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UWS NEPEAN LECTURE SERIES VOLUME 1 1991 - 1992
MALING OODGEROO O'SHANE ROZZOLI DEVESON

Series 675

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UWS Nepean Lecture Series Volume 1 (1991-92)



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
Nepean



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INTRODUCTION

REACHING THE COMMUNITY

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write the foreword for this publication. This small book contains the Nepean Lectures delivered in the first two years of the series life, 1991-1992.

Planning for the series began in 1990 under my chairmanship with a small group of staff primarily from the Faculty of Education. This initial committee, and a small community advisory committee, gave shape to the series. Funding was provided and the Nepean Lecture Series was launched with the first address by the Chief Executive of UWS Nepean, Professor Jillian Maling on the 14th August, 1991. Her talk, quite appropriately, was titled "Levelling the Ivory Tower." This title in essence summed up the original sentiment of the planning committee for the series. We did not want a series of lectures simply offered by the university community for the university community. Rather, we wanted to break down the barriers between the university and the community and in the process, to allow (indeed encourage) a variety of community groups to come together to discuss issues of relevance to Western Sydney.

Since our first lecture, just over two years ago, we have sought to bring a variety of well known people to talk about an equally varied list of topics. Our concern throughout has been to provide a series which reflects the diversity of our region and its people. The first lecture as I have indicated was from a leading educator, the second was delivered by Oodgeroo of the tribe Noonuccal who spoke of her life and work as an Aboriginal Australian. The third lecture was delivered by Pat O'Shane and was concerned with issues of social justice. Our fourth lecture was concerned with the Hawkesbury/Nepean river system and was delivered by Kevin Rozzoli. Finally the fifth lecture in the period 1991-1992 was presented by Anne Deveson and was concerned with the portrayal of women in the media.

The diversity present in these first five lectures does indeed reflect the diversity of Western Sydney's people and needs. Our hope is that the publication of the Nepean lectures will enable further discussion and dialogue concerning these important topics. We also hope that those who read these lectures might be encouraged to attend future Nepean Lectures. We trust that you enjoy reading the papers presented in this book and that you will continue to support the Nepean Lecture Series.



Associate Professor Trevor Cairney
Chairman
Nepean Lecture Series

LEVELLING THE IVORY TOWER UWS NEPEAN'S COMMUNITY ROLE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

TO LIVE IN AN "IVORY TOWER" is to live in seclusion, divorced from everyday life, it is to live a life that excludes the harsh realities of the outside world. The phrase was particularly prevalent in French literary circles in the 18th Century and was associated with Alfred de Vigny (1797-1863) of whom contemporaries often said that he shut himself up in an ivory tower.

The phrase "Ivory Tower" in some ways associated with the "Gates of Dreams" of Greek mythology - there were two of these - one of ivory and one of horn. Dreams which "deluded" passed through the ivory gate; those which came true passed through the gate of horn. The base of the myth is a pun: "ivory" in Greek is "elephas" while the verb "elephairo" means "to cheat with empty hopes" and the Greek for "horn" is karas while the verb "karamoo" means "to accomplish".

Something of that ancient Greek meaning was caught up in 18th Century France in the phrase "Ivory Towers". It has since come to be applied frequently to academic institutions and, of course, suggesting that there is a large abyss between them and the real world; that they are divorced from everyday life and live in seclusion, turning their backs on the world outside. The phrase "Ivory Towers" stands in opposition to integration and service with and to the "real world" of the community.

In thinking about UWS, Nepean's community role, it is important to both have a sense of the origins of this University and of UWS, Nepean's role within it as well as some sense of the community of Western Sydney. It is surprising how rapidly one can forget the number of years for which various groups, individuals and staff and students at UWS, Nepean and elsewhere worked, fought and argued for a University to be established in Western Sydney.

The origins of UWS

In some ways the first review that addressed the issues of a University for Western Sydney resulted in the establishment of Macquarie University at Ryde almost 25 years ago. One of the alternative sites considered at that time was Campbelltown. About that time, interestingly enough, most of the land which now comprises Kingswood, Werrington North and South sites of UWS, Nepean were set aside for higher education/tertiary education purposes. Minutes of the Penrith City Council meeting will indicate that even then this city and this place had members of the community who were looking for the establishment of a University.

"CHIFLEY WAS TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ON NORTH WERRINGTON ...SEPARATE...FROM NEPEAN CAE."

In 1982 the then Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission conducted a major review of higher education places per head of population across Australia. What emerged would not be surprising to anyone in the West and the South-West of Sydney, viz. that the allocation of places per head of population was the lowest in the country. That review, in turn, eventually led to several others. One of the more significant, chaired by Mr Ron Parry of the NSW Higher Education Board, came out in December 1985 and recommended the establishment of a multi-campus institution, including both Nepean's campuses and those of Hawkesbury. When I arrived here in 1986 that Report was still under consideration for implementation. Later another review was established known as the University of Western Sydney Advisory Council holding its first meeting at the Kingswood campus of Nepean CAE and yet excluding from membership or presence at that meeting any representation from Nepean or, for that matter, Macarthur and Hawkesbury. Out of the deliberations of that Committee, there emerged the legislation for the establishment of Chifley University College under the aegis of the University of Sydney. I was a member of the Governing Board of Chifley and there were others on that Board from Nepean CAE's Council. Chifley was to have been established on North Werrington as an entirely separate institution from Nepean CAE. I sketch this process not only to remind you of the development and evolution of this University, but also to draw attention to the long period under which the future of Nepean CAE - either at Kingswood or Westmead - was in doubt. It is in that context that I am glad to say that the Council of Nepean CAE consistently held two positions : one was to do whatever it could to argue and support the development of a University in Western Sydney; the second was to take steps to ensure that Nepean was eventually part of that University. In connection with the latter, sometimes the achievement of the goal seemed very remote indeed. I recall that during the discussions associated with the formation of Chifley University College the year 2002 was at one stage suggested as an appropriate date for the merger of Chifley University - as it was thought it would then be - with Nepean CAE. (One of the major factors in considering possible dates was the estimated relative size of the two institutions.)

During the period of development of Chifley University College aspects of development at Nepean CAE were simply frozen. Capital, in particular, was put on hold and what became increasingly apparent was that the development of Chifley would lead to a significant overlap within areas in which Nepean was already conducting courses. Given the relative diversity of Nepean's profile, it was extremely difficult to avoid that happening.

Partly due to concerns of that kind, partly due to changes in Government Policy signalled in the Dawkins' "Green Paper", which became available in December 1987, the issue of Nepean CAE's relationship to Chifley University College, and to the development of a University in Western Sydney, once again became the subject of a Review Committee. The "Green Paper", as it is commonly known, argued that contiguous institutions should, in fact, be merged irrespective of their size and of their origin as part of the traditional University system of Australia or Colleges of Advanced Education. I can remember sitting through a fascinating meeting when it was actually argued that, given the Great Western Highway, Werrington and Kingswood were not contiguous. It now seems a very odd position to have argued. However, once again another Review Committee was established in June 1988 - this time a Joint State/Commonwealth one which was due to report in August of that year. Its Report did become available at about

"AT ONE STAGE... UTS PROPOSED IT SHOULD TAKE OVER THE INCIPIENT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY..."

the beginning of August. Initially however the Report was not available to those of us at Nepean CAE who are clearly among those likely to be directly affected by its contents. There followed a series of further manoeuvres and discussions. At one stage, for example, UTS proposed that it should take over the incipient University of Western Sydney, re-locating its Headquarters from Broadway to Werrington. If that was not startling enough, think of the proposal put forward in September 1988 by the then Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, Dr Metherell suggesting the formation of a mega University of Sydney which would incorporate the present campuses of the University of Sydney, those of the Nepean CAE, the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and the new site at Werrington. Advocates saw the idea as providing a top quality education with academic credibility in Western Sydney.

This model will provide access to the highest standard of University education and the academic strength of Sydney University will help establish an immediate international reputation for the University campuses in the West.

Others were not so enthusiastic. There was a great deal of comment in the local press about the importance of Western Sydney having its own autonomous institution. Something of that feeling was reflected by a Press Release put out by Federal Members, Ross Free (Lindsay) and Roger Price (Chifley), together with the State MP, Tony Aquilina (Mulgoa). They said that the Metherell Plan should be rejected for three major reasons:

- First, it abandons forever the objectives of regional identity and local autonomy.
- Second, it will create tensions between the three existing institutions.
- Third, it flies in the face of carefully considered advice contained in the Report of the Joint Working Party.

Dr. Metherell's Plan for a mega Sydney University would, on the other hand, be bad for the region, bad for Sydney University and bad for the existing Colleges.

That Press Release was dated 5 September 1988. Sydney University Senate rejected the proposal shortly after.

There followed further negotiations between the University of Sydney and Nepean CAE, with Hawkesbury Agricultural College of Advanced Education increasingly joining in those negotiations. Eventually a Heads of Agreement between the three institutions was signed, not without controversy at both the Senate of the University of Sydney and in the Councils of both Hawkesbury and of Nepean CAE. I know that in the case of Nepean CAE, Council not only took some time to consider the Heads of Agreement, but finally approved the proposal by a margin of one vote. You might well ask why. Essentially members of Council emphasised the importance of any University established in Western Sydney being one which not only understood and responded to the needs of the region but was also seen as part of it. There was some concern among Council Members and the local community as to whether the University of Sydney, established many years ago with a very different clientele and based within the Central Business District

**"...THE LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHED THE
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY... WAS
PASSED BY PARLIAMENT IN DECEMBER OF 1988."**

of Sydney, did, or indeed could, appreciate the regional differences of Western Sydney. Was not conflict of interest inevitable? And given that, was the University of Sydney the best University to be associated with the development of a "new" University for Western Sydney.

Nevertheless, the Legislation that established the University of Western Sydney as a Federated Network structure, incorporating Hawkesbury Agricultural College of Advanced Education and Nepean CAE was passed by Parliament in December of 1988.

Some idea of the breadth of community involvement in the establishment of the new University can be gained from Ms Pam Allan's response to the Second Reading Speech which she opened by noting that she supported the Bill because it gave an "autonomous University for Western Sydney". Ms Allan, now Shadow Opposition Minister for the Environment, commented on the extent to which the University of Western Sydney's Legislation was the product of agreement and of work by many different members of the community. She spoke of the role of leadership played by the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Council and referred back to the December 1985 WSROC Seminar which debated the issues of establishing a University and at which the Minister of the day made a brief comment that in fact it would never happen! Three years later it was happening in the House. Ms Allan noted the role of the Council of Nepean CAE: the role played by Local Government throughout Western Sydney; the active stance taken by local members of Parliament, both State and Federal, who lobbied their Ministers to ensure that the matter was given a high priority and, in particular, the consistency with which the former Deputy Premiers, Ron Mulock and Jack Ferguson, had argued for the importance of a University. She then noted that in all the argument and discussion those wanting a University in Western Sydney had been ably assisted by the print, the television and the radio media of Western Sydney. I would add too that the staff and students of Nepean CAE had themselves actively worked for the establishment of the University. Further, during 1987 and 1988 I had been surprised at the number of local groups, P and Cs, residents' action groups, groups formed to lobby for an autonomous University, had emerged in the region and become vocal on the matter. This University therefore was one that was created and owes its existence, to a significant extent, to the work of the members of the community in which it is located.

Throughout the debate on the formation of the University the issues of academic credibility and international excellence had been recurrent themes. Those of us who had been at Nepean CAE had time and time again to answer questions relating to academic standards, to the qualifications of staff, to our capacity to contribute effectively to the development of an international institution of the highest order. The emphasis on students of international excellence is clearly seen in the Premier, Mr Nick Greiner's speech at Hawkesbury Agricultural College on 21 November 1988. He put it like this -

I would like to take this opportunity to say to everyone here and people who are not here, but are intimately involved in the future of Higher Education in Western Sydney for heaven's sake let us stop us arguing now about the detail, about the formation, about the structure. Let's accept the reality..... and let all of us make sure regardless of our part in it, regardless of our role, let's all make sure that we achieve an institution which is of the highest quality, but is absolutely unashamed of

**"(WESTERN SYDNEY) REPRESENTS 36%
OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE
SYDNEY METROPOLITAN REGION."**

its "westernness" and equally as dedicated to achieving the very highest academic standards and academic standards which I might say consistent with the record of this particular institution in terms of having a practical emphasis as well as a theoretical one.

In those final words of the Premier, emphasising the practical and theoretical - the two fused into a single entity rather than seen as in opposition to each other, the University of Western Sydney has the genesis of its academic programs and of its academic direction.

The Honourable Mr Greiner's words simply echoed those of the Honourable Mr Ron Mulock, the then Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport of NSW, speaking at the Parramatta Club on 12 November 1986:

A region such as ours needs the diversity of courses, the academic excellence and the acknowledge scholastic status that only a University can offer.

and again,

we need a local and accessible University to offer our own people - young or old - the opportunity to get internationally recognised qualifications so that they themselves will be able to play a major part in determining the economic and social destiny of our Western Region

and further

we need a University so that all people in the West - students or not - can take justifiable pride in the academic and practical success of our **own** University.

Western Sydney Region

What of the region itself?

It is a large area. Greater Western Sydney occupies a large area: about 8,860 square kilometres in all. It is sufficiently large to hold within its borders both the City of Adelaide and the City of Brisbane, as well as a bit of Perth. The area represents 73% of the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Its population is more than 1,240,700. It represents 36% of the total population of the Sydney Metropolitan Region. It is, by Australian standards, a huge population. It is, of course, much larger than the population of Canberra, with two Universities, or of Tasmania with one and, in fact, is approximately equal to the population of Western Australia which presently has four Universities and to that of South Australia with three.

Some idea can be gathered from the following figures:

TABLE 1: POPULATION AND PROJECTED POPULATION

Total Western Sydney							
Auburn Penrith	Baulkham Hills Blue Mountains	Hawkesbury Liverpool	Holroyd Blacktown	Parramatta Fairfield			
1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
884,450	977,150	1,071,550	1,192,000	1,302,000	1,411,500	1,520,500	1,627,500
Total South Western Sydney							
Camden	Campbelltown		Wollondilly				
1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
84,300	131,000	169,150	197,500	237,000	286,500	341,000	394,000
Total West & South West							
968,750	1,108,150	1,240,700	1,389,500	1,539,000	1,698,000	1,861,500	2,021,500
Rest of Sydney							
2,175,000	2,171,350	2,231,950	2,318,000	2,400,500	2,460,500	2,506,500	2,549,000
New South Wales							
4,959,600	5,234,900	5,531,500	5,894,000	6,247,800	6,581,100	6,892,100	7,183,500

Source:

1. Department of Planning Population Projections, Sydney Region, Local Govt Areas 1986-2011, 1988 Revision
2. ABS Census 1981 & 1976

The above Table makes it clear that not only does Western Sydney constitute a large proportion of the population of Sydney in 1991, but that proportion increases by the year 2011.

