
AASR Up-Date

From the President

The 1989 AASR Conference in Perth elected me as President and Greg Bailey, also of La Trobe University, as Vice-President. Unfortunately, due to the pilots' strike, both of us were in absentia at Perth. We are both delighted, though, to have been elected and look forward to serving in our new capacities.

Two items may be of interest to members. I have sent a letter, on behalf of the AASR, to Professor Kent Richards, the Program organiser for the S.B.L., pledging our support for an international conference to be held in Australia in 1992. A firm decision has not yet been reached as to whether Australia will be the venue, but if it is, it is likely that the conference would take place in Adelaide in July 1992. The choice of Adelaide is a pragmatic one in that Norman Habel is likely to have the task of being the local organiser, therefore

his task will be easier on home ground. If everything goes according to plan, the AASR conference in 1992 would also be in Adelaide, either just before or just after the S.B.L. meeting.

Secondly, I have received a letter from Dr John Bowden in connection with the Australia Research Council. He asks whether we would like to nominate anyone for membership on any of the committees attached to the ARC. If we do, the person should have a fairly high status, be well known in the community and have a vocal interest in the politics of Education. If anyone has any suggestions, perhaps they could communicate them to me and I will forward them to Dr Bowden.

Anne E. Gardner

A Vice-President's Reflections

At the Annual General Meeting of 1988, the AASR elected graduate students to its Executive for the first time - Enid Adam and Scott Cowdell. From Perth, Enid took up the position of Vice-President and the REVIEW Editor asked her to reflect on her work for the AASR over the past two years.

Snow falls silently, large feathery crystals blanketing the features of a Scottish landscape. From roadside banks hang sparkling icicles as chandeliers on frosty days. On sheltered hillsides grow pines laced with seasonal holly and ivy. Robin redbreasts dart between trees in search of berries. Into this wonderful experience of partly-frozen streams and lochs, rugged highlands, crofters' cottages and haggis, creeps a distant memory of a request and a deadline.... So in the midst of a British family holiday, I pause to collect my scattered thoughts, directing them to warmer climes.

The Vice-President's role took me by surprise and challenged me to learn - fast! What was the function of the AASR Vice-President, I wondered. No-one had a complete formula to offer. I was variously advised to be aware of 'women's issues', 'the emerging strength of religious studies in Western Australia', and 'a national concern for the development of studies in religion.' The President, Secretary and Treasurer in Queensland could easily communicate with each other, as could the Publications Editor and REVIEW Editor in Adelaide. But what could an isolated Vice-President across the

Nullarbor have to offer? With an undefined role to play, I had to occasionally remind the executive of my existence. However, isolation was not an insurmountable obstacle. Naturally, new issues were directed to the President and Secretary who provided directions for response. Balanced leadership requires consultation with other States, other ideologies. I discovered that besides presidential leadership, there was room, and need, for a vice-president to follow up some concern in detail: for example, correspondence with the International Association of the History of Religions on the place of women and feminist critiques in the study of religions.

Gradually I became conscious of the need to promote the AASR among other religious bodies. This became evident during the planning of the conference in Perth. Reactions to our Association varied, but by the end of the conference increased knowledge of the broad scope of our activities brought recognition of their value for more specialised fields of religious enquiry. In particular, the effects of the Forum On Spirituality and the Buddhist excursion day are still being felt in the community.

In retrospect, what have I discovered about the position of Vice-President in the AASR? It has been an interesting experience to work with an executive and to discuss issues which affect us all, and I have found the work of a Vice-President both challenging and rewarding. Others on the executive have more specific tasks. That leaves not a vacuum, but an opportunity for the vice-

president to:

- relate to other organizations interested in religion.
- develop in more detail directives from the President
- play a creative role in the development of the Association.

I would like to thank all those who have guided and supported me during the

last two years. It has been an experience which I have valued highly. Looking to the future, I see an executive which is well-balanced in gender, location and interests. To them I offer my best wishes and the assurance that the privilege of serving the Association can be a very enjoyable experience.

