

## ***EDITORIAL***

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The Arts Association's year opened with a lively performance of an excerpt from *Our Country's Good*, a colonial comedy at two removes from George Farquhar's Restoration comedy *The Recruiting Officer*, the first play performed in New South Wales.<sup>1</sup> The performers were from Mongrel Theatre, a company born from the university dramatic society and former students in the Faculty of Arts. The year closed with a lecture on biography and autobiography, arranged by the Association and also part of the university's sesquicentenary celebrations, by the distinguished Australian writer and academic Professor Jill Ker Conway. Between these two events the Association presented lectures on topics as various as Italian early Renaissance theatricals and the production of English film comedies, and joined with other university bodies in launches of notable books, in the celebration of Fisher Library's five millionth acquisition, and in the university's own celebrations.

It has been a full year again, made possible by the efforts of the Association's president and committee, by the aid of the Dean, and most importantly by the support of members through both participation and the renewal of subscriptions.

It is, though, the opening and closing events which suggest the measure of success and the way forward. This journal's print run now approaches 500 copies, a significant number of these going to overseas libraries: this shows that our own recruiting officers have been busy. But, like Farquhar's Sergeant Kite, we hope to beat the drum more loudly for next year; 2003 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Arts Association, and occasion to reflect on our collective biography and future life. It is not always recognised that at a time when the university has had to adopt a 'user pays' policy even for those bodies that support its aims and ends, we

must rely heavily on membership to continue into our second half century.

We may claim a 'first' for an academic journal, in that with this volume we offer a compact disc of music examples, which accompanies Professor Anne Boyd's lecture.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Judge David Selby in September this year. Selby was a life member of the Association and attended its functions regularly until prevented by ill health. He graduated in Arts and Law in 1927. He became a Queen's Counsel, a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a Judge in Family Law. In World War II he commanded an anti-aircraft battalion in Rabaul, and when Rabaul fell took his men into the mountains and jungles for three months until they were rescued. Selby's long association with the university led him to be a Fellow of Senate for 25 years and deputy chancellor for 15 years. We extend sympathy to his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

G.L.L.

1 *Our Country's Good*, London, 1988, by Timberlake Wertenbaker, is based on Thomas Keneally's novel *The Playmaker*, London, 1987, which is about the Sydney production in March 1800 of *The Recruiting Officer*, London, 1706.