The region not only has a large population, but it has one that has grown very rapidly and is still continuing to grow. For example, over 45% of all Sydney's natural increase in population between 1982 and 1983 occurred in Western Sydney and it is estimated that by the turn of the century at least one-third of the people of the Sydney Region will be living in Western Sydney. The population of Western Sydney is also a significantly young one. In 1986 Penrith and Blacktown, for example, to take just two local Government areas, had one-third of their population below the age of 15. However, in 1986 about one-third of the children enrolled in Government Primary Schools in NSW came from the Met West Education Region of the Department of School Education, as well as a quarter of the private primary school pupils. These are certainly the people who will be looking to Higher Education in the year 2000 and beyond. They represent about one-seventh of the total primary school population of Australia.

The population of Western Sydney plays a particular role within NSW and Australia. It represents 52% of the labour force of the Sydney Metropolitan area and hence is the largest single concentration of labour within the country continuing its growth into the next century.

TABLE 2: PROJECTED LABOUR FORCE WESTERN SYDNEY 1986-2001

	PROJECTED				
	ACTUAL 1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
LABOUR FORCE	434003	515900	590954	660495	720667
% INCREASE		18.9	14.5	11.8	9.1

Source: MSJ Keys Young, West Sydney 2000
- *A Regional Assessment of West Sydney, 1985* (p.60)

You will notice the table below confirms the high proportion of the population between 15 and 40 and even by the year 2001, a significant proportion of that labour force will be between 20 and 40 years old.

The table is also interesting for another reason in that it draws attention to one of the other factors that is slowly emerging and catching attention in a region as large and diverse as ours. Look at the 60-64 year old age group : 9,500 in 1981, by 1991 - 13,164 and by the year 2001 over 17,000 people in that age group within Western Sydney with another 6,000 over 65. Throughout the period 1981-2001 that labour force continues to increase.

TABLE 3: PROJECTED LABOUR FORCE OF WESTERN SYDNEY, 1986-2001 - AGE GROUP BREAKDOWN (No.)

	PROJECTED				
AGE GROUP	ACTUAL 1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
15 - 19	53161	59921	65845	63437	62845
20 - 24	65200	76455	84322	91880	88696
25 - 29	57332	70650	79787	86826	93625
30 - 34	61208	66934	79026	87961	94906
35 - 39	52394	68853	73014	85866	95150
40 - 44	43913	55753	71774	75744	88385
45 - 49	34982	43498	53893	68335	72878
50 - 54	30198	32800	39756	48969	61797
55 - 59	22427	24333	25937	31440	38727
60 - 64	9592	12370	13164	14007	17014
65 +	3596	4334	5211	6000	6644

Source: MSJ Keys Young, West Sydney 2000
- *A Regional Assessment of West Sydney, 1985* (p.60)

What does this working population do? Some idea of the diversity in employment in Western Sydney is contained in the summary of employment changes and of their growth in Table 4.

**TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY IN WESTERN SYDNEY -
CHANGE BETWEEN 1981 & 1986**

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (No.)		CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT (%)	% OF REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT 1986
	1981	1986		
Agriculture	5031	5461	8.5	1.3
Mining	1258	1133	-9.9	0.3
Manufacturing	103003	89664	-13.0	21.0
Electricity/Gas/Water	8634	8989	4.1	2.1
Construction	28207	31071	10.2	7.3
Wholesale/Retail	75025	86842	15.8	20.3
Transport/Storage	22706	24214	6.6	5.7
Communication	9141	10466	14.5	2.4
Finance/Property/Business Serv	36100	46243	28.1	10.8
Public Admin/Defence	23487	25599	9.0	6.0
Community Services	50351	61764	22.7	14.5
Recreation/Personal/Other Serv	16125	19092	18.4	4.5
TOTAL (WESTIR REGION)	409442	427394	4.4	100.0

Source: A Skills Atlas of Western Sydney by Ronald J Horvath - Carol Mills - Kathleen J Mee

Table 4 makes clear Western Sydney's role which is almost unique in Australia in the manufacturing area (representing 21% of regional employment in 1986) but also something of the diversity of that range of employment with over 20% in wholesale and retail; about 14% in community services; almost 11% in the finance, property and business services; and 7.3% in closely related construction services.

Some idea of the growth in manufacturing between 1984 and 1988 can be gained from the number of establishments which came into being during that period. You will also note that Table 5 indicates the changing patterns within the region with a decline in both Auburn and Parramatta as well as the increase in Baulkham Hills and in Liverpool.

TABLE 5: NUMBER OF MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN WESTERN SYDNEY 1984-88

AREA	NO. OF ESTABLISHMENTS		NO. OF NEW ESTABL PER YEAR	% CHANGE 1984-88
	30/6/84	30/6/88		
Auburn	309	299	-3	-3.2
Baulkham Hills	205	269	16	31.2
Blacktown	411	502	23	22.1
Blue Mountains	64	81	4	26.6
Hawkesbury	80	97	4	21.3
Fairfield	436	538	26	23.4
Holroyd	360	377	4	4.7
Liverpool	301	394	23	30.9
Parramatta	440	397	-11	-9.8
Penrith	306	366	15	19.6

Source: ABS, Census of Manufacturing Establishments, Small Area Statistics, NSW (Cat.No.8201.1)

One of the challenges of the region irrespective of the form of industry or manufacturing of which you are speaking is the size of the establishments. In a world that is moving towards multi-nationals and to large corporations, Western Sydney certainly functions as an increasingly important warehouse area for those firms. But its manufacturing is concentrated in a large number of small firms with most employing between 4 and 9 persons.

TABLE 6: SIZE OF MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN WESTERN SYDNEY, JUNE 1988

STATISTICAL SUB-DIV.	NO. OF ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING ... PERSONS						TOTAL ESTABL.
	<4	4-10	10-19	20-49	50-99	100+	
Fairfield/Liverpool	242	314	170	101	50	55	932
Central West Sydney	212	300	214	163	77	107	1073
Outer West Sydney	184	203	66	54	19	18	544
Blacktown/Baulkham Hills	259	264	100	68	44	36	771
WESTIR REGION	897	1081	550	386	190	216	3320
REST OF SYDNEY	2561	2794	1355	848	329	340	8227
SYDNEY	3458	3875	1905	1234	519	556	11547
NSW	4987	5447	2503	1611	638	720	15906

Source: ABS, Census of Manufacturing Establishments, Small Area Statistics, NSW (Cat.No.8203.1)

Further, there is the particular type of manufacturing concentrated in Western Sydney as at the end of June 1988. Table 7 below clearly shows the concentration of effort - not just in food and beverages, wood and wood products, but very significantly in chemical, metal and related industries.

TABLE 7: SOME OF MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN WESTERN SYDNEY BY INDUSTRY SUB-DIVISION (as at end of June 1988) AS A PROPORTION OF SYDNEY & NSW MANUFACTURING

INDUSTRY		% OF ESTABL	% OF EMPLOYEES	% OF TURNOVER
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO	SYDNEY	34.9%	40.1%	45.8%
	NSW	19.7%	25.9%	30.0%
TEXTILES	SYDNEY	26.8%	33.4%	37.4%
	NSW	20.6%	23.7%	27.3%
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	SYDNEY	20.2%	24.1%	17.4%
	NSW	18.1%	18.9%	14.7%
WOOD, WOOD PRODUCTS & FURNITURE	SYDNEY	31.0%	40.3%	43.0%
	NSW	19.1%	27.6%	29.4%
PAPER, PAPER PRODUCTS PRINTING & PUBLISHING	SYDNEY	17.2%	16.0%	19.2%
	NSW	14.2%	13.7%	16.9%
CHEMICAL, PETROLEUM & COAL PRODUCTS	SYDNEY	32.5%	35.2%	31.9%
	NSW	28.4%	32.7%	29.6%
NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	SYDNEY	44.2%	56.3%	54.1%
	NSW	20.0%	38.7%	36.6%
BASIC METAL PRODUCTS	SYDNEY	36.6%	51.9%	48.8%
	NSW	27.6%	13.4%	12.3%
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	SYDNEY	36.0%	39.0%	44.4%
	NSW	25.5%	30.6%	35.2%
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	SYDNEY	27.0%	21.5%	37.6%
	NSW	19.0%	17.6%	31.7%
OTHER MACHINERY	SYDNEY	29.5%	26.8%	31.7%
	NSW	23.8%	22.8%	26.9%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING	SYDNEY	25.5%	35.0%	42.7%
	NSW	20.1%	31.8%	38.4%

Source: ABS, Census of Manufacturing Establishments, Small Area Statistics, NSW (Cat.No. 8203.1)

It is perhaps not surprising, given the relative prevalence in Western Sydney of manufacturing and related industries that the region is also characterised by unemployment. The figures below show the situation in January 1990. You will see that at that stage Western Sydney represented over 30% of the working age population of the Sydney Region. They also represented 36.1% of those who were unemployed with particular concentrations of the unemployed lying in Fairfield/Liverpool and in the Central Western Sydney with far fewer unemployed residing in the Blue Mountains.

TABLE 8: WORKING AGE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT (BY LOCATION) AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN WESTERN SYDNEY (as % of Sydney Statistical Division)

STATISTICAL REGION	WORKING AGE POPULATION (*)	EMPLOYMENT (**)	UNEMPLOYED (*)
Fairfield/Liverpool	7.9	5.0	11.1
Central Western Sydney	8.1	9.2	12.1
Outer Western Sydney	6.9	3.7	4.6
Blacktown/Baulkham Hills	8.4	5.1	8.3
WESTIR Region	31.3	23.0	36.1
Sydney Stat. Div.	100.0	100.0	100.0

(*) from ABS Labour Force Survey, Jan 1990

(**) from ABS integrated register of business units

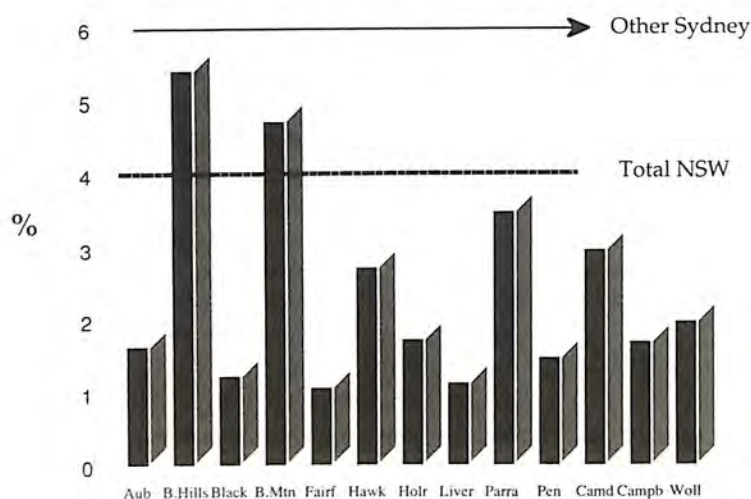
Source: Dept of Employment, Education & Training, *NSW & ACT Labour Market Review*, June 1990.

Note: These figures refer to employment in all sectors, including manufacturing.

The situation of the labour force and of unemployment represents one of the challenges in establishing of educational opportunities in Western Sydney: the role of schools, Technical and Further Education and UWS Nepean, to help diversify the skills and understandings of the workforce in the region.

Some idea of the significance and need for university education among the workforce is set out in Table 9, which summarises the degree qualifications of Western Sydney by local Government area. Once again, note the considerable diversity. There are areas in Western Sydney - such as the Blue Mountains and Baulkham Hills - where those with degrees are a higher percentage of the population than the average for NSW which runs at about 4%. However, there are other areas such as Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Parramatta and Auburn where the percentage of the population with degrees is not even 2%.

Degree Qualifications by LGA



Source: ABS, Census 1986. Census of Population & Housing, Small Area Data, USZ02

To sum up, Western Sydney is a diverse area even though its overall characteristics are one of a large population which is still growing, one which is relatively under-qualified compared with the NSW average and that of Australia; one, too, which is ethnically diverse and contains a sizeable Aboriginal community. It is one which in terms of manufacturing industry base represents the largest such region in Australia. It is also one, as recent newspaper articles have highlighted, that is increasingly suffering problems of environmental, air and water pollution. But, most of all, it is one which has an identity of its own, has a dynamism and strength that comes from that identity, and is enthusiastic and committed to the full development of the community. Western Sydney has developed a strong tradition of achieving on its own merits. It is not a region which, if you like, asks for handouts. It is one which asks to be treated fairly.

UWS, Nepean's Community Role

With that image of Western Sydney what then is UWS, Nepean's community role?

First, it is easy to forget perhaps that its single, most significant role lies in the courses which it offers and the number of places available for students. In pursuit of those objectives, UWS, Nepean has grown extremely rapidly over the last 5-7 years with the average growth rate since 1985 of over 20% per annum, recently curtailed by the need perceived by the Board of Governors to direct growth elsewhere within the University of Western Sydney. Some idea of the diversification of courses can be gained by looking at the Faculty of Science and Technology. In 1986 it offered transfer courses in engineering and applied science to the University of Technology, Sydney - then the NSW Institute of Technology. It now continues to offer those transfer courses, but also offers its own degree programs in chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science at the undergraduate level and has introduced this year, an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering. It offers Masters' Degrees in applied science, in technology and chemistry as well as Doctoral work. In that Faculty, as in many others at UWS, Nepean, programs or courses are at present often in the early stages of operational development - about 60% of the work at UWS, Nepean is of that kind. But clearly, a start has been made on diversifying the course base so that those who are in Western Sydney can come to study at this institution, should they wish.

Second, there has been the extension into informal courses - seen primarily through Continuing Education West. Nepean CAE did offer continuing education work in the late 70's, but ceased doing so in the early 80's due to financial stresses. When such courses were introduced again, many argued that Western Sydney people would not be interested and that if they were, they would go elsewhere. It is in the context of such comments that it is interesting to note that this year Continuing Education West has offered 126 courses and enrolled approximately 1,900 students.

"THREE RESEARCH CENTRES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITHIN UWS NEPEAN"

Third, a start has been made in research. Three research centres have been established within UWS, Nepean:

- **Centre for Industrial Research and Analytical Technology**

CIRAT, the Centre for Industrial Research and Analytical Technology, focuses its research activity in three major areas of Chemistry:

- Electrochemistry and Environmental Chemistry
- Geochemistry and Mineralogical Chemistry
- Synthetic Chemistry

Within the ambit of these three broad areas, significant industry funding and research collaboration has developed, particularly in the area of Water and Soil Pollution, relating to current Research on *accumulation and dissolution of nutrients and heavy metal in soil and sewage sludge*, while large scale funding has also been forthcoming in the area of Geochemistry and Mineralogical Chemistry, relating to research on *chemical technologies for the leaching of low-grade platinum ores*.