*Enid Adam,
Perth*

Minutes Of The AASR Annual General Meeting

29 September 1989

1. Opening Remarks

Enid Adam, Vice President of AASR, opened the Annual Meeting and welcomed members on the occasion of the 14th Annual Conference 1989, being held at St Thomas More College, University of Western Australia.

Thirteen members were present, including Enid Adam, Rob Bucknell, Ian Gardner, Paul Stange, Val Noone, Rod Lacey, Graham Hussain, Tony Mordini, Trish Blombery, Penny McKibbin, Victor Hayes. It was noted that as a result of the Airlines-Pilots dispute, travel to Perth from the Eastern States had been virtually impossible for many members.

2. Agenda

The agenda as prepared by the President and Vice-President was submitted and approved.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Norman Habel, Ed Conrad, Scott Cowdell, Paul Rule.

4. Minutes of 1988 AGM

It was moved and seconded (McKibbin/Mordini) that the Minutes, as printed in the **ARS REVIEW**, Volume One, Number 3, (Dec 1988) be taken as read and confirmed.

5. President's Report

President Ed Conrad sent greetings and apology for his unavoidable absence. His report, including his correspondence with the Secretary-General of IAHR, was submitted as printed in the **ARS REVIEW** 2:2 (August 89), pp.25-30. It was moved and seconded (Lacey/Gardner) and agreed that the Report be received. AASR membership was reported as standing at 353. A warm

vote of thanks and appreciation (proposed by McKibbin/Gardner) was unanimously extended to Dr Conrad for his strong leadership of AASR over the past two years.

6. Secretary's Report

In the absence of the Secretary, another casualty of the Airlines-Pilots dispute, the report on page 25 of **ARS REVIEW** 2:2, was received. It was noted that Rev. Cowdell has a new Members Directory in preparation. He reported 76 members behind with payment of dues. (Total membership comparison: 1987 - 343; 1988 - 342; 1989 -353. Dr Cowdell reported that pressure of work made it necessary for him to resign as Secretary of AASR. The meeting accepted his resignation with regret and recorded its warm appreciation of his work in this office.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rod Bucknell submitted his report (1 July 1988 to 30 June 1989). In summary it showed a total Income of \$24,036 and an Expenditure of \$23,068. The credit balance carried forward was \$12,227. It was moved and seconded (Gardner/Lacey) and agreed that the report, duly audited, should be received and adopted. Dr Bucknell was thanked for his careful management of the Association's finances, and for the Budget he had prepared for 1989-90.

8. Publication Committee Chair Report

Victor Hayes, for the Publications Committee, reported that for 1988-89 there had been an income of \$12,962 from sales of 1149 volumes. Our most recent title (Aboriginal Australians and Christian Missions edited by Swain and Rose) had sold 570 copies during the

year for \$10,308. (The Chairman noted that total sales along with review and other complimentary copies of this title had reached 741 copies by August 31, 1989. The printing run had been 1,250.)

Six book printings are now out of print; ten remain in print. Our titles continue to sell year after year, hence the following summary of operations 1976-1989 was offered by the Chairman:

Since 1976 we have produced 16,942 books at a net cost of \$57,646 (This net is after securing \$26,972 in Bounties and Grants). The value of the program to AASR stands at \$91,758.

This value here excludes the **ARS REVIEW** and is made up of:

3,177 books free to members	\$22,583
Sales of 10,217 books	51,327
Value of current stock (2,678 volumes)	17,848
Total	91,758

The **Australian Religion Studies REVIEW** represents a major new initiative by AASR (i.e. by Penny McKibbin). Costs and income associated with the enterprise are not included in this Report, but form a separate item in the Treasurer's Report.

