The City of Townsville received the introduction of tertiary education fairly openly. The “Commem Procession” down Flinders Street did leave them with some doubts. But like it or not the “Saints” had arrived. Castle Hill was never the same again.

Although it wasn’t apparent at the time, the opportunities which a successful
tertiary education afforded now appear to be unlimited. Those first graduates are now making their presence felt across all areas of life throughout Australia. This is a reflection of something worthwhile back in 1962. To the Townsville University College, thank you for the memory. May you continue to flourish.

Warren Beasley

J.R.B. commenced his tertiary studies at the University College of Townsville in 1962 after completing his previous education in Cairns and the Atherton Tableland. His principal tertiary interest was chemistry, and he completed a BSc degree with a chemistry major at the University College in 1964.

In the final year of his undergraduate studies, J.R.B. developed a particular interest in the chemistry of polymeric materials and decided to pursue further studies in this area. At that time the Townsville University College had limited relevant facilities for such studies, it was necessary to transfer to the Chemistry Department at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, where he completed a physical chemistry honours degree in 1965 in the polymer field.

In the period 1966-69, J.R.B. completed a PhD degree in the Physical Chemistry Department at the University of Queensland under the supervision of Dr J. H. (Jim) O'Donnell. The subject matter of the study was the high-energy radiation sensitivity of polysulfone polymers. This research has resulted in an important role for poly (butene-1 sulfone) as a positive electron resist in the manufacture of microcircuitry, and numerous publications on the commercialization of the radiation sensitivity of poly (olefin sulfones) cite his original work in this area.

J.R.B. joined the Organic Chemistry Division of the Materials Research Laboratories (MRL) in Melbourne in 1970 as a Research Scientist. These Laboratories form part of the Defence Science and Technology Organization within the Defence Department, and their principal function is to provide scientific and technical support to the Australian Defence Force.

J.R.B. spent some time in 1979 as a visiting scientist at various military research establishments in the USA, including the Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratories, Dayton, Oh., Naval Research Laboratories, Washington, D.C. and the Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center, Boston, Mass.

J.R.B. is presently a Principal Research Scientist and Head of the Polymer Research Group at MRL. This group undertakes basic objective research into the applications of advanced organic materials in defence equipment and the performance of these materials in the Service environment. The group has two sections, the Advanced Materials Section and the Degradation Research Section. The former is concerned with the performance, characterization and modification of novel materials such as fibre-reinforced composites, transparent laminates and specialty epoxy resins. The Degradation Research Section is concerned with studies of degradation processes in organic materials in service and the development of new methods for both assessing and preventing the degradation of these materials.

J.R.B. and his wife, Bronwyn, have two children and live in Doncaster in suburban Melbourne. He has members of his family in Brisbane, Ayr, Townsville and the Atherton Tableland and manages to spend a few weeks each year with his family in North Queensland, which he still regards as home.

J. R. Brown

Even though the age of adulthood has long since ceased to be 21, there seems to be still an aura surrounding a 21st birthday. It is perhaps just as well that it does, else we would not have occasion to look back and reflect on what has become of the 21 years since the “birth” of the Class of ’62.

The bare bones of one’s history lack the meat of the detail, but the bare bones are these: in 1962 I arrived at the University College (Pimlico) not having any idea of what tertiary education was but with a Teacher’s Scholarship under my arm to pay the bills and a desire to be a science teacher, specialising in physics. It took less than one year for the budding physicist to become a chemist and about three years for the budding teacher to aspire to become a research scientist.

The College was able to grow at just a sufficient rate so that I was able to complete my Honours year there and become one of the early PhD graduates. During this time I married and my wife Isabel (nee Popham) also became part of the University community when she was secretary to Professor Ward.

Rod Froyland
Unfortunately I have not seen many of my fellow students from those days very often in the intervening years but gladly the few that I do see remain firm friends. Peter Murphy, Ray and Tricia (nee Kemball) Jones, Warren Beasley, come to mind immediately.

As I wrote on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the "Year of 1962"... "the College lacked the sophistication and adversity of experience that I am led to believe is the hallmark of 'grander' established institutions but we all had a grand time... and an unequalled quality of instruction and personal attention". It is a joy to be able even now to visit the Chemistry Department and meet the same friendly faces.

Two years post doctoral experience in Ottawa, Canada, was an unforgettable personal experience - an opportunity to pursue new interests, to meet new friends and experience a different society. On my return to Australia I was fortunate to spend 18 months in Joe Baker's laboratory at J.C.U. researching amongst other things ciguatera poisoning.