CIRAT is also active in the development of new instrumentation, particularly in the areas of coating technologies and chemical/biochemical sensor devices.

- **Communication, Health and Education Research Centre**

CHER, the Communication, Health and Education Research Centre, was established in 1988. The Centre focuses its research effort on Health issues as they relate to various minority groups. The broad objectives of the Centre are:

- to engage in research in response to regional and national health needs
- to produce research and offer continuing education courses of a high standard which advance current thinking in health, generate additional research and serve as agents for economic change and social benefit
- to promote inter-disciplinary research which has potential for developments and applications across a range of fields.

The current areas of priority research are:

- women's health
- child and family health
- cultural issues and health
- well being of the aged
- aspects of nursing education

- **Women's Research Centre**

The Women's Research Centre aims to bring together the teaching and research expertise of women across disciplines to investigate issues and disseminate information of specific relevance and benefit to women. The Centre aims to create a forum for research initiatives and consultancy work across a wide range of educational, social, cultural, political and economic issues. The geographical location of the University offers an excellent opportunity to conduct socially beneficial research into the special

"THERE IS A STRONG COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING...DIVERSITY OF APPROACH IN RESEARCH."

needs of women and girls in a socio-economically disadvantaged region, whose population is the fastest expanding in Australia.

The Centre is currently undertaking funded research projects. The research areas which have been developed are:

- women's history
- women and employment
- women and aging
- girls, education and youth cultural practices in Western Sydney

Just as significantly, individuals have been undertaking research in a wide range of areas from theatre, visual arts, design to science and education. Different styles of research and different approaches are being used. There is a strong commitment to maintaining that diversity of approach in research.

We are also seeing the further development at the national level of research expertise. For example, Dr Tom Millar, a member of the Faculty of Science and Technology, is also part of one of the first Commonwealth-funded Co-operative Research Centres for Eye Research. The Centre involves eight or nine other organisations and has its headquarters at the University of New South Wales. It, in effect, signifies something of the calibre of work that is now being undertaken at UWS, Nepean and simply was not possible five or six years ago.

The fourth area of development lies in consultancies. In a sense, UWS Nepean has always been active in this area but usually on an individual basis and largely outside the region. In recent years, however, there has been a concentration on the offering of short courses of various styles within the region. For example a course developed jointly with Westmead Hospital, and run earlier this year, on Clinical Management, brought people from right round Australia and was generally acknowledged as comparable in standard to those similar courses offered at Harvard University. Staff at UWS, Nepean have also been successful in gaining a number of grants from the Education and Training Foundation for short courses. One of these related to community theatre, others to short courses in the area of health, such as those that are currently being developed for HIV. There has also, for example, been the joint development with Met West of the Department of School Education's Professional Development Centre of programs like the TTALL (Talk To a Literacy Learner) project which is funded by the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs and concentrates on:

- a Stage 1 in which parents are training to work with their own children in ways that increase the child's literacy; and
- a Stage 2 where the parents are training to work with other people's children.

These two stages, which have both been implemented, will be followed by a Stage 3, training parents to work with other parents on issues relating to Literacy.

Fifthly, there is also the emerging social and cultural role of UWS, Nepean, in the community. When I arrived here in 1986, fewer than 20% of our staff lived within the region. The number is now three times that, giving us a direct and ongoing involvement with the people in Western Sydney. Staff living in the region are part of the fabric of daily living in

**"UWS NEPEAN HAS A PARTICULAR ROLE
IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT BETWEEN THE
REGION AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD."**

this area: their children go to the schools, they use the shops and the facilities that are available or very often not available relative to what is provided in Eastern and Northern areas of the metropolitan area.

There has emerged a strong cultural role. In this particular area Theatre Nepean, the performance wing of the Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts has built a strong reputation nationally and now internationally. Not only have they performed overseas in both the United States and Poland in the past 18 months, but next year in May will bring to this region performers from seven other countries and host an International Theatre Festival here. Apart from theatre performances, there are the performances of dance and the exhibitions of staff and students from the Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts and Design. Some of those exhibitions are in the Central Business District of Sydney. In 1989 one was in State Parliament, last year others were down on the Wharf and on Macquarie Street. As such, they remind people of the presence and dynamism of this region and of the quality of work that is being undertaken here.

UWS Nepean has a particular role in establishing contact between the region and other parts of the world. I have already referred to theatre in this respect, but there are others who are now coming to visit - scholars from right round the world.

A particular initiative that has developed at UWS, Nepean, relates to the Aboriginal community of Western Sydney and is handled by our Aboriginal Liaison Unit. We now have an Aboriginal Advisory Committee of 12 members, a Liaison Unit of just three staff and 47 Aboriginals enrolled in our courses - that represents a sharp increase on three years ago when there were fewer than 10.

We have an active overseas recruitment program for students and we also have been busy establishing the staff exchanges with a number of Universities, such as the University of Miami, the University of Uppsala in Sweden, the University of Illinois and with institutions in Czechoslovakia and Vienna. The intention is for UWS, Nepean to become a place which is at the crossroads of intellectual life of the world, a place where ideas, theories and practices are discussed, criticised and examined right here in Western Sydney and to which members of the community have access.

There is also the particular role that UWS, Nepean is increasingly playing of creating and developing images of Western Sydney. When we were arguing for the establishment of a university in this region one of the factors which made some local people less enthusiastic than they would have been otherwise was the research work that had been done at another university in the 60's and 70's which was seen as contributing to the image of the region as poor, disadvantaged, illiterate and lacking a future. I am glad to say that UWS, Nepean has certainly been contributing recently to the development of a different image of and for the region. There has been the work on women's health done through the Women's Research Centre. There is work on oral history and local histories of the region. There is the possibility of economic analysis and of extending knowledge about how the economy functions in this particular part of Australia. There are also the cultural images of Western Sydney. In this regard there was, for example, an exhibition held at the Tin Shed at The University of Sydney some 18 months ago by artists in Western Sydney. I went to that exhibition several times and, on each occasion, found people not only looking at the images of Western Sydney but arguing about them vociferously.

**"UWS NEPEAN HAS A PARTICULAR ROLE...IN
TAKING INITIATIVES...THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE
TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION."**

Similarly, the contribution of UWS, Nepean to the community and its community role cannot be left without considering the economic contribution which is increasingly being made to Western Sydney by UWS, Nepean. This year an estimated \$25m will be expended on capital and the recurrent budget is approximately \$38m. Certainly not all of that money goes directly into Western Sydney, but a significant proportion does. Not only through purchases made in this region, not only through the employment of contractors and sub-contractors and builders, developers and architects, who work and are based in this region, but also of course directly through the expenditures that staff and students make when they are on campus or moving through the region as they go about their courses, their studies and their daily lives.

Turning now to future directions for UWS, Nepean.

Many of these are set out clearly in the Mission Statement of the University and of UWS, Nepean's particular response to that statement. Here, I want to supplement those statements by taking the opportunity to comment on some of the directions which seem to me to be vital and which, if left unattended to and unaddressed, will adversely affect the whole development of higher education in Western Sydney.

First I want to return and underline the arguments that were put by individuals, groups and organisations in the process of the development of this institution: the academic work had to be of the highest standard and that the institution had to be one which was internationally recognised and could take its place among the universities of the world and on the international stage: that is a direction which we must not give up on and which we must seek to achieve in everything we do. I have already noted the extent to which staff were actively engaged in developing international consultancies, in presenting papers at international conferences and in developing exchange programs ensuring that scholars from elsewhere visit and work with us in Western Sydney.

Secondly, there is the matter of the economy of the region. No-one who is living through this recession in Western Sydney can be far from neighbours who have been directly affected by it. No-one living in Australia at the moment can be other than aware of the fragility of our whole economy on the international scene. UWS Nepean has a particular role I believe in taking initiatives in collaboration and partnership with others that will contribute to the development of the region. We are already doing it through our graduates as many of them work in Western Sydney. We need also to do it much more directly through deliberately taking initiatives that diversify the employment opportunities available within Western Sydney.

Thirdly, we have to continue to attend to the quality of our teaching, our research and consultancy work. In doing so, we need to also acknowledge that it takes 20-30 years to establish an academic institution which is recognised internationally. In that process, what is needed is concentrated and sustained purpose. We must not get drawn into pursuing the immediate and the local in ways which are detrimental to that long-term goal.

Fourthly, UWS, Nepean needs to pick up from the region something of Western Sydney's habit of self-help. We are, in my view, too dependent on Government funding, perhaps still too oriented to expecting others to meet our needs - automatically.

We know that in the very origins of the University of Western Sydney

"WE NEED TO ESTABLISH MUCH CLOSER RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR COMMUNITY."

there was imbedded and pervading it the principle of self-help. Again it is an area in which we have a start. For example, consideration of our Library collection, which has been a grave concern to a number of us for some time, has led to a very active pursuit of donations from right round Australia. As a result, over 80,000 volumes have now been contributed. Similarly we are pursuing electronic connection which will give students and staff here access to data bases not only within Australia, but internationally.

Taking the example of our Library initiative, we need to extend that to taking seriously the need to finance our future development to a significant extent. The challenge there is not only one of seeking finance, but much more significantly one of establishing ways of financing that development from the resources that we have.

We need to establish much closer relationships with our community. One recent step has been for us to open classes, where it is possible, to the members of the University of the Third Age. I have to acknowledge that the suggestion came from them rather than from us in the first instance. There is also the particular matter of how we relate to the professions, the business community and other groups within the Region. It seems to me that UWS, Nepean, needs to make an active commitment to the following:

- To developing a distinctive collaborative partnership with commerce and industry.
- To making known the availability of academics as consultants to the private sector and of setting up exchanges and secondments between the University and other business organisations.
- Encouraging business and industry to assist in the development of UWS, Nepean's courses and making known its needs and preferences with a view to providing ongoing advice for academic development.
- Promoting the efficient channelling of resources to basic and applied research, co-operative research, knowledge transfer and technology transfer endeavours.
- Examining the structure of courses against the priorities and needs identified in the market place, with a view of being responsive.

In return, businesses, professions and members of the community are asked to support the development at UWS, Nepean by:

- Providing expert advice and contributing to our planning and decision-making through participation on boards, committees and advisory structure.
- Using University facilities for their activities during low usage times on a fee-for-services basis.
- Endorsing and actively supporting through joint venture e.g. New South Wales Education and Training Foundation.
- Endowing chairs, donating equipment, supporting research and product development initiatives.

**"...WHAT IS QUITE CLEAR
...IS THAT UWS NEPEAN...
IS 'LINKED TO THE FUTURE'."**

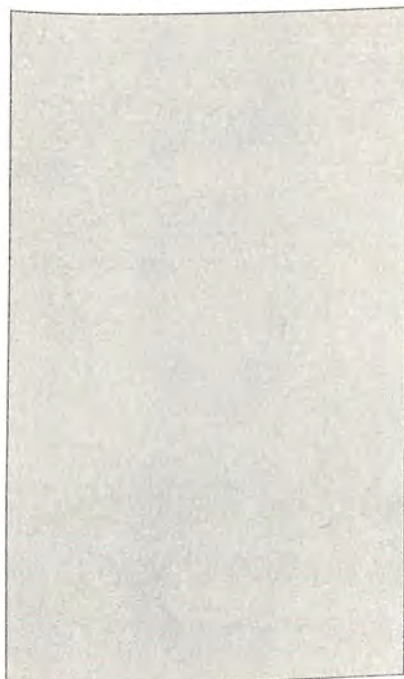
- Employing university graduates and allowing students to complete field work experience in business and other community settings.
- Promoting, where appropriate, co-operative educational arrangements and other knowledge and technology transfer activities between UWS, Nepean and business sector.

Irrespective of the particular directions that you or I would see for UWS, Nepean, what is quite clear about all of them is that UWS, Nepean, along with the other parts of the University of Western Sydney, is "Linked to the Future".



Prof. Jillian Maling AO has been Chief Executive Officer of UWS Nepean since its inception in 1989, and before that was Principal of the Nepean College of Advanced Education.

Professor Jillian Maling, AO



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TERRA NULLIUS - THE LIE

Racism is Ignorance Born of Fear

TWO HUNDRED and three years ago, England invaded Australia. They, the English, believed themselves to be the superior race. They also conquered many other countries and used physical and psychological warfare over the bodies and minds of the conquered people.

Seventh generation Australians still think with an English mind. Understandable enough as their grass-roots were and still are being English cultivated. Unfortunately, even today, British attitudes still filter through Australian institutions. Only the aborigines¹ of Australia can truly call themselves Australians.

The end result of this state of affairs is that other minorities are therefore also treated as sub-human by the British-minded so-called Australians.

To understand more, we must therefore go back two hundred and three years.

Australia - Terra Australis would have one of the worst Human Rights records in the history of the world in terms of its minority people, more especially the aborigines of Australia.

The early "European Settler", out of fear of what was to them, the unknown, violently attacked anything they did not understand. Hence the cold blooded shootings, the lacing of the flour bags and waterholes with strychnine and the witch hunts where they took aboriginal babies, bashed their heads with their hob-nail boots, proceeded to kick their heads off.

The European settler who was able to master this "art" with the babies was deemed to be the trophy winner and was envied and feted by his fellow European settlers.

Aboriginal people and their supporters have protested against the denial of aboriginal human rights, virtually since the arrival of the first fleet in 1788 (Read, *The Law of the Land* by Professor Henry Reynolds).

Despite the outcries that have arisen from time to time, during the past 203 years, little has been done to redress or correct this problem in any significant way.

The reason for this is because, in the first instance, we have not addressed the root-cause of the problem and therefore have not educated nor organised ourselves in such a way to make the necessary corrections.

Instead, for the past 203 years, we have been trying to treat the effects

¹ While it is normal to use a capital with the word Aborigine, or words derived from it, the authors' transcript uses lower case throughout. See their comments on page 26 for an explanation of this practice.

"...I SUGGEST THAT ABORIGINAL STUDIES BE MADE COMPULSORY FOR ALL STUDENTS..."

and organise ourselves around them. This is understandable because of the horrifying **effects** this problem has produced, not only on the aborigines but in many instances on that of the European settlers also. We have treated the **symptoms** and ignored the **causes**.

It is therefore necessary for us to address the cause. These causes can be categorised into two basic areas:

1. Physical genocide;
2. Psychological genocide.

Physical genocide, in truth was frontier warfare, openly practised. The physical genocide policies are evidenced throughout the very short history of the Early European settlers' presence in this land, by the wholesale poisonings, massacres, snipe hunts and "dispersals" by those "early settlers", with, at times, the assistance of the "Native Police". The rounding up and removal from traditional lands and confinement to "reserves" and "missions", with the denial of basic health care and food supplies and in the guise of clearing the land for the "European settlers". This was very much akin to the horror of the concentration camps the Nazis' designed for the Jewish people. The only thing lacking here was the gas ovens and this was more likely to have been because of lack of technology rather than the will to provide the final solution.