The resignation of Michael Mason from the Committee was received and accepted with regret. It was moved, seconded (Hayes/Blombery) and agreed (a) that the Publications Report be received with thanks and (b) that Michael Mason be thanked for his many years of helpful service on the Committee.

9. Women's Caucus Report

Penny McKibbin reported that the AASR Women's Caucus was working on one major project at present: the publicizing of the support network available for women students in Studies in Religion and related fields, and for supervising staff in post graduate degrees where co-supervision and examination of feminist-oriented theses is required.

To this end, a letter prepared by the 1988 Queensland meeting of the Caucus, addressed to relevant Heads of Departments in tertiary institutions, is being sent before the beginning of the 1990 academic year, together with simple posters advertising the services of the Caucus to be displayed on noticeboards. It was also resolved that pre-conference Caucus activity centre on encouraging women students to take part in panels and offer papers, in general as well as feminist conference sections.

The 1989 Women's Caucus News was prepared by Western Australian members who also organized the successful conference section on Women and Religion. Thanks are due especially to Enid Adam and Franci Williams for wonderful work done for the support of women scholars and students for the 1989 AASR Conference.

10. Next Conference(s)

We have received and accepted with thanks an invitation from Professor A H (Tony) Johns to meet next year (1990) at The Australian National University in Canberra from 24th September.

Suggestions for subsequent meeting

venues were discussed e.g., 1991 in Sydney or Melbourne concurrently with the International Society for Biblical Literature (refer Norman Habel) or in Sydney in cooperation with the Association for the Journal of **Religious History** (refer item 14(b) below). And in 1992 perhaps in Yogiakarta, possibly in conjunction with the New Zealand Association for Religious Studies. To pursue these and other possibilities and evaluate them a **committee** was chosen made up of the following five persons: Tony Johns, Paul Stange, Norman Habel, Ed Conrad and Anne Gardner. The latter, as President-elect, to be leader.

11. Nominations Committee Report

The report of the Nominations Committee, as circulated in the **ARS REVIEW**, 2:2:26, was received and the following were unanimously elected to the listed posts for 1989-90: (See Constitution, articles X11 and 1X in **ARS REVIEW** 1:3:33).

President: Anne Gardner, Lecturer, La Trobe University

Vice-President: Greg Bailey, Senior lecturer, La Trobe University

Secretary: Mavis Rose, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Queensland

Treasurer: Rod Bucknell, Lecturer, University of Queensland

Editor, AASR Publications: Victor Hayes, Sr. Lecturer, SACAE

Chairperson of the National Conference Program Committee: Tony Johns, Professor, Australian National University.

(For editorship of **ARS REVIEW**, see item 13 below).

(For special note on **AASR Executive**, see under 14 below).

12. Correspondence with IAHR re feminist critique of religion

Attention was drawn to the various items of correspondence concerning this matter, to wit:

- (a) The 1988 AASR AGM had resolved as follows: "The AASR, as a member association, requests the IAHR to ensure that adequate provision for the feminist critique of religious issues be made in forthcoming IAHR congresses." (See *ARS REVIEW* 1:3,27).
- (b) The IAHR Secretary-General responded upon receipt of this motion from AASR President Ed Conrad. (See *ARS REVIEW* 11:2, 27f).
- (c) The AASR President replied, indicating the inadequacy of the Secretary-General's response. See *ARS REVIEW* 11:2, 29. And AASR Vice-President's reply to the same response in *ARS REVIEW* 11:2, 29.
- (d) IAHR Secretary-General wrote in reply to AASR President Ed Conrad on August 18, 1989. He attached a section from p. 5 of his Newsletter which quoted the above AASR resolution (See (a) above), and added "All those who are involved in the planning of IAHR related congresses are hereby requested to give serious consideration to this request".

It was noted by the meeting that the outcome of this correspondence is to this point satisfactory.