This was, as I now look back on it, an important stage of my transformation from a natural products chemist to a food chemist (although foods are natural products, aren't they?). Since 1974 I have lectured in food chemistry in the Department of Food Studies, Queensland Agricultural College, where my special interests have been the effects of processing on nutrients. Food technology is a fascinating area well worth the attention of chemists seeking an interesting and secure career. It is unfortunate that the popular misconceptions surrounding processed foods hide from general view the large amount of sophisticated applied science which combines to ensure a high-quality food supply.

Whilst the area of chemistry in which I work is far removed from the 'pure chemistry' of my James Cook degree studies, I like to think that the attitudes and ability to think developed at that time have a lasting effect.

Geoff Hawes

The year 1962 was a wonderful year for me; I remember it with much pleasure. At Stuart House, where I stayed, there was a tremendous feeling of unity that I shall always remember.

It was during this year that I chose my career: lecturing in mathematics. I moved to Brisbane to do an honours degree in mathematics, then to Monash University to do a PhD; later at Monash I became a mathematics lecturer, senior lecturer and just a few weeks ago a reader. Such a career involves travel if one chooses, and I have enjoyed a stay in Scotland and several stays in the U.S., where I have many research colleagues to collaborate with on my main interest, semigroup theory, a branch of algebra. My wife, Sol, researches in biochemistry at Monash, and we have two children, Kathryn, 10 and Ross, 8.

T. E. Hall

Surprisingly, none of the formal training obtained by either of us from university is used in our present occupations. Pure chemistry knowledge is of little use for what is euphemistically known as domestic duties, child chauffeuring and involvement in school activities or for the examining of patent applications in medical technology. However the academic qualifications have developed an inquiring mind and have allowed for travel and the gaining of positions which have led to meeting people not generally encountered in everyday life and to make intriguing observations of peers (would you really employ that professor if it were your money) and lesser mortals (go to a school tuck shop meeting or watch a public servant try to make an independent decision).

After Townsville, we spent periods in universities in the U.S.A. and Canada before returning to Sydney, via England and Townsville, and thence to Canberra. During these periods, Mark, Paul and Stephen appeared. In the U.S.A., Tricia made her one and only use of her chemical training by working as an analyst to obtain money for fares ("But Mrs Jones, your analytical figures do not agree with our calculated values"). She has since retired to be a full-time mother and uses her superior knowledge to inject some rationality into neighbourhood affairs. We were in North America at the same time as friends from Townsville - Geoff Hawes, Peter Murphy, Martin Tait and Merv Litzow - who were doing much the same as us. This made for mutual cheap accommodation when travelling.

Ray has retired from rational thinking and joined the public service. However, before this, a higher degree did enable him to meet many leading scientists. Probably...
the highlight was talking with Linus Pauling at Sydney University. Organization of seminars at the Australian National University allowed contact with top Australian and foreign scientists. These contacts were not available in Townsville and, because of isolation, probably never will be on an extensive basis.

Opting out of science has not caused any withdrawal symptoms. From an observation of many systems, Australian science and technology, except for isolated pockets is weak. There has never been a policy or a mode for implementation. It is hoped the more pragmatic will rectify this deficiency perhaps, initially, by isolating the nepotic appointments and the rejects of the British universities of the 1960's from our institutions and starting from a fresh strong base.

**Tricia (Kemball) and Ray Jones**

In 1962, as a very new graduate, I arrived back in Townsville to teach physics and maths at St Anne's. Four years' study had done little for my spirit of enquiry but the presence of a University College at Pimlico allowed me to enrol in my favourite subject. Thus it was that I became a member of the English I evening class, the most enjoyable lectures I have ever attended.

The class was great fun because of the enthusiasm of the students. Many had trained professionally, as it was possible to do in those days, without previous access to tertiary education. Librarians, priests, solicitors, one-year trained teachers and others gathered, not only at the lectures but at voluntary discussions. Typical of the group was a senior and much respected solicitor, Mr Doug Suthers. Regardless of how busy his legal firm was, Doug always arrived with his phonetics 'homework' done and concise arguments for the accuracy of his answers. These students restored my belief in education as a life-long process and in the subsequent twenty years I've tried to keep learning.

