

EDITORIAL

O born in days when wits were fresh and clear,
And life ran gaily as the sparkling Thames:
Before this strange disease of modern life ...

Matthew Arnold's 'Scholar Gypsy' was written in 1853, the year the University of Sydney began. The lines were quoted by Major-General W.J.V. Windeyer a hundred years later, in an address in the Great Hall in September 1953 before the Chancellor and some 500 guests marking the foundation of the Arts Association.*

This 2003 issue of *Arts* marks the Jubilee of the Association, which after some earlier fallow years is again thriving. It brings together scholarly inaugural lectures and accounts of past graduates, present research, and future directions and hopes for the Faculty. These accounts suggest, in twenty-first century dress, what Windeyer saw as the Faculty's purpose: 'are we to try to justify what we have come to call the humanities by urging only that, after all, they have their uses? Surely it is useful to teach a man ... not how to make a living so much as how to live'. These Arnoldian words are as relevant now, as the present government attempts to carry through its strange disease of what it calls university reform, as they were fifty years ago; perhaps more so.

We record with great regret the death of Dr Marie Wilkinson of the Department of Social Work, a member of the committee and a strong supporter of our activities.

G.L.L.

* *An edited account of General Windeyer's address is in the Sydney University Arts Association Newsletter no.2, August 2003.*