13. Editorship of ARS REVIEW

The resignation of Penny McKibbin as Editor of *ARS REVIEW* - due to her absence in 1990 on sabbatical leave - effective as of the end of this Calendar year (1989) - was accepted with regret. Penny's achievement has been outstanding and was unanimously acclaimed. The following persons were appointed to act as **editor-search-committee**: Penny McKibbin, Victor Hayes and (the incoming President) Anne Gardner. This search committee was "empowered to find a new editor to serve for up to three years", the result of negotiations to be reported to the Executive.

It was agreed that after 1989 there should be two issues of the Review each year (Autumn and Spring) rather than three.

14. Other Business

- (i) Who is on the AASR Executive?

It transpired that Iain Gardner's position as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for 1988-89 had been overlooked insofar as communication within the executive had been concerned. Sincere apology was extended to Iain and it was agreed that each year the ex officio members of the Executive should be clearly announced. In accordance with Articles VIII and XI of the Constitution (*ARS REVIEW* 1:3, 33), the following four persons are ex officio members for 1989-90:

Chair of Publications Victor Hayes
 Chair of Conference Program
 Committee Tony Johns
 Immediate Past President
 Ed Conrad

Immediate Past Conference Chair
Iain Gardner

It is noted that the **Nominations Committee** "may be identical with the Executive Committee" (Article IX).

- (ii) Correspondence from Vice-Chairman of Association for the JHR

The meeting tabled a letter from Dr L O Frappell (Sr. Lecturer in History and Vice-Chairman of the Association for the Journal of Religious History) to Dr Garry Trompf (Associate Professor, Religious Studies, University of Sydney). Dr Frappell was "formally canvassing the prospect" of the AJRH and AASR co-operating in mounting a joint conference under Garry Trompf as chair in Sydney in 1991.

The letter continues: "tentative moves are afoot to broaden and re-define the Sydney-based JHR Association with a view to creating instead a nation-wide Religious History Association, presumably more akin organizationally to the

AASR. I would hope that these moves will have borne fruit well before 1991, and that the new association, having interests complementary to and at times overlapping with those of the AASR, will be seen as offering a good prospect of expanding and enriching your 1991 conference by attracting to it a new clientele and by greatly augmenting any religious history component which it may possess."

The meeting resolved that the new Executive should be asked to explore the matters raised by this letter from JHR with a view to maximising convergence and avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities.

15. Close

After three hours of discussion, the Vice-President, having been thanked for the conduct of the meeting, closed it at 7pm.

Victor Hayes



AASR Affiliation With the IAHR: Comments

In a recent letter to the AASR President, AASR member Jim Norman states the case for continuing affiliation...

I note from the Treasurer's and the President's reports in the last REVIEW, that:

- the affiliation fee is \$200 per annum;
- some AASR members have questioned the benefits of membership in IAHR;
- membership in the IAHR facilitates contact with societies in other countries;
- membership in the IAHR enables the AASR to have influence on the IAHR;
- the concerns of some AASR members are related to the issue of the IAHR's response to the repeated requests for a section on feminist critique of religious issues;
- the AASR's relationship with the IAHR is strained.

I find the need to question AASR's affiliation with IAHR disturbing. Although my membership of AASR postdates AASR's affiliation, I would not be surprised that AASR's decision to affiliate served to enhance AASR's status. And is the holding of the IAHR Congress in Sydney in 1985 now deemed to be an event of no consequence in the life of the AASR? What has been of value to the AASR now appears to be jeopardised by the over-reaction of the AASR Executive to Michael Pye's response to an AASR resolution. Is this the only reason for the strained relationship?

I consider that the existence of the IAHR is beneficial to the academic

study of religion and that the AASR should support it. My regard for the organisation derives from my experience of the 1985 Congress. This positive experience led me to select the career and phenomenology of C J Bleeker as the topic for my major M.Lit.St. study at the University of Queensland in 1987, in the course of which I prepared a seminar paper on "International Scholarly Cooperation and Exchange in Religious Studies : C J Bleeker and the IAHR" - the title itself conveys my view of the organisation's useful role notwithstanding the tensions that have characterised it over the years.

