

Newslink

State Notes: New South Wales

University of Sydney

The foundation of the School of Studies in Religion has involved a change of premises, into the more atmospheric John Wooley Building. Student interest has not waned with the change, the upper years actually strengthening in numbers and postgraduate research booming with the foundation of the Centre for Postgraduate Research in Religion and Theology.

Tony Swain now holds a tenured lectureship. Rachael Kohn has been appointed to the ABC Religious Department, but will continue teaching the same courses for the School (although her work with the Department of Semitic Studies lapses). Kathleen O'Connor was highly successful in opening up the new course on the Psychology of Religion, while Alec Pemberton of Social Work has been teaching Sociology of Religion as part of the Sydney program.

Postgraduate research is burgeoning especially in the fields of Oceanic religion (with Aboriginal, Papuan, Rarotongan, Samoan, Kiribati representation) and New Religious Movements (almost exclusively developments within Australia).

*Garry Trompf
School of Studies in Religion*

University of New England, Armidale

A *Graduate Certificate in Education Studies (Studies in Religion)* has been approved commencing in 1993. It will be offered initially through the Faculty of Education to full fee paying external students. It aims to prepare NSW teachers for teaching the new religion syllabi for Years 11 & 12, and Years 7-10. Candidates should hold a university degree or relevant three year diploma. The course consists of three units:

- 1. Studies in Religion - a Guide to the World's Religions: Depth Studies (Semester 1)** which introduces students to the dimensions and varieties of religious experience in the world's religions and develop an in-depth appreciation.
- 2. Religion in the Classroom: Curriculum Processes (Semester 2)** which will introduce students to available materials designed for teaching religion in primary and secondary school.
- 3. Religion in Australia (Semesters 1&2)** where students complete a logbook based on sustained and exploratory reflection on selected readings consisting of four sections: the history of religion in Australia; contemporary social issues; contemporary ethical issues; Aboriginal spirituality.

Studies in Religion in the Faculty of Arts. In 1992 two first year units, Studies in Religion 101-1 and 101-2 were offered to internal students attracting 23 students to 101-1 and 15 to 101-2. These units will be offered externally in 1993. A new unit 201-1/301-1: Religious Literature will be offered to internal students in 1993. A

Master of Letters (M.Litt) in Studies of Religion has also been approved for 1993. Studies in Religion will also be available at first year level to students at the Coffs Harbour Campus in 1993.

Peter Hobson
Social, Cultural and Curriculum Studies.

Queensland

University of Queensland

Philip Almond has been on study leave in Brisbane completing his book on Heaven and Hell in English thought, 1660-1750.

Rod Bucknell has had his *Sanskrit Manual* accepted for publication by Motilals. He continues his research into Buddhist doctrines relating to meditation.

Ed Conrad is currently on long service leave, and will continue into study leave in the first semester of 1993. He will be visiting scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Ian Gillman retired at the end of first semester and was named Honorary Research Consultant in the Department. His plans include the Chairmanship of the Liturgy Commission of the Uniting Church, finishing a book on Christianity in Asia, and a possible lecturing appointment at the University of Bonn, Germany in 1993.

Lynne Hume, who took up her appointment beginning in the second semester, is an anthropologist with field work experience in Melanesia (Vanuatu) and Australia (with North Queensland Aborigines). Her interests include indigenous belief systems, Aboriginal spirituality, new relig-

ious movements, and the role of women from a cross-cultural perspective. Her current research concerns neopaganism and Aboriginal spirituality in a modern context.

Richard Hutch has published several articles, details of which will appear in the members' bibliography in the next issue. His new subject, 'Death and Dying', is on offer during the second semester. It has attracted 130 students, in part due to local and national media coverage.

Michael Latke was on a Special Studies Programme for four months in Germany earlier this year, mainly at Tübingen University, working on his commentary on the Odes of Solomom.

N. Ross Reat returned from a years combined Special Studies Programme and long service leave in July 1992. This period saw the publication of his second book, as well as research at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and at Berkeley.

(Richard and Glenda are also delighted to announce the safe arrival in June of Annabel Jane.)

Richard Hutch
Department of Studies in Religion

Victoria

University of Melbourne

For an institution with a tradition of sturdy disdain for religion, enshrined in the Act of Parliament establishing it, the University of Melbourne manages rather well, without changing or violating the Act.