My second contact with the College in that year was almost accidental, given the administrative procedures of the time. My Professor from Brisbane, D.W. McElwain, arranged with Dr Olsen for me to sit a fourth year honours exam at the College. This was part requirement for MSc Qualifying for which it was necessary to have a supervisor. There was only one other qualified psychologist in town, Dr Ted Scott, newly arrived head of Education, willingly agreed to this extra task amidst what must have been formidable demands upon his time as an educator, administrator and citizen in a town lacking many support systems which now exist. Townsville owes a great deal to his professional integrity and dedicated service, not only to the University but in the wider community. As an internationally acclaimed educational authority, he has always given time to individual students and I, for one, am indebted to him.

Apart from the influence of people such as these, the invaluable addition to life in Townsville was the College library. In the immediate post-war years, the Municipal Library occupied one room on the second floor of the Town Hall building. Adult education and school libraries consisted of a few hundred books at

1962 was a year I remember fondly. It was the year in which I commenced tertiary studies when enrolling in Medicine I at the James Cook University — the Townsville University College as it was then known.

Perhaps the most outstanding recollection I have of the University at that time, is the fellowship that existed — fellowship both among students and between students and staff. Such friendship was no doubt aided by the size of the classes. Medicine I in 1962 had an enrolment of five (5) students. Also, there were composite lecture classes, and this enabled students from various faculties to become acquainted. This was in contrast to the cellular academic life I was to find when leaving the University in Townsville to continue the medical course at the University of Queensland in Brisbane.

In comparison with the James Cook University of today, the University in 1962 was small in both structure and student members. In spite of that, the students in 1962 were well catered for in both academic and recreational pursuits. Although the University was only in its second year of existence and had relatively fewer numbers to call on, it had already established a reputation for itself in sporting competitions in the Townsville district. Achievements in Rugby League and Hockey were two examples of this.

In 1962, as now, the Townsville University catered for the first year only in the Faculty of Medicine. The transition from a class of five (5) students in Medicine I at Townsville, to student numbers in excess of two hundred in Medicine II at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, was not easy.

Having spent only the one year at Townsville University before continuing studies at Queensland University, I found that contact with other students from Townsville, apart from medical colleagues, was sporadic. Following graduation in 1969, I spent my first year as a Resident Medical Officer at the Mater Hospital, Brisbane, before moving to Maryborough (Queensland) Base Hospital as a second-year Resident Medical Officer. I then entered private general practice in Maryborough where I remained until 1981. Having spent so much time in southern Queensland, my contact with former students of the Townsville University was very rare.

Since returning to North Queensland in 1981, I have been in contact with some of my Townsville colleagues. I have had the opportunity of seeing the developments at the James Cook University. I hope the spirit that existed in 1962 still pervades the much more elaborate structure of the University.

**Jacqueline Kearney**

**Bob Lanskey**
The organisational and academic skills developed in my year at the then Townsville University College founded my career in education. I have taught at country and city schools in Queensland and Britain. As part of my Queensland service, I spent seven years as Subject Mistress in History and Citizenship Education. I relinquished this position to marry and produce two sons though I continued to teach.

The commitment to education generated in my University days manifested itself in the following:

- Service as Secretary of the Queensland History Teachers' Association
- A short period on the Advisory Committee of Social Science to the Board of Secondary School Studies
- Membership of the Department of Education Inservice Education Committee
- Membership of the initial Queensland Karmel Innovations Committee where I also acted as a consultant
- Continued involvement in review panels

In 1982, with co-authors Joe Eshuys and Vic Guest, I had published Discovering the Past, a history text for first year high school students. This is the first of three books in the series Tracing the Past published by Jacaranda Press. The second book Tradition and Change is to be released this year.

At present, I am teaching at Noosa District State High School. Though I have lost touch with the members of my year who are scattered around the country, I retain fond memories of the educational, social, sporting and religious experiences at Townsville University College and hope that the great University which has emerged out of our tiny beginnings has continued to give as much to its students as the Townsville University College gave to us.

Judith Mons Lawrence (nee Daveson)

I think I was lucky in the opportunities presented at the University College of Townsville in the years I was there. I thoroughly enjoyed the involvement in the Students Union in the first two years and my academic record certainly benefited from being the only full-time day student in third year, although the negative side of that was all evening lectures. Even so the classes were very small and we had very close contact with staff. It came as quite a shock, therefore, when I arrived at the University of NSW (so large and impersonal) to begin a Diploma in Librarianship — a result of the part-time work I had done in the College library. I did my Diploma as a cadet of the National Library in Canberra where I worked for several months after its completion. I then returned to Townsville. I was working in the College Library when the first move was made across the river. I remained at Pimlico with the Science and Engineering sections.

That experience helped me get a job in the University of London Institute of Computer Science in 1967 where I worked as the Librarian for two years. During that time I met and married an engineer who like others in that field has transferred to computers. I have remained associated with the computer industry ever since.