One of the more recent tensions relates to feminist concerns. At the Sydney Congress, for example, the Symposium on Women and Religion was convened in spite of the Congress Program and, if I recall correctly, a call which created division was made from the floor of the IAHR General Assembly for affirmative action in relation to the membership of the IAHR Executive Committee. One of the movers, I think, was Ursula King. If so, it is relevant to highlight her declaration in Whaling (1984) that the IAHR has been of "central importance in the development of the methodological debate over recent years" and, in relation to her contention that the future viability of the academic study of religion will depend on much closer international collaboration and a more comprehensive rigorous methodology, that "the realization of a truly global framework is closely interrelated with the develop-

ment of the IAHR during the last three decades". The IAHR's response to AASR's feminist resolution therefore seems insufficient reason to contemplate weakening the IAHR through a withdrawal of our affiliation.

Of more central concern to me is the issue of the benefits of affiliation. I would be interested in having these, or the lack of them, spelled out so that a more informed decision on the continuation or otherwise of AASR's annual outlay of \$200 to the IAHR can be made. I would be surprised if the expenditure was not justified.

If there are benefits in affiliation, and members are unaware of them through lack of information, I suggest that in

future, reports on the IAHR and its activities be included regularly in the *ARS REVIEW* or at least that IAHR material be sent out with the *REVIEW*...

Jim Norman
A.C.T.

The IAHR sends its Newsletter (which appears irregularly) to the AASR Secretary, and excerpts from it relating to the 1990 Congress were published in the REVIEW in vols 1, no.1 and 2, no.1. [Editor]

IAHR Correspondence : Letter From Michael Pye

Dear Dr. Conrad,

Thank you for your letter of August 9th about the incorporation of feminist critique in IAHR congresses. No doubt there are various ways of bringing in new methodological insights into the history of religions and I am glad that you will be keeping this issue under active review at the annual meeting in September. I hope that, at the meeting, you will draw attention not only to my letter, but also to the items on page 5 of IAHR Bulletin 10 January 1989. This may help to indicate that I, for one, certainly regard this as an important, and also a complex matter.

I would like to ask whether the AASR would be able to assist me in the

formation of ideas on another extremely difficult topic, affecting IAHR activities in the Muslim world. I ask because Australia and Indonesia are major neighbours and hence your members may have important views. Some efforts are being made to organise a regional IAHR conference in Yogyakarta, probably in 1992. However it has been brought to my notice that Indonesia does not grant visas to visitors carrying Israeli passports. As the IAHR has some Israeli members, does this mean that we should not go ahead with such a conference, even though it would contribute to the strategy of developing relations with the Muslim world? Apart from this

thorny issue, are there any AASR members who would have a professional interest in such a conference?

Yours sincerely,

Michael Pye

See below for extracts from IAHR Bulletin 10, to which Michael Pye refers. AASR members' responses to questions raised about IAHR and Islam should be sent to Dr Anne Gardner, President AASR, Religious Studies, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, 3083. [Editor]

IAHR Bulletin 10 : Extracts

Feminist critique of religious issues

The Australian Association for the Study of Religion passed the following motion unanimously at its Annual General Meeting on September 3rd, 1988:

"The Australian Association for the Study of Religion, as a member association, requests the I.A.H.R. to ensure that adequate provision for the feminist critique of religious issues be made in forthcoming I.A.H.R. congresses." All those who are involved in the planning of I.A.H.R. related congresses are hereby requested to give serious consideration to this request.

Furtherance of published work by women scholars?

Affiliated associations may care to consider ways in which the publication of studies in the history of religions by women could be encouraged. Is there a sponsor, for example, for a quinquennial IAHR prize for excellence in published work to be awarded to a woman and to a man? Is there a volunteer who would be able to compile a select bibliography of recent works by women specialists in the study of religion. Other suggestions are welcome.