For instance, Classical and Near Eastern Studies offers courses on Israel in Egypt, Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and Judaism in Ancient Palestine, Pagans and Christians in the Roman World, Sixth Century Byzantium, Byzantine History, Literature and Thought, A seminar course on Crusade and Pilgrimage, and language study in Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, and Akkadian!

There is an interdisciplinary program in Jewish Studies, consisting of language and area studies. Students may take a semester or a year at Hebrew University in Jerusalem or at Tel Aviv University, and have the work credited towards their Melbourne degree. Courses include some of those mentioned above, plus History of the Holocaust, Jews in the English Speaking World, Christians and Jews in Mediaeval Europe, and others.

The Department of Asian Studies includes Arabic and Islamic Studies, which draw a significant enrolment of non-Muslim students. In passing, be it noted that the University of Melbourne has provided Muslim students with a much more adequate prayer room than the improvised facilities previously in use, so bringing it more into line with some other institutions, which were ahead of it in this regard.

Perhaps the most interesting development at Melbourne has been the introduction of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology Combined Degree Course, offered collaboratively by the University and the Melbourne College of Divinity. This represents the culmination of lengthy conversations between the University and the MCD, which began during 1989.

And finally, the Philosophy Department has introduced this year a Graduate Diploma in Philosophy of Religion. This may be taken full-time in a year, or part-time in two years and consists of four subjects and a minor thesis. It is an attractive program for clergy who are looking at options for in-service education.

As well as the formal academic programs, the Chaplain presents a weekly lunchtime address in a worship context. The theme for second semester is 'From Egoism to Altruism: the Fruits of the Spirit'.

*John Bodycomb
Chaplain*

Deakin University

Ian Weeks and Peter Fenner have been involved in devising Religious Studies units for the pilot TV Open Learning Scheme. Prof Bryan Turner will take up his appointment in sociology in the new year.

Purushottama Bilimoria

Western Australia

Edith Cowan University

In 1992 Noel Kentish is Head of the Religious Studies Department.

Peter Bedford successfully defended his Doctoral thesis at the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, with distinction.

Iain Gardner has been editing IVth Century Coptic Texts newly discovered in the Dakhleh oasis by Colin Hope's (U Monash) archeological team. Iain spoke at the IIIrd International Symposium of Manichaeic Studies in London during July (sorry to miss you all in Melbourne!); and will join the Dakhleh project in Egypt next season. His forthcoming translation of the Manichaeic *Kephalaia* (with D Montserrat) has been accepted by Siebeck-Mohr.

Martin Wiltshire is currently researching the Buddhist doctrine of 'no-self' in the light of Deconstructionist and Post Modernist theory.

Cynthia Dixon, as a member of a working party of the Anglican Social Responsibilities Commission, has authored a research report, *Domestic Violence: a pastoral concern for Clergy*, to produce a curriculum to assist clergy and key church workers in understanding and coping with the issue of domestic violence. The project was funded by the Office of the Fam-

ily. The program is being run by request throughout the state.

Religious Studies in WA state schools, despite the Nott Report of 1977, is still virtually a non event. Cynthia has undertaken a follow up of students who have completed units or awards in Religious Studies or Religious Education at tertiary level since 1975. In establishing the extent and availability of the teaching resources in the community the intention is to provide the Ministry of Education with the incentive to promote the study of religion in state schools.

Both undergraduate and postgraduate numbers in Religious Studies have shown steady growth in 1992. The department is now beginning to develop units in Philosophy which will eventually lead to a BA major in that discipline. A first full-time position in philosophy has been advertised (within the Religious Studies department).

Murdoch University

From August 1992 till the end of 1993 Paul Stange will be in East Java, on secondment, as resident director for an American based student exchange programme (CIEE) at IKIP-Malang. His address is available from IG or Murdoch.

*Iain Gardner
Edith Cowan*

New Zealand Notes

from the Yana and Doug Pratt, Waikato

Massey University

At Massey University in Palmerston North Peter Donovan has been promoted from Senior Lecturer to the rank of Associate Professor. Peter was the driving force behind the landmark *Religions of New Zealanders* published in 1991 and is Head of Religious Studies at Massey. Massey has total paper enrolments of 402 students in their ten courses in 1992 and has received approval to commence BA(Hons)/MA courses for internal students in 1993.

University of Canterbury

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Canterbury has a total of 430 paper enrolments in its ten religion courses and eight students completing postgraduate studies in religion.