The creating of aboriginal "Reserves" and "Missions" ensured for the British the right to steal the land, thus justifying their barbaric actions unto themselves, at the expense of the aborigines.

Psychological genocide is evidenced by the "Assimilation" and "Integration" policies of the "European settlers" in spite of the great deal of resistance from the aborigines and more enlightened people from within the "European settler" society. Arising out of this psychological genocide policy, many projects and programs have been developed and new ones surface daily to provide solutions that in fact are not solutions but mere window dressings to further the aims of the psychological genocide.

Within the framework of physical genocide many instances and examples could and have been cited. The fact that it was Government policy up until 1951 **not** to educate the aborigines past the fourth grade as they were expected to die out. This policy was called "the soothing of the dying pillow".

The early "European settlers" were afraid to educate the aboriginal after Macquarie had rounded up some aboriginal children around Parramatta and an aboriginal girl aged 14 years of age topped the class way ahead of the "European settlers" children. The aboriginal girl was born into the Darag tribe of New South Wales. Her name as recorded being Maria. Her aboriginal name was lost or buried with the aboriginal dead.

The realisation that a so-called "savage", and "female", to boot, could outsmart the European settlers' children must have left a very bad taste in the big mouths of these "so-called" superior settlers of European descent.

It was the "European settlers" who prevented Macquarie from proceeding with the education of aboriginal children.

History further records that Macquarie was sent back to England in disgrace after the European settlers decided to "get him out of the way".

"WE HAVE FAILED...IN ADDRESSING THE 'HUMAN RIGHTS' OF ABORIGINES..."

At this stage of our education for all peoples of Australia may I suggest that aboriginal studies be made compulsory for all students **in the same classrooms**.

Having separate special aboriginal studies courses for aborigines and voluntary non-aboriginal students merely divides and conquers and is a waste of time and effort on behalf of all students.

So the present situation in the various institutions, especially education, see us with a policy where a chosen few aborigines are assisting in the process just as the Native Police assisted in the physical genocide.

Physical and psychological genocide go on to this very day and public servants still perform their allotted tasks as did the "Native Police", mainly now in a more subtle form. Evidence of this is readily available by simply observing such places as the education systems and the aboriginal deaths in custody, to name just two aspects.

We have failed and failed dismally, in addressing the "Human Rights" of aborigines because we have and still are simply addressing the **symptoms** rather than the cause of the inhumanity.

So people in both the "European settlers" society and the aboriginal society are merely treating the symptoms of this problem by implementing both physical and psychological genocide policies.

What then is the cause - the root cause - of all these symptoms has been pointed out from time to time, but never really followed up by either the "European settlers" or the aborigines to any extent at least not to the extent of any real achievement. We have continually taken the easy road of continuing to try to treat the **effects** of the **symptoms** and thus the problem remains.

The **cause** lies in the fact that Captain James Cook did not follow his instructions from his King George III in 1770 and acted illegally by disobeying those instructions and creating the legal lie of Terra Nullius. The key parts of his instructions read:

You are also with consent of the natives to take possession of convenient situations in the country, in the name of the King of Great Britain; or if you find the country uninhabited take possession for His Majesty by setting up proper marks and inscriptions, as first discoverers and possessors.

This then is the root **cause** of the inhumanity that flowed from Cook's illegal act. Thus was born the legal doctrine of Terra Nullius that has been used by the "European settlers" and even some "aborigines" to justify the inhumanity. It is this first act of inhumanity, illegally carried out by Cook that must be addressed in order to correct the resultant **effects**. That the illegal and inhumane act by Cook was and still is the **cause** of the **effects** of both the physical and psychological genocides that, in turn, constitutes the inhumanities. This has created the framework in which the greatest inhumanity has been and still is being perpetuated in the history of the world. A greater inhumanity than that committed on the Jewish people because at least **they** were acknowledged as people.

But one could say "So what! that happened over 200 years ago. What has that got to do with us today?"

**"WE CANNOT OWN
THE LAND FOR THE
LAND OWNS US."**

participate.

In studying the disciplines as outlined it may also be necessary to take into account the varying perceptions and thus complimentary subjects may be necessary.

It could be suggested as companion subjects:

1. psychology; and
2. sociology

which could be of great value in cross referencing such perceptions.

The ongoing problems within the spheres of aboriginal existence such as high rates of imprisonment, high infant mortality rates, deaths in custody, breakdown of extended family units, substances abuse, domestic violence, etc are all components making up the situation that constitutes an iron cycle which we have yet to break. The "piecemeal" approaches of the past have not worked. In the main these "piecemeal" attempts have been received as impositions that have been rejected.

In conclusion, last but by no means least, is the spirituality of the aboriginal tribes of Australia. Our spirituality is **not** a religion. It is tied firmly to the spirit of our Mother Earth who created all living things, our sentries, the rocks of Australia, our sea, land and air spirits which are very much a part of our aboriginality as is our philosophy which states: "We cannot own the land for the land owns us".

**"THE 'PIECEMEAL' APPROACHES OF THE PAST
...HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AS IMPOSITIONS THAT
HAVE BEEN REJECTED."**

commonly known as Australia. Defining ourselves back to our various language/territorial groups negates the psychological genocide and solidly asserts our sovereignty, land and law and that Cook could not possibly have "discovered" our land, again negating the legal lie of Terra Nullius. Given this achievement of asserting our sovereignty, land and law necessitates a process of negotiation and settlement before this act of war and aggression can end. Seizure of a people's territory is an act of war and aggression.

These realisations/understandings must be made, both in terms of the "European/occupier societies", institutions and agencies, some of which are now manned by "aborigines", who are still addressing/dealing with the **effects** rather than the **cause**. In so doing, they must be told that they continue to aid and abet the ongoing psychological and physical genocides of our people - that they are, therefore, accessories after the illegal act.

In doing this people everywhere can then come to terms with each other and reach a peaceful settlement to this 203 year nightmare that has been thrust upon the "aborigines".

RE: CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Such a program when implemented would enable all peoples to avail themselves of a better understanding between all races residing in Australia.

Four subjects when truthfully taught could bring about a Cultural Heritage with all races embracing pride in being Australians.

Aboriginal history goes back long, long before Cook and goes back in time and space to the "Creation" as evidenced in many of the aboriginal legends embodied in the Dreaming Alcheringa.

Such an educational program would overcome the ignorance and subsequent biases within existing institution and it is necessary that **all** Australians should have access to such programs to provide a better understanding of both cultures and to break down many of the barriers now existing.

There is a degree of understanding of the European cultural heritage in the abovementioned areas, however, very little is devoted to the aboriginal side and how it is possible to interact/counterbalance in a way in which mutual enrichment can take place. In weaving the fabric that constitutes the Australian Society, this should be viewed not only as desirable, but given recent historical development, a definite necessity in the educational process of this nation.

Authorities in the abovementioned disciplines are now beginning to uncover many aspects that in the past have been overlooked because of the lack of such perceptions. In developing such a program we must also look at future prospects of participants. For instance, many aboriginal people have difficulty with literacy. This can be overcome in the redevelopment of the oral traditions. Accreditations could be based on ongoing assessments given by the lecturers/tutors in the various disciplines that would in turn be recognised in the work place as valid research skills or alternatively as prerequisites for entry into tertiary institutions for further advancement and skills of the individuals who

**"ONE TREATY ALONE WILL NOT AND
CANNOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF
REDRESSING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS..."**

The legal doctrine of Terra Nullius was and still is being used and accepted as valid legal argument by the "European settlers" and crown representatives and was stated as a legal act as recently as November 1988 in the court of criminal appeal in Queensland against Denis B. Walker in argument as to whether the courts have legal jurisdiction over aborigines in view of the fact that British law is illegal and inhumane when it is applied to aborigines.

Denis B Walker was defending his actions in a court case brought against him by a descendant of a "European settler".

This is the **cause**. British law is obviously illegal, it is still being used. It is inhumane.

This then is the Legal Lie of Terra Nullius. We are still using the Legal Lie. It is still being used because **we do not challenge it**.

Evil can only triumph when good men/women choose to do nothing.

Clyde Holding would not challenge it and he is a lawyer and was Minister for Aboriginal Affairs when he was confronted with it. He is quoted as saying, "he hid the material submitted by NAIHO (National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation) because he felt it was dangerous material. He did not clarify why it was dangerous".

Justice Muirhead who headed the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody said it was not his jurisdiction, yet that Commission has become bogged down in irrelevant legal argument and has become a picnic for lawyers. There should be an inquiry into how much everyone has been paid and how much it costs the taxpayer for this meaningless obscenity.

The **Coalition of Aboriginal Organisations** said the problem was a political and not a legal one and failed to address the matter let alone challenge it.

Gerry Hand the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, when confronted with the High Court Writ for the claim of Entitlement and Treaty of the Nunukul tribe and invited to visit their tribal land and begin the process of settlement of the matters, stated he would have to consult his lawyers and then get back to us. He has not yet, but continues to talk of **treaties** just as his leader **Bob Hawke** does. A treaty could only work if separate treaties were drawn up and accepted by the remaining tribes in Australia. Given that aborigines had 150 straight languages and 750 dialects, it is understandable that each tribe has a different way of life to each other.

One treaty for all aboriginal tribes would fail as dismally as all other policies have failed in the past. For what is acceptable to the Noonuccal of Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island) could spell disaster for the tribes living in Central, Northern and Western Australia.

One treaty alone will not and cannot solve the problem of redressing our human rights - it would merely treat the **effects** rather than attacking the **cause**.

The understanding of the **cause** makes us realise we were not and are not "Aborigines". Another step in the process of psychological genocide. We are Nunukul, Ngugi, Waralin, Biribaba, Bradualong, Yorti-Yorta, Koreng-Goreng, Yarunga, Waradgeri, etc, which identifies the language and territory of our various peoples across the broad area



Oodgeroo of the tribe Noonuccal

Oodgeroo Noonuccal - (Nov, 1920-Sept, 1993)

Educator, writer, poet, activist, and administrator. Member of the Aboriginal Arts Board, Managing Director of Noonuccal-Nughie Education and Cultural Centre, Queensland. Publications include: *We are Going*, *Dawn is at Hand*, *My People*, *Father Sky and Mother Earth*.



O'SHANE

OUT COLD THE MYTH OF EGALITARIANISM IN AUSTRALIA

THANK YOU, FOR YOUR WELCOME. I think I would have preferred to have had this lecture this morning given the day I have had today. The day started with an opening of a new court house at the court where I sat at today (I sit at a different court almost every day). Trying to track me down is a bit like looking for the golden fleece. As I entered court today this guy (who is an assistant to the Minister) came up to me at one stage and said "just hold the tea, ladies". To be absolutely honest with you I didn't have the least idea what he was speaking about. I looked at him blankly and then he looked at me and said "I beg your pardon, you're Pat O'Shane aren't you, you're a magistrate." I said, "Yes". He looked at the woman I was standing with and she said, "And so am I". Believe me he went red; as he should have.

That's got some bearing on the topic I've got tonight, but I'll come to that later. I'm speaking about the myth of egalitarianism. Myths are very important I think in our society. They help us to maintain and sustain our ideals, but at the same time, of course, there are some myths that really, by perpetuating, we do ourselves an injustice.

Australian society it seems to me has two enduring myths. One is that we are an outdoors people, the people of the wide open spaces of this land. The second is that we are an egalitarian society: the argument is often put forward that we are classless, therefore egalitarian. I would submit that there is something more to the concept of egalitarianism, than classlessness, but I'll come back to the point of classlessness later.

I want to say in the respect of the first myth, first of all, that 85% of our population is concentrated in the south-east corner of this vast continent, occupying only 15% of the land mass. Secondly, I think what is imported into that first myth is that because we are of the land, of the wide open spaces, then we nurture and love the land and all that goes with it. Of course the reality is that modern Australia, that Australia which has grown since January 1788, has brought terrible destruction and degradation upon the land and other species, to the point, for many of them of extinction. That's the reality of that bit.

So come then to the second, and probably the most critical to our sense of identity as Australians, that of egalitarianism. In recent weeks, I don't know whether you have read, but perhaps because it has been in my mind, I have seen numerous references in newspapers to this essential Australian characteristic, of the egalitarian man. By the way, I have to say that all the references that I have read in the last couple of weeks have been in relation to men. And in fact, that is one of the key aspects of this concept or this myth of egalitarianism. Now, as I said a moment ago, the linchpin of this concept, seems to be that we are a classless society. Are we? Well, some of those issues I am going to talk about

**"...THERE ARE MASSIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THOSE WITH WEALTH AND THOSE WITHOUT,
THOSE WITH POWER AND THOSE WHO ARE POWERLESS."**

shortly. But I would submit that ever since January 1788 there has not been any basis on which the myth could have been founded. Right from the very beginning of modern Australia, this society has been divided. It has been exploitative, as between groups of people and of the land. I don't need to remind you, I'm sure, that the British who came into this country in January 1788 brought with them a load of convicts, their rejects and political prisoners so that already there were class divisions amongst those who first came here: the overlords of those convicts were officers of the navy, and subsequently, of the army. The officer class of those forces, even in today's society, hold a privileged position in the community and certainly in those days a very privileged position not only in terms of the wealth that they were able to claim, and subsequently appropriate, but most particularly in terms of the power which they exercised.

Now, that raises a couple of issues about what in fact constitutes a class or classless society. If we think of class in the classical Marxist terms then we do think in terms of the appropriation and accumulation of wealth and property. Some would argue the wealth indeed derives from property and I wouldn't have any argument with that, but I'm not here to develop that with you. On the other hand what we also see is the exercise of power. Now Marx argued that those with the greatest wealth and accumulation of property are those who are best positioned in society to exercise power. And that derives from the ability to define capital labour relations and to refine those according to the need of those with the greatest accumulation of property and wealth: that is to say, the capitalist class, or the British regime.

Now in the last twenty years particularly, there has been considerable debate about that issue and whether or not those who have greatest power, in fact exercise greatest power. But whichever way the debate goes, it seems to me nevertheless, that there are two aspects to be taken into consideration in this discussion. Whatever perspective we come at in regard to those two aspects, nevertheless, we would have to conclude that indeed, Australia is a class society. When we look closely at that situation, we see that there are massive differences between those with wealth and those without, those with power and those who are powerless.