These days we have a computer software company specialising in computer aided drafting/design software. I have heard of some of the engineers from Townsville through the business.

This year saw my return to the hockey field (on the sidelines as a parent). Fortunately, my sons decided (with no help from me) that they would like to play hockey. I am enjoying the game once again.

I am still studying. In recent years I have been doing a part-time Masters Qualifying in History, with an interest in sixteenth century England, London in particular. This field of interest was arrived at accidentally but combines the basic interest in history from my degree and an interest in the London Livery Companies brought to me by my husband.

My life these days is full and varied — thanks in no small way to the years I spent as both student and staff member at Townsville.

Bev McLean

1962 ... It seems so long ago. It doesn't stand out sharply in my memory since it wasn't a pivotal year in my life. I was back having a second go at First Year Science, hardly any more mature and having learned very little from the experience.

On closer analysis, 1962 was a year of uncertainty, some unemployment and Sydney commuting, we returned to Townsville. I am back at James Cook, began my career in marine natural products, and met and married my wife. We moved to Sydney where I spent some madly exciting and productive years at the Roeh Research Institute of Marine Pharmacology until its closure in 1981.

After a year of uncertainty, some unemployment and Sydney commuting, we returned to Townsville. I am back at James Cook in Joe Baker's new Centre for Tropical Marine Studies, certainly older, possibly wiser. While my fellow students of 1962 are sending their children off to high school and university, my two children haven't begun kindergarten yet (I always was a slow starter).

One of the lasting legacies of 1962 was the friendships which have endured the intervening years and the distances. The Convocation Dinner last year was a good dose of nostalgia, remembering the faces and the names while not always being able to put them together.

I certainly don't pine for 1962 and lost youth. I'd hate to have to go through all that again, at least without a guarantee I'd do it better this time. My life in 1983 is a much happier and more satisfying one. I look forward to the next twenty years.

Peter Murphy
The year 1962 was half my life ago; it certainly impacted on the second half because it was in that year that I at last found a course which led to my present pursuits.

The period is remembered not so much for the specifics of what I was taught, but more for learning the basics of how to think, in particular, the “scientific method” which proves so useful for problem solving in many walks of life.

My period at the then University College of Townsville concentrated on chemistry, and I have maintained that interest with the current position as Chief Geochemist of Geopeko, the exploration division of Peko-Wallsend Limited. Geopeko had long been active in the Northern Territory and had found the gold-copper-bismuth mines at Warrego, Juno, Gecko, Ivanhoe and Orlando in the Tennant Creek field and the Ranger One uranium mine east of Darwin just before I joined.

These activities led to exposure to a whole host of issues such as Aboriginal Land Rights, uranium mining, ownership of minerals, royalties, national parks, environmental impacts, etc. While these words are familiar today, we were breaking a lot of new ground ten years ago and little Geopeko seemed to be at the forefront of many.

In many respects, we have failed to deal adequately with these challenges, with the result that both the national interest and the corporate interest is not best served. There seem to be two reasons for this, both involving education. First, how can you educate people who make decisions in these areas? A wide range of skills is called for, including law, economics, administration, archaeology, geology, mining, international trade, botany, biology, and many others. Second, how do you educate people who wish to interfere with these processes? There are many who believe that drilling for oil on the Barrier Reef is sinful; many know naught of the issues and cannot make a reasoned judgement. I would venture that many who protest have seen neither an oil rig nor the Reef proper.

In terms of the future as I see it from my chosen profession, the whole of the education system in Australia requires a big re-think. We are increasingly turning out students who cannot express themselves well, are poor in literacy and numeracy, are long on emotion, rights and soft cuddly creatures. As a result, Australia grows poorer as the core of people who contribute to national prosperity dwindles and the result that both the national interest and the corporate interest is not best served.

1962 pushed me into being a part of that sustaining core. I am sorry that so few have followed in the two decades since.

G.A. Sherrington

After two years at T.U.C. Stuart House, two years were spent at the St Lucia campus, resident at Kings College with graduation BE (electrical) in April, 1966. Joe Abercrombie was also at Kings in those years graduating at the same time.

An Associated Electrical Industries graduate fellowship took Graham to Britain for 18 months after graduation to work in the British electrical manufacturing industry, starting after a delightful sea voyage at a large power transformer factory outside Manchester on 6.6.66. Des Pane, wife Jan, and Ian MacDonald of Stuart House fame arrived on similar fellowships a year or so later. (Des is building power stations with Q.E.G.B. and Ian is Chief Engineer of a packaging company in Melbourne.)