Paul Harrison has accepted a three-year appointment as Visiting Professor in the Graduate School of Otani University, Kyoto, Japan for 1992-4. The appointment entails two visits to Kyoto to present intensive seminars in Buddhist Studies.

Paul Harrison and Toni Huber both attended the Sixth Conference of the International Association of Tibetan Studies in Fagernes, Norway in August.

Religious Studies has been lucky to retain the position from which Colin Brown retires in early 1993 and will advertise shortly an appointment with primary expertise in Christianity.

University of Otago

Albert Moore was appointed to the University of Otago in 1966 to establish Religious Studies. He retired at the end of 1991. His retirement was marked by a special function at the University on November 25, 1991, at which he was presented with a festschrift in his honour. *Religious Studies in Dialogue: Essays in Honour of Albert C. Moore* was a collaborative effort which had been successfully kept secret from Albert. A number of the contributors were able to be present at the farewell function which honoured New Zealand's most outstanding pioneer scholar and teacher in Religious Studies. Albert is continuing studies on 'Arts and Religion in the Pacific Region' and will be visiting places in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea after attending the International religion congress in Melbourne.

Religious Studies has been raised to Departmental status and Elizabeth Isichei, formerly Reader in Religious Studies at Victoria University, Wellington, was appointed to the Chair of Religious Studies at Otago to replace Associate-Professor Albert Moore. She took up her duties as Head of Department in second semester.

Otago has a total paper enrolment in its 15 courses of 231 students.

Malcolm McLean will be on leave from November 1992 to May 1993 travelling to Calcutta and London.

The Resource Centre for Asian and Pacific Christianity is continuing to make good progress and has hosted a series of

seminars. Their first publication, *Asian-Pacific Christianity - A Reorientation*, is available free from the Faculty of Theology.

University of Waikato

At the University of Waikato in Hamilton, Douglas Pratt has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. Furthermore, Pratt was one of four academic staff from across the University to be presented with a 1991 Merit Award in recognition of excellence and high distinction in academic life. The citation refers to his work in pioneering the teaching of Religious Studies at Waikato and in being a "vigorous scholar". Waikato will shortly announce the appointment of a 1992/3 Fellow in Humanities in Religious Studies.

Dr Joan Taylor has been appointed the Fellow in Humanities in the field of Religious Studies and took up this one year appointment in July.

The Part I course Major Religions of the World has attracted over 100 students and 40+ have enrolled in Part II and III courses.

Victoria University of Wellington

Religious Studies has a total paper enrolment of 507 students in the nine courses offered in 1992. Dr Tiwari will be on leave until early 1993.

Professor Mike Hill of Sociology has returned from a year of study leave in Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

ABC Religious Radio, led by the Rev Dr Paul Collins from Melbourne, has recently made two new appointments. In Sydney on 6 July one of Australia's most accomplished religion academics, Dr Rachael Kohn, joined Radio National as a producer. Rachael has lectured in Jewish Civilisation, the Sociology of New Religious Movements, and Far Eastern Buddhism at the University of Sydney. Before that she has lectured at the University of Lancaster, England, and at Waterloo and Mc Master Universities in Canada. She has published widely in inter-faith studies and self religions and is the editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*.

[Rachael is also a valued active member of the AASR. She has contributed, or helped solicit, a number of articles for the

REVIEW and several perceptive book reviews. Ed.]

Leading aboriginal academic, Christine Morris, joined Radio National in July and is working from the Brisbane office. She will report regularly for the network's religious current affairs program, **The Religion Report**. Ms Morris is a lecturer in Aboriginal/Religion studies at the Queensland University of Technology. Her main interests include Aboriginal literature, oral history and the transference of knowledge, and the study of spirituality. Christine Morris' grandmother's people are Kombummeri, her grandfather's people are Munaljahli, and her language is Yugumbah.

*from Ronald Nichols and Jan Schreck
ABC Sydney*

New Group for Religion Scholars

An Australian Psychology of Religion Society is being formed and is seeking to contact all scholars working in the field. Psychologists interested in joining, or finding out more information, should contact:

Brian Griffiths
School of Psychology, Curtin University
GPO Box U1987, Perth 6001
Fax: 09 351 2464
Phone: 09 351 7143

Sophia Revamped

SOPHIA. A journal of philosophical theology and comparative philosophy of religion.

Founded in 1962 by Max Charlesworth and Graeme de Graaf at University of Melbourne, the journal moved to Deakin University when Max took up the Chair of Philosophical Studies. It continues to be devoted to providing a forum for discussion of issues in philosophical theology that are of contemporary interest.