One of the enduring aspects of the myth, as I hinted at a short time ago, is that it is always in terms of the "blokes". It's always referred to or enunciated in terms of "everybody" having a fair go, "everybody" having a fair crack of the whip. It's enunciated in terms of, or described in terms of "mates", "good blokes", a "fellow you can rely on". Now, we don't even have to look at the situation that existed between the officers and the convicts back in 1788 again to see the myth that is encapsulated in that description as egalitarianism, because it leaves out 51% of the population, that is women. I don't have statistics, from 1788 up to recent times in respect of women's ability to accumulate or access wealth, to working, or being able to deal in property, or their access to wealth through the employment process, or through any other process. I would argue that the most ready process available to women to access wealth at all, is through the employment process. But, what we have heard in recent weeks is that women are still being excluded from the paid work force. It's only recently that the Federal Government released details of a report which show that women are only, what was the quote, "half equal". And that women in modern Australia in 1992 still receive only approximately 70% of the average national income of men in this country. It has ever been thus, indeed it has probably much worse back in 1788.

"THIS COUNTRY CONTINUES TO BE RACIST IN ITS TREATMENT OF ABORIGINES..."

Again, we don't even have to look at that situation to recognise that egalitarianism is a myth, because way back on the 26th of January 1788, the British who came in with their convict loads expropriated the land of the people who belonged here, Aborigines. That is an issue which is always left out of any discussion of the egalitarian characteristic of the Australian.

Today is an historic day, as no doubt you all know, and I suppose to some extent it's fitting that I should be invited to give this lecture tonight, because today is the 25th anniversary of the referendum which changed the Australian constitution, so that the Federal government now has power to make laws with respect to Aborigines.

Prior to this day, 25 years ago, Aborigines were not counted in the census. On the other hand, livestock were. The implication is that not only were Aborigines not human, but also not even animals. I guess I don't have to take any of this audience back through the racist history of this country. Mind you, I don't mean to imply by saying that, that those experiences are long since gone. This country continues to be racist in its treatment of Aborigines, and indeed what we are now aware of is that, of course there are a lot of other groups in the community which are subjected to racism as well. Aborigines suffer racism at greater levels than any one else in the community. That aspect is not considered in the discussions on the egalitarian characteristics that exist in Australian society but so long as we have those kinds of discriminatory practices, attitudes, and policies; so long as one section of the community suffers racism, then we do not have an egalitarian society.

It gets worse and worse the closer we look. As a consequence of the racism that has existed in this country since January 1788, today in the Australian society of 1992, Aborigines on average suffer unemployment rates four times higher than those of non-Aborigines. At a time when parliamentarians are expressing concerns about the fact that over 800,000 Australians are unemployed, the rates of Aborigines are four times greater than those for non-Aborigines. At this very same time infant mortality rates are four times higher than for non-Aborigines, and morbidity rates for adult Aborigines in Australia are nineteen times higher than they are for non-Aborigines. The average life span for Aborigines is fifteen to twenty years less than it is for non-Aborigines. Aborigines are eight times more likely to go to jail than non-Aborigines are. In this state only, New South Wales, between 1986 and 1990 Aboriginal retention rates in our education system, fell. Now, so long as one group in the community suffers those kinds of discriminatory experiences, then we do not have an egalitarian society.

But I want to relate this more to your experiences, than to mine. It is one thing for me to talk about our experiences as Aborigines in a white society. But it is quite another thing for you to understand just what that is all about. In the last decade or so, we have seen a massive increase in unemployment rates in this country, currently this is approximately 10.9%— to all intents and purposes 11%. Just in the past week, newspaper articles have indicated that there are some parliamentarians in this country who are now prepared to say that we can wear 10% unemployment, in the concept of full employment for this community. You think about that! That is an horrendous state of affairs for us to contemplate. The social costs involved in having such high unemployment rates have not been addressed. We have not started to consider the dollar cost of such high unemployment rates, in terms of actual unemployment benefits that are paid to people who are unemployed, in terms of the inability of people who are thrown on the unemployment queues to

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meet mortgage payments or the burden that is placed on charitable organisations to assist those people who are not able to feed and clothe themselves. We don't consider the social cost in terms of the increasing youth suicide rates that we are now experiencing. And we don't consider the cost of rising imprisonment rates, rising crime rates, such as those referred to by Dr David Biles of the Australian Institute of Criminology on the weekend. We haven't even started to calculate those costs when we talk about the unemployment rates being at 11%, and yet, as I say, there are some parliamentarians who are prepared to accept that 10% is an acceptable level of unemployment in this country.

One other distressing aspect of the issues of unemployment and consequent levels of poverty in our community (and those levels are rising), is a phenomenon which I have not read about in relation to other countries, but I don't doubt that it exists. Something which we have not experienced in this country hitherto, that is underpaid employment. This is increasing virtually by the day. Just the other day I read in our local newspaper, that 25% of people registering for unemployment at the Bondi Junction office of the CES are in my cohort, in the 45 years plus age group. That is something that we have not experienced before: they are coming out of the so called white collar employment strata in our society - 25%! We haven't started to calculate the dollar cost of underpaid employment. Charities such as the Smith Family, such as St Vincent de Paul, and the Salvation Army who had the Red Shield appeal day last Sunday, are telling us now that, notwithstanding the people maybe in employment, that many people are not able to feed and clothe themselves.

What is the other side of that story? That thoroughly disgusting, immoral, obscene story that you would have read in the Sydney Morning Herald last week, which told us that Allan Bond's two sons aged 36 and 34 now control millions, tens of millions of dollars - and how did they get it? Not by the sweat of the brow, but by the dodges that their daddy got up to. Allan Bond is facing criminal charges this very day for very good reason, but you might remember back in 1988 he put up a replica of the Endeavour at a cost of \$12 million and the then Prime Minister who was out here in the Western suburbs opening a child care centre in the morning flew by helicopter to the Opera House on Sydney Harbour, held this man's hand up and said "Here is a great Australian". And we will pay the price for that great Australian for many generations to come. Your children and my children and our grandchildren will pay for the operations of Allan Bond and the likes of Allan Bond. And they were lauded by our national leaders as being great Australians. That is one side of the story. The other side is that we were being told how wonderful it was that our corporate leaders, (cowboys), were advanced because they were going into multi multi million if not billion dollar operations. And what have we found as a consequence of that? That they had escalated our foreign debt almost beyond our imagination. [I don't know about you, but I have a lot of difficulty getting my mind around the term one billion dollars. For that matter, I have a lot of difficulty getting around the term one million dollars. One billion dollars is one hell of a lot of money. Allan Bond has debts of 285 million, you think you've got troubles, ha!]

People like Bond entered into those debts, raised those foreign loans as private entrepreneurs, but because of the way that our economic system is structured, it is we the public who pay for it: the privatisation of wealth and the socialisation of debt. So when I say to you that we'll be paying for that for generations to come you should know what I mean. Don't believe these characters, don't you believe these capitalists who say they don't believe in socialism. They do when it comes to off loading

"(EGALITARIANISM) IS A MYTH I THINK THAT WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DESTROY."

their pay offs. You and I pay, and what is happening, is that some of us, our next door neighbours, maybe our own husbands, wives, sons and daughters are paying, with their jobs, with their houses and alarmingly and increasingly amongst the young people, with their lives.

Where does the concept of egalitarianism stand up in that picture. It's my view that it has been knocked out cold. It is a myth I think that we absolutely have to destroy. There have been two incidents in recent weeks which have focused my mind more particularly on this issue. One was the aftermath of the showing of the ABC television program "Cop it Sweet". I don't know if you listened to any of the talk back radio programs, (my husband and I listen to ABC radio), but I clearly remember the day after, when Andrew Olley opened up the telephone lines to his program, and callers were invited to make comments about the program, and they did indeed. What concerned me about some of those calls, was the idea being put forward by some callers, that in relation to the issue of police and Aborigines it was six of one and half a dozen of the other. Of course in a sense it was, wasn't it? I mean Aborigines have been hauled up before the courts time after time for saying that awful "f" word in public and what we saw on the program was that the police are saying that awful "f" word in public. Mind you they don't get hauled up before a court to answer for offensive language. Aborigines do, and that's what is so critical.

Police and Aborigines are not "playing", to borrow a phrase, from the economic rationalists on "the level playing field". Police are vested with enormous power in our community. They are required to exercise it with discretion. They exercise it, not only with discretion, but with considerable force. What a couple of the callers went on to say from there, is that, we as a society, have no right to condemn those police officers who were depicted in that program, because they were doing what this society has left for them to do. In other words we are all implicated. If police are to be condemned for the behaviour which was depicted in that program then we are all to be condemned. Are we? Do we in fact share in that abusive power. I say to you we don't. But if we condone it, well of course we have to share some of the responsibility. The problem for us is how do we express our condemnation of those things, and how do we call on governments and other authorities to call to account people responsible for that sort of behaviour. You might have heard in talk back radio programs, and the print medium, the discussion about how we do impose systems of accountability for that sort of behaviour on the part of police, particularly authority structures. But we might also look at other authority structures within our society, and ponder that question in relation to them.

A second event was in relation to what is known as the WA Inc. enquiry. This is the enquiry, you know, where the boys in Parliament House, were into the payola. People like Connell and a few others apparently involved, Federal parliamentarians in the Labor party. Victorians, South Australians, Queensland, NSW. I mean they were all in on it, you know pigs with their snouts in the trough. There was money to be had both ways. It was just flowing backwards and forwards and they were all getting in for their chop.

The issue was being discussed on ABC television on a 7.30 Report about three weeks ago. A guy came on, whose name I'm sorry I have forgotten, and I didn't record at the time. I was interested in his comments, I didn't get his name. He was presented as an ethicist and this is somebody who is concerned about the morality, the ethics, - the concept of morality, essential to the issue of ethics. What did he say? We

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all are involved in this, meaning all of Australia's society is involved in this, because we have created the circumstances where these guys could trade in this way. Well, I don't know about you, but I took umbrage at that. And I would submit that anybody who was challenged in that way would take umbrage at it. Again, what confronts us, is how do we put in place systems of accountability, not only for those entrepreneurs who engaged in that activity, but also the politicians who engaged in that activity. Who of them has faced criminal charges? Who of them has been dismissed from his post? The issue was raised again, just in the past week, with Graham Richardson's involvement with Greg Simons, some relative by marriage who was trying to do some dodgy little deal in the Marshall Islands. Do you think that Graham Richardson stood down because we as a society imposed upon him some accountability, some responsibility, and made him feel that he was doing the right thing by stepping down. Oh no! Richardson, as any of us who have been following his career know, and if we haven't been following his career, then we have been reading the newspapers over the weekends, we would know has been a political opportunist since he was eighteen or nineteen, when he first joined the Labor Party and let us be under no illusions about why he took the step he did. In opting to resign from the ministerial post in the Federal government, he was being a political opportunist yet again. And that, I submit to you, is not accountability. He's still pulling strings to ensure some political capital somewhere down the line. That's not what we want, we want these people brought to justice according to law, and that isn't happening. You will hear, this will be told oftentimes, that everyone in the community is equal before the law. Try telling that to some of the people I deal with. In this past decade or so, when we have seen corporate cowboys riding off on their charges expropriating these profits that they have been making, to tax havens around the world, shuffling it off to the sons and the daughters and to the ex-wives, not once that I am aware has any government in this country proposed that we change companies codes, national securities legislation to ensure that we can get back from these guys any of the money which they have wrongfully appropriated from the Australian community. Indeed you would have heard in relation to Bond in the last couple of weeks that one would have great difficulty tracing where his remaining millions are around the world. Do you think there are remaining millions around the world? I think they are right there in Perth. We read that just the other day. If any of our politicians had any guts at all they would have been in there at the first hint of unlawful activities and been trying to change the laws. But what were they doing? They were sitting around the dinner table and they were organising who was going to get the pay off. Where is egalitarianism in that scenario?

I think I have argued convincingly. I hope that myth of egalitarianism is out cold. Thank you for your attention.



Pat O'Shane, AM



Patricia O'Shane, AM - Magistrate of the Local Court of New South Wales. First Aboriginal barrister, past Commissioner of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission and Permanent Head of Aboriginal Affairs Department NSW 1941-1986.

OL' MAN RIVER MANAGING THE HAWKESBURY- NEPEAN ENVIRONMENT

WHILST IT IS NOW FASHIONABLE to be concerned with the health and welfare of the Hawkesbury-River system, there have been those who have shown concern at its steady degradation over many years. In the sixties and seventies Harry Scholer, then a Supervising Engineer with the Department of Public Works working on the State's river systems, sounded early warning bells for the future welfare of the Hawkesbury River. In 1977 the National Trust held a symposium entitled "Planning the Future of the Hawkesbury River Valley". Numerous studies have been conducted by the Departments of Public Works, Water Resources and Planning as well as the Water Board, the State Pollution Control Commission and the Soil Conservation Service.

The Department of Planning, under its numerous aliases, has produced a significant number of documents on the Hawkesbury-Nepean system culminating in Regional Environmental Plan No. 20, gazetted on 12th December, 1986.

In early 1969 an idealistic but callow young alderman of Windsor Municipal Council moved a motion which called upon that Council to take steps to initiate a Hawkesbury River Authority. The motion was defeated by nine votes to one and perhaps at that time rightly so, for although the idea may well have been right, the process by which such an Authority could have achieved the special needs of management within the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment was certainly not articulated nor understood by anyone with any particular clarity.

Nonetheless, that failed motion gave rise to a crusade which, although it may not yet have reached the Holy Grail, has come significantly closer to the chalice. Still burning with idealism, but hopefully no longer callow, I stand before you tonight to talk about the intervening years.

I originally entitled this lecture *Managing the Environment - not Managing the Hawkesbury-Nepean*, or the *Environmental Problems of Western Sydney*, because such topics are only part of a bigger picture. However, I was prevailed upon by the publicists to give it a more catchy title. Nonetheless, the sentiment of overall management will, I hope, still be the pervading theme of this talk. Environment is all encompassing. The Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition, defines "environ" as "of things: to form a ring around, surround, encircle" and "environment" as "the conditions under which any person or thing lives or is developed; the sum total of influences which modify and determine the development of life or character". It should be clear then that we are talking about much more than the river itself or of the river and its catchment as an entity in its natural state. We are as much a part of the environment as the land, the river, and the flora and fauna that inhabits it. Turning again to the Oxford Dictionary we find, "conserve" is defined as, "to keep, preserve, to keep in safety, or from harm, decay or loss; to

"WHEN THE PROBLEM IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY...IT BECOMES NO ONE'S RESPONSIBILITY."

preserve with care; now usually, to preserve in its existing state from destruction or change, to preserve or maintain in being or continuous existence; to keep alive or flourishing" and "conservation" is defined as "the action of conserving, preservation from destructive influences, natural decay, or waste; preservation in being, life, health, perfection, etc".