BAHR conference on GENDER

The next annual conference of the British Association for the Study of Religions will centre on the theme of "Gender". The conference will take place in Oxford, September 22-24, 1989. Accommodation is usually limited, so interested non-members should contact the officers of the BAHHR about possible participation.

Michael Pye

From AASR Members Overseas

This is the first brief report in a new AASR Up-date section, and AASR members temporarily or permanently overseas are invited to send in new reports from wherever they may be ...

[Editor]

Morny Joy has recently been appointed to the Department of Religious Studies, University of Calgary in Canada, and is at present taking part in a Humanities Symposium at the University of Iowa, entitled *Meaning in Texts and Actions: The Questions of Paul Ricoeur*. Morny will be chairing some of the sessions in this symposium which has attracted a large number of international specialists in Religion and Philosophy and the work of Paul Ricoeur.

AASR XIV In Perth

A Report from the West, and thanks to all involved

While lesser mortals panicked, and conferences everywhere succumbed to the airlines' dispute, AASR XIV went ahead in the world's most isolated city. Indeed, it was a considerable success due to strong local support, and heroic efforts to utilise all means of transport available: rail, bus, RAAF and Air Brunei included. Special 'beyond the call of duty' badges should be awarded to Jim Taylor who took the coach from Sydney; and Professor Ebied who arrived via Singapore with an extra paper, 'Just in case it was needed'! My own thanks to everyone who came, and to those for whom it was impossible, for keeping us informed.

The Conference began with excursions, first to New Norcia on the Sunday, then to the various Buddhist communities on the Wednesday. The West Australian

countryside was at its best in the early spring, with spectacular wildflowers, and lush, to the surprise of many visitors. There were interesting comparisons to be made between the Benedictine monastery and the Theravadan Sangha at Serpentine, and the sensualists amongst us decided that there would be a better chance of survival at New Norcia. However, we were made very welcome by everyone, and the Vietnamese community in Northbridge excelled with a mouth-watering vegetarian lunch at the Mahayana temple. These events both brought the Conference participants together to provide a warm atmosphere for all, and informed us about the rich variety of spiritual and community life in and around Perth.

On Wednesday evening it was down to business with our guest lecturer Professor Malcolm Jeeves speaking on: 'The impact of recent developments in Psychology and Neuroscience on traditional Christian views of human nature'. Professor Jeeves is Vice-Chancellor of St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and skillfully guided us through the foreign territory of neuroscience to the perhaps more familiar land of Christian anthropology. In this plenary session we were pleased to be joined by the ANZATS/STS Conferences, and the attendance topped a hundred people. The theologians enjoyed the suggestion that neuroscience might manage to abolish the human soul entirely. Dr. Rod Bucknell from the University of Queensland was the Charles Strong lecturer for 1989, and the following day gave a wonderfully lucid and precise account of 'Buddhist meditation and the study of mystical experience'. Rod took his typology from W.T. Stace, and then proceeded to use Buddhist practice to unravel such mysteries as 'the timeless moment'. I certainly look forward to receiving this lecture in print, one of the many advantages of AASR membership! Our warm thanks to Rod, the more so for making the tortuous journey from Brisbane.

The Conference, as always, owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Charles Strong Memorial Trust for support. This year the Trust arranged not only for Rod Bucknell, but also for Dr. Patricia Sherwood as 'Young Australian Scholar'. Patricia lectures at the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education (WACAE) in the state's south-west, and over a number of years has studied and worked with a variety of the alternative religious communities and NRMs such as flourish in that region. She was able to share some of

this work with us in her lecture: 'Gurus from the East: Catalysts for Change?'. The three major lectures of the Conference thus provided a fascinating progression (!) from Christian biblical theology, through Buddhism, to New Age. Patricia receives my personal nomination as star performer of AASR XIV, as she mesmerised the audience almost into the presence of the Bhagwan and Sai Baba themselves. We all enjoyed this emphatically West Australian stamp to the annual proceedings.