Under the new editorship of Purushotama Bilimoria, the journal's scope is being expanded to cover constructive debate

and critiques in crosscultural and comparative philosophy of religion, feminist theology, eco-theology, as well as social-theoretic thinking on religious traditions.

Published three times a year. Subscription \$10.

Subscriptions, donations and enquiries for submissions to:

The Editor- SOPHIA
Faculty of Humanities
Deakin University
Geelong 3217

Phone: 052 271 334 Fax: 052 272 018

Australian Conferences

Intellectuals in Europe Today
30 September-1 October 1992

A Humanities Research Centre Conference

Contact: Prof Brian Nelson, Centre for European Studies, Monash University, Clayton 3168 or HRC below

The Languages of Australia
the 1992 Australian Academy of the
Humanities Symposium

18-19 November 1992, Canberra
Contact: AAH 06 248 7744 or 06 249 2130

Plato and Aristotle, Platonism and
Aristotelianism

5-7 February 1993, St Patrick's College
Manly

An inter-disciplinary conference on the origins, influence and significance of the Platonic and Aristotelian traditions

Contact: David Dockrill, Department of Philosophy, University of Newcastle, 2308.

Phone: 049 215 186
Fax: 049 216 928

**Religion in the Ancient World
(the Near East, Greece, Rome and
Christianity)**

1-3 July 1993, University of New England

Contact: Matthew Dillon or Dr Lynda Garland, Department of Classical and Ancient History, University of New England, Armidale 2351. Phone: 067 73 2555

**Australian Association for Byzantine
Studies: Eighth Conference**

2-4 July 1993, Armidale

Theme: Conformity and Non-Conformity in Byzantium

Contact : see UNE above

Regimes of Sexuality

3-8 July, 1993, ANU Canberra

Part of the Humanities Research Centre 1993 theme 'Sexualities and Culture'

Contact: Jill Matthews or John Ballard, c/ HRC GPO Box 4, Canberra, 2601. Phone: 06 249 4786 Fax: 06 248 0054

Ancient History in a Modern University

3-8 July 1993, Macquarie U, Sydney

Contact: Dr Alanna Nobbs, School of History, Philosophy and Politics Phone: 02 805 8844 Fax: 02 805 8892

Forces of Desire

13-15 August 1993, ANU Canberra
HRC Conference see contact details above.

**IXth World Sanskrit Conference
International Association for Sanskrit
Studies**

January 10 - 16, 1994

Venue: International House, University of Melbourne

Call for Papers: Submission of abstract by January 7th, 1993.

Correspondence Address: Secretariat
IXth World Sanskrit Conference
Division of Religious Studies
La Trobe University
Bundoora 3083
Victoria, Australia
Tel: 61-3-479 2343
Fax: 61-3-478 5814

Overseas Conferences Coming Up !

**Social Source of the Public Expressions
of Religion**

Indianapolis

October 1-3 1992

Hosted by the Centre for the Study of Religion and American Culture and Indiana University-Purdue University

Contact: Program Manager, Centre for the Study of Religion and American Culture, 425 University Boulevard Room 344, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5104

**Society for the Scientific Study of
Religion 1992 Annual Meeting**

Washington, D.C.

November 6-8

Theme: Religion and Power

Contact: Nancy Nason-Clark, Department of Sociology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5A3

**Religious Research Association
1992 Annual Meeting**

Washington D.C.

November 6-8

Theme: Religion Through Narrative
Contact: Alan K Mock, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506

**Centennial Celebration of the World's
Parliament of Religion**

August 1993

India

Coordinated by the International Assoc for Religious Freedom (IARF), the World Congress of Faiths (WCF), the Temple of Understanding (ToU), and the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP)

August 9-14 Pre-celebration Events

August 15-18 IARF World Congress

August 19-22 Centennial Celebration in Bangalore

August 27 Centennial Festival New Delhi

August 28-September 4 Post-Delhi Events

Contact: The Secretary, IOCC, Rawmere, Rew Lane, Chichester, W Sussex PO19 4QH, United Kingdom

**Society for the Scientific Study of
Religion**

1993 Annual Meeting

29-31 October

Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact: Anna Davidson, Pierce Hall #193, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

Religious Research Association

1993 Annual Meeting

29-31 October

Raleigh, NC

Contact: Ms Lorraine d'Antonio, Marist Hall (Room 108), Catholic University of America, Washington DC 20064