Whether we like it or not homosapiens is here to stay. We must learn to live with nature within the true meaning and spirit of conservation if we are to pass on to subsequent generations our part of the planet Earth or indeed the whole of the planet in fair average quality, to use a commercial expression. We are but passers-by, we have our place on Earth on loan, we have an obligation to those who follow not to abuse it to the point of destruction. And yet many, many generations have done just that. Luckily for us they did it, for the most part, in sufficiently small degrees that it did not matter all that much. The last thirty years have seen that level of degree rise rapidly.

A great challenge faces us today with a population growth that will see an estimated 2.62 billion in 1990 grow to 3.076 in the year 2000, 3.53 by 2010 and 4.19 by 2025¹. It begs the questions: How do we cope? How do we manage our environment?

I have not come here to make any attempt to solve the problems of the world. I do not know for example, nor do I have any suggestion to make, as to how we curb that population explosion, and yet that would seem to be a reasonable starting point.

What I am going to do tonight is to explain a mechanism for managing one environment, that is, the Hawkesbury, and perhaps from that there are some wider lessons to be learnt from the management package I describe and the philosophy behind it.

When I first considered the problems of the catchment, I came to the same conclusion as most other people. There were too many organisations having a say in what happens on the river. Too many local government authorities, too many state and federal agencies. When the problem is everyone's responsibility, then it becomes no one's responsibility. Placed firmly in the "too hard basket" the Hawkesbury was being allowed to just roll towards disaster.

In seeking to analyse why this was so it became too easy just to blame the urban sprawl, for the impending difficulties did not come from all that great a combination of urban, industrial and agricultural impacts. Many other great rivers of the world seemed to cope more easily. It was thus necessary to look at the river system itself for some answers.

I am not a scientific expert on river systems and presumably many in the audience tonight are in the same category. As essentially lay people interested in the river, it is necessary for us to understand its particular dynamics in lay terms. Accurate enough for us to understand, but not so scientific that we get confused. If we care about the river, and there are many in the community who do, it is important that we have a good grasp of the fundamentals.

The first feature to recognise is that the Hawkesbury-Nepean is a very old river. It commenced as an upland area dissected by a juvenile river and having a formation of rounded water-worn pebbles. By the time it reached its senile stage, it meandered over a level surface of Wianamatta shale with the pebbles still present in its bed. These pebbles were, of course, the rich blue metal deposits of today. Later, the more northerly

**"IT WAS THE WHITE MAN WHO
...ARROGANTLY DEMANDED THE
RIVER STAY WHERE IT WAS..."**

regions were uplifted. However, this warping was sufficiently slow to preserve the river's meandering course. The shale became gradually eroded to expose the Hawkesbury sandstone.

During this period, a lake formed and it was the sediment in this lake which created the original alluvial deposits. The build up of sediment finally forced the water level in the lake higher until it found a notch through which to escape and the subsequent flow eroded the valley to the base level of the sea, dissecting the lake alluvials in the process. The numerous tributaries now attacked the softer uplifted areas and eroded juvenile gorges.

The next significant aspect was an invasion from the sea which affected all parts of the valley and tributaries at base level. This also caused a heavy deposition of sediment.

A secondary uplift exposed this silt and created the final circumstances for the present process of erosion and deposition upon which modern day human activity has wrought its own changes.

In simpler terms, if we can imagine the east coast of Australia with the Great Dividing Range running from north to south we will note that the Blue Mountains is a spur jutting off the main range.

If we imagine the eastern seaboard in the Sydney region as a series of flat but unconnected plates, and take one of the plates, the one nearest the Great Dividing Range, and, with a herculean effort turn it on angle, we have that upthrusting which forms the Blue Mountains and a valley which forms the Hawkesbury-Nepean valley. The only outlet is that at Brooklyn and so when the level of material in the valley reached the height of that rock shelf the water table rose to a point where it poured out to the sea cutting a channel through the eroded material at the points of least resistance. And so the Hawkesbury as we know it today was created.

From approximately North Richmond to the sea there is hardly any fall. From time to time the river has altered its course, sometimes imperceptibly, at other times quite markedly. It was not until white settlement, however, that it ever mattered where the river actually ran. It was the white man who partitioned the land, created transferable title, and arrogantly demanded the river stay where it was in 1788.

There is another picture of the river which is useful and for which I am indebted to the Water Board. They use the comparison with a bath tub. You can imagine this large tub as the valley, being filled from a number of taps of varying sizes. About seven in fact. When it rains these taps flow at different rates and for different periods of time. The Warragamba catchment for example, is the biggest tap and is turned on most frequently. The bath has one plug-hole, that is, the mouth of the river at Brooklyn. It is not difficult to visualise that with the taps turned on the plug-hole can not empty the bath fast enough so the bath fills, or in real terms the river floods.

"CLEARLY THE RIVER NEEDS A CHAMPION. NOT A PERSON BUT AN ORGANISATION..."

Now let us turn to some of the problems:

- Conflicting land uses and the river economy.
- Deteriorating water quality.
- Air pollution.
- Floods.
- Fires.
- Soil degradation.
- Bank erosion.
- Extractive industries.
- Historic buildings.
- Proximity to Sydney.
- Recreation use, both passive and active.

Most of these problems are well known and need no detailed explanation. Clearly the river needed a champion. Not a person but an organisation, the whole purpose and function of which would be the present and future welfare of the river, its catchment and the people living within that catchment. That was the point from which I started. The next obvious question was, what sort of organisation? I have always thought in terms of an authority and still do, although I am beginning to accept the reality of a Trust such as has been suggested by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Task Force. The concept of a Trust still worries me a little because the concept of a Trust brings with it the special duties and functions attributable to trustees both at common law and statutorily under the Trustees Act. I am not sure whether those duties fit as well with what I see as the needs of the organisation as does the concept of an authority.

Be it an authority or a trust however, there are a number of ingredients which are important.

Firstly, it must have a clear and distinct charter. In my original draft the function of the Trust was to make such surveys and general plans for the region and such adjoining territory, including estuarine and off-shore waters, as may be necessary to guide and control the extent, sequence and nature of development that may be equitably and economically advanced for the general purpose of fostering orderly and proper physical, environmental, economic and social management of the said areas, with particular reference to a number of special matters which in their listing are not intended to reflect any particular scale of priority:

- achieving the highest possible level of water and biota quality for the river system and its tributaries;
- achieving an appropriate degree of flood control consistent with the biological and environmental needs of the river system;
- optimising the recreational potential of the river for the widest possible range of user groups consistent with its environmental and biological sustainability;
- preservation of the natural environment;
- protection of significant sites of Aboriginal and post white settlement;
- minimisation and appropriate use of marginal and degraded lands;
- protection of remnant vegetation and reforestation of all lands within the region with indigenous local species including specifically river banks, tributaries, and existing watercourse;
- the economic and social welfare of the people living in the region consistent with an ecologically sustainable future for the region;
- protection of agriculturally viable soils; and,
- establishment of zonings to carry into effect the environmental planning strategies arising therefrom.

"IT WAS A MECHANISM DESIGNED TO...ENSURE A BASIC LEVEL OF CAPABILITY."

Whilst these basically remain the objectives of the proposed Trust, I believe the emphasis has been narrowed in a number of areas.

Next, the benefit area had to be catchment wide. If one visualises the Hawkesbury-Nepean and its tributaries then whenever a drop of rain falling on the land theoretically finds its way to the main stream then that land is part of the catchment. The catchment therefore extends from Goulburn in the south to Bathurst in the north west, to the mouth of the river in the east. Ecologically there is an argument to extend the area into Brisbane Waters and Pittwater and even to some extent offshore because the estuarine influence over the lower sections of the river is quite significant. In general debate, however, it has been accepted that such an extension poses greater managerial problems than the benefits could probably justify. The simple river catchment definition is better understood, easier to sustain and this is how it will proceed.

Then, to be effective the body had to be relatively small and streamlined in its decision making process. My proposal was for an authority comprising five full-time persons, one of whom would be the Chairman by virtue of appointment and with strong managerial, communication and people skills and four who would have special knowledge of and experience in each of four disciplines vital to the catchment. The four disciplines I selected were town planning and heritage matters, geomorphology, freshwater and estuarine water studies, and soil geology and terrestrial ecology. The reason for this was not that they necessarily represented the only areas of expertise that may be required or that the work-load of the authority could be carried by those persons, more it was that they would have a background of expert qualification which would purify the selection process. It was a mechanism designed to frustrate the politicians, to prevent the appointment of unsuitable persons and to ensure a basic level of capability. Equally important was that it would bring to the authority a high level of professional integrity. I believed it was important that the authority was not drawn from a representational basis. My observation was that where members "represented" another group as their qualification for membership, that 'other' group, to whom they owed their very existence would always demand the greater loyalty. In other words, the river would come off second best. I must say I am disappointed that the proposed Trust has been considerably expanded, to eleven, and now incorporates in addition to the five full-time members, three part-time members drawn from the general community and representing business, environmental and resident interests, and three local government members, one of whom is the Chairman of the Nepean-Hawkesbury Catchment Management Council, the other two representing rural and environmental interests within the catchment. Whilst superficially attractive in giving the appearance of a broader range of interests it does start to break down the integrity essential to the success of the concept.

Integrity is essential to any mechanism. It is especially essential to any mechanism which must, of its nature, have an extensive and comprehensive inter-relationship with the general community.

What builds integrity? It is openness of operation. A high degree of transparency. It is accountability to those whom it serves. Like democracy itself, such a goal cannot be achieved with ruthless efficiency. It is slow, often cumbersome, sometimes frustrating and always a complex process. And yet, if such a mechanism can be sustained long enough to produce credibility and integrity and then continue to operate in that mode, may it not be the most efficient and satisfactory

**"IT IS MY BELIEF THAT WE MUST
CHANGE OUR CULTURE TO ENHANCE
THE LONG RANGE CONCEPT..."**

in the long term. Instant coffee may have seemed a boon to mankind at the time, but "instant" is seldom the best and the modern craving for "instant" happenings has, as much as any other single factor, created a crisis mentality which sees the world lurch from one desperate situation to another. The long range thinker, the long term planner has found little support in the last twenty years. It is my belief that we must change our culture to embrace the long range concept, to cast aside the populist image of "instant" solution. Such a need is very much at the heart of any mechanism which will satisfactorily manage the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment into the twenty-first century and beyond.

My concept of a full-time authority charged with the sole objective of maintaining the welfare of the catchment and its people was therefore aimed at establishing such a level of integrity.

The autonomy, however, which I envisage as essential to its purity of intention could easily drift into dangerous waters unless there was strong interface and accountability to those it served. My original concept established two advisory bodies, a Consultative Council which was to be a standing committee representing a number of disciplines and a number of ad hoc Research and Assessment Committees which would be formed to examine special areas of interest and which would, on completion of their task, be dissolved. The Consultative Council's role would be to furnish advice to the Minister, either of its own motion or upon request made to it by the Minister, in respect of any matter relating to the operation of the Act constituting the authority and to furnish advice to the Trust, either on its own motion or upon request made to it by the Trust, upon any matter deemed to be in the public interest in so far as that public interest is affected by the functions of the authority. Any advices given to the Minister would be made available to the authority. The Council would consist of two representatives of Local Government to be selected from a panel made up of one representative of each local government area within the region, two representatives of State Government agencies, two persons representing commercial and industrial interests in the region, two representatives of agricultural interest in the region, two representatives of environmental groups within the region, two representatives of resident groups with the region, and one representative of each of the four disciplines represented on the authority.

The intention of the Council was to give a broad basis of representation and input from the community, the two tiers of government with a leavening of academic perspective. The method of selection which would be based on a public call for nominations and a rigorous selection process would again reinforce the integrity of the Council and therefore its advice, by breaking down the representational factor and boosting the personal commitment of each member to the objectives of the authority.

Research and Assessment Committees would be established as required to carry out such investigations, furnish such reports and make such recommendations as the authority required in connection with any matter or thing relating to the planning and management of the region or the carrying out or exercise by the authority of any power, authority, duty or function conferred on or imposed by the authority pursuant to its own or any other Act. Without limiting the scope of matters to be considered by the committees subject areas which I considered of initial importance were integrated control and management of water catchment and storage, flood mitigation, and water quality; preservation of the aquatic habitat and the protection of fisher-

**"...I COULD NOT BE SEEN PUBLICLY
TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE VARIATION
WITHOUT DEMUR."**

ies and invertebrate resources; preservation, protection and restoration of areas of scenic, scientific or environmental significance; design and location of buildings, services, roads and public places within the region, and the protection of open space; use and preservation of historic sites and buildings; the mining, extraction and use of any natural resources located within the region; land degradation and land use; and assessment of environmental impacts of developments. Each committee would consist of a Chairman and such other persons, appointed by the authority, as would be considered to have expertise or knowledge necessary to the committee's task.

In the recommendations of the Task Force the nature of the Research and Assessment Committees remain largely unchanged. The Consultative Council, whilst remaining the same in function, has been altered in its composition. Gone are the four academic disciplines to be replaced with four more State agency representatives.

The reason for this change and the expansion in the part-time element of the Trust as currently proposed is to bring a greater sense of ownership and therefore co-operation to the major government and semi-government instrumentalities, fundamentally and vitally involved in catchment management. The argument was strongly put that if these agencies belonged to the structure they would take a greater interest in it, alternatively, distance them from participation in that sense and their interest and commitment to the future welfare of the catchment would be indifferent. In the Task Force's final report CHANGE, the Coalition of Hawkesbury-Nepean Groups for the Environment, (representing nearly all environmental groups in the catchment), provided a dissenting comment in which they said, "In view of the concurrence powers of the Trust, any Local Government representative will be contingently in conflict with the independent nature of the Trust"... (and later)" it is most important that the Trust be perceived by the general public as totally independent of both Local Government and State Government instrumentalities. The Task Force is not recommending membership for the State Government level and neither should it for Local Government...(we) accepted part-time community representatives on the Trust with reluctance, believing that their proper place is on the Consultative Council."

I also submitted a dissenting comment in similar terms. As a realist I accepted the pressure of local government and the State agencies for these variations in the interests of the greater goal, but I could not be seen publicly to have accepted the variation without demur. As indicated before, I believe the Trust should have only full-time members but if there were to be part-time members they should not outnumber the full-time members. This variation reduces the Trust's capacity for independence and integrity of purpose and deprecates the genuine capability of both Local Government and the State agencies to fulfil their roles with diligence and principle.

I was quite happy to accept two new concepts in outreach, community input and public accountability. These were the suggestions that the Nepean-Hawkesbury Catchment Management Council, a currently existing committee established under Section 521 of the Local Government Act be brought within the ambit of the Trust on a statutory basis and the creation of an annual public forum. The former is seen as strengthening the linkage between the Trust and Local Government, the latter as strengthening linkages with the community. In addition to its formal linkage there is a further strengthening in that there are three representatives of the NHCMC on the Trust and further representation on the Consultative Council.