I have concentrated on the plenary sessions which all attracted large audiences. However, in my experience, a conference is usually most valuable in the more intimate atmosphere of the sectional papers and seminars. This year was no exception, and despite some cancellations there was still a bewildering variety of good things to attend. There is no space here to express my enjoyment of all the papers individually, but I would like to mention the excellent examples of post graduate work-in-progress provided by such as Enid Adam, Rex Gardner, Graham Hassall, Amzad Hossain, Gordon Parmenter, and Jim Taylor. The Conference proper ended in time-honoured fashion with the machinations of the AGM, which will be reported formally elsewhere; and the greatly enjoyed dinner held in the King's Park Restaurant with spectacular views over the city of Perth at night. However, a special feature of this year's events was the Forum on Contemporary Spirituality in Western Australia held on the Saturday. This succeeded in attracting a large number of local participants, and thus helped to break down the barriers between academia and the world of practice.

Finally, I would like to express my personal thanks to my colleagues and the staff at WACAE for their encouragement and support; and to the team who (yes, its true!) made the organisation of the Conference a real pleasure: Enid Adam (for the excursions and much else); Annette Castley; Paul Stange (for the Forum); and Franci Williams. Our excellent Registrar Tony Mordini deserves a special mention for not allowing either of his two full-time jobs to interfere with his work for the

Conference, and for remaining calm and efficient in all circumstances. More than this, Tony managed to create a profit for the AASR despite the wine bill and the worst efforts of the unruly spirits of the air!
So, one day (but not too soon) - again in Perth....!

*Iain Gardner
Chair, AASR XIV
Perth 1989*

The AASR Conference - An "Outsider's" View

In one sense I would claim not to be an "outsider", since I have been a member of the AASR for several years. On the other hand, I do live outside of Australia and rarely have the opportunity to attend AASR conferences, so I suppose the label fits. What follows is a strictly personal response with no pretence of completeness.

For this "outsider", as for many "insiders", the pilots' strike made getting to and from Perth for the conference a bit of an adventure, but what happened while I was there made it quite worth while. The first event for me was the excursion to visit several Buddhist establishments in and around Perth, so ably organized by Enid Adam. Since this was my first visit to Perth, it not only provided an opportunity to view somewhat different forms of Buddhism at close hand but also provided a most congenial way to make a first acquaintance with the city and its environs.

One advantage of a relatively small conference such as this one is that one gets to hear papers on a wide variety of

topics beyond one's usual area of interest, and I certainly found my area of awareness broadened at several points. Perhaps most important, and certainly most enjoyable, were the informal personal contacts - either renewing old acquaintances or making new ones - and sometimes meeting for the first time people who share interests with me. On the informal side, I particularly remember the wonderful (and amazingly inexpensive) dinner at a Vietnamese Restaurant the last night followed by lively conversation (both academic and otherwise) at the home of Paul Stange afterward. Unfortunately I had to leave early because I thought I was going to catch a plane early the next morning. Because of the strike this was not an easy conference for the organizers, but they are certainly to be commended for their success in coping.

*William Shepard
University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand*

ANNUAL ANZATS/ANZSTS

13th Annual ANZSTS Conference

Banyo Seminary, Brisbane

July 2–5, 1990

Theme: *The Church's Mission Today*

Guest speaker: *Sean Freyne, Trinity College Dublin*

*Papers are invited from delegates (especially on the conference theme).
Proposals for papers, in the form of 200-word abstracts, should be sent to
1990 ANZATS Conference Papers Convenor, Kenmore Christian College,
P.O. Box 55, Kenmore 4069.*

Enquires: for information on registration, contact:

The Registrar, ANZATS Conference
Banyo Seminary, BANYO Q'LD 4014

Telephone: (07) 267 5124