Following adventures in Europe, North America and Mexico, Graham arrived back in Australia with 10 cents and a ticket to Cairns and swiftly joined the Northern Electric Authority of Qld in Townsville as a Substation Project Engineer in 1968. In 1971 he joined T.R.E.B. as Power System Planning and Tariffs Engineer.

With formation of NORQEB he went to Mt Isa in engineering management as Supply Engineer, Western Region for NORQEB, incorporating the North Western Electric Authority and Boulia and Burke Shire electric undertakings into the new organisation. Since that time he has been happily resident in Mt Isa with wife Dorothy and three children, Glenn 8, Evan 6 and Bronwyn 4, looking after electricity supply in the north western quarter of Queensland from Hughenden/Winton west.

Year of 62 engineers may remember Jim Edmonds now resident in Mt Isa as Power Stations Maintenance Superintendent and Alan Peiniger, power system analyst with M.I.M. in Brisbane. Ted Fulton was a metallurgist with Mary Kathleen and is now with Ranger in the Northern Territory.

Graham Stephens

When requested to contribute to the planned publication “Year of 1962”, a flood of memorabilia engulfed me. At that stage of its infancy, the staff and students of James Cook University (College, in those days) were of one accord, all concerned with learning. Twenty-three years later, with hindsight, it was the beginning of a new way of life for all concerned. The high percentage of '62 students, who have since become leaders in their respective fields, is proof of the quality and standards required by those “pioneers of the academic staff” of not only their students, but of themselves.

Today, as one of those students, I would like to express the sincere gratitude of the “Class of '62” to James Cook University for preparing us for the work-a-day world. As one of the few who enjoyed complete “job satisfaction” later in my working life, I can honestly say – “I owe it all to J.C.U.”

Lou Sumner
A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP...

Appointment of New Warden Dr K.J.C. Back MSc PhD Qld

In December 1962 Professor Sir Fred Schonell, Vice-Chancellor of University of Queensland announced that Dr Ken Back had been appointed the new Warden of the University College of Townsville.

Dr Back graduated at the University of Sydney as Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours. He was appointed Lecturer in Bacteriology at Queensland University and was subsequently awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. At the time of his appointment to Townsville University College Dr Back was Senior Lecturer in Bacteriology.

The University community enthusiastically welcomed the new Warden. Sir Fred Schonell stated that Dr Back would be a vigorous leader of the rapidly developing University College.

(Left to right) Mr K.P. Stark, Mr J.R. Strugnell, Mr D.R. Hainsworth and Dr K.J.C. Back
(Arch Fraley Photo)
Dr Frank Olsen spent two years in North Queensland as the first Warden of the University College of Townsville. On December 7, 1962, he relinquished his post and returned to Brisbane to take up his former position as Director of External Studies at the University of Queensland. On the eve of his departure Dr Olsen spoke of the College's progress and foreshadowed future developments.

He said that the choice of Townsville as the site for the College had been completely vindicated by the generous support of the people of North Queensland. Student numbers had exceeded all preliminary estimates. Temporary lecture rooms and laboratories in the Refectory building had enabled the College to cope in 1962 and the completion of the fourth wing would ensure adequate accommodation for 1963.

Dr Olsen paid high tribute to all who had been involved with the planning and construction of the buildings saying that many southern visitors had commented more than favourably. The items of equipment provided in the laboratories were of first class standard and no students had been disadvantaged by attending practical classes at Townsville instead of in the South. Arrangements were being made to accommodate a further 50 residential students in 1963 by leasing the former Mater Hospital in West End and furnishing it as an annexe of Stuart House.

Speaking of the future, Dr Olsen said that the range of subjects taught at the College would be progressively broadened. In addition it was probable that a number of special courses such as Marine Biology, Tropical Agriculture and Veterinary Science would be introduced. He predicted that as more degree courses were established, more students from South East Asia would be attracted and in this way the College would make a valuable contribution to the educational needs of our neighbours. Time has shown that his predictions were correct.

Dr Olsen paid a final tribute to the people of North Queensland and asked them to give to the new Warden the same measure of friendly support and encouragement as they had given to him.

Dr Olsen did not confine himself to his heavy administrative duties. He was personally interested in the students' activities, acting as their friend and advisor and attending most of their functions. His encouragement was greatly appreciated by the students.

We pay warm tribute to him for his great dedication and hard work during those difficult first two years. His portrait hangs in a place of honour in the Council Chamber of James Cook University.