**"I...DECIDED TO WORK WITHIN
THE EXISTING PLANNING MECHAN-
ISM, WITH SOME SUBTLE CHANGES."**

Under the proposal the NHCMC will remain a Section 521 Committee but will be given statutory duties in relation to its interaction with the Trust. Its objective is generally to assist and facilitate in achieving a healthy and productive river system by protecting and restoring the water-way, but coordinating ecologically sustainable use, development and management of natural resources, both in the flood-plain and the built environment, and fostering the orderly and proper physical, environmental and socio-economic management as the basis of well-being of the people and all life within the catchment. It is to be constituted by representatives of all local government areas within the region and such other persons as it may see as appropriate to invite to its meeting.

The Annual Forum would cover the presentation of technical and business papers and a review of the implementation of programs contained in the corporate plan (over the previous twelve months) as well as modifying or confirming directions for the ensuing year. It would especially provide for review of the Trust's corporate plan. As a public assembly it would give a platform for the community to express its concerns and comment upon the actions and activities of the Trust.

The next task was to 'clothe the body' with authority. As the major function of the body was to involve planning it was necessary to establish a planning mechanism under which the body could function. A mechanism that had the force of law.

From my earliest conception of a single river body I was certain that the idea could not be sold to the community if it was to be seen as just another large and expensive bureaucracy. The mechanism had to be lean, mean and efficient. Personally I was diametrically opposed to the creation of more authorities but here I was advocating yet another. I argued with myself that whereas many authorities were not necessary such a fact did not preclude an authority being both necessary and appropriate in the right circumstance. Such a rationale in itself is not very convincing. The real answer as I perceived it, was to create a body which, to the greatest possible extent, used existing mechanisms. This had three major advantages: one, it would be more cost effective; two, it would integrate and better utilise the pool of knowledge and expertise already existing within the catchment; and thirdly, it was less threatening to existing agencies. The latter was most important for acceptance by the agencies. The body was therefore not to be so much a deliverer of services but a co-ordinator, manager, watchdog for the catchment, in fact, the very function that had never existed in the catchment. It was this vacuum in river management that was the single greatest contributor to the river's problems.

I then decided to work totally within the existing planning mechanism, with some subtle changes. Long before the creation of Regional Environmental Plan No. 20, which covers the Hawkesbury-Nepean below Warragamba, I had promoted the idea of a catchment wide regional plan. Regional plans have, however, to date been fairly motherhood statements. Statements of general principle, short on fine detail. Historically, the fine detail had been contained in local environmental plans, that is, the planning ordinance for a single local government area. This had led to fragmented standards reflecting different attitudes at different times by different councils. What was needed was a comprehensive regional plan spelling out in detail the planning goals for the whole catchment and giving clear guidance to councils as to what was expected to them. Such a regional plan would attempt to get

**"EVENTUALLY THE PLAN WOULD
PROVIDE AN ACCURATE, COHESIVE
AND INFORMATIVE BASE..."**

ahead of the difficult problems by pooling both problems and resources to provide across the board solutions. Eventually the plan would provide an accurate, cohesive and informative base upon which proponents could design their developments in conformity with known requirements. This would expedite the application process without jeopardy to critical standards. The Regional Plan would be technically developed by the Department of Planning in accordance with normal procedures but be the result of the body's analysis, design and evaluation. To achieve uniformity the regional plan would take precedence over all other regional environmental plans and local environmental plans. In effect existing and future regional environmental plans would be brought within REP 20 by amendment and local environmental plans would be amended to produce conformity as required. This principle has been accepted by the Task Force and will be a fundamental platform of the Trust's operation. As a consequence of this strategy it has also been accepted that the Trust will draw up Codes of Practice, to be gazetted as schedules to REP 20, against which any development application which is environmentally sensitive may be developed and evaluated or existing development may be monitored. It is envisaged that, in the case of existing development which is found to be environmentally unsound, orders may be issued for modifications in the mode of operation to bring the development into conformity with the Code within a time frame which recognised the degree of environmental harm and the cost of the modifications. The Codes would represent a consolidation of conditions currently imposed by bodies responsible for regulation of development and considered appropriate for the categories of development to which they apply, together with such further conditions as may be considered necessary to protect the catchment. The Codes may be amended from time to time as and when further knowledge is acquired which will better detail environmentally sounder design and work practices and the form and content of the Codes may be varied in accordance with the environmental significance of the development to different parts of the catchment.

Of great significance to the functions of the Trust is its concurrence role for development applications of an environmentally sensitive nature lodged within the catchment. Such developments would include "designated development" as presently defined in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and listed under Schedule 3 of the Regulations to that Act and a further classification of development outside that category but considered to be of importance within the catchment or a part of the catchment.

For any application for development within the terms of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, the consent authority remains the authority at that time administering the environmental planning instrument for the area.

Where an application for development is lodged with a consent authority in respect of land within the region and such development is either designated development or classified development, the development shall in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan require the concurrence of the Trust as a condition of consent. Where a development falls within the categories of designated or classified development the Trust shall have, without specific notification, right of appeal as a third party pursuant to S.98 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, whether or not such development has been referred to the Trust for concurrence and the Trust shall be deemed an objector to any such application. Where a consent authority receives an application for a designated development or a classified development

**"AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE...
INTEGRITY OF THE TRUST'S
OPERATIONS IS ACCESS TO DATA."**

it shall advise the Trust which shall, in conduction with the Department of Planning, prepare the criteria for an Environmental Impact Assessment for the development. Upon completion of the application and its formal lodgement with the consent authority, it shall be forwarded as soon as practicable to the Trust. Upon receipt of the application the Trust shall determine whether the application complies with the requirements of REP 20 and any relevant codes. In the event that an application fails to meet such requirements the consent authority shall be advised of the areas in which the application is deficient. Where the Trust is of the opinion that insufficient data is available as to the possible effects of the development on the natural or built environment, it may issue an order to the consent authority extending the time for consideration of the application to allow sufficient research to be conducted as will ensure the impact of the development can be properly identified and evaluated. Upon the issuing of an order, the Trust shall undertake such research as may be necessary and shall take such steps as it deems appropriate to ensure that the research is adequately funded. The Trust may require further environmental impact studies to be conducted and shall prepare the brief for such studies which shall be carried out by consultants engaged by the Trust on the proponent's behalf. Upon completion of all relevant studies the Trust shall further consider the application and issue or withhold its concurrence. After the consent authority issues a consent for any such development it shall forward a copy of the consent to the Trust within seven days. Where an application is refused or granted with conditions unacceptable to the proponent and the proponent exercises its right of appeal to the court, to the extent that the grounds of appeal are founded in the instrument of concurrence or non-concurrence the defendant in such proceedings shall be the Trust. Where the Trust receives advice of a consent which it considers to be in breach of the terms of concurrence it may, within 14 days, issue an order staying the legal force of the consent and any claim for compensation arising therefrom shall devolve upon the relevant consent authority.

I have already mentioned certain enforcement procedures which I believe are necessary for the positive functioning of the Trust. In addition to these specific areas there must be general provisions to ensure compliance with the Trust's requirements. Where, for example, it comes to the notice of the Trust that any development is in breach of the Regional Plan or a relevant Code, the Trust must be able to issue an order requiring the person, company or agency in breach to cease its action or practice, undertake such works as may be necessary to remedy the effects of the breach and /or make directions as to the future conduct of development. Equally where a person, company or agency feels aggrieved by an order of the Trust, there will be a right of appeal to the Court. I would suggest such appeals be Class 1 actions pursuant to the provisions of the Land and Environment Court Act, 1979.

The actions and decisions of the Trust would fall within the compass of Section 123 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and as such any person may bring proceedings in the Court for an order to remedy or restrain a breach of the Trust's duties whether or not any right of that person has been or may be infringed by or as a consequence of that breach. Such action would be Class 4 actions pursuant to the provisions of the Land and Environment Court Act, 1979.

An essential part of the transparency and integrity of the Trust's operations is access to data. The idea is to create a one stop shop for all factual data available on the catchment with availability of the data to all who seek it. Thus individuals, councils, developers, consultants,

**"IN THE PAST MUCH OF THE
RESEARCH (WAS) IN PURSUIT
OF A NARROW OBJECTIVE."**

government agencies, academics will all have the same access to the same data. The Trust will establish a central data access point for this information. A considerable amount of data is already available, much of it electronically. What is needed is a common gateway and it will be the Trust's role to provide this facility. The Trust will have the power to require State agencies to provide access to research material or statistical information held by those agencies that is relevant to the region. In return the agencies will have free access to the retrieval of information.

To encourage private organisations to yield information to the data base we are looking at an arrangement under which any organisation or person who lodges research material or statistical information free of charge with the data base, and which is information not otherwise available and considered by the Trust to be relevant to its requirements, shall receive reciprocal rights of free access to information.

A further major function of the Trust shall be to evaluate research material or statistical information currently available and necessary for the proper management of the region for the purpose of identifying such further areas of research or investigation as may be necessary for the proper future planning and administration of the region. Having identified such requirements it will then establish a program of further research to meet those needs and take such steps as may be necessary to progressively carry out such research or investigation. It is important that research and investigation is carried out only by suitably qualified individuals, accredited research establishments or accredited consultants if the integrity of the work is to be beyond reproach. In the past much of the research has been conducted in pursuit of a narrow objective. This has often led to a lack of completeness or a bias towards the desired result. This problem can only be overcome if the agency writing the brief for research is one whose only interest is the welfare of the catchment. It shall not, however, be a function of the Trust to carry out its own research and investigation. In keeping with the philosophy of integrity and independence, research contracts will be granted to outside consultants through a process of open tender and will be individually funded.

The Trust will be funded from a variety of sources. The first option which springs to most people's mind is a catchment levy such as is applied by the Hunter Valley Trust or the Parramatta River Trust. I believe it is inappropriate, given the far reaching charter of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Trust to consider catchment levies as other than a funding of last resort. In determining a levy it is pertinent to ask to whom and in what measure will the levy be directed. As has been indicated the catchment is enormous, its problems are different and varied and the solutions equally different and varied. It is fair then to levy the same amount per year on all residents or ratepayers? Some will obviously benefit more than others. And yet, with such a huge population within the catchment, it is superficially attractive to contemplate a common levy of say \$10-00 a head. Not much per individual but collectively raising a considerable amount of money. We must ask ourselves, however, in the same breath, is it only the people within the catchment who will benefit from an improved catchment. Clearly not. We have only to consider that the catchment supplies Sydney's water, much of its recreation facility and certainly a large measure of its quality of life to appreciate that perhaps all of Sydney should be contributing. This question of wider contribution can and should be met in two ways. Firstly, by direct contribution from Consolidated Revenue. This spreads the burden very wide and covers contribution from even those outside of the Greater Sydney region who will undoubtedly also draw some

**"...IT CAN WORK, BUT IT
WILL NEED COURAGE
AND STRENGTH..."**

benefit. Secondly, from government and semi-government agencies having statutory responsibilities within the catchment. This source of funds has a major reason for setting up the body under the Catchment Management Act to this gives a base for a wide range of applications under existing government programs.

A further source of funds would lie in the commercial value of much of the Trust's work. The funding of research and the sale of its intellectual property will I believe constitute in the long term a major source of funds. A further source of funds may be from penalties although one would like to think this would in the long term be minimal. I believe that only after all other sources of funds have been tapped, should we think of a levy and that any levy should bear upon the benefit accruing to the contributor.

Finally the Trust would be accountable to Parliament under the normal annual reporting procedures. The enabling legislation, which will be an Act amending the Catchment Management Act will provide a sunset clause of ten years.

As far as can be determined, the particular combination of features embodied in the proposals I have outlined has not occurred anywhere else in the world. I have researched river authorities in other places and each is different. Different because each is specifically tailored to meet its own special and narrow purpose. Few have considered as their objective the breadth of planning and ultimate common purpose for the welfare of the human and natural environment that is vital to the future of the Hawkesbury. What makes the Hawkesbury proposal so special is that it is based on fundamental principles of good management. It is a mechanism for addressing problems. It is a framework within which the specific answers to specific needs can be designed, evaluated and carried out. It can also review their ultimate success, or failure, and bring to pass such modification as may be necessary to achieve a better result. It also shares that responsibility with the community it serves, taking it along as an equal partner. It is not only a mechanism for managing our river system, it is a formula for managing any environment.

Whether it works will be something only time can answer. I believe it can work, but it will need courage and strength, and most of all integrity of purpose. I hope that is not expecting too much. I do not believe it is. Thank you for your patience and attention.

¹ World Population Projections 1989-90 Edition, Published for the World Bank.



The Hon Kevin Rozzoli

The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli - Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly representing Hawkesbury since 1973. Speaker of the House since 1988, member of numerous parliamentary committees. Member of Board of Governors, University of Western Sydney.



SKINNY CHICKS AND STUPID MUMS

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN by telling you the story of my first introduction to radio, when I was asked to do a program for 2GB. Initially the program was to be at night. The general manager rang me up, just before I started work and said, "Look, I'm sure you'll be glad to hear this, we've decided we don't want you at night, we want you at lunch time and so you won't have to work as hard."

I said "Why not?"

And he said "Because this new time slot is only listened to by women."

That was 1962. Now let's go forward to 1992 and a film that I made in Ireland this July when I attended a Global Forum of women leaders to discuss new concepts of leadership. One of the women was well-known American author and activist, Betty Friedan, and the Forum was hosted by Mary Robinson, President of Ireland. Participants included top-ranking women from all over the world, nearly 70 countries, and representing all kinds of leadership, political, business, health, the arts, education, agriculture, women of extraordinarily high calibre from grass roots through to presidential.

When we tried to get television interest in the forum to back a documentary film, the response we received was, "Oh, we've done enough about women this year."

The forum was scintillating. But there was very little coverage of it in Europe, nor in the United States, and almost nothing in Australia. This would never have happened with a world forum of male leaders of similar calibre. Thirty years on, the media still marginalises women's issues.

Tonight, I will address the portrayal of women in the media and the way that women continue to be denigrated, trivialised or ignored. I want to reflect on the consequences of such actions, and then to consider some ways of achieving change.

One of the reasons why trivialisation and stereotyping continues is because the media is still a male world. Men hold most of the executive positions and most of the leading creative positions and, as a consequence, they perpetuate a view of the world that reflects male values, male priorities and a male view of women.

One way of looking at this is to think of the media as a mirror of society, where men are holding the mirror, men are choosing the angle, and men are deciding what will be seen. That mirror is obviously more than just a reflection of society. It is a dynamic and interactive part of society, and it pervades our lives. It means that not only are we being given a limited view of the world, a view that primarily comes from only half the population not the whole, but the imbalance is continually reinforced.

When I was in America following the Global Forum, I met a number of women journalists including Judy Mann, a leading correspondent from

"WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS WOMEN'S DESIRE TO BE FREE FROM HOW MEN CHOOSE TO SEE US..."

the Washington Post who has written widely about the media representation of women. At times she feels that she has wandered into the hall of mirrors at a circus - that women are distorted, that much of the time we're too tall in our aspirations, too short in our accomplishments, too thin in our talents, too heavy in our personal burdens. Most of the decisions about what will be covered and what will be ignored by the media are being made by men, mostly white Anglo-Saxon men. So it is little wonder that the extraordinary changes that have affected women's lives over the last 25 years are rarely reflected in the media, and when they are covered they are usually presented as polarised issues -for example, women who stay at home versus women who go out to work.

What is at issue is woman's desire to be free from how men choose to see us, and the pressures that are imposed by such unrealistic images. This is what we wish to escape.

Betty Friedan was one of the first to draw our attention to media imaging of women in 1963 with her best-selling book, *THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE*. In 1980 a UNESCO report on Women in the Media identified images of women in the media and in advertising as amongst the main obstacles to eliminating discrimination. The images are pervasive and powerful, they promote a stereotype, they undermine women's contribution to society, they reinforce the low status of women's paid and unpaid work, and they exacerbate the sense of guilt that many women feel because they're not fulfilling the media stereotype.

It is an issue that has been of open concern to feminists for well over 20 years, but they are now joined by increasing numbers of women who don't even call themselves feminists but who are concerned and angry at their media portrayal. We know this from nation-wide consultations with women of all ages and backgrounds, and we know it from research. Underlying all those advertising images of women going into ecstasies over the latest household product, or of women in bondage selling soft porn magazines or videos, lie quite profound issues of social justice and the use and abuse of power.

If we go back to 1986, the year after the Nairobi Conference, the Australian Government drew up a National Agenda for Women by consulting with 26,000 women of all ages and backgrounds, throughout Australia, to identify those issues which gave them most concern. A major issue was the portrayal of women in the media. Criticisms included stereotyping, trivialisation and sexual exploitation.

Subsequent studies have produced similar results. For example, this year, 1992, the National Agenda was updated, and in focused discussion groups, women were making the following kind of comments:

A woman in Brisbane: "Sex object, you're either just a sex object or a home body, a bimbo or a drone".

In Queanbeyan: "We're always shown as idiots, dumb, the 'fall guy' for male humour and submissive, non-individuals".

And from Geelong, "Dumb blondes, with Elle Macpherson's figures or door mats, I say to my daughter you don't have to be like this".

John Singleton and others in the advertising business who would like to think that such reactions come only from rat-bag feminists should be more in tune with how women feel and what we are saying.

"WE HARDLY EVER SEE ACTIVE STRONG FIFTY OR SIXTY YEAR OLD WOMEN ON TELEVISION."

So what are we concerned about and what makes us angry? In 1987 the Office of the Status of Women commissioned a content analysis of women in television and radio advertisements. The study found that the typical ad-land woman is usually young, she's slim, she's beautiful, she's white, she's well dressed, and she's mostly portrayed either as a domestic slave or a sex object. She's rarely required to speak. In many advertisements, she's not even all there, she's in bits.

She is also required to be healthy. Twice as many women as men are seen to be in vibrant good health. And five times as many women as men are seen to be well-dressed. So the women are healthy, beautiful young, slim and fashionable - just the way that advertising copy-writers would like to see their women and, surprise surprise, 80% of copy-writers are male. Whereas, content analysis studies tell us that men on television don't have to be as healthy, are sometimes allowed to be old, have paunches, dress badly - in other words, are allowed to be human.

Women are denied this. They are also denied authority. In television and radio advertising, the voice-over is almost always presented as the voice of authority. And it is a male voice. 86% of voice-overs in television are male and 92% in radio. Equally there are very few older women in television advertising - about 5% - and almost no older women acting as authority figures in news and current affairs. Think about it. We hardly ever see active strong fifty or sixty year old women on television. We see men - men with lined faces and white hair, even men with toupees, but no women. So the women who are put up as authority figures are often displayed because of their looks rather than their knowledge, and that can put them at a disadvantage compared with older, more experienced males.

The pattern of gender imbalance continues with children. Twice as many boys as girls appear in advertisements. Little girls are almost always pretty and passive, boys are adventurous and frequently put down the girls.

Aboriginal women are virtually non-existent and, in news or drama programs, when they are seen, it is almost always in connection with violence or with drinking. Their opinions are rarely sought.

Women from non-English speaking backgrounds - the same picture - rarely seen and if they are, they're mostly cooking spaghetti or they're mopping up a carpet in the middle of the desert after Pro Hart has chucked down a whole lot of muck.

So we perpetuate a male Anglo-Saxon view of the world. Bob Belgiovanni, who is in the advertising industry and spoke at a 1990 Forum on Women and Advertising, organised by the National Working Party, said that it's easy to write to Australian men, you press any one of four emotive buttons, grog, mates, sports and sex, not necessarily in that order. The Australian male, as seen by the ad industry, says "G-day mate, fancy a beer, did you see the footy, cor look at those sheilas". And that's how it's been for fifty years.

Belgiovanni continues: "It's easy to slip into that image and for men to deny the changes that have occurred - even though they have occurred very much for men as well. But if you're working under pressure you tend to continue with the stereotype, particularly if to many Australian men, the women's revolution was just something the girls were doing - like a tupperware party. Reforms didn't involve them. Were there any meetings at St George's Leagues Club where Australian men tabled initiatives they could take to assist women in their quest for equality? No, it wasn't men's problem. And so men who work

"...WOMEN'S SPORT OCCUPIED 1.3% OF (TELEVISION) SPORT TIME COMPARED WITH...2.1% FOR ANIMALS."

in the advertising industry, skating along with a stereotype, tend to see women either as the old fashioned kind or feminists. Two clean, neat and simple divisions."

A male bias is also strongly represented in Australian coverage of sport. In 1991, a Standing Committee of the House of Representatives produced a discussion paper of the position of women in sport which stated that in nearly a decade, in spite of all the time and effort that's put into raising awareness of women's sport, the total coverage of women's sport in newspapers has risen from 2% to 2.5% - 2.5% coverage of women's sport! And in a survey of TV sports coverage in 1988, averaged across six channels, women's sport occupied 1.3% of total sport time compared with 56.8% for men, 39.8% for mixed sport and 2.1% for animals.

This is in spite of the enormous success of women athletes. Sports-women in the Olympics for example, have won 42% of medals and yet they have comprised only 19% of the team. So women are doing really well, but we're not seeing them. And this has its consequences.

Denial of women's sporting activities perpetuates the myth that women's sport is boring. Who says it's boring? Or that women's sports are too slow. To slow for what? And for whom? Particularly when you think that a lot of slow sports like snooker, are male sports and readily seen.

Denial also means that women are not getting the sponsorship and the same level of support that male sport achieves. Male commentators - who predominate - are ignorant of women's sport because they're not seeing it and therefore not having to learn about it. And aspiring young sportswomen have no role models to follow.

I want now to look at another area, perhaps the most disturbing of all, the issue of women and sexual exploitation. Earlier this year there was a big outcry about the periodicals PICTURE and PEOPLE. They are both Consolidated Press Publications. The first one, PEOPLE, showed a young woman, naked and on all fours, with a diamond studded dog collar around her neck. Her body was stamped with the message "More wild things inside". Not long after, the same publishers, brought out an issue of PICTURE which showed a laser beam leveled at a women's vagina and the words, "Killing's never been so easy or so much fun".

Both periodicals led to a huge outcry from women, individuals as well as over 150 women's organisations, who protested in a variety of ways. They wrote to the Commonwealth Censor, to newspapers, and to the Ministers in their various states, resulting in restricted classification being placed on those magazines in three states. What this action achieved was also to make the publisher, Richard Walsh, accountable because he was obliged to defend his actions in public debate. Restriction of both magazines also affected sales.

I recall an impassioned and moving phone call that I had from a women's refuge in Melbourne at the time that this occurred. A woman on the other end of the line was saying "We're getting abused, we're getting raped, we're getting assaulted every day and we want the media to support us not endanger us. Please help us."

The problem is pervasive and extends from obvious cases of pornography to messages in the local press - like this advertisement for pizzas at

"...SEXUALLY VIOLENT PROPOGANDA IS A FORM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE..."

a Queensland cafe. "Our pizzas are hand picked, healthy, fresh and well endowed while retaining slim firm bottoms". Or to less obvious examples where women are shown as powerless and dependent upon male approval for their self-esteem.

There has been a lot of research about whether there is a direct causal link between violent media and sexual violence. I don't suppose it will ever be proven because there are so many variables. However, what is generally accepted now is that sexually violent propaganda is a form of sexual violence and that it establishes a cultural and social norm - tantamount to saying that it is okay to think that women are sex objects, to be used for male pleasure and for male exploitation. Yet if you normalise a culture of physical and sexual violence then I believe you are jeopardising the safety and the security of women all over Australia.

Films are also exhibiting a growing trend towards violence, and this includes the so-called radical chic offerings, where women are raped and violated under the guise of slick technology and smart semiotics. Film critic Anna Maria Dell'oso calls it "upmarket interior decorating on gratuitous sex and violence."

New media technology also seems to offer unbridled opportunities for sexual exploitation of women. Margaret Gallagher from the Commission of European Communities writes about the impact of satellite television with its enormous capacity to reach across the globe. The growing trend towards de-regulation demands a vigilant and active response from consumer organisations, which also need to look to the area of home videos and computer software. One video game just on the market shows a young girl in a mini-skirt who is punched unconscious, then carried off with her underpants showing. Two rival street gangs then fight 'for' her. While games may be fantasy, it remains a reality that young men play these games, and men write the software.

What can we do? How we can play active roles in helping to change the media? One critical area is that of employment. I have already talked about the imbalance of women and men in the media and we have just joined with the Australian Film Commission to update a survey that was last done in 1986. The study looks at the employment of women in the film, television, video and radio industries. Results of that report won't be released until mid-December by the Minister, so I cannot preempt it, except to say that, although there has been improvement in some areas, in others the situation has grown worse.

Under affirmative action legislation, organisations of more than 100 people are required to submit affirmative action programs and where that has been done in spirit as well as on paper, it has been quite effective. The ABC already has almost a quarter of its senior management women, and has a target for 50% representation of women by the year 1994. I don't know whether they'll make it, but what it means is, once you have legislation you have to begin to get your act in order. When I was director of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, there was I, committed feminist, very concerned about equality of opportunity and about increasing the numbers of women in the school, yet my everyday pressure of work was such that it wasn't until the actual requirement for affirmative action plans came through that we formalised our programs in any systemic way. For example, I remember we looked at training materials and found that most of them were extraordinarily sexist. The editing materials on which students learned how to cut film and cut tape, were nearly all war pictures with people shooting each others heads off. Men were active - in not very

"RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WOMEN READERS...AREN'T FINDING STORIES THAT INTEREST THEM."

desirable ways. Women did not register. And still now, the demonstration materials that are used for new technology, particularly in some of the extremely sophisticated editing gear, are highly sexist.

In the education of people who work in the media there's room for a lot of opportunity. For example, women's training programs - often there is a tendency to stop funding them: to say "Well, women are all right, you've made it, why do you need special training programs for women?" But we know from our research that women still have a long way to go and that training programs help give women the kind of confidence that they need, particularly in those areas where they lack specific expertise - and it's not just technical areas. Women often lack the financial knowledge that they need to be good producers.

Government, consumers and industry need to get together. The Working Party that I chair is one example of a government initiative that has brought the three groups together. I talked about being in Perth earlier. It was interesting there to see the Minister for the Arts, Kay Hallahan who had the guts to do something about offensive publications by restricting their sales, is now running seminars with industry, government and community, and also intends raising the issue at the Federal level. So this is an example of a woman Minister, who has concern for what is happening and is much more likely to push for change. We need also to keep an eye on the effectiveness of industry self regulation. Is it working? Will it work? I'm very doubtful myself. So we need to make sure that we continue to press the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations and the Federation of Australian Radio broadcasters for gender guidelines or, even better, a gender code. We might also lobby the Australian Broadcasting Authority and others to require broadcast organisations to have affirmative action programs in place as a pre-condition of being granted their licences.

Consumers can be powerful. Kay Hallahan said that one of the reasons she took action in restricting the sale of PICTURE and PEOPLE was because of the letters and phone calls she received, many of them from individual citizens, women and men who rang or wrote, giving her the impetus to act, others from organisations like Media Switch, and women's groups.

And when issues affecting women and the media arise, we all of us need to express our indignation or concern, and our proposals for change. We need to keep these issues on the agenda in as many ways as possible.

We must also remember our economic clout. There are a number of instances in the United States of sponsors withdrawing support for programs, where sufficient pressure has been exerted. For example, in the United States recently, there was a particularly sexist program that was sponsored by, and there was so much outcry from women's groups that Kelloggs dropped its funding support. So that's an effective way of operating because you're actually hitting at the hip pocket and you're making people sit up and take notice. If can get across the point that what we want is a realistic portrayal of women's lives, and a balanced portrayal in terms of coverage, and if we can show that this is good business, then I think we begin to achieve change.

In the United States there has been a dramatic decline in women reading newspapers. American newspapers lost twenty five per cent of their frequent women readers between 1983 and 1987, and during this same period the numbers of women-owned businesses grew by 57 percent. Twice as many women as men have stopped reading newspapers. Research shows that women readers have taken a walk because they

**"WE ARE RICH AND STRONG IN
OUR DIVERSITY AND WE WISH
TO BE PRESENTED THAT WAY."**

aren't finding stories that interest them. An organisation called Women Men and Media, headed by Betty Friedan and operating out of the University of Southern California, has been researching for some years now the coverage and representation given by national newspapers and television to women and women's issues. The results are presented each year as a press release and while the media ridiculed this approach in the first couple of years, now the results get front page coverage and newspapers compete to come first. It is not presented as an academic piece of research, but as an effective way of monitoring the media and of holding the media publicly accountable to its female constituency. We propose undertaking similar studies here through the National Working Party, beginning in 1993.

As a consequence of the work in the United States, the proprietors, the publishers, and the editors are now looking to female consultants to tell them how to make their publications more responsive to the interests and needs of women. They're losing customers, and they don't like that.

I want to end with some examples of television commercials which show some of the changes that are beginning to occur. We're seeing them now on our television screens, in particular the commercials that have been produced for the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry. Recently, a number of other advertisements have also been produced which attempt to portray men and women in different, non stereotypical ways. What they achieve is fresh and interesting. I predict that this is the way that we will be going in the future. Not that we will be presenting the other kind of stereotype, with women being presented with shoulders six feet wide, but a mixture of women. Look around us here tonight and see our variety, see how we come in all ages and sizes, and from all backgrounds. We are lovers, wives, bosses, workers, friends, we're not just the stereotype that for so many years has been presented through the media. We are rich and strong in our diversity and we wish to be presented that